

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 35 No. 50

October 15 -21, 2021

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

AOC and The Squad Can Teach the Congressional Black Caucus a Lesson or Two!

By Peter Bramble

There is a small group of Congresswomen: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY, District 14), Ilhan Omar (D-MN, District 5), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA, District 7), Rashida Talib (D-MI, District 13) and Cori Bush (D-MO, District 1), known charmingly as “The Squad” who are perhaps the most powerful coalition of power in the current Congress of the United States of America.

Amazingly, most of them have been recently elected to Congress. At least two of them are refugees, recent immigrants to the USA. They are all women. They seem to know what they and their constituents want and they effectively work to make sure they get it. These ladies of The Squad have become so powerful. Although there are just five of them out of 435 Congress persons, they can fashion legislation, hold up legislation and even sink legislation that they believe is contrary or not beneficial to their interests. What great power, for good or evil, these five congresswomen, with little legislative experience in terms of years in service, wield!

Currently, the great and powerful Squad is holding up two major pieces of legislation in Congress. They are demanding that both pieces of legislation, which could cost us more than \$5 trillion be yoked together. If not, with their five votes in a Congress so closely divided, that as few as four votes can topple any legislation. They are the reigning queens.

Continued on page 12

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Two Women Give Personal Perspectives



Ricki Fairley is an Annapolitan who founded Touch, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance. The 10-year survivor of stage 3A triple-negative breast cancer was once given two years to live. Fairley now works as an advocate who wants to get rid of Black breast cancer. She raises awareness about the importance of Black women participating in clinical trial research, and the presence of higher mortality statistics. Fairley also promotes fighting breast cancer through early detection, in addition to providing resource information, and collaborating with pharmaceutical companies. (See article on page 8) Courtesy Photo

What you need to know about renewing your driver's license and Real ID

By Margaret Henn

Question: I received a notice that my driver's license was expiring, but when I went to the MVA to try to renew it, they turned me away because my name didn't match exactly on all my documents. What do I do?

Answer: Unfortunately, a lot of Marylanders are experiencing the same challenge as you when trying to renew their driver's license or state identification. Your problem is caused by new requirements imposed by the REAL ID Act.

You may have heard the term REAL ID, but what does it mean? The REAL ID Act requires two things. 1) The MVA must create licenses that are hard to tamper with; and 2) individuals must provide required documents to prove their identity. To receive the updated REAL ID compliant card, you must prove your age, identity, social security, and Maryland residency. Age and identity are most often proved by a birth certificate or a passport and social security by an original social security card or tax documents like a W-2 or 1099. Residency can be proved through a variety of documents, including vehicle registration, bank account statement, utility bill, lease, mortgage statement, etc.



Margaret Henn is the Director of Program Management at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). MVLS focuses on housing, consumer, family, estate, tax, and criminal record relief issues for Marylanders of limited means.
Photo Credit: John Waire, The WaireHouse

As you mentioned, if your name does not match exactly on all of your documents, the MVA will likely not be able to issue you a REAL ID. This can prove to be a particular problem for certain groups of people: some older adults are experiencing problems when they arrive at the MVA with their issued birth registration, rather than a birth

certificate, which is not an acceptable document. Women who have been married and/or divorced and changed their names must provide additional court documents. It is not uncommon for someone to have a birth certificate with a name listed that is a bit different than the name someone has listed on the driver's license and/or social security card. These individuals may have to seek a name change through the Courts to align their documents.

Readers may be wondering why they should worry about becoming REAL ID compliant. In order to use your driver's license at an airport or to enter a federal facility, you will need to have your REAL ID by May 3, 2023. If your

driver's license is set to expire by that deadline, you will need to provide the necessary documents for REAL ID before then (it is possible this deadline will be extended if the pandemic related state of emergency is still in effect). After May 3, 2023, your identification will be recalled. If your driver's license is set to expire after the deadline you can wait to become REAL ID compliant until your expiration date, but you won't be able to use your driver's license for use at an airport or federal facility. If you're not REAL ID compliant by either the deadline, or on your expiration date, your license or ID card will be recalled. If pulled over by the police your license will be taken and you risk fines for driving without a valid license.

For people like the reader who posted this question, they may need to go through a lengthy name change process with the Courts to get their REAL ID. Therefore, readers should start thinking about this issue now, gathering the necessary documents and making sure they all match. If you are not sure whether you are REAL ID compliant already, you can check here: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realid/realidlookup.html>.

Margaret Henn is the Director of Program Management at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). MVLS focuses on housing, consumer, family, estate, tax, and criminal record relief issues for Marylanders of limited means. MVLS does assist with name change cases, which are sometimes needed to get your Real ID, and can be reached at www.mvlslaw.org or 410-547-6537 Mondays-Thursdays between 9am and 12pm.

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(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233.

