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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Cecil County Citizens:

The tragedy that occurred in Annapolis yesterday afternoon was, yet again, a senseless, unnecessary act. I am deeply saddened that five innocent people lost their lives while simply doing the job they loved, and lived, to do. Our hearts and prayers are extended to the families and friends of Robert Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and everyone at the Capital Gazette newspaper.

The Maryland Primary Election was held these past two weeks with early voting and then the official Election Day, Tuesday June 26th. Acknowledging the negative first, the turnout was low in Cecil County with just under 20% of eligible voters casting their ballots. I know there are numerous reasons why citizens cannot get to the polls but given the alternative of one week of early voting access, the turnout was extremely disappointing.

Having stated the negative, the positive recognition goes to everyone who filed to run and made the bold decision to have his/her name placed on the ballot. From experience, I can tell you that once you file, your personal and professional lives are exposed to others for their critique. Most often the criticism is positive but on occasion the comments expressed hurt and in some cases are not an accurate reflection of what you believe and why you are running for elected office. Thank you to everyone who filed for office.

Lastly, in regard to the election, congratulations to those who won the primary race. For some, the election is realistically over as they have no opposition in the November General Election. For others who have an opponent, just a brief pause and then the campaigning continues.

Saturday, June 30th, is the last day of Fiscal Year 2018 and Sunday, July 1st, the first day of Fiscal Year 2019. We have had two positive budget development and approval processes since I was elected to office. While the funding challenges remain, the fiscal picture for Cecil County is bright and moving in the correct direction.

Saturday, June 30th is also the last day as Cecil County Public Schools Superintendent for Dr. D'Ette Devine. What an outstanding career she has experienced commencing as a foreign language teacher and culminating these past eight years as the Superintendent. Rare is the case that the superintendent spends an entire career as a student, teacher and administrator in the same place. While many of the expressions of congratulations and appreciation note that she was the "first woman" this and the "first woman" that, her accomplishments over the years were because she was the best prepared and a totally dedicated professional who put children first, the future of our County, as her consistent top priority. Thank you, Dr. Devine, and the very best to you in your retirement.

Summer has officially begun. Please take the opportunity to relax with your family and loved ones over the next two months. School is out for most students and families traditionally take the opportunity to go to the beach, the mountains or to visit relatives in other states. Do not forget to enjoy the many relaxing and fun opportunities

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that exist right here at home on the rivers, the parks, the County Fair and other amenities available in our municipalities and throughout the County. Above all else, be safe!

Again, thank you for your support as we all work together to *move Cecil County forward!*

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan J. McCarthy
County Executive