



Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor

Tracey Douglas
City Administrator

PRESS RELEASE
City of Hyattsville Police Department
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**Chief Amal Awad Announces Resignation
From City of Hyattsville Police Department**

(Hyattsville, MD) – Today, City of Hyattsville Police Department Chief Amal Awad announced her resignation, effective Dec. 16, 2020. Awad's departure comes as she prepares to take the lead as Chief of Police at the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

"I feel deeply connected to Hyattsville. I began my career here in Hyattsville as a Prince George's County patrol officer in 1991," said Awad, who joined the City of Hyattsville Police Department in the spring of 2017. "As we all know, life is filled with opportunities and choices, and when I was presented with the opportunity to serve Anne Arundel County as their future chief of police, I was honored to answer that call," she said.

Mayor Candace Hollingsworth, who announced her own resignation one week ago said, "Chief Awad has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, depth of knowledge, professionalism, and grace in her service to the City of Hyattsville over the past three years. While we will miss her here, I understand the pull to use your talents in ways that challenge us and our society to rise to our best selves. I wish Chief Awad nothing but the best in her new role; the residents of Anne Arundel County are gaining an outstanding leader and true public servant."

During Chief Awad's tenure with HCPD, during which time she was promoted from Deputy Chief to Chief, she implemented meaningful initiatives to foster relationships with our city's youth, seniors and businesses, which further supported the police department's ability to serve the community. She expanded training to evaluate the history of law enforcement in the African American community and worked to address pressing community issues, including increasing racial diversity within the department more reflective of the



community. Minority representation increased from 36 percent of the department in 2018 to 56 percent of the department in 2020.

This year, Awad launched a mental health crisis response exploratory committee. The group, which includes law enforcement officers, mental health subject matter experts and members of the city's chaplain's group are working to identify and implement programs that will support law enforcement officers who respond to calls involving people who are in emotional distress or experiencing a mental health crisis. Awad also established a civilian CALEA manager's position, training coordinator's position and a media relations/mental health programs manager's position.

In addition, Chief Awad approved the acquisition of facility dog K9 Nola at no cost to the city. K9 Nola works with A/Cpl. Chris Evans as a community ambassador and source of support for residents during crisis events.

"I am so grateful for the hard-working men and women at this department who are continuing to persevere through tough times to help and protect the members of this community," said Awad. "I am very grateful to all of Hyattsville for welcoming me into this community and I am forever indebted to you for entrusting me to serve as your chief of police."

Awad made history by becoming HCPD's first African American, first female, and first member of the LGBTQ community to lead the department.

"Chief Awad has been a superb leader and community role model during some of this city's, and the country's, most challenging times for law enforcement officers," said City Administrator Tracey Douglas. "We are thankful to have had her leadership over the last two years as Chief of Police, and wish her well on the next chapter of her career."

Nicholson-Douglas announced Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee will serve as interim police chief during the search and hiring process of the next Hyattsville police chief.

Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman will host a media availability on Zoom with Chief Awad and Anne Arundel County Acting Chief Lowry today.

WHO: County Executive **Steuart Pittman**
Hyattsville Police **Chief Amal Awad**
Acting Chief of Police **William Lowry**

WHEN: Monday, November 16 at 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The event will take place on Zoom. Members of the media should RSVP to Jenny Proebstle at jenny.proebstle@aacounty.org to receive the login information.

The conversation will also be livestreamed on [County Executive Pittman's Facebook page](#).