Postmaster send address changes to:
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2513 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Successful Black American-Owned Business Leaders Unfairly Targeted

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO
National Newspaper Publishers Association

There is an old African proverb that captures one of the challenges that too many financially successful Black-owned business leaders face today in America. That proverb is “Your earned riches may engender envy and jealous criticism but be not dismayed by the foolishness of the envious.”

Across the nation as business owners are attempting to recover from the COVID-19 global pandemic, African American business leaders who are defying the odds with their financial success are often targeted by “mainstream media” and others who summarily and unfairly castigate Black business leaders’ economic achievements. Is this syndrome racially motivated? The simple answer is “Yes.”

Former Congressman and past leader of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), The Honorable Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD), 1922-2007, once said in defense of Black business leaders, “There is a national systematic campaign to unfairly subjugate and to prevent the financial success of Black American businesses.”

It appears that business leaders from communities of color in the United States are being held to a different standard of business practice, ethics and regulation. Such is the case, I believe, with respect to Jack Brown III who was recently targeted for business practice criticisms by the *New York Times* because of what they state are personal financial profits that Brown has earned as result of his businesses providing shelters to New York City’s homeless.

The *Times* emphasized, “Since 2017, as homelessness has risen to record levels, the city has awarded more than \$352 million to a nonprofit run by Mr. Brown to operate shelters. The money is meant to help homeless people regain their footing in life, but it has benefited Mr. Brown, too.”

Is the *Times* implying that there is something wrong or unethical for earning a financial profit from ones work and business? Brown’s CORE Services companies— non-profits and for-profits— have worked effectively in New York for over a decade.

Both nonprofits and for-profits have to be run as successful businesses in order to be sustainable. Jack Brown has been a national leader in multiple Black-owned businesses not only in NYC, but also in other cities he has been effective in providing much need services to the homeless and to people “returning” back to society after prison incarceration.

Investigative journalism has its rightful and respected space in our democracy. But it should always be balanced and non-racially prejudicial. The *Times* piece on Jack Brown was full of unsubstantiated innuendo and one-sided reporting. Those of us in America’s Black press are fully aware of the double standards and the racial stereotyping that cast unfair dispersions on Black entrepreneurs who dare to strive to own legitimate multi-million-dollar businesses.

After the *Times* feature on Brown was published, Rudy Giuliani, who is well known for his unprincipled attacks on African American leaders, joined in the chorus against Jack Brown.

I conclude with the following tweet that I posted: “It is questionable to see Rudy Giuliani and the *NY Times* aligned. But today the *Times* published an innuendo-filled story targeting successful Black-owned business leader, Jack Brown, who Rudy Giuliani then calls Brown a ‘poverty pimp.’”

Sadly, Former President Trump, Giuliani, some in the *NY Times*, and many others take the position that there are limits and ceilings both politically and economically across the nation that are categorically prescribed by race. We do not agree. We will not submit. The unfair targeting of Black business leaders must be stopped in America.



Community Affairs

Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries Opens Grant Application

School libraries across the country can now apply for a library grant

Dallas— The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries opened the application for grants to support school libraries in need, with the goal of encouraging all students to develop a love of reading and learning. Since its inception in 2002, the Laura Bush Foundation has awarded more than \$17 million to over 3,000 schools across the country.

To apply, public schools must have a Title I designation and private schools must have at least 50 percent of the student population qualify for financial aid. Applications will remain open until December 31, 2021.

To learn more and to apply, visit: www.bushcenter.org/lbf.



In the 2020-2021 grant cycle, The Laura Bush Foundation awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 205 school libraries across 43 states. Many librarians used the funds to update their library collections by adding more dual language titles and books that showcase a wide range of stories and perspectives. The Laura Bush Foundation is managed as a restricted fund at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas. More information can be found at www.bushcenter.org.

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Lydia Pope explains five pillars of NAREB and importance of Black homeownership

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Lydia Pope counts among the fortunate, and she knows that.

Pope also doesn't pull any punches when advocating for African Americans— particularly as it pertains to generational wealth.

Her father worked throughout Cleveland, Ohio, to help turn around the lives of gang members. Pope's mother worked a lunch program that fed those individuals after her father tutored them about the importance of homeownership and generational wealth.

"My father passed away in 1991, and my mom told me that we were the second Black family to move onto our block when I was younger," Pope, the president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), said during an interview inside the television studio of the National Newspaper

Publishers Association (NNPA) in Washington, D.C.

"My mother told me about the real estate card she possessed that prompted her to own a home," Pope reminisced during a conversation with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

have not moved the needle, so it's important that as Black people, we have to fight for what we want," Pope exclaimed. "When you talk about democracy and housing, it's important that we understand that we have to continue to fight for what we want. If that means going to our legislatures—

Pope also holds a longtime membership with the NAACP.

