



# City of Seat Pleasant

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mayor Grant Recognizes Two Year Anniversary of President Obama's Enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:**

**Seat Pleasant, MD** – Today marks the two year anniversary of President Obama signing into law the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) which ensures millions of uninsured, unemployed, or under privileged Americans will have a straightforward and seamless path towards affordable health insurance coverage. For Prince Georges County this act, which covers a vast array of health care issues across the nation, is important because it offers an opportunity to close health disparities in communities that suffer the most.

"We have an opportunity to seize affordable health care with this act for our children, seniors on Medicare, and reduce the growing strain on our residents suffering from costly health conditions such as diabetes," said Mayor Eugene W. Grant who has taken advantage of this act creating health care options for his community. He added, "We do not have time to play games in this election year, no one can afford to ignore the growing health disparities in our neighborhoods. Therefore, any funding made available due to this vast health care initiative should be sought after for Prince Georges County residents who are vastly disproportionate in health care statistics with the rest of the state and nation. I will do whatever is in my power and ability to close health care gaps in my community and I encourage other elected officials in our county to do the same."

Another important aspect of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is much needed expansion and support of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The single most important way we can help improve impoverished children's health and overall functioning is to put our efforts into supporting this program and provide more continuity of coverage within families that otherwise would not have any. For example, Mayor Grant is working closely with Central and Fairmont Heights High Schools to bring students to the University of Maryland's School of Public Health for the 3rd Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit on May 11th.

"For the first time our local area high school students will have access to some of the best health care information our state has to offer by visiting the campus and hearing first hand from professors and graduate students at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health," stated Mayor Grant, who is also planning on bringing fifty seniors from his community to the health summit, and also added "Vulnerable populations such as our seniors and children need access to information regarding the health issues which are affecting them most such as diabetes, HIV/STD's, hypertension, obesity and proper nutrition."

The health summit is one of many local area events the Mayor is bringing to his community in order to increase access to information and health resources for residents. During the Mayor's [Life's Simple 7 Event](#), free blood screenings were made available to local seniors and "We found three seniors who had no idea they are likely to have a type of diabetes, thanks to Dr. Sharon Desmond of the University of Maryland's School of Public Health who conducted the screenings, we saved lives that day. These are the kind of deliverables I feel we should be striving for in our communities and opening doors that have been closed too long for our areas residents."

Mayor Grant also added "The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act made it possible for our community to work with and unite several outside organizations such as the University of Maryland Prevention Resource Center, Integrity Health Partners, Prince Georges Hospital Center, and state agencies, all whom share vested health care interests in our community. By working hard we were able to come together and create a community based organization under the Community Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) portion of this act. The [Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc.](#), a community based organization, has set out to reduce hospital readmissions, test sustainable funding streams for care transition services, maintain/improve quality of overall health care, and document measureable savings to the Medicare program. That is why today we should recognize those who rarely have a voice and have suffered the most health care hardships, and recognize the increase in access the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act has created for small communities such as Seat Pleasant, concluded Mayor Grant."

**Eugene W. Grant** is currently serving his 8th year as mayor of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence. During his 8 years as mayor, he has successfully tripled the size of the Police Department, reduced crime by 33%, improved the infrastructure of the city, ended each year with a surplus and raised thousands of dollars for the local elementary school. Mayor Grant serves as the Chairman of the Board for Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc., President of the Maryland Black Mayor's Community Development Corporation, Inc., Chief Executive Officer for Global Development Services for Youth, Inc., and a member of numerous other organizations both domestically and internationally. You can follow Mayor Grant on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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