

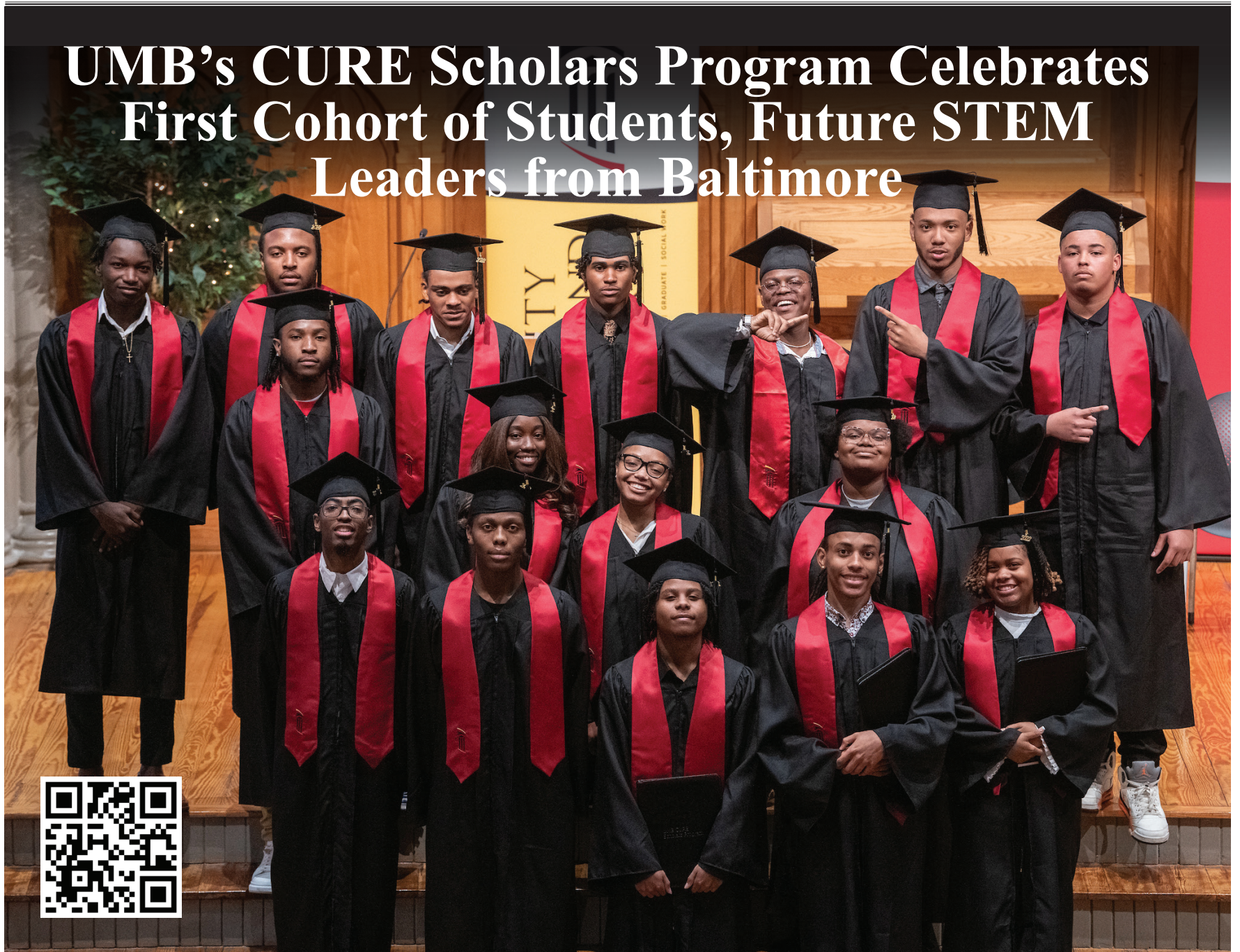
THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 36 No. 29

May 20 - 26, 2022

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

UMB's CURE Scholars Program Celebrates First Cohort of Students, Future STEM Leaders from Baltimore



The first cohort of the UMB (University of Maryland Baltimore) CURE Scholars Program pose together after graduating from the program. The research, STEM and healthcare mentoring pathway provides hands-on learning and social work support. The resilient students who began participating in the mentoring program as sixth graders once attended West Baltimore public schools. They received over 140 college acceptances. Several UMB CURE Scholars Program participants were also featured in a documentary series that aired through Maryland Public Television (MPT). (See article page 11). Photo courtesy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore

Western High School and UMBC Grad Dr. Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins

Baltimore Upbringing Nurtures Interest in Nature and Successful Career

By Ursula V. Battle

Recalling her childhood, Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins shared fond memories of growing up in a family that participated in many outdoor activities including fishing and crabbing on the Chesapeake Bay. She also worked at the Maryland Zoo as a junior zoo-keeper, learning about endangered species and conservation.

Such activities piqued her interest in nature and science, contributing to her mother Phyllis Jenkins placing her in STEM-related activities. Today, the inquisitive youngster who loved nature is an award-winning marine sustainability scientist. The Western High School graduate who went on to receive her doctorate from Duke University in Marine Biology, also has the distinction of being among 120 AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Ambassadors, whose 3D statues were on display at the Smithsonian Museum.

The AAAS seeks to advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people, while the main purpose of the AAAS Ambassadors is to encourage young women to consider a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The statues are a part of Lyda Hill Philanthropies’ IF/THEN® Initiative #IfThenSheCan – The Exhibit. The exhibit of 120, 3-D printed statues celebrates contemporary women innovators in STEM. The exhibit was presented by the Smithsonian Institution in celebration of Women’s History Month, and were placed in museums on and around the National Mall.

“I remember going to the Smithsonian on a field trip,” recalled Dr. Jenkins, who is an Associate Professor at Arizona State University. “I remembered being very involved with all the information about the natural world and thinking to myself that ‘I could



Dr. Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins and her mother Phyllis Jenkins pictured with the 3D statue of Dr. Jenkins. An award-winning marine sustainability scientist, Dr. Jenkins’ statue was among those included in an exhibit presented by the Smithsonian Institution. Courtesy photo

come here every day of my life.’ This is such an honor.”

A Meyerhoff Scholar, Dr. Jenkins graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology and a Minor in Dance from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). As a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, she received her PhD from Duke University by pioneering a new field of study into the invention and adoption of marine conservation technology.

During her AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship, Dr. Jenkins helped implement new regulations to address bycatch and illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing by foreign nations. She later became an Assistant Professor at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs at the University of Washington and during this time was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in Ocean Sciences.

“My mother is really foundational to my work,” said Dr. Jenkins. “She recognized in me from a very young age that I had a fond interest in science, and she put me in different science programs in and around Baltimore City. I was fortunate to be in those environments to groom that ability. Looking back, I never had any insecurities about holding my own

ground in a field full of men.”