Significantly, Pope declared that NAREB seeks ways to assist African Americans in wealth building and sustainability. Founded in Tampa, Florida, in 1947 as an equal opportunity and civil rights advocacy organization for African American real estate professionals, consumers, and communities in America. According to its website, the purpose of NAREB is to enhance the economic improvement of its members, the community at large, and the minority community which it serves.

To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate industry including brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development, home building, and allied fields for the purpose of exerting influence on real estate interests.

Although composed principally of African Americans, the REALTIST organization embraces all qualified real estate practitioners who are committed to achieving our vision, which is Democracy in Housing.

"Our mission is to provide solutions to the various challenges Black people face," Pope stated. "It's not just increasing awareness of the barriers to homeownership, but we want to provide solutions to all of the challenges, and educating our community is one of the biggest ways we at NAREB can have a positive impact."

"NAREB seeks ways to assist African Americans in wealth building and sustainability. Founded in Tampa, Florida, in 1947 as an equal opportunity and civil rights advocacy organization for African American real estate professionals, consumers, and communities in America."

The entire conversation will air this season on PBS-TV and PBS-World during a telecast of The Chavis Chronicles.

Today, Pope's brother owns the family's Cleveland home, which she said will eventually pass to his son.

"It's all about a succession plan," Pope said. "This is how you build generational wealth."

NAREB offers five pillars to building Black wealth, Pope added.

The five pillars include:

- Multi-generational wealth.
- Government relations and advocacy.
- Diversity and inclusion for small businesses.
- Women's initiatives.
- Faith-based and civic engagement.

"Even today, the rate of Black homeownership is still at 46 percent. We

that's what we do. Our goal is to talk and advocate for the community, for those in need, for those who can't speak for themselves. We can be the voice for them."

Pope counts as the third woman president in NAREB's 74-year history. She has worked in real estate since 1995 and serves as the owner and president of E&D Realty & Investment Company, Inc., and E&D Realty Property Management Division and E&D Construction Company.

According to Pope's biography, some of her past and current accomplishments including Past President of the Women's Council of NAREB, Mt. Pleasant Advisory Board, Ohio Housing Finance Agency Committee, Cleveland Realist Association Past President & Chair, and the Cleveland/Akron Legislative Committee.

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**Mailing Address
The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627
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Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

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Emerging Leader in Baltimore:

Joel Miller locked up, homeless but fate saved him

He is among 2021 Cohort of Converge Social Justice Leadership Academy

Baltimore— Almost 10 years ago Joel Miller was fresh out of prison, living in his car, showering at the gym, jobless and needed money, when approached by a friend to participate in a robbery.

“(My friend I used to hang out with) said he had a robbery he wanted me to assist him with. It was kind of funny because I was in a bad situation,” Miller said. “I went through all my thought processes and after thinking about it I told him no. He did it, he got caught and he got 20 years for it.”

His friend got caught on a Friday and the following Tuesday, Miller received a call from the Virginia Department of Corrections for a job opportunity.

“I always think that could have been me. When I say I can relate, I can relate,” Miller said. “I became the first person who was ever in Virginia as an inmate and came back as a state employee. They’re definitely more open to hiring more felons since me.”

Miller went from living a reckless life to helping Baltimore youth make better decisions about their futures. He served six years in prison for armed robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and use of a firearm to commit a felony. Today, Miller serves as the Youth Advocate Programs’ (YAP), Program Director of Baltimore’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). YAP was awarded a grant by the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) to provide GVRS, which seeks to help reduce violence, decrease recidivism, and strengthen police and



Joel Miller went from living a reckless life to helping Baltimore youth make better decisions about their futures. Today, he serves as the Youth Advocate Programs’ Program Director of Baltimore’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy. Recently, he was one of 26 leaders selected to take part in the American Express 2021 Converge Social Justice Leadership Academy. Courtesy Photo/YAP, Inc.

community relations.

“I was dibbling and dabbling in the streets, and I understand criminal logic and understand rationalizing,” Miller said about being relatable among young men and leading the GVRS program. “I understand the mindset of a person who is going to commit a crime definitely helps. But most importantly, what definitely helps is that I made that change.”

Miller first came to YAP in 2019 as

assistant director/program coordinator of the Credible Messenger Program in Washington, D.C. YAP is a national nonprofit that provides services to young people and families as alternatives to youth incarceration and out-of-home placements. YAP is in 31 states and in the District of Columbia.

Most recently, Miller was one of 26 leaders selected to take part in the American Express 2021 Converge Social Justice Leadership Academy,

which recognizes emerging leaders in the nonprofit sector. Participants will have access to training and support from the Center for Creative Leadership, a global provider of leadership development.

Craig Jernigan, YAP’s Regional Director for Maryland and the District of Columbia, nominated Miller.

“I nominated Joel to the Leadership Academy because he is a hard worker” Jernigan said. “I recognized something in him that I see in so many young men who excel and do great once provided with that push and opportunity to make a difference.”

