



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Ciara Cooney | press@Thiru2020.com | (443) 219-6923

Over 85 CEOs and business leaders endorse Thiru Vignarajah for Mayor; cite candidate's record and experience as best to tackle soaring crime and struggling economy

BALTIMORE, March 30, 2020 -

As a global pandemic only amplifies the city's major challenges, business owners, executives, and community leaders from the Baltimore area, together with others with deep city roots, have released a joint letter of support for mayoral candidate and former Maryland deputy attorney general Thiru Vignarajah.

The signatories explain their support for Thiru saying he “has the best combination of experience and skills of all the candidates to restore public safety and help promote a healthier economic climate in our city.”

Thanking the dozens of CEOs, executives, and community leaders who signed the letter, Vignarajah said, “I'm honored to have the support of leaders who know that Baltimore faces immense challenges but is also full of promise waiting to be unleashed. Residents want calm, compassionate, strong leadership. The city needs a leader who can fight a two-front war, who can fight crime and rebuild, one who can pull individuals, businesses, and community anchors together to save the life of our city.”

Vignarajah has a diverse and sterling professional record, having worked at McKinsey, clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court, served as a federal and city prosecutor, and worked as a partner at a global law firm. As the leaders state, he “will be ready on day one to enlist private sector collaboration, forge innovative strategies to rebuild and grow our economy in difficult times, and lead Baltimore out of crisis.”

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Letter in Support of Baltimore Mayoral Candidate Thiru Vignarajah

We, the undersigned business owners, executives, and community leaders from the Baltimore metropolitan region, together with others having deep Baltimore roots, are convinced the mayoral election in June presents an urgent opportunity for new leadership to reclaim our city government from the political incumbents who have failed us for so long.

The new mayor must first and foremost restore public safety so that our citizens feel safe going to work and going about their daily lives in all the city's neighborhoods. Above all, the mayor must know how to fight crime and act quickly to instill confidence that we are making progress on this most critical front.

We all know that both new job creation and existing job retention depend on a significant drop in crime. Absent that, the city's economic base – jobs, restaurants, tourism, real estate development, convention business, and property values – is very much at risk.

The present pandemic amplifies these challenges. We need a mayor capable of understanding and tackling the complex economic problems Baltimore will face after the health crisis recedes. Former Maryland deputy attorney general Thiru Vignarajah, who has worked at McKinsey, clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court, served as a federal and city prosecutor, and is a partner at a global law firm, will be ready on day one to enlist private sector collaboration, forge innovative strategies to rebuild and grow our economy in difficult times, and lead Baltimore out of crisis.

We all enthusiastically support and endorse Thiru for mayor as he is by far the candidate who is most qualified to achieve these goals. Baltimore needs Thiru. We are therefore asking our friends, families, and business associates to support him. And you too.

Thiru has the best combination of experience and skills of all the candidates to restore public safety and help promote a healthier economic climate in our city.

Enough is enough.

Mick Arnold, President, Arnold Packaging

H. Furlong Baldwin, Retired Chairman, President, and CEO, Mercantile Bankshares Corporation

John Banes, Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Robert Barnhill, Jr., Retired CEO and Chairman, Tessco Technologies

Michael Batza, Chairman and CEO, Heritage Properties

Evan Berney, CEO, Carbiz.com

Peter Bowe, President (Retired), Ellicott Dredges

Andy Brooks, Head of U.S. Equity Trading (Retired), T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.

Sana Brooks, Community Volunteer

Emily Brennan, HMS Insurance, Inc.

Tony Brandon, General Manager (Retired), WYPR and Board Chair, American General Media

Tom Brandt, CFO (Retired), TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.

Andrew Cameron, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Transplantation, Johns Hopkins Medicine

James Canzoniero, President and CEO, Gamse Lithographing Co.

Robert Cashman, Executive Vice President, CBRE

Luke Cooper, Founder and CEO, Fixt, Inc.

Clinton Daly, Skywater, LLC

Scott David, President (Retired), T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc.