The native Baltimorean’s work centers on the human dimensions of marine sustainability solutions, including fisheries conservation technologies and marine renewable energy. Dr. Jenkins’ work has led to regulatory changes that allow more sustainable fishing practices, has advised international fisheries diplomacy, and has informed renewable energy policy.

“What I noticed at a very young age, was that she always liked animals,” said Dr. Jenkins’ mother Phyllis Jenkins, who encouraged parents to look into extracurricular activities and internships for their children. “She was always bringing home guinea pigs, white mice, or

whatever. We are also a pet loving family, so there were always animals. She also participated in science fairs. I am very, very proud of Ki-Ki and the importance of her work. Kiki had a dream and something she wanted to accomplish, and she did it.”

Dr. Jenkins’ research includes field sites along the southeast, west, Gulf, and Alaskan coasts of the United States, and in Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Scotland.

“It’s really important to achieve the goal of breaking open doors for women coming behind me,” said Dr. Jenkins who was recently named an Earth Leadership Fellow and appointed to the National Academies of Sciences Ocean Studies Board. “I want them to know that this is possible. When it comes to my work, I want to do work that matters, and I want to do work right away that brings about real action and improves the environment.”

She added, “People are always saying things about Baltimore, but Baltimore has a long history of preserving our waterways, it offered places to go fishing, and there were always rabbits running in our backyard. Baltimore offers so many natural resources. I had a childhood steeped in nature while living in a city that offered so many wonderful amenities such as a powerful institution like Western High School.”

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The Baltimore Times

(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: **The Baltimore Times** 2530 N. Charles St, Suite 201 Baltimore, MD 21218



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Finding The Light To Drive Out Hate

By Dr. Gail C. Christopher, Executive Director,
National Collaborative for Health Equity

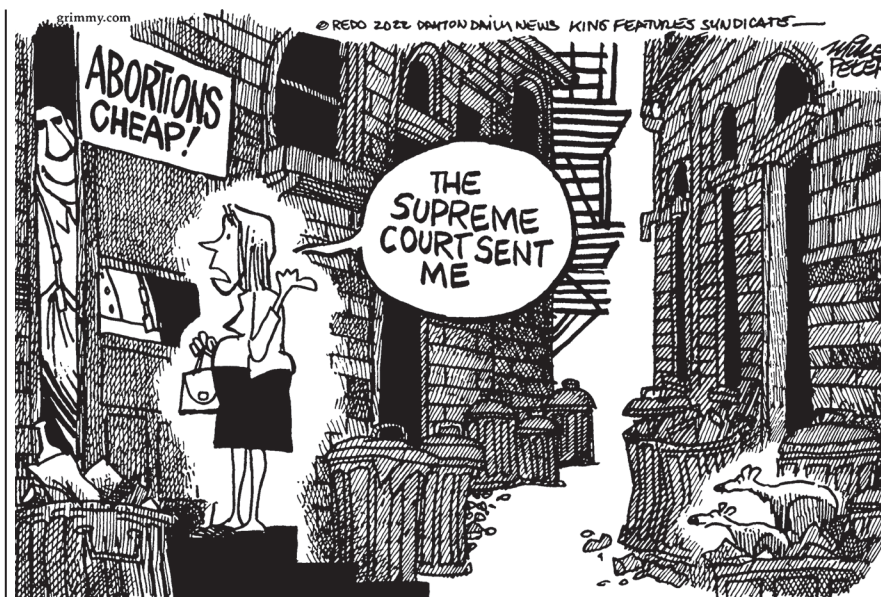
Hate always terrorizes. That's the intention. As an African American woman who came of age during the Civil Rights era, I know at heart how hate works to harm some and paralyze or, at least, to immobilize others. But movement is life. It's certainly the way forward if Democracy is to survive and its aspirational tenets of equality are to be actualized. This is why we must see hateful acts, and their progenitors, hate speech on all forms of media, as threats to our collective health, well-being and future existence.

We must mobilize as a nation, come together to deny the expression of hate permission to continue expanding, unchecked on multiple airways across this nation. Sociologists probe whether the rises in hate speech can be directly linked to racial violence. This is not about free speech, it's about freedom to live healthily and permission for democracy to thrive. Communities in Buffalo, El Paso, Atlanta, Charleston and Charlottesville know this in their bones. Their minds and hearts are forever imprinted with the devastating and horrific memories of violence and lives lost simply because of their racial or other identities.

Racial hatred denies our right to exist, to live in loving relationship with ourselves and with one another. No entity, human or corporate, can be allowed to have or to proliferate that misguided right. Ending racism, in all its forms, is a public health and a national imperative. Governmental action to regulate social media through new mechanisms and to enforce existing laws is urgently needed, now.

But more is required.

The 21st century has ushered in new understanding about how molecular and cellular biology works to sustain life. Chemicals find receptors on our cell membranes before they can enter and catalyze action. No receptor, no effect. We need a parallel in our body politic. For example, the life-saving drug Narcan, prevents and reverses opioid overdoses by competing at the nine opioid cellular receptor sites. What are the interventions that can knock out receptors for hate? Available research tells us that authentic human engagements and positive meaningful interactions with perceived "others" can reduce fears and biases and help counter receptivity to hateful narratives and rhetoric. We must mobilize, with clear intention, so hate can no longer find receptors in our hearts and body politic. This work will also help generate political will needed to expedite essential regulatory and enforcement actions that are urgently required. As Dr. King prophetically told us decades ago, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."



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Black Businesses Leaders Undervalued in America

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

When is the last time that you read a national news story in the so-called mainstream media about a successful Black business in America that has achieved unprecedented excellence and profit in today's marketplace? I know it has been a long time. On the other hand, when was the last time that you read or heard in the media about allegations of corruption, financial failure and excessive greed by the owners of some Black businesses?

In my opinion it, has been an all too frequent and reoccurring false narrative that continues to be cast in the media to undermine and devalue Black business leaders across the nation.

Late last year, I called attention to a barrage of unfair attacks being leveled in the media against CORE Services Group, Inc., a Black-run nonprofit that has for years provided food, shelter, and other services to New York City's growing homeless population. I was particularly



offended that the attacks appeared to be waged through anonymous leaks by city bureaucrats in the previous mayoral administration who seemed bent on destroying the nonprofit organization and its founder, Jack Brown, a successful Black businessman.

Now, seven months later, the [case has moved to court](#), where CORE has begun to fight back – and where city officials cannot hide behind a veil of anonymity. In a series of legal filings, CORE has presented evidence that appears to rebut the allegations by NYC's Department of Homeless Services (DHS) against CORE and its leaders, while raising questions about the city's motives under the previous mayor, Bill de Blasio, [according to published reports](#).