In July Miller was promoted to his new position. However, the road to success wasn’t always easy for Miller who was born in Georgia and moved to the Virginia area when he was 13 years old. Miller served six years in the military before returning home and being sent to jail for another six years.

“I enjoy helping people with shared life experiences,” Miller said. “It’s awesome to be able to be a position where I am meeting people who are in the position that I was in and be able to give them things that I didn’t have when I was in their position.”

Miller said it’s important to have people who can talk the talk and walk the walk.

“People respond to people they can relate to,” Miller added. “That’s why I love YAP. I worked for a lot of nonprofits and organizations. YAP is one of the few places that has the services that they say they have. Everything they advertise that they have and the help that they say they can give, they actually have it and to me that’s rare.”

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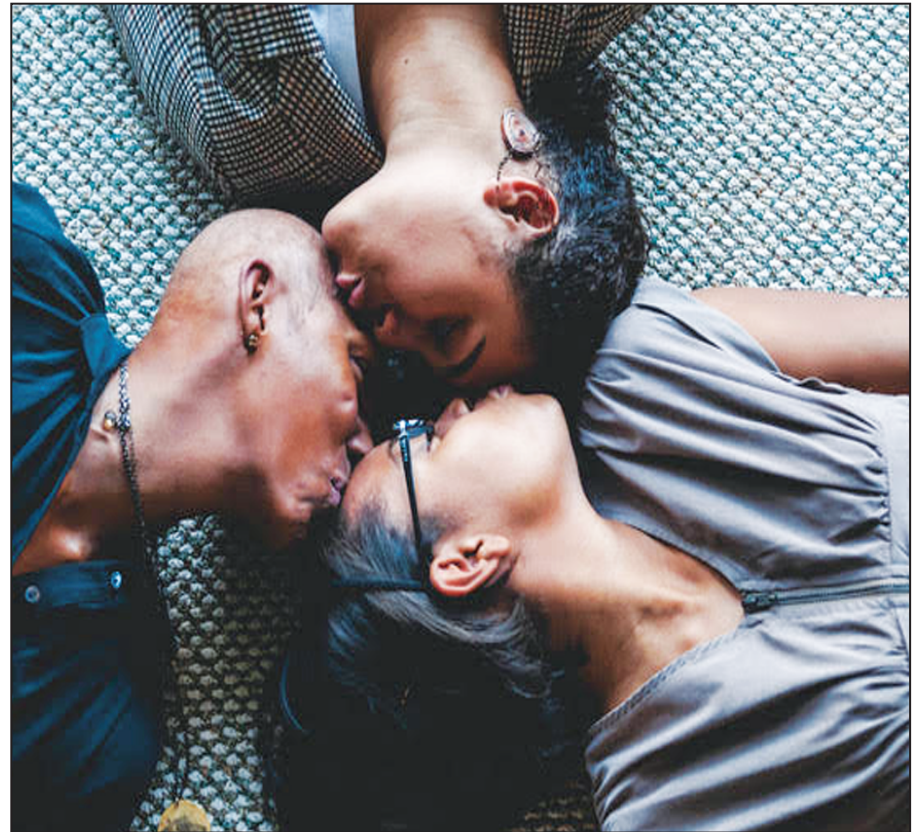
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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Two Women Give Personal Perspectives



Ricki Fairley spends time with her grandchildren during her nonprofit's first anniversary party. Courtesy Photo



Ricki Fairley and her two daughters were photographed together when the breast cancer survivor was undergoing chemotherapy in 2012. Photo credit: Tabia Parker

By Andrea Blackstone

Bright pink ribbons and shirts signal the arrival of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month each October. Raising awareness about breast cancer includes women who are actively fighting against the disease and those who have already won.

Ricki Fairley—an Annapolitan who can be spotted paddleboarding on the Chesapeake Bay embraces peace, self-love, and advocacy work after surviving stage 3 A triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cancer cells in this type are absent of common receptors such as estrogen, progesterone or a protein known as human epidermal growth factor (HER2) which are typically found in breast cancer.

Fairley's first oncologist did not have much experience treating women

who had been diagnosed with TNBC. Fairley underwent chemotherapy and radiation, but the breast cancer returned. The doctor gave Fairley two years to live. Her advice was to get her affairs in order, when she lived in Atlanta. "I said, you really don't understand. I can't really die right now. I have a daughter that's a sophomore at Dartmouth. I still have to pay for her to go to school so me, you, and God need to work this out," Fairley said.

A call to The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation led to finding a specialist and experimental drugs for TNBC. Four months later, Fairley was cured. Although ten years have passed since Fairley was diagnosed with it, the relentless advocate founded a nonprofit called Touch, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance in 2020 to fight against breast cancer from other angles. She is passionate about breast health education, encouraging Black women to participate

in clinical trial research to enable data to improve treatment outcomes, and linking pharmaceutical companies with the goal of eradicating black breast cancer.

