

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2020, Legislative Day No. 18

Resolution No. 16-20

Introduced by Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Haire

By the County Council, May 18, 2020

1 RESOLUTION urging the County Executive to Reopen Anne Arundel County

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3 WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
4 proclaimed a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency for the entire  
5 State of Maryland pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the State  
6 Code, due to the impending threat and continuing impact of the contagious disease  
7 known as COVID-19; and

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9 WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to  
10 person and may result in serious illness or death; and

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12 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County's hospitalization rates for COVID-19-related  
13 illnesses have remained steady for the last thirty days, since mid-April 2020; and

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15 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County is a state and national leader in Contact Tracing  
16 and Case Management programs to trace and isolate every positive case of COVID-  
17 19; and

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19 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County has been working since March 13, 2020 to  
20 purchase and stockpile sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to supply  
21 hospitals and other healthcare facilities and providers to meet the demand for the  
22 number of anticipated COVID-19-related illnesses; and

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24 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County has sufficient testing capabilities to test for the  
25 anticipated COVID-19-related illnesses; and

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27 WHEREAS, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been staggering  
28 and the full impacts of the pandemic have yet to be calculated; and

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30 WHEREAS, over 50,000 Anne Arundel County residents have filed for  
31 unemployment benefits as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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33 WHEREAS, food insecurity and housing insecurity of Anne Arundel County  
34 residents have increased exponentially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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36 WHEREAS, the mental health of Anne Arundel County residents has been  
37 suffering as many residents have been exposed to prolonged periods of isolation,  
38 and loss of employment; and

1       WHEREAS, projected budget revenues for Anne Arundel County dropped by over  
2       \$63 million, or more, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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4       WHEREAS, continued delay and closures of Anne Arundel County businesses will  
5       serve to magnify the economic and social harms to Anne Arundel County residents,  
6       and erode further the social safety net of services provided to Anne Arundel County  
7       residents; now, therefore, be it

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9       *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, that it hereby  
10      urges the County Executive to immediately advance to Phase One of Governor Hogan’s  
11      “Roadmap to Recovery” by reopening all businesses and houses of worship in Anne  
12      Arundel County, subject to observance of proper safety protocols for social distancing, and  
13      as permitted by the Governor’s Executive Order; and be it further

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15      *Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to County Executive Steuart Pittman  
16      and to Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D., Health Officer.