Central to the city's case, for example, are claims that CORE officials concocted a scheme to enrich themselves by hiring several for-profit companies that CORE itself owned to provide food, security, and maintenance at CORE-run shelters. An outside observer without the benefit of all the facts might be tempted to conclude that CORE was engaged in some kind of self-dealing. But upon further examination, this hardly seems to be the case. Far from it, in fact.

As CORE has reportedly noted in court documents and elsewhere, the for-profit companies — wholly owned subsidiaries of the non-profit — are part of a model of integrated services that CORE established to run its shelters efficiently – and without the uncertainty its leaders say they regularly faced from outside vendors that all too often provided inferior services or threatened to cut off services because the city was slow to reimburse CORE for its expenses.

More than that, according to documents filed with the court, CORE told DHS

about the formation of the for-profit companies even before the companies began providing services at CORE's DHS-funded shelters. In other words, CORE operated the for-profit companies for years with the city's knowledge and consent.

But none of this explains why city officials have targeted CORE for this kind of attack, particularly after years of consistently providing support to the city's neediest residents, a disproportionate number of whom are Black and Latino. Yet to hear CORE tell it, city officials began raising questions about the organization under the previous mayor, Bill de Blasio, only after CORE officials began demanding that the city pay a backlog of unpaid bills that totaled \$35 million.

“The sequence of events says it all: de Blasio used CORE to deflect from his own failures addressing homelessness in New York City,” Wendy Weingart, CORE Vice President/General Counsel, [told the news outlet Inside Sources](#). “The failure to pay nonprofits that continued to operate during the worst of the pandemic is indefensible. Simply put, the de Blasio administration took advantage of CORE through administrative delays and did not pay CORE for several programs it operated at the behest of the city for over a year.”

As a result, many Black leaders are speaking out on behalf of CORE and urging the city's new mayor, Eric Adams, to correct this injustice.

In a recent Op Ed in *Black Enterprise*, the renowned freedom-fighting attorney, Benjamin Crump, argued that Mr. Brown and his organization have been singled out for attack despite the essential role the nonprofit has played in helping legions of homeless individuals in a city with a notoriously overburdened social service system.

“Jack Brown's plight is yet another sad example of the impediments Black Americans still face when we strive for excellence,” he said. “Mr. Brown is being pilloried for his commitment to caring for the homeless New Yorkers, a group which unfortunately includes a disproportionate number of Black and Brown people.

CORE came every time DHS called. But sadly, as Congresswoman Chisholm once said, ‘Racism is so universal in this country, so widespread, and deep-seated, that it is invisible because it is so normal.’ Now that there is a new administration in New York City, I believe that the Honorable Mayor Eric Adams will have the opportunity to rectify the situation with Jack Brown and CORE. The city's homeless deserve to receive the best care possible as the city rebounds from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Adams has already expressed a priority in ensuring the future sustainability of local and citywide businesses that are owned by African Americans and other people of color.

Yet, what Jack Brown, as a Black business leader, was facing and continues to face in New York City is not isolated to that one city. The challenges that Black businesses are facing is a national concern from the east coast to the west coast, and from the north to the south. There appears to be a systematic attempt throughout the country to undervalue the strategic importance of supporting Black businesses. This is apparent at the municipal, county, state, and regional levels in nearly every state. The eventual fate of businessmen like Jack Brown III will be the future fate of our advance and progress in America.

The vital key to advancing the economic status of African American communities and families is the support and the promotion of the success of Black-founded, managed, and owned businesses. We will not stand silent about this matter. Our businesses deserved to be respected, engaged, and empowered. No one should attempt to devalue what is invaluable to the future of our communities. It is time to vote. It is time to speak out. It is time to support our Black businessmen and women—especially those devoted to serving the underserved.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations weekly throughout the United States; and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

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America's White Supremacist Murders of Black People

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

Buffalo, New York Mayor Byron Brown called the massacre at a Buffalo supermarket an unimaginable nightmare, while Erie County Sheriff John Garcia framed the onslaught as pure evil.

Put plainly, the deadly shooting by a white 18-year-old whose manifesto revealed his desire to cleanse the country of Black people is another example of America's lingering murderous racial hatred.

It also shows how hateful rhetoric — spewed over conservative national news outlets and on social media and the dog whistles of rightwing politicians — has usurped some of the progress made in race relations since the Civil Rights Movement advances more than a half-century ago.

“Law enforcement is proceeding with its investigation, but what is clear is that we are seeing an epidemic of hate across our country that has been evidenced by acts of violence and intolerance. We must call it out and condemn it,” Vice President Kamala Harris said.

“Racially-motivated hate crimes or acts of violent extremism are harms against all of us, and we must do everything we can to ensure that our communities are safe from such acts,” she asserted.

Details of the shooter, Payton Gendron's 180-page manifesto, revealed troubling perceptions the self-avowed white supremacist possessed.

He complained of the dwindling size of the White population and included his fears of ethnic and cultural replacement of White people.

Gendron described himself as a fascist, a White supremacist, and an anti-Semite.

His live-streamed shooting spree has left at least ten dead and several more wounded. But, unlike the multitude of



Gunman kills 10 people at Buffalo supermarket in racist attack.

Photo credit: NNPA Newswire

unarmed Black people killed during encounters with law enforcement, the young White racist is alive to plead not guilty or “insanity” in court.

“While past violent white supremacist attacks seem to have factored into this heinous act, we must acknowledge that extremist rhetoric espoused by some media and political leaders on the right promoting theories that vilify or dehumanize segments of our society like ‘the great replacement theory’ is a factor too,” wrote U.S. House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson in a statement.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. speaking on behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) emphasized, “We are outraged, angered, but we will not be silent again in the wake of more racist murders of Black people in America this time in Buffalo, New York.

“The patterns and rising tide of these White supremacists’ attacks and murders of our people will not go without the unified and amplified voice of the Black Press of America to demand justice and an end to White supremacy in America.”

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell added that the organization condemns both

the white supremacist terrorist attack targeting Black men and women in Buffalo and the racist rhetoric that has sparked such violence.

“The constant repetition of white supremacist conspiracy theories on social media and even mainstream media outlets has led to horrific violence in places as distant as Christchurch, El Paso, Oslo, and Charleston,” Mitchell asserted.

“Those who promote racism, white supremacy, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry must be held accountable for the violence they inspire.”

Mitchell added that CAIR has often spoken out against those who promote the “great replacement” and other

racist conspiracy theories.

Mayor Brown told reporters that Gendron surveilled both the community and the grocery store as part of the attack's planning.

Brown said the teen surveilled the area for several days and targeted a busy place in an area predominantly populated by Black people.