Fairley pointed out that "Black women with breast cancer have a 71 percent higher risk of death than white women," according to JAMA Oncology's January 2021 findings. Additionally, Black women who survive breast cancer have a 39 percent higher recurrence rate, per Phase 3 TAILORx Trial.

With these kinds of findings in mind, Fairley began presenting the data to pharmaceutical leaders from a marketing perspective, after compiling numbers. Her prior career in the marketing field helped her to paint a detailed picture.

"The other thing is that Black women get triple-negative breast cancer at three times the rate," Fairley said. "And when you look at the data, there's only three percent participation of Black women in

clinical trial research. That's zero. We're dying because the drugs don't work," Fairley said, while also mentioning additional issues such as access to medical care.

When it comes to breast cancer, clinical trials can help women.

"So part of our messaging is to help Black women say, 'Hold on, wait a minute doctor. Is there a clinical trial treatment option for me?'" Fairley said.

Fairley reminded that research also needs to be conducted on healthy breasts. A final point to note is that getting mammograms during COVID can mean detection of smaller tumors. They are easier to treat if a woman does turn out to have breast cancer.

Dr. Bonita Parker — a resident of Charles County in Maryland — agrees that getting mammograms on time is important. The CEO Success Coach & Publisher, Bonita Parker Enterprises LLC. Parker was completing her annual



Ricki Fairley and her family participated in Susan G. Komen's ® 60 mile, 3-day walk in San Diego, Ca. in 2018.

conference, so she missed an annual mammogram appointment in 2017, which was not her norm. Nevertheless, Parker had a feeling that she should check her breasts in the shower, after "God's voice" told her to do it.

"It was a nagging urge to do a self-exam. I finish my shower, dry off, and proceed with my exam. It was the absolute first place I touched. Right there on my left breast was a lump," Parker said.

After booking an emergency appointment to see her OB/GYN physician, who sent Parker for an emergency mammogram and biopsy, it was confirmed as a cancerous mass.

"I was then referred to my oncologist who conducted more scans and tests. And by December 22, 2017, I was diagnosed with triple-negative metastatic breast cancer (stage 4). The cancer was aggressive and had already spread to my lymph nodes by this time and attempted to penetrate my lungs," Parker said.

A breast self-exam made a difference in Parker's life. Her breast cancer has been

in remission for three years, after she underwent aggressive treatment and seven surgeries. When she hits the five-year mark, Parker will officially be considered medically out of the woods.

"And while I acted immediately when discovering my lump, imagine if I had kept my appointment three months sooner and the mass was detected at that time. It doesn't take long for it to grow or spread. However, if detected early, there are more treatment options and a

better chance for survival. I thank God for keeping me in the number," Parker said.

Stories like Fairley and Parker's underscore the importance of learning more about breast cancer treatment and prevention. Fairley

also spreads education through a web series with Dr. Monique Gary presented through the BlackDoctor.org. "The Doctor Is In" is available weekly through Facebook Live. You may also connect with Fairley via <https://www.touchbbca.org/>.



Dr. Bonita Parker's breast cancer is in remission. A breast self-exam led to discovery of a cancerous lump. The business owner embraced the cancer to take control of her journey. Meditation, journaling, prayer, and repeating affirmations became a part of her health regiment. Photo credit: Lindria Dockett Photography

Preserving The Legacy of The Sphinx Club

By Ursula V. Battle

To ride past 2107-2109 Pennsylvania Avenue today, passer-byers might look at the structure and consider it as just another boarded up city building. But for those who know the building's history, the structure is one of the jewels of Pennsylvania Avenue's heyday. A place where many successful Blacks gathered, and where the likes of Sam Cooke, Redd Foxx, Sarah Vaughn, and other famous entertainers came through its doors. It is the site of the Sphinx Club, opened in 1946 by Charles Tilghman, and one of the nation's first African American owned nightclubs.

On Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. an estimated 150 community residents will join Mayor Brandon Scott, elected officials, members of the Tilghman family and former Sphinx Club members to participate in a "Celebration of the Legacy of Charles P. Tilghman and the Sphinx Club" at the Cab Calloway Legends Park, 2223 Division Street. The free event will feature music and a presentation of Black Baltimore history. The festivities will kick-off at The Sphinx Club with a performance by the "Baltimore Go Getters Marching Band." The band will march to the Cab Calloway Park (Gold and Division Streets) for the ceremony.

The event is free, open to the public, and is being supported by Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, the Tilghman family and the Baltimore City Department of Planning and the Patterson Ashbury A.M.E. Zion Church.

