



THIRU
MAYOR

OPEN BOOKS BALTIMORE

Baltimore mayoral candidate Thiru Vignarajah recently announced "Open Books Baltimore," a commitment to **make City Hall more transparent than it has ever been before.** As mayor, Vignarajah pledges to:



Launch a citywide forensic audit to be shared with the public within 100 days of taking office



Establish monthly public CitiStat, with three citywide town halls and nine town halls in each police district



Hold a weekly press conference on the state of crime in Baltimore

"You will know what I know."



Root Out Corruption: Thiru's Plan to Restore Trust in City Hall

Baltimore has seen a state senator, a city aide, multiple police officers, two police commissioners, and now two Mayors charged and convicted of public corruption. When former Mayor Catherine Pugh recently pled guilty, we learned that the latest public corruption prosecution in Baltimore was not the result of an accounting error or negligent oversight — it was a calculated and deliberate conspiracy driven by the City's career politicians seeking money and power rather than striving to serve the public. Enough is enough. This must end, and it must end now.

Thiru's plan to root out corruption attacks three intertwined evils: career politicians seeking to get rich and stay in office rather than serve the public; a culture of nepotism where politicians appoint family and friends—and the family and friends of their allies; and a pay-to-play system where lobbyists and big money enable the rich to buy off politicians and buy their way into office.

Baltimore deserves better. Along with releasing his anti-corruption plan, Thiru has committed to a series of pledges and called on all other mayoral candidates to do the same. The people of Baltimore need to be reassured that those who seek to lead them are aware of the lack of faith in City Hall and are prepared to make the commitments needed to restore trust in local government. Highlights of the plan include:

- A charter amendment requiring candidates for city office and any appointee requiring confirmation by the City Council (e.g., the police commissioner) to release 5 years of tax returns. Thiru is still the only mayoral candidate in Baltimore history to release five years of full tax returns.
- A mandate that city elected officials obtain an ethics opinion before accepting any new source of supplemental income over \$10,000 and promptly disclose that income to the public.
- A prohibition preventing elected officials from serving as lobbyists for 3 years after their term ends.
- A rule against appointing a family member or employee of an elected official to a vacant elected office.
- A condition that elected officials publicly disclose the existence of a family or business relationship whenever making a personnel recommendation for a position in city government.
- A criminal ban on campaign contributions by registered lobbyists and on any company soliciting donations from its vendors for more than an aggregate amount of \$6,000.
- A requirement that any outside loans to a campaign after the final reporting deadline just before a primary or general election be disclosed to the public within 12 hours.

- A 50% tax on personal contributions exceeding \$250,000 to one's own campaign, the proceeds of which would go to a public fund for opponents with 10,000 signatures or \$250,000+ in donations.

Thiru is also committed to transparency once in office in order to keep leadership directly accountable for the state of Baltimore. Once elected, he has pledged to:

- Launch an independent citywide forensic audit of all agencies to be shared with the public within 100 days of taking office.
- Establish monthly public CitiStat for real-time accountability, and hold three citywide town halls per year and a town hall in each of the nine police districts.
- Hold a weekly press conference on the state of crime in Baltimore.

Public office in Baltimore must be earned, not bought. It's time to root out corruption, to make sure elected officials are accountable the public's interest above all, and to end nepotism and City Hall's pay-to-play culture once and for all.