His manifesto noted that “Zip code 14208 in Buffalo has the highest Black percentage that is close enough to where I live.”

According to the U.S. Census, the zip code is 78 percent Black and among the top 2 percent of zip codes nationwide with the highest concentration of Blacks as a percentage of the population.

It has the highest concentration of Blacks as a percentage of the population of any zip code in upstate New York.

“Well, this manifesto tells everything to us. And that is what's so bone chilling about it is that there is the ability for people to write and subscribe to such philosophies filled with hate,” New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

“The White supremacist acts of terrorism that are being fermented on social media and to know that what this one individual did has been shared with the rest of the world as well as the live-streaming of this military-style execution that occurred in the streets of my hometown.”

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The Mental Health Check-In You Didn't Know You Needed

By Chazz Scott

Life is busy, isn't it? On top of that, the number of distractions and demands that keep us always on-the-go, doesn't help either. From being a parent, maintaining a full-time job, being a partner, to even keeping up with your personal goals – it can be taxing. Wearing all of these hats over time can wear you down if you don't take the time for yourself.

We get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of living that we hardly ever spend time for introspection, rest, or relaxation. Many people will say they don't need breaks, but I assure you, the brain and body cannot sustain high levels of stress for long periods of time. In fact, the Mayo Clinic confirms that long-term stress can contribute to heart disease, weight gain, memory impairment, heart attack, high blood pressure, and even strokes. I don't

know about you, but I don't want these problems!

WebMD reports that “75% to 90% of all doctor's office visits are for stress-related ailments and complaints.” These are staggering numbers that continue to rise because many of us don't actively use the tools to cope with the daily stress. In fact, according to Don Joseph Goewey in his book *The End of Stress*, almost 83 percent of us are doing nothing about the stress we face in our lives.

The good thing is that we can take our health into our own hands by counteracting the stress we face. Most people just wait until something terrible happens before they make a change. Instead, let's be proactive, not reactive. So, do a mental health check-in with yourself? How are you feeling? Who do you need to limit being around? What positive people in your life should you be around more?

Do you need to plan a vacation just for yourself?

You'd be surprised that most people don't sit down and ask themselves these questions. Life doesn't change unless we do. As the quote says, “insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” If you want to open yourself up to new possibilities in your life without being dragged down by daily stress – it must be addressed. If you don't, life will continue the way it always has been. And even if you want to neglect it, your body will feel it, resulting in something that you may not want later.

Now that we've done some knowledge gathering on stress and a couple of introspective questions, the next step is action! I'm sure you've heard the quote in the Bible, “faith without action is dead.” It's great to have a new attitude about making a change in your life, but the next step and most important is to take action. New thoughts are great, but new behaviors build momentum for sustainable change and breakthroughs.

Here are two suggestions you can take:

Set break times on work and personal calendar

New research suggests that calendar blocks are much more effective than a never-ending checklist of items. Our workdays are filled with pings and demands, but how often to set time away for ourselves. Put a 15-20 minute time block on your personal and work calendar daily to invest in yourself to take a walk, read a book, or meditate. Studies show that daily breaks increase your productivity, boost creativity, and reduce stress so you can make better decisions. If you don't feel comfortable, let your coworkers and boss know – after you describe the



Chazz Scott

benefits, I am sure they will respect your space, so you can be much more of an effective person on the job while still taking care of your health.

Plan a self-care day

Typically my self-care days are on Saturdays. This is my time for myself to recoup and fill up my cup. Schedule an entire day to yourself where you can do something for yourself for once. For example, you could do a spa day, hit the gym, visit a float therapy spa (a personal favorite. I do these two times a month), or even unplug from your devices to spend time in nature. All these activities are investing in yourself, so you can show up as your best self during the week with all the hats you wear.

Positively Caviar, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit centered on using positive thinking and optimism as a vehicle to instill mental resilience and disrupt mental health stigmas faced in our communities. Each month, a member of their Nucleus Team will feature a column focused on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts, and positive stories to support a positive and healthy lifestyle.

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Remembering the Needs of Our Veterans During Mental Health Awareness Month

By Andrea Blackstone

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Addressing mental health concerns is equally as important as tending to one's physical condition. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines mental health as inclusive of a person's "emotional, psychological, and social well-being." On the CDC's website, it was noted that "depression increases the risk for many types of physical health problems, particularly long-lasting conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke."

Since serving our country can heighten mental health stressors, it is also an ideal time to shine the light on our veterans. Edward Sledge Jr. is a disabled United States Army veteran and author who resides in Columbia, Maryland. In 2021, he penned his first book called "The Story of Christina and I" with his high school sweetheart and wife, Christina Sledge. The co-founder of Sledge House Media who pens books and screenplays describes these activities as "therapeutic." Sledge lives with a



Edward Sledge Jr. is a disabled United States Army veteran who earned a B.S. in History from Georgia Southern University and an M.S. in Social Science from Towson University. The best-selling author and co-founder of Sledge House Media wrote his first book, "The Story of Christina and I," with his wife, Christina Sledge in 2021. During Mental Health Awareness Month, Sledge discusses real-life military challenges. Sledge reminds that veterans should be unashamed to seek mental health support if it is needed. Photo courtesy of PND Digital Photography

narcolepsy diagnosis. The sleep disorder is tied to military service. "Being a soldier, you don't get a lot of sleep, so you get sleep deprived," Edward said, explaining that sleep tests revealed that he is narcoleptic. "We go on with our daily lives thinking that we're soldiers, that's what we have to do, and don't worry about it. But really, we're hurting ourselves... but we don't recognize that... because we're serving our country."

Edward mentioned other stressors such as navigation through military family life, deaths in the military, a spouse not being onboard with accessing help because of feeling concerned about the stigma of needing help, single parents needing others to care for their children during deployment, and simply being away from home as a single soldier.

Upbringing can prevent a person from taking advantage of the military's resources, due to stigma,

Edward explained. He was reared in Brooklyn, New York's projects.

"So it was never a cool thing to go say 'I need help', especially with helping me with my mind, or talking to someone like a therapist or something like that," Edward said. "It's nothing wrong with

going to seek help and resources to help you, because sooner or later if you don't, it's going to catch up with you and you could've stopped it or known what was going on from the beginning.

Edward began connecting additional dots about his life, while preparing to write "The Story of Christina and I"

with his coauthor. He remarked that his late mother was schizophrenic and committed suicide. She reportedly self-medicated to get through her pregnancy by doing drugs when he was in her womb.

"So I was already kind of in that stress mode," Edward said. "When she committed suicide, I was in her arms as a six-month year-old baby."

Even in a work setting, he has informed employers that he is a disabled veteran who takes medication. Sometimes taking a breath and calming down is needed to decompress. The perceptive veteran turns to his spouse for support in life.