"As we continue to celebrate the splendor of the historic Druid Heights community, we must recognize the positive impact Mr. Tilghman and the Sphinx Club continue to have on Pennsylvania Avenue," said Anthony Pressley, executive director of Druid Heights Development Corporation. "The community organization appreciates the support of many great partners including Patterson Ashbury A.M.E. Zion Church for assistance with activating the space designated as the Cab Calloway Legends



The rendering by architect Klaus Philipsen is among plans being considered for the site. (Right): The Sphinx Club now sits boarded-up along Pennsylvania Avenue. Photos Courtesy of Druid Heights Development Corporation

Park where many icons, including Charles Tilghman will be featured."

According to the Druid Heights Development Corporation, the celebration will include music from George Johnson and Friends—many who played at the Sphinx Club. Members of Tilghman's family will also share memories of the Renaissance period on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The mission of the Druid Heights CDC is to cause, encourage, and promote community self-empowerment through the development of economic, educational, employment and affordable housing opportunities. Druid Heights Community Development Corporation was awarded the redevelopment rights to the former Sphinx Club site in the Druid Heights community.

The Sphinx, a private club known for its after-show parties and famous New Year's Eve and Mardi Gras affairs where jazz greats congregated with local celebrities, closed in 1992.

"The Sphinx Club was really a great place to go," said Shirley Gordon, who patronized the Sphinx Club. "Anybody who was somebody went to the Sphinx Club. Victorine Adams had a dress shop on Pennsylvania Avenue, and women went there to purchase their fabulous clothes to wear to the Sphinx Club."

Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor-Trusty also shared memories of "The Sphinx" and the pioneering Tilghman who died in 1988.



Patrons during a Mardi Gras party at The Sphinx Club during the 1950s. Photo Courtesy of Rosa Pryor

"I was interested in booking one of my groups there," said Pryor-Trusty, who managed several groups. "I went in and introduced myself to Charlie Tilghman. He was very impressed with me. We chatted, he treated me to dinner, and the rest is history."

She added, "I was there all the time. After I got off work, I went home, showered, and changed for the evening because no one walked in the Sphinx Club looking any ole way. Folks were dressed to the nine."

Pryor who is a well-known entertainment columnist, is the author of "African-American Entertainment in Baltimore" and talks about the Sphinx Club in her book.

"People from all walks of life came in that club," recalled Pryor-Trusty. "I met many famous judges, lawyers, doctors, and politicians right there in The Sphinx."

She added, "Charlie was such a gentle man to so many people. He was a good man and a giving man. He was also very clever and very witty. He was quite the businessman and a true legend."

For more information about "Celebrating the Legacy of Charles P. Tilghman and the Sphinx Club," call (410) 523-1350 or register on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-the-legacy-of-charles-p-tilghman-and-the-sphinx-club-tickets-167893837989>

Ravens Lamar Jackson proves he's a dangerous passer

By Tyler Hamilton

There was a select group of Lamar Jackson detractors leading up to the 2017 NFL Draft. Some evaluators questioned whether or not he could play quarterback even though he had registered over 9,000 passing yards and won a Heisman Trophy.

Many of those doubters have continued to hold onto their wrong evaluations after Jackson turned the season around for the Baltimore Ravens as a rookie and was named NFL MVP the following year.

Jackson's performance on Monday Night Football in the Ravens 31-25 win over the Indianapolis Colts should put all the doubts about his ability to play quarterback to rest.

"It's one of the greatest performances I've ever seen. And it wasn't easy. It wasn't like we came out just up and down the field," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "We had to overcome and fight through some things. He was under pressure, and he created plays



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson's performance on Monday Night Football in the game against the Indianapolis Colts should put all the doubts about his ability to play quarterback to rest. The resulting 86-completion percentage is the most ever by a quarterback that had 400 passing yards. Jackson's 140.5-passer rating was outstanding as well. Photo Credit: Geoff Burke/USA TODAY

with his feet. He threw the ball away when he had to throw it away. Once we started— when we were in that situation you're talking about, we went into our

fast mode, no huddle, two-minute-type mode and just came alive— all of our guys did. All the guys who made plays— and the offensive line but it starts with Lamar [Jackson]. He deserves the credit."

Jackson finished the game with 442 passing yards and four touchdowns. He completed 37 of his 43 pass attempts. The resulting 86-completion percentage is the most ever by a quarterback that had 400 passing yards. Jackson's 140.5-

passer rating was outstanding as well.

Monday night's performance left detractors with very little room to continue their goal post shifting. Jackson completed passes in the middle of the field, outside the numbers, all over the field. He did so from the pocket and on the move.

There was simply nothing the Colts secondary could do to stop Jackson. The last two drives showed what Jackson is capable of as a passer.

Jackson led the Ravens on an 11-play drive that covered 75 yards that resulted in a four-yard touchdown pass to Mark Andrews. He then completed another pass to Andrews for the two-point conversion to tie the game and send it to overtime.

The Ravens drove 65 yards on their first possession of overtime and Jackson delivered a pass to Marquis Brown for the game-winning touchdown.