Kathleen Del Monte, President, McEnroe Voice & Data

Kevin Dunbar, President and CEO, Dunbar Security Solutions

Pierce Dunn, Founder, TalentWell Partners

Christine Espenshade, Vice Chairman, Newmark Knight Frank
Charles Fenwick III, Senior Director, Cushman & Wakefield
Tim Frank, Former CEO, GRAFCO Pet Packaging
Carl Frischling, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
A.C. George, McCormick & Company, Inc. (Retired)
Peter George, Senior Vice President, Sales, East, Acosta Sales and Marketing Foodservice
Roseann and Robert Glick, Owners, Village Square Cafe
Drew Greenblatt, CEO, Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC
Steve Groenke, CEO, Storbyte
Adam Gross, Principal, Ayers Saint Gross
Harry Gruner, Managing Partner, JMI Equity
Tsognie Hamilton and Douglas Hamilton, Jr., Board Chair, Hamilton Associates, Inc.
Gerry Hartung, Retired Co-Founder and CEO, Med-IQ LLC
Roland Harvey, Founder, Natural Concerns
George Hess, Former Chairman and CEO, Hess Shoes
Aaron Hsu, CEO, ClearMask
T. Courtenay Jenkins, III, General Partner, The Station Realty LLP
Robert Katz, Former Managing Partner, Horn & Horn Cafeterias and Cactus Willies
Tom Maddux, Principal, KLN
Glennie Martin, President, Clay County Port
Manelle Martino, Co-Founder, Capital Teas
L. Bruce Matthai, Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield
Brooke McDonald, President, Houpla, Inc.
John McLaughlin, Retired President and CEO, DAP Products, Inc.
Lee Miller, Jr., President, Miller Wood Products, Inc.
Marigot Miller, Owner, Abbey Burger Bistro
William Moore, President, Southway Builders
Sheela Murthy, Esq., President/CEO, Murthy Law Firm
Rahel Negash, President, Maryland Parking Solutions
Yonas Negash, Managing Director, HNY Entertainment, LLC
Peggy and Charlie Obrecht
Steve O'Donnell, CEO, O'Donnell Metal Deck & Bar Joist
Morris W. Offit, Chairman, Offit Capital
Karen Olson, Founder and CEO, BALMED Group
Tim Parker, CEO, Parker Flavors
Corina Peacock, CEO and President, SpecWorks, Inc.
Walter D. Pinkard, Jr., Concerned Citizen
Bob Rasmus, Chairman and CEO, Hi Crush, Inc.
George Rich, Managing Partner, GRI Fund, L.P.
Shelia K. Riggs, Community Volunteer
Tom Rothman, Chairman, Sony Pictures Entertainment Motion Picture Group
Charlie Scheeler, Chairman, Rosedale Federal Savings and Loan Association
Donald Scheeler, President, Behavioral Programs, LEARN Behavioral
Matthew Seward, Senior Director, Cushman & Wakefield
Jenny Smelkinson Shapiro and Keith Shapiro, President (Retired), Sysco Baltimore Food Services
Scott Sherman, Managing Partner, Rockwell Associates, LLC and Vice President (Retired), T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.
Susan Singer, President, Party Dress
Abigail E. Smith, President, Abigail E. Smith, CPA, P.A.
L. Jamie Smith, Vice Chair, Cushman & Wakefield

Rikki Spector, Former Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 5
Britt Tegeler, President, Tegeler Construction & Supply
David Wallace, PE, Retired Partner, RK&K
Mark Walsh, Managing Partner, Ruxton Ventures, LLC
Marcus Wang, President and Co-Founder, ZytoGen Global Genetics Institute
Edwin Warfield IV, Publisher, Citybizlist
Teddy Wasserman, CEO, Afiniti
Joseph Wendel, Former CFO, Ellicott Dredges
Charles Wiener, M.D., Professor of Medicine
Richard Wiklund, Jr., CEO, Avidon Corporation
Jay Wilson, Vice Chairman (Retired), Mercantile Bankshares Corporation