Dr. Christina Edmondson— a Nashville, Tennessee based author, psychologist, and anti-racist educator— explained that men who are married have a greater likelihood of utilizing medical services in general.

"It is important for us to pay attention to the ways that supportive marriages and partnerships can reinforce mental health service acquisition and compliance for Black men," Edmondson said.

She also confirmed that Black people historically seek mental health treatment less. Racism is a top reason. However, databases such as Therapy for Black Men provide listings of therapists who are "committed to culturally competent mental health services for Black men."

"Additionally, men who are insured or get care through the VA (Veterans Affairs) can ask for listings from their insurance providers for counselors of color. When calling to schedule or screen a therapist, people can ask questions about the racial make-up of their caseload, specific course work on the care of Black men, and philosophy of mental health care, for example," Edmondson said.

One manner of showing more love to each other in the Black community might be normalizing getting mental health help. Sledge and his wife's willingness to share pieces of their lives through their memoir illustrates the power of a loving bond.

"When community influencers like elders, barbers, pastors, and celebrities talk about the benefits of therapy it chips away at stigma," Edmondson said. "Also, speaking about the importance of "brain health" is incredibly important. Often we can easily make the case for caring for our hearts but our brains are also just as important."

Please visit www.sledgehousemedia.com to learn more about the Sledge's book. Locate Edmondson via www.christinaedmondson.com.



Edward Sledge Jr. regards writing as therapeutic. He has written a memoir with his wife and various fictional books.



Christina Sledge, left, and Edward Sledge Jr., life, are business partners, coauthors, and mates. Photo courtesy of Sledge House Media

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Celebrating One Mother's Real-Life Organ Donation Story

By Andrea Blackstone

Katja Fort Rhoden knows very well that life is precious. The Howard County, Maryland resident recalls her first spoken words after undergoing a double lung transplant in 2018.

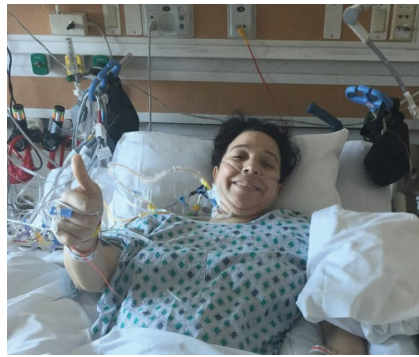
"I said, 'I love you, Dad,' Fort Rhoden recalled stating, after her chest tubes were first removed. "My father and I were crying. I kept looking at the (oxygen saturation) monitor to see if I was breathing on my own without the need of oxygen."

Opening her eyes after enduring the surgical procedure which lasted approximately eight hours, provided a second chance to embrace life and continue her motherhood journey. Today, Fort Rhoden can hike, walk upstairs and even dance.

"I cannot go a day of my life without getting... goose-bumps," Fort Rhoden said. "If it wasn't for my transplant, I wouldn't be here to now take care of my son."

Since birth, Fort Rhoden's lungs were abnormal. She experienced frequent lung infections. In the eighties, medical professionals informed her parents that if she survived through puberty, she would probably need a lung transplant. The cause of Fort Rhoden's health problems was not definitive.

Her son, Gregory, held a connecting piece to unanswered questions.



Katja Fort Rhoden gives the thumbs up on September 29, 2018 after a successful double lung transplant at Inova Fairfax Hospital ICU's Heart and Vascular Institute. Although oxygen was needed after the surgery to help Fort Rhoden stabilize immediately after the surgery, Fort Rhoden was able to breathe on her own thanks to a life-saving gift from a stranger.

Photo credit - Katja Fort Rhoden

According to information provided by Johns Hopkins University & Medicine online, after a "pediatric pulmonologist Christy Sadreameli ordered a computerized tomography (CT) scan" of the child's lungs, "unusual abnormalities pointed to a new reality. Both Fort Rhoden and Gregory shared the unidentified lung disease. Sadreameli successfully applied for a grant to study the gene mutation. As a result, "a new Children's Center clinic to treat and better understand such rare interstitial lung diseases in children" was established at Johns Hopkins. Fort Rhoden's life-saving transplant could one day lead to answers for other families. Another question is if Gregory could need a lung transplant someday, too.

For all these reasons and more, Fort Rhoden remains motivated to educate others about organ donation. She serves as a board member of Donate Life Maryland and Donate Life Ambassador for The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland. Per Donate Life Maryland's (DLM's) website, the

state-authorized nonprofit organization has been managing the Maryland Donor Registry, which launched in 2009. The donor registry is comprised of Marylanders who are registered to be organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Additionally, DLM also works collaboratively with The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland (LLF) and the Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC). The two other "federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organizations" also serve Maryland. LLF's role as an "organ procurement organization for Maryland," according to LLF's website. Facilitating donation and transplantation in area hospitals are other aspects of the role. WRTC serves as the metropolitan Washington, DC, area's official Donate Life Organization, according to information provided on LinkedIn.

Real people often connect with real stories, when it comes to fully comprehending the impact of organ donation. When people hear pieces of Fort Rhoden's journey to become a double lung transplant recipient, she represents a human experience.

"My role is to go out into the community and to educate and advocate and kind of dispel myths about organ donation," Fort Rhoden said.

She reminded that a very traumatic injury usually results for a person to become an organ donor. For example, Adam Corvin's story is among the heart wrenching profile's about giving the gift of life. DLM provided

a snippet penned by the late 18-year-old's mother. Corvin reportedly passed away after a fatal motorcycle accident led to his death in 2014.

"He was a giving child from giving money to the needy to helping his niece with her homework. As you can guess he was a mamma's boy. He was a donor on his license. I was called about donation and told them yes that is what he would want to help those who needed. I am very proud of my son and I miss him dearly. I do know he still lives on in those he donated to," his mother wrote online.

Fort Rhoden, who is also a biracial, Black American understands that distrust can be tied to the Black communities' concerns about becoming an organ donor, due to health disparities and the need to rebuild trust with the medical community. Fort Rhoden reminded that ethical standards are in place, when it comes to organ, eye, and tissue donation. Medical transplant teams do not receive notifications about possible organ donation until all life-saving efforts fail.

The organ donation advocate also offered an underdiscussed perspective. A disproportionate of Black people need transplants.

"And then when you get down to specific transplants like bone marrow, it could become very genetic specific," Fort Rhoden said.

Register to become a DLM organ, eye and tissue donor via <https://register.donatelifemaryland.com>.



Katja Fort Rhoden, front, and her son, rear, share a tender mother and son moment.