"I was just locked in. I was just calm. Everything was just moving slow, and I was just taking it a play at a time. That's what it was," Jackson said.

The win was Jackson's 34th as a starter for the Ravens. It tied him with Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks to lead their team to that many wins before turning 25.

It's safe to say that Jackson is among the top players at his position in the league.

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The Blue Line

AOC and The Squad can Teach the Congressional Black Caucus a Lesson or Two!

Continued from page 1

This article is not mainly about the essence of the particular legislation being held up by these five ladies. Later in the column, I will point out some items which I believe are detrimental to the Black and poor communities of America. But that is for later. Now, I want to contrast these five ladies' use of power to how the Congressional Black Caucus fails to use its numbers which are over ten times greater than the Squad's numbers and where their accumulated years in Congress dwarf those of the Squad.

There are 55 black voting members of Congress and two non-voting Black delegates with rights to speak but not vote. Note the contrast— 55 plus two versus the five members of the Squad! Which group is more influential right now in terms of wielding power and bringing results targeted to their communities and the interests of their constituents?

The Congressional Black Caucus is an embarrassment to Black folks in America when you compare what they do for their communities with what the Squad can do with five members!

Why would I say that?

When Parren J. Mitchell was in Congress some decades ago, with fewer Blacks to support his efforts, laws like the 10 percent set-a-sides in government contracts were passed and enforced. Those men worked across political parties to bring home the bacon. [Note: Google Arthur Fletcher, father of affirmative action—Revised Philadelphia Plan]. Parren, then a member of St Katherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church where I served as the Rector and Pastor for 21 years, told me that Richard Nixon helped them to get significant bills through Congress and to his desk. Are the current Black members of Congress doing anything specifically to help the Black community?

They use talking points like “build back better;” they are big on “climate change” and electric vehicles; and they

certainly talk a lot about racism. But I know of little effort to do what other Congress people do so well as they work to improve their communities. Nancy Pelosi, for example, had a \$200 million set-a-side in the Build Back Better bill for a park in her home city. I believe she was shamed into removing that request. What specific benefit to the impoverished Black communities of America is the 57-member Black Caucus pushing? Are they funding reparations? In bills totaling \$6 trillion they could surely, like the Squad, tell Pelosi that nothing is going forward without such priorities. Even lesser projects like carve-outs for The Great Blacks in Wax Museum of Baltimore and other like significant projects across the country get no earmarks from these 55 members. They simply, like sheep, follow what the leadership tells them to support, and we do not hear a peep out of their mouths about pushing specific programs that can benefit the deteriorating communities they represent.

Is it not a shame that most of the crime comes from cities with Black members of Congress representing them? James Clyburn of South Carolina, certainly a black and powerful congressman who some say got President Joe Biden elected, should be able to push projects and programs in the Black communities the members represent, programs that can rapidly change the trajectory in those communities. Instead, they are supporting bills that will definitely hurt poor Blacks in their pockets.

Doubt me? Take the following initiatives included in the bills: a) a tax on natural gas! This will blow the heating bills of the poorest people in America who live in homes that are not well insulated; b) a trial on taxing the milage we drive; c) pushing electric cars which are very expensive when poor folks mostly buy secondhand vehicles; and d) setting the IRS on all of us to track any dollar we spend in excess of \$600.00. That one in particular pains, because it is certainly not directed to the “rich” as they pretend. That one is directed to “Jane and Joe Q Public.” See, there is already a

statute that forces banks to report all expenditures of \$10,000.00 or more. That one could be about the rich guys, but this \$600.00 reporting mandate is certainly intended to capture poor people and the Congressional Black Caucus is happily supporting this in the bill.

So, as the Squad schools and tutors the Congressional Black Caucus in wielding political power, we will be watching to see if they learn their lesson. With 55 voting members, not one damn thing could happen in Congress if Blacks used their power. Stop talking down to Black people with descriptions such as “descendants of slaves” through Critical Race Theory and remind them that we had a Black president, now a Black vice president and enough power in Congress to change the world by voting with Republicans or Democrats who need your vote, so long as they include your priorities.

The Blue Line will be watching! Things must change concretely after all these years and the Squad has certainly shown us the way forward.

Comments? Please send emails to btimes@btimes.com (Re: Blueline)

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for Special Events, and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid's activities during public hours.

The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college, and high school students. Service learning credit hours can be earned by high school students.

We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services.

Contact Joy Hall at 443-263-1800 or hall@lewismuseum.org; web site: www.lewismuseum.org.

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CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT NO. 1364 – WC1432 Susquehanna Raw Water Main Improvements

The City of Baltimore Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of Engineering and Construction, to advertise for the services of civil/mechanical/environmental engineering firms to provide engineering services for the design and upgrade of Susquehanna 108-inch raw water main appurtenances, including but not limited to isolation valves, air-release valves, drain valves, etc., and Deer Creek pumping station configurations and related appurtenances in Harford County, as well as to provide post-award services related to the construction activities.

