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Happy Father's Day!



Demauri, Wes Watkins, and Drew enjoy reading “Fathers Need Their Kids & Kids Need Their Fathers.” Watkins penned the book with his son, Demauri. Drew is Watkins’ daughter. Watkins is a hands-on father and full-time musician from Anne Arundel County who is also penning another book about coparenting with Demauri’s mother, Demetria Seegars. (See article on page 12). Photo by Mickey Freeman

A New Beginning for The Baltimore Arena

By Sierra Austin

On June 9, 2022, Oak View Group (OVG), the largest sports and entertainment venue developer and financing company, announced in a groundbreaking ceremony that renovations are underway for the transformation of the 60-year-old Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland. Once renovations are complete, the arena will help promote further investments and traffic for the downtown area.

OVG's projected cost redevelopment is an estimated \$200 million dollar privately financed investment. Tim Leiweke, CEO of OVG, stressed more than once "we pay for everything...there are zero risks to taxpayers in the city." Pharrell Williams, the famous musician, well-known for his song "Happy," has recently been named as a new equity investor in the project. In addition, other investors include The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), Fundamental Advisors, Thirty