



CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

William T. Martin

An Open Letter to the Employees of Harford Memorial Hospital:

August 30, 2021

Dear Employees of Harford Memorial Hospital, medical staff, support staff, and administrative staff alike,

On March 5, 2020, the first cases of COVID-19 were identified in Maryland. On March 8, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Harford County. Maryland is fast approaching a half a million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with nearly 18,000 cases coming from Harford County and, as of today, 1,240 cases in Havre de Grace.

You have been battling this pandemic for the last 18 months, facing wave after wave, and making sacrifice after sacrifice. You sacrifice time with family, your health, your safety, working days and days on end with little to no break, and keeping up a seemingly unsustainable pace, yet somehow you maintain it.

You are dealing with staffing shortages as people are leaving the profession and recruitment to fill vacancies is challenging. Nevertheless, you come to work each day, power through, and treat yet another surge of COVID-19 patients. You do all of this in addition to caring for patients with various ailments, injuries, and disease. I, and the community you serve recognize the toll this has taken on you. You are exhausted in body, mind, and spirit.

I write to you with a message of gratitude and of hope.

Thank you:

Thank you for putting yourselves in harm's way. Thank you for caring about the Citizens of Havre de Grace. Thank you for coming to work when no one else could. Thank you for continuing to come to work while others are leaving the healthcare profession. Thank you to your families for the sacrifices they have made so you can care for our community.

Hope:

I hope this is the last wave of the pandemic. I hope staffing shortages and patient ratios will get better. I hope you continue to stay in healthcare; this world is a better place because of you. I hope one day society can pay you back for the sacrifices you have made. I hope you stay healthy and safe. I hope you are able to take time off to recharge.

When thinking about your efforts and sacrifice, I reflect upon a quote from Florence Nightingale: "Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore."

I offer you my sincere and heartfelt thank you for heading back out into that surf day after day. I hope you will one day, when the pandemic is behind us and standing on the shores of the new world, look upon your sacrifices with pride seeing all the good you have done to make this world a better place.

With gratitude,

William T. Martin
Mayor