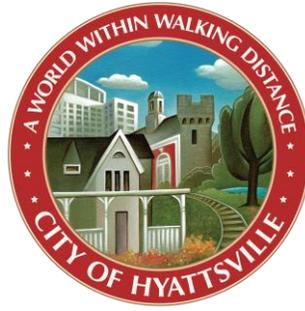


Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 21, 2020

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City of Hyattsville Police Department participating in pilot COVID-19 public safety program

The City of Hyattsville Police Department is collaborating with the non-profit research and development organization, Energetics Technology Center (ETC) to pilot a COVID-19 public safety program for first responders. ETC is based in Indian Head, Maryland and works directly with U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, academia and industry partners on numerous projects.

ETC is serving as the HCPD's "think tank" and analytics group as the first responder community processes a new way to operate given the risks posed by COVID-19. The City of Hyattsville command staff and ETC developed a daily decontamination process for equipment, clothing, and vehicles at the conclusion of each officers' tours of duty. On April 10, 2020 a tent was placed in front of the Hyattsville City Administration Building at 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD, for this purpose. The City has requested environmentally friendly cleaning supplies be prioritized.

ETC is also working to equip City of Hyattsville Police officers with a COVID-19 Law Enforcement Personal Protection Kit intended to prevent transmission of COVID-19 as officers engage with residents, visitors and individuals placed under arrest.

City of Hyattsville Chief of Police Amal Awad welcomes the partnership, stating "our Department is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Energetics Technology Center. Together, we have developed and implemented decontamination procedures to safeguard our officers, their families and our community. We are learning and adjusting, as we navigate through this unprecedented pandemic health emergency, creating a blueprint to guide us all in the event of a future emergency of this magnitude."

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

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ETC is using the data and information gathered in the pilot program to develop guidance that can inform other police departments during the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies. To learn more about ETC visit www.etcmd.com.

The City of Hyattsville is a diverse and welcoming community that celebrates small town character, urban energy, and environmental stewardship. The City's municipal government aims to provide leadership and effective services that enhance resident's quality of life. For more information visit www.hyattsville.org.

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