



Howard County Government News Release

*Ellicott City Flood Recovery
Joint Information Center*

410-313-3600 / ECFloodRecovery@HowardCountymd.gov

July 3, 2018

Media Contact:

Mark Miller, Administrator, Office of Public Information, 410-313-2022

State of Emergency in Ellicott City extended through July 30; portion of Main Street to remain closed

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – The portion of Ellicott City's Main Street between Maryland Avenue and Old Columbia Pike will remain closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic following a vote by the Howard County Council last night to extend the State of Emergency in Ellicott City through July 30, 2018.

County Executive Allan H. Kittleman requested the extension after hearing from residents, business owners and property owners at a Flood Recovery Town Hall he co-hosted with Councilmember Jon Weinstein on Thursday, June 28, 2018.

"I appreciate the input we heard from those who attended the Town Hall," said Kittleman. "Those are the folks who live and work along Main Street and we want to give them the additional time they requested while trying to accommodate those businesses that have already re-opened or will be doing so shortly."

Businesses inside the restricted area are allowed to bring multiple contractors to their properties simultaneously, with parking on the south side of Main Street permitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Any property owner who needs to arrange for special vehicle access should call 410-313-2900. Vehicles inside the restricted zone will now also be able to travel both east and westbound.

"Extending the State of Emergency is a reasonable and balanced solution that will give those businesses on the lower end of Main Street the additional time they requested," said Weinstein. "We also need to give the County time to install and test traffic calming measures on the west end of Main Street to address the increase in traffic volume when Main Street is fully reopened."

Business owners, property owners and their volunteers continue to have daily access between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents who live inside the closed portion of Main Street are being

--more--

State of Emergency in Ellicott City extended through July 30; portion of Main Street to remain closed

(continued)

allowed to re-occupy their homes if the residence has been deemed habitable by the County, all necessary utilities have been restored and they have signed a re-occupancy agreement with the County.

Those business owners and residents who still need volunteer assistance with clean up and salvage of their properties should complete the appropriate forms at www.howardcountymd.gov/disasterrecoveryvolunteer.

The County has also implemented an expedited permit process to assist those who are ready to move ahead with rebuilding. This process will remain in place until January 31, 2019 while fee waivers for flood damage repair are in effect.

Nearly two dozen Main Street businesses have already re-opened, along with all seven public parking lots. Portions of lots "F" and "G" are fenced off while they are being utilized for construction equipment involved in the recovery.

Ellicott Mills Drive is expected to remain closed between Fels Lane and Main Street until late fall, as crews repair the culvert and portion of roadway destroyed by the May 27 flood.

Motorists are reminded to please drive slowly on Main Street, particularly through Ellicott City's West End between Rogers Avenue and Ellicott Mills Drive. While the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour, drivers are asked to reduce speeds even more while recovery work continues. Temporary traffic calming measures are being put in place in the West End.

For more information, visit the flood recovery information page at www.ECfloodrecovery.org.

###