



**Brandon M. Scott**  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

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May 25, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Planned Memorial Day Visit to Baltimore

Dear Mr. President,

Less than one year ago, you called the late Congressman Elijah Cummings a “brutal bully” and said that Baltimore was “a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess” and “the worst run and most dangerous [district] anywhere in the United States.”

As a proud son of our great city, I am stating in the strongest terms that you should cancel your trip, out of respect to Congressman Cummings and to all the people of Baltimore. The last thing we need is for someone who ridiculed the city in hateful terms to use our proud history as a photo-op to divide the American people at this difficult time in our nation’s history.

And your timing could not be worse. As of my writing, our City has 4,782 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 222 confirmed deaths. In a city that is a 63% Black, African Americans account for 69% of those deaths. This is personal for me: the zip code I grew up in has been a hotspot of COVID-19.

This says nothing of the economic devastation that is being wrought by the disease and by federal inaction. Thousands of our residents are now unemployed, with many facing food and housing insecurity. Nearly 100,000 Americans have died, and a disproportionate number are Black.

This city and our nation need leaders who take responsibility. Not leaders who seek to divide us, who treat Black and Brown people as less than, and who disregard the loss of our lives. Respectfully, I request that you not visit Baltimore. However, if you choose to do so, I ask that you consider bringing the following with you:

- **100,000** tests for COVID-19;
- **\$25 million** to support Baltimore small businesses impacted by COVID-19;
- **\$150 million** to help Baltimore close the projected fiscal gap resulting from this pandemic; and
- **\$30 million** to jump start the build out of Baltimore's municipal broadband network to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Scott  
President, Baltimore City Council