Photo credit - Emma Sampson

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UMB's CURE Scholars Program Celebrates First Cohort of Students, Future STEM Leaders from Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

While graduation season is underway, congratulations are in order for 17 students from Baltimore who are among the UMB (University of Maryland Baltimore) CURE Scholars Program's inaugural cohort of high school graduates who completed a noteworthy goal. In partnership with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the free mentoring program is producing future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), research and healthcare leaders. On May 6, 2022, the historic graduation ceremony was held at Westminster Hall, located in Baltimore, Md.

Ayishat Yussuf, 18, was selected to be the inaugural valedictorian of the 2022 CURE Scholar's graduating class. She told The Baltimore Times newspaper that she heard about UMB's CURE Scholars Program back in 2015, when she was a fifth grader. Students begin participating in the sixth grade. Accepted applicants like Yussuf are required to remain committed to the program throughout their high school years.

"My mother introduced me to the program and helped me fill out the application," Yussuf said. "Through this academic enrichment program, I was able to be involved in the realm of STEM. I was able to meet so many doctors, scientists, (and) researchers... that discussed their career paths and passion for STEM."



Ayishat Yussuf, 18, wears her cap and gown after graduating from the UMB CURE Scholars program.

Photo courtesy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore

Yussuf reflected upon attending the program on Saturdays, while learning about various health-related topics. CURE's middle schoolers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after the school day ends, in addition to showing up on Saturday morning to take a step toward gender and racial representation in STEM. CURE's mission—which is tied to empowering the next generation—was founded in response to the lack of diversity in cancer research, healthcare, and STEM fields.

"Women made gains – from 8% of STEM workers in 1970 to 27% in 2019 – but men still dominated the field. Men made up 52% of all U.S.

workers but 73% of all STEM workers," according to statistics provided by the United States Census Bureau.

Dedication to prepare for the future paid off for Yussuf in more ways than one. The Bonner Scholar who is headed to Spelman College, located in Atlanta, Georgia. She credited UMB's CURE Scholars Program with inspiring her to apply for the scholarship. Key program goals for the Spelman Bonner Scholar Program are "increasing the access of low-income students to a quality college education" and "transforming students, communities and campuses through service," according to information provided on Spelman College's website.

"I'm honestly blessed," Yussuf said, acknowledging the gift of opportunity. "My career plans are to become a pediatrician and healthcare advocate by obtaining my bachelor of science degree in Biology on the pre-med track."

Through the UMB CURE Scholars Program, the ambitious teenager was able to conduct and present an assortment of research projects, including female and male breast cancer and

DNA extraction. Additionally, Yussuf explained that she aspires to "leave a positive mark in the community through her career endeavors" and publish more books beyond her first work called "The M.e.l.a.n.i.n Guide."

Dr. Gia Grier McGinnis, the Executive Director of UMB's CURE Scholars Program, has been integral in guiding students like Yussuf through the STEM and healthcare pipeline. McGinnis has worked with the Baltimore-based youth since 2019.

"The program provides year-round, hands-on STEM learning, social work support, and mentorship for 115 West Baltimore youth," McGinnis said. "Many of them have persevered through difficult circumstances, but they don't let that define them and that is incredibly inspirational."

Sixth grade recruits come from Green Street Academy, Southwest Baltimore Charter School, and Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School. After completing the middle school program, the high school program begins in ninth grade. A final step entails their invitation to join the program's alumni network. It allows graduates to receive additional support. Ironically, students who did not initially consider college as an option, "collectively received" over 140 fall, college acceptances.

"The thought was that if we can reach these promising youth early, provide caring adult role models in these fields (STEM, cancer research and healthcare), and support them holistically, we can move the needle," McGinnis said. "In a city that can often be misperceived as down and out, these young people are a great example of what Baltimore can produce—intelligent, determined young leaders that will solve our world's most pressing challenges."

Please visit <https://www.umaryland.edu/cure-scholars/program-details/> for more information about the UMB CURE Scholars Program.



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JPMorgan Chase Opens New Regional Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Chase announces it will more than double its original branch commitment from Baltimore to Richmond to more than 140 branches by the end of 2025

Washington D.C., May 9, 2022

On Monday, May 9, 2022, JPMorgan Chase cut the ribbon to its newly renovated regional headquarters, the Bowen Building at 875 15th St. NW at the corner of McPherson Square in Washington D.C. This acquisition reinforces the firm's commitment to Washington D.C. and the Greater Washington region.

The 12-story, 231,000 square foot historic building's main lobby and interiors was redesigned by Marnique Heath of STUDIOS Architecture and consolidates nearly 600 of the firm's Washington D.C. employees. The space has a modern 21st century infrastructure including smart technology, community and event space for utilization by JPMorgan Chase clients, D.C. non-profits and community groups, and collaborative workspaces that can easily adapt for the future.

With this new headquarters commitment, JPMorgan Chase will make a significant impact on the local economy – helping small businesses and supporting additional job growth as the region recovers from the global

pandemic. This opening comes on the heels of JPMorgan Chase's \$75 million commitment in philanthropic and flexible low-cost loans to help close the racial wealth divide from Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA.

"This region – stretching from Richmond to Baltimore – is one of the largest economies in the country," said Peter Scher, JPMorgan Chase Vice Chairman and Chair of the Mid-Atlantic. "With the opening of our Mid-Atlantic headquarters, and our continued philanthropic and business commitments, JPMorgan Chase is supporting the future of Greater Washington. Our hope is to provide more economic opportunity for all people no matter the neighborhoods where they live and work."

Expanding the Chase Branch Footprint

Chase is doubling its original branch network commitment made in 2018 to 140 branches by 2025 throughout Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia, with 30% of branches in

low- to moderate-income communities such as Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, D.C., Cherry Hill, West Baltimore, and Prince George's County in Maryland, and the Ghent neighborhood in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

"Our branches play a vital role in connecting our neighbors and local businesses to critical resources that meet their financial needs and help them build a stronger financial future," said Racquel Oden, Head of Chase Network Expansion. "We are proud to bring the power of our branches to more households, businesses and communities across the region."

The new commitment to support local and regional growth includes:

- 40 branches in the District of Columbia and the surrounding Maryland and northern Virginia communities
- 20 branches in Baltimore and its surrounding communities
- 10 branches in Virginia Beach, Virginia

As part of this expansion, Chase will open its second Mid-Atlantic community branch at Mondawmin Mall in West Baltimore this fall. The innovative, community-inspired model will be one of 17 community centers among Chase's 4,700 branches nationwide. This new branch format is part of the firm's continued \$30 billion national effort to help advance racial equity and close the racial wealth gap among Black, Hispanic and Latin communities.

"We are grateful to have JPMorgan Chase as an incredible partner in



(L-R) Douglas West, Baltimore New Branch Manager Trainee; Michele Lawrence, Chase Executive Director of Community and Business Development; Al Person Baltimore Community Manager; Racquel Oden Head of Chase Network Expansion; Latoya Cooper Mondawmin Branch Manager; and Melvin Collins Baltimore Market Director, stand at the site of the future Chase Mondawmin Community Branch at Mondawmin Mall.



