

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

On behalf of The Residents of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

WHEREAS, For 214 years, from 1650 until November 1, 1864, the government of Anne Arundel County, its elected leaders, and its employees, enforced the enslavement of Black residents and their children through its courts, its sheriffs, its jails, and its methods of torture and execution; and

WHEREAS, The enslavement and trauma inflicted on our county's Black residents was used to build infrastructure that remains today and wealth that has been passed from generation to generation of primarily white families; and

WHEREAS, After Maryland Emancipation, Anne Arundel County Government failed to apologize for its role in the enslavement of its residents, and enforced laws that denied its Black residents the liberty and justice that were provided to its white residents; and

WHEREAS, Between 1875 and 1911, Anne Arundel County allowed its white residents to remove Black suspects from County custody, drag them through Black residential communities, and murder them by lynching, with no fear of prosecution for their acts of terrorism; and

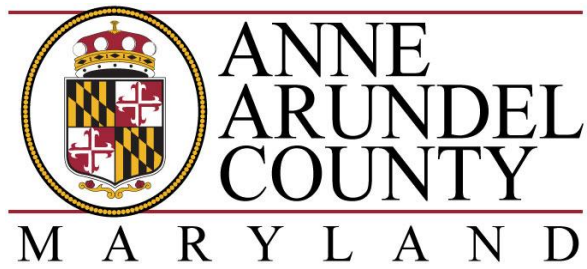
WHEREAS, After 1911, when the State of Maryland opened Crownsville Hospital for the Negro Insane, Anne Arundel County law enforcement regularly removed Black residents from their communities and put them in that facility as a means of circumventing the courts and denying the right to legal representation; and

WHEREAS, Until court-ordered desegregation in 1956, the government of Anne Arundel County maintained a separate and under-resourced system of education for Black students, and after that time used school districting policies and capital budgets to deny Black students the quality of facilities enjoyed by their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County Government, in cooperation with private developers and federal, state, and city government, demolished the county's most vibrant Black commercial and residential district, the Old Fourth Ward in Annapolis, to build government offices and parking, thereby displacing Black property owners, and moving residents into public housing that was later allowed to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, While policies have been implemented by Anne Arundel County Government in recent years that seek to address some impacts of the aforementioned history, disparities in wealth, poverty, student achievement, wages, and housing security persist; and

WHEREAS, The Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission and the Anne Arundel County Caucus of African American Leaders have requested that Anne Arundel County issue an official apology for the aforementioned history, particularly for upholding and enforcing the institution of slavery; and



WHEREAS, Throughout history, apologies have been issued by governments, institutions, and individuals as an acknowledgement of harm and as a foundation for healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEUART L. PITTMAN, County Executive and direct descendant of Anne Arundel County enslavers, do hereby offer on behalf of the government of Anne Arundel County and the people thereof, an acknowledgment of injustice, harm, and everlasting trauma that was inflicted on enslaved Black residents of our county, their families, and their descendants.

With this acknowledgement of history, we collectively offer our inadequate but deeply felt apology that has for 160 years been withheld, and pledge to never allow this history or this acknowledgement to be forgotten.

Furthermore, we call upon all of our residents and the institutions that serve them to teach and to learn about this history and to work together toward atonement, healing, liberty, and justice for all.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of Anne Arundel County this 22nd Day of November in the Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty Five.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steuart L. Pittman".

STEUART L. PITTMAN
County Executive
November 22, 2025