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STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 61

TO CREATE THE CROWNSVILLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CROWNSVILLE HOSPITAL MEMORIAL PARK

WHEREAS, in 1911, the State of Maryland established the Hospital for the Negro Insane of Maryland on the grounds of a 565 acre farm located in Crownsville, Maryland (the "Hospital"); and

WHEREAS, for the next 93 years, the Hospital housed and provided various degrees of care for up to 2,700 individuals at a time who were deemed to be "insane," all of whom were African-American until the patient base was integrated in the early 1960s, and most of whom contributed unpaid labor and services essential to the construction and operation of the Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the provision of health and housing services at the Hospital was repeatedly found to be substandard due to staffing issues, neglect and ignorance and many patients who entered the hospital were never released and died there; and

WHEREAS, residents who died at the Hospital and had no family to claim them were buried in undocumented graves at a cemetery on grounds of the Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the State closed the Hospital and discontinued all uses on the site, thereafter provided only basic maintenance of the grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital is uniquely located in the geographic center of Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the "County") and contains several historically significant buildings and an abundance of green space and wooded areas, all of great interest to County residents; and

WHEREAS, after taking office in 2018, the County Executive initiated a dialogue with the State to express an interest in the Hospital grounds to honor and preserve the history and legacy of the Hospital and those who were institutionalized during its operation by creating a space where people can heal through the natural beauty of the site and access much-needed resources and services, which led to an agreement with the State to convey the Hospital and the grounds to the County for nominal consideration; and

WHEREAS, on or about December 13, 2022, by deed recorded among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Book 39333, page 426, the State of Maryland deeded to the County the 497.6684 acre +/- parcel on which the Hospital and associated uses, including the cemetery, are located (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the conveyance of the Property to Anne Arundel County was subject to the condition that the County "own, use, manage, and operate such property solely for public purposes"; and

WHEREAS, upon acquiring the property for the County, the County Executive declared his intention to designate the property as Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, and funding for the property's remediation and capital costs have been included in the Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 Budgets; and

WHEREAS, in planning for the use, improvement, preservation and management of the Property, the County Executive wishes to engage a diverse group of elected officials, appointed officials, local experts, and residents to advise the County Administration on the prospective future uses and preservation of the Property consistent with the legacy of the thousands of people who were housed, lived and died there; the deed restriction; the vision of the County Executive; and the best interests of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, hereby order and direct on this 5th day of September, 2023, as follows:

1. Henceforth, the Property shall be known and referred to as "Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park."

2. The Crownsville Advisory Committee (the "Committee") is hereby created.

3. The Committee shall meet as frequently as is necessary to perform its duties under this Executive Order, but no less than six meetings annually.

4. The Committee shall conduct its meetings pursuant to all applicable County and State laws, regulations, and procedures, including the Open Meetings Act.

5. The County Executive shall appoint no more than 15 voting members to the Committee that shall include at least one representative, unless otherwise noted, from each of the following:

a. State and local elected officials who represent constituents in the immediate area surrounding the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park;

b. The Office of the Governor of Maryland;

c. A Commissioner of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights representing Anne Arundel County;

d. Communities adjacent to the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park;

e. One person with expertise in cultural history;

f. One person with expertise in health and wellness;

g. One person with expertise in recreation and parks;

h. One person with expertise in infrastructure;

i. The County Budget Officer, or their designee; and

j. The County Director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights, or their designee.

5. At any time, other ex officio and honorary members may be asked to join the Committee to contribute their expertise and offer a fuller representation of citizens, agencies, and organizations. Such ex officio and honorary members, or their designees, shall be non-voting members and shall serve as needed.

6. Voting members of the Commission shall be appointed by the County Executive to serve conterminously with the term of the County Executive. Voting members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. Voting Members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and may be removed at any time, with or without cause. Voting Members shall be considered removed for cause if they miss more than one-half of the meetings held during a twelve (12) month period.

7. The County Executive shall designate one member as Chair of the Committee, to serve conterminously with the term of the County Executive.

8. The Committee shall act as an advisory body and be responsible for:

a. Advising the County Executive and County Departments on the planning process, including community involvement, for Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park.

b. Making recommendations for uses of the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, taking into account the cultural history of the site, the health and wellness of County residents, the need of residents for recreation and parks, and necessary infrastructure to support those uses.

c. Collect and compile public input on public need and prospective uses of the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park.

9. The Committee shall submit an annual report by January 30 to the County Executive and the County Council summarizing the activities of the Committee which shall include achievements, public input, factual findings, and recommendations for the use, improvement, preservation, and management of the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order.

STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Gregory J. Swain
County Attorney