(L-R) Baltimore Councilmember James Torrence; JPMorgan Chase Mid-Atlantic Chairman Peter Scher; Latoya Cooper Mondawmin Branch Manager; Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott; Racquel Oden Head of Chase Network Expansion; and Maryland Senator Antonio Hayes, celebrate the groundbreaking of Chase's new Community Branch in Mondawmin Mall. The branch is expected to open before the end of the year.

our work to reinvest and foster inclusive growth in Baltimore's communities," said Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott. "Their commitment to equity and financial empowerment is a key part of Baltimore's renaissance, and we couldn't be more excited that a new branch will be opening in West Baltimore."

JPMorgan Chase has been doing business in the Greater Washington region since 1999 and has more than 1,300 employees in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. The firm has a significant client base in the region for credit cards, federal government, consumer, commercial, business, nonprofit, asset and wealth management, auto finance and investment banking.

The firm also operates offices in Tysons Corner, VA, Bethesda, MD, Baltimore, MD, Norfolk, VA and Richmond, VA serving small- and mid-sized businesses, and private banking clients. By the end of 2022 Chase will have 70 branches open from Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA.

MVLS Legal Tip Column: Credit Report Challenges After Legal Name and Gender Marker Changes

By Heather Heiman, Esq., Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services (MVLS)

Identification that reflects an individual's current gender identity or expression is an important recognition provided by the state, and one that can have a profound impact on the day-to-day life of transgender or gender non-conforming persons. Advocacy by the transgender community and LGBTQAI+ rights groups has resulted in important changes to state and federal laws - reducing hurdles for individuals seeking court orders for name and gender marker changes and making it easier for individuals to change their name and/or gender marker (including choosing an "x" gender designation) on driver's licenses, state identification cards, and – upcoming

in June of 2022 – on federal passports. However, other systems such as credit reporting and credit issuing agencies often do not have clear procedures in place to update an individual's information after a name and gender marker change, leading to confusion, potential discrimination, and inaccurate credit reports for consumers.

It is not uncommon for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals to have difficulty updating their information with credit reporting agencies and credit card companies, or to have their "dead name" (a former, often birth name that they are leaving behind) still tied to their accounts and showing up in their credit history. There are reported cases where individuals ended up with separate credit

scores – one linked to their dead name and one to their chosen name. There are other situations where individuals are not able to open a new credit card because their chosen name was not updated with the credit bureaus, and conversely not able to update their information with the credit bureau because they do not have new credit cards or other financial products in their chosen name.

Discrepancies in names listed at credit reporting agencies can create hurdles when consumers are applying for credit or when individuals must submit credit reports to secure housing and employment. There may be suspicion of fraud if an individual's dead name and chosen name show up on different accounts, or if a search brings back two different records. The continued use of an individual's dead name in official reports and correspondence can also be mentally and emotionally traumatic, as well as increase the risks that the individuals may be subjected to employment or housing discrimination.

While advocates are pushing for changes to credit reporting and other financial systems to make it easier for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals to change their name and have accurate information associated with their accounts, there are not many easy solutions to address these challenges. Individual outreach to each credit bureau may get account information corrected, but this can be challenging and require persistent advocacy with the bureau's customer service team. Some credit card providers are now allowing people to have a name on a card that is not the same as the one on their identity documents or credit reports, but this is still not

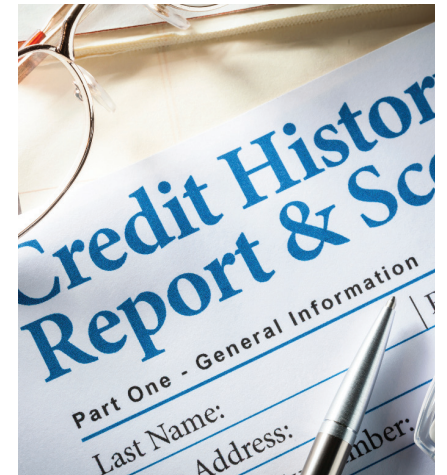


Photo credit: Getty Images Signature

a common option. To help navigate some of these challenges, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) can assist not only with petitioning for name and/or gender marker changes, but also help individuals update their documents and address issues that may arise with their credit after a name and/or gender marker change. For more information about MVLS' services, please visit www.mvlslaw.org.

Heather Heiman, Esq., is the Human Trafficking Prevention Project Manager at Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. The Human Trafficking Prevention Project (HTPP), a partnership between Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and University of Baltimore School of Law, strives to reduce the collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement for survivors of human trafficking and those populations made most vulnerable to exploitation, including members of the transgender community. The HTPP provides free legal representation to help survivors vacate, expunge, or shield prostitution and other related charges on their criminal records, as well as assistance with name and gender marker change, family law, housing, consumer debt, tax, and other civil legal matters.


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Ravens Kyle Hamilton gets first NFL impression at rookie minicamp

By Tyler Hamilton

Former Notre Dame safety Kyle Hamilton sat and waited as the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft continued to unravel without his name being called. Sure, Hamilton was selected with the No. 14 overall pick. But, he was considered to be a top five player by many draft analysts and expected to be selected in the top 10.

“In Kyle [Hamilton], we got a rangy safety, a ball hawk [with] tremendous physical skills [and] measurables,” Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said after drafting Hamilton. “A very, very smart football player [with] a great make up [and] pedigree. [He’s] productive, tough and physical. He can do a myriad of different things for us. I never dreamed in a million years that he would be there.”

The old saying that “Patience is a virtue” fully applies to Hamilton falling to the Baltimore Ravens. A defensive player landing on a defensive minded franchise is a match made in heaven.

“It’s pretty surreal, just being out here and being a Baltimore Raven,” Hamilton said after rookie minicamp. “It’s a dream come true. I get the opportunity to come out here, get better, make mistakes and learn from them. I have great coaches who have been helping me throughout this weekend, and I’m excited to build on it.”

The Ravens have a rich defensive history that includes Hall of Fame safety Ed Reed as one of their all-time greats. Although Hamilton hasn’t played a down yet, he’s already being put to the test.

“It’s definitely challenging. Even the stuff we’re doing right now, where I’m just learning both safety spots is challenging,” Hamilton said.

“I’ve been trying to take a step back through it all, even the most challenging parts this weekend and just acknowledge the fact that I’m here, and I’m poised to leave whatever mark I will. Hopefully, it’s a good one. I’m pretty confident that it will be, but I’m just excited to be here and be able to perform for a great franchise like this.”

