



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND MAYOR EUGENE W. GRANT ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION

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May 11, 2021 (Seat Pleasant, Md.). Today, the City of Seat Pleasant's Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** was elected among his peers to serve as a Trustee on the Board of Directors for the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) Board of Trustees. Convening virtually over 150 dedicated Black mayors, Biden-Harris Administration officials, and social justice advocates for its 2021 Annual Conference held a number of informative sessions for its membership. Participants discussed solutions to a variety of policy challenges facing the nation's cities, including the housing crisis, policing reform, infrastructure, and environmental racism, all of which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and have disproportionately impacted communities of color.

Among the presenters included keynote remarks from the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the honorable **Marcia Fudge**. Secretary Fudge is a former mayor and alum of AAMA and brought her lived experience as a mayor to her work at HUD.

This year's theme was, "*Forward Together: Mayors Vision for Resilient Communities.*" In recognition of moving forward together with vision, AAMA presented awards to a slate of cross-sector leaders who have dedicated themselves to increasing political and economic opportunity in America. Among the awardees included **Stacey Abrams**, who received the President's Award for Civic Engagement for her exemplary work at increasing access to the ballot box as founder of Fair Fight.

In addition to Mayor Grant's election, the AAMA members elected the honorable Mayor **Sylvester Turner** of Houston, Texas who was sworn in (virtually) as the new President of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA). Mayor Turner takes over for outgoing AAMA President, Mayor **McKinley L. Price**, DDS of Newport News, Virginia who led with honor and distinction under difficult circumstances during the global pandemic.

"It is a great honor and privilege to be elected to serve alongside some of America's brilliant and brightest public servants," said Mayor Grant. He went on to say, "As our Association continues to raise our voices in fighting for social justice and equity for all Americans we do so under a united banner – looking forward." Mayor Grant stated that he would continue to advocate on behalf of America's small cities, towns and villages making certain that they are not left out of the national conversations as it pertains to resources, attention from federal agencies and partnerships among some of America's leading corporations and universities.

Among some of the others elected to serve on the Board of Trustees include the honorable **Muriel Bowser**, Mayor of Washington, DC, and the honorable **Brandon M. Scott**, Mayor of the City of Baltimore, Maryland.

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About The City of Seat Pleasant, MD

The City of Seat Pleasant: A Smart City of Excellence, and the World's First Authentic Small Smart City is a small Maryland city with approximately 4,800 residents. The City was founded in 1931 and began its digital transformation into a Smart City beginning in the Fall of 2016. Seat Pleasant is consistently recognized for its work to digitally transform government to promote safety, resilience, efficient service delivery, and effective civic engagement, including from IBM and the Smart Cities Council. The City's guiding principal that the citizen is the most important stakeholder, as well as the strategic partnerships it has forged with private, educational, and public institutions, have been the catalyst behind the city's successful and historic transformation.

For more information on the City of Seat Pleasant, visit us online at <http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov> or <http://www.smallsmartcity.org>, Twitter @cityofseatpleasant or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/cityofseatpleasant>.

About African American Mayors Association

The African American Mayors Association (AAMA) is the only organization exclusively representing African American mayors in the United States. AAMA exists to empower local leaders for the benefit of their citizens. The role of the African American Mayors Association includes taking positions on public policies that impact the vitality and sustainability of cities; providing mayors with leadership and management tools; and creating a forum for member mayors to share best practices related to municipal management.

For more information on the African American Mayors Association, visit them at <http://www.ourmayors.org>, Twitter @OurMayors

About Mayor Eugene W. Grant

The Honorable Eugene W. Grant serves as the longest tenured Mayor in the 90-year history Seat Pleasant: A Smart City of Excellence, for his 5th term. Mayor Grant has successfully spearheaded the digital transformation of the city making Seat Pleasant the World's First Authentic Small Smart City. Mayor Grant is a sought-after speaker traveling around the country and the world speaking on various topics centered around Smart Cities. He is an entrepreneur, a corporate executive and serves on numerous boards and commissions in leadership roles.

For more information on Mayor Eugene W. Grant, visit him at <http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov> , <http://www.eugenewgrant.com>, Twitter @MayorGrant, LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eugene-w-grant-48303170>