



PRESS RELEASE

Statement from Attorney General Frosh Following Attack on U.S. Capitol

BALTIMORE, MD (January 8, 2021) – Statement from Attorney General Brian E. Frosh:

“The violent assault on our nation’s Capitol this week was one of the gravest threats to self-governance in our 244-year history. Directly incited by the sitting president, this insurrection brought into terrifying relief the fragility of our American democracy. The white supremacists and other Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol were attempting to subvert the votes of millions of Americans to overturn a free and fair election. They did not succeed, but they got further in their violent quest than many would ever have dreamed possible. The management decisions and failures in preparedness that left the Capitol Police Department overwhelmed must be investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable.

“We must also confront the hard truth that this riot would have been met with a harsher law enforcement response had the white insurrectionists been black or brown. Trump will soon leave office, preferably before the end of his term, but at the latest on January 20, 2021. We must remain vigilant to ensure the transfer of power to President-elect Biden is peaceful, both in Washington and in state capitals throughout the country. Regardless, Trump and his supporters and enablers have left wounds that will not soon heal.

“As a consequence, we face a difficult task. All of us – not only those in elected office who have sworn an oath to protect and defend our Constitution, but also every person in this country who treasures our Republic – must commit ourselves to the hard work of rebuilding it. We must work to reestablish faith in our democratic institutions. We must pursue reforms to erase the systemic racism that has plagued our country from its inception. And, we must restore the rule of law and the pursuit of justice.

“It is a renewed commitment to the pursuit of justice that will enable the noble American experiment of self-governance to endure and be our path to recovery and renewal.”