The City intends to select the services of one (1) firm only for a period of two (2) years with an option for a one (1) year extension for a fee not to exceed \$1,300,000.00. Notwithstanding the two (2) year duration of the project, the City's expectation is that the selected firm shall complete the design through the bid ready stage within the period of one (1) year in preparation for advertisement. The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact **Mr. Hernan Guadalupe** at (410) 396-8189 or by e-mail at hernan.guadalupe@baltimorecity.gov.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

1. Expertise and capacity to provide engineering assessment and design services for:
 - a) Removal, modifications/rehabilitation, and installation of existing/new appurtenances and structures on large diameter water transmission mains.
 - b) Construction and installation of new appurtenances, including but not limited to isolation valves, gate valves, butterfly valves, drain valves, and air-release valves.
2. Experience in designing water mains in a utility-rich environment where there is a

Legal Notice

possibility that not all as-built drawings for existing and abandoned utilities are available, sizing water mains and appurtenances, surveying, right-of-way acquisitions, right-of-entry acquisitions, and preparation of traffic control plans.

3. Expertise and capacity in developing bid-ready contract documents, including plans, specifications, cost estimates, scheduling, and related items necessary for procurement of construction contractor related to large diameter transmission mains and pump station-related work.

4. Expertise and experience in the design of water pumping stations hydraulics, pump selection and associated control systems and appurtenances, cost estimates, and specification writing.

5. Expertise and experience designing temporary and/or permanent access roads in rugged or challenging terrains to reach water main features.

6. Experience in post-award services, including construction inspection, review of and response to RFIs, shop drawings, specifications, change orders, etc.

7. Experience in public relations & outreach, permitting requirements & processing, coordination & compliance with Federal, State, and Local regulations and agencies during design and construction phases.

8. An overall team approach with MBE/WBE.

The location shall be provided to the intending eligible consultancy firms to present a conceptual design approach during the interview, which will form an essential basis for evaluating the firms.

Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highway, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures." City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Each prime consultant submitting a proposal for this project will be required to complete and submit an **original** Federal Standard Form 255, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Legal Notice

The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on **Friday November 12, 2021**. Submittals will not be accepted after this deadline.

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the project must be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this project. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.*

Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, (Email obc.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Since these letters are utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, the letter should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a "letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 30% The WBE goal is 15%

Legal Notice

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

Local Hiring Law

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for detailed on the requirements of the law.

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Legal Notice

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Continued from page 13

Additional Information

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; nullification of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound. Applications should imply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Sincerely,

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Office of Boards and Commissions

Legal Notice

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA) received a permit-to-construct application from Arlington Crematory, Inc. on July 2, 2021, for the installation of one (1) human crematory. The proposed installation will be located at 2313 51st Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781.

An Informational Meeting will be held on October 26, 2021, at 6:30 PM at the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department located at 4213 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710.

Pursuant to the Environment Article, Section 1-603, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Informational Meeting has been scheduled so that citizens can discuss the application and the permit review process with the applicant and the Department. The application and other supporting documents are available for public inspection on the Department's website. Look for Docket #14-21 at the following link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/AirManagementPermits/Pages/index.aspx>

The Department will provide an interpreter for deaf and hearing-impaired persons provided that a request is made for such service at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Shannon Heafey by email at shannon.heafey@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-537-4433.

George S. Aburn, Jr., Director
Air and Radiation
Administration

NOTICE

La Plata SPS – La Plata, MD. Gradient construction is looking for qualified M/WBE and DBE subcontractors for Fencing, Concrete work, hauling, Demo and Electric/controls. Details for the project can be obtained by faxing contact information to 410-257-3550. Project bids October 29, 2021.

Legal Notice

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE
) NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BERKELEY) CASE NO. 2019-DR-08-1730

LISA HOLDEN SMALLS AND BENJAMIN SMALLS, PLAINTIFFS vs.
BABY BOY CHRISTIAN AND NICOLE SPENCE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve copy of your answer upon the undersigned at his office PO Box 7378, Florence, SC 29502 within thirty (30) days of the service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer as aforesaid the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief prayed for in the Complaint and judgement by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED:
NOTICE is hereby given that the Complaint in the foregoing action, together with the Summons, of which the foregoing is copy, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Berkeley County, on the 16th day of September 2019.

Florence, SC
September 23, 2021

The Law Office of Robert L. Stucks, LLC
Robert L. Stucks, Attorney for Plaintiffs
PO Box 7378
Florence, SC 29502
(843) 679-5468

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¹In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company through Hartford Fire General Agency. Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.

²Savings amounts based on information reported by customers who switched to The Hartford from other carriers between 1/1/19 and 12/31/19. Your savings may vary. ³Gift is a limited time offer and not available in all states. Email address required in most states. Allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Bottle not included.

⁴Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of February 2021.

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