The Ravens coaching staff has Hamilton wearing the green dot helmet which means he has a direct line of communication with defensive coordinator Mike McDonald. Hamilton was responsible for helping relay the call from McDonough to the rest of the defense and getting them lined up correctly.

The green dot helmet is not utilized at the college level so that was something new to Hamilton. Having a loud voice booming in his helmet before the play startled him the first time he got a play call. But he got used to it as that first practice went on.

The adjustment will continue for Hamilton when the rookies get on the field with veterans during minicamp. After posting eight interceptions, 16 passes defensed, 138 tackles including 7.5 for a loss during his time at Notre Dame, the Ravens will be relying on Hamilton to have an instant impact role this season.

Hamilton will also have a familiar face to lean on in former Notre Dame teammate Daelin Hayes who is an outside linebacker on the Ravens. Hamilton said Hayes sent him a text message immediately after the Ravens drafted him. The message?

“Let’s go win a Super Bowl.”



Kyle Hamilton

Photo credit: Phil Hoffman/Baltimore Ravens Photos.

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Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-22001, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **JUNE 15, 2022**, at 11:00 A.M. to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **May 20, 2022**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Pav-**

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ing). Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$850,000.00** to **\$1,200,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **June 3, 2022** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to [Vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:parekh@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5” Concrete Sidewalk – 90,000 SF; 5” Exposed Aggregate Sidewalk 10,000 SF; 7” Concrete Pavement 9,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**. The WBE Goal is **15%**.

APPROVED:
Bill Henry,
Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-22002, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **JUNE 15, 2022**, at 11:00 A.M. to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **May 20, 2022**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who

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desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$850,000.00** to **\$1,200,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on June 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to Vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5” Concrete Sidewalk – 92,000 SF; 7” Concrete Pavement 9,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**.

APPROVED:
Bill Henry,
Board of Estimates

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Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-22003, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **JUNE 15, 2022**, at 11:00 A.M. to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **May 20, 2022**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required

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for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$650,000.00 to \$900,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on June 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to Vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5” Concrete Sidewalk – 70,000 SF; 7” Concrete Pavement 8,500 SF**. The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**.

APPROVED: Bill Henry,
Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1258-Frederick Avenue & Vicinity and Lambeth & Kemble Roads Water Main Replacement** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **June 22, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20,**

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2022 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package**. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes**. The Pre-qualification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call
1 667-228-6519 Passcode:
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<https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Torrton.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

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as required.

The MBE goal is **16%**
The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1315-Hillen & Pen Lucy North Neighborhoods Water Main Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **June 22, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of 100.00. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package**. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the**

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JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes. The Pre-qualification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be \$20,000,000.01 to \$25,000,000.00.

A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call
1 667-228-6519 Passcode:
803821363 on **May 25, 2022** at
2:00 PM.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:
<https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Torrton.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Abandonment and/or removal of existing water mains and installation of various sized new ductile iron pipes, valves, fittings, and appurtenances, cathodic protection, pipe restraints, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter setting and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, temporary bypass piping, erosion and sediment control measures, maintenance of traffic measures, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING
AND CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1436-Repaving Utility Cuts and Sidewalk Restoration at Various Locations** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **June 15, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **A02602-Bituminous Concrete Paving**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

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A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 443-984-1696 PASSCODE: 2384652 on **May 27, 2022** at 10:00 AM.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: **<https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting>** For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Latonia.Walston@baltimorecity.gov** and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Prepare as required and repave, utility cuts performed by others, with bituminous concrete or Portland cement concrete, milling and resurfacing, and installation of pavement markings, within Baltimore City streets, alleys, and roadways. Restoration of various size and types of concrete and masonry sidewalks, replacement of concrete curb, combination curb and gutter, and monolithic medians, at various locations in Baltimore City.

The MBE goal is **20%**

The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF
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NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 992-Egg Shaped Digester Rehabilitation Improvements at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **June 22, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **250.00**. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003 Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$70,000,000.01 to \$80,000,000.00**.

Legal Notice

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Passcode: 499 734 658# on **May 31, 2022** at 10:00 AM.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: **<https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting>** For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov** and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Rehabilitation of the egg shaped digesters and improvements to the thickened sludge holding tanks, acid phase reactor, high rate digesters, and Digester Control Building at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This project includes U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan Funding.

The MBE goal is **5%**

The WBE goal is **2%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING
AND CONSTRUCTION
NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 1019R-CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewers in Northern Baltimore City** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **June 22, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90106-Digital Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspection of Utility Pipes**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$9,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**. **A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Mi-**

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crosoft Teams. Vendor can either call 1 443-833-0028 or 877-286-5733 PASSCODE 160908251# on **May 27, 2022 at 10:00 AM**.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: **https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting** For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Cynthia.harry@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Cleaning and inspection of sanitary sewers, manholes, and appurtenances, that include televising, cleaning with grease treatment where necessary, manhole locating and television inspection QA/QC review. The Contractor must be able to mobilize multiple work crews with the necessary equipment to perform the work as designated by the Engineer.

The MBE goal is **21%**

The WBE goal is **11%**

APPROVED:

Clerk, Board of Estimates

W. Michael Mullen
Chief Solicitor
City Hall

Christopher Lundy, Esq.
Chief
Minority and Women’s Business
Opportunity Office

APPROVED:

Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

Timothy W. Wolfe, P.E., BCEE
Chief
Office of Engineering
and Construction

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING
AND CONSTRUCTION
NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 1020R-CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewers in Southern Baltimore City** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **June 22, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **May 20, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90106-Digital Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspection of Utility Pipes**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$11,000,000.01 to \$12,000,000.00**. **A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Mi-**

Legal Notice

crosoft Teams. Vendor can either call +1 443-833-0028 or 877-286-5733 PASSCODE: 26545551# on **May 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM**.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: **https://publicworks.baltimore-city.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting** For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov** Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Cleaning and inspection of sanitary sewers, manholes, and appurtenances, that include televising, cleaning with grease treatment where necessary, bypass pumping at various locations where necessary, manhole locating and television inspection QA/QC review. The contractor must be able to mobilize multiple work crews with the necessary equipment to perform the work as designated by the Engineer.

The MBE goal is **21%**

The WBE goal is **11%**

APPROVED:

Clerk, Board of Estimates

W. Michael Mullen
Chief Solicitor
City Hall

Christopher Lundy, Esq.
Chief
Minority and Women’s Business
Opportunity Office

APPROVED:

Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

Timothy W. Wolfe, P.E., BCEE
Chief
Office of Engineering



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Thanks to the support of our players, the Maryland Lottery set all-time records in Fiscal Year 2021. The Lottery generated more than \$2.6 billion in sales, awarded more than \$1.6 billion in prizes and contributed \$667.4 million to support Maryland's schools, public health and safety programs and the environment. Not bad. We'd like to think we generated a few million smiles as well.

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