



PRESS RELEASE

VIGNARAJAH MAKES FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PLEDGES

Mayoral candidate highlights commitment by leaping into freezing harbor waters; promises to do it again if pledges are not honored within 60 days of becoming Mayor

BALTIMORE. March 15, 2024.

Today, at 11:30 AM, at the water's edge in Fells Point between Pitango and the Pendry, Democratic mayoral candidate and former Deputy Attorney General Thiru Vignarajah will unveil his environmental policy including five major pledges on what he will do in his first 60 days as Mayor.

To show his commitment to these pledges, at the end of the press conference, Vignarajah will take a polar plunge into the Inner Harbor, promising to do it again on the last day of February 2025, if he does not make good on all five pledges in his first 60 days as Mayor.

Vignarajah's environmental plan includes strategies to expand the tree canopy, establish twice weekly trash pickup, crack down on illegal dumping, combat lead exposure, and achieve climate resilience.

Among these plans are five pledges of what Thiru will do in his first 60 days:

- Introduce legislation that will forbid natural gas and fossil fuels in new buildings by July 2026 (with certain commercial exceptions, *e.g.*, factories, restaurants)
- Provide notice of intent to terminate contract with Wheelabrator on the grounds that the contract violated competitive bidding rules and breaches the Baltimore Clean Air Act
- Comply with the EPA's order (May 2023) to make \$2M in cleanup assistance funds available for all sewage backups that originate in the sewer mainline
- Launch two new free bus routes, one along Park Heights Ave-North Ave-Harford Rd and a second across Edmondson Ave-Franklin St-Orleans St-Pulaski Hwy
- Sign an executive order that forbids construction of private residential buildings in or near the Inner Harbor promenade or any other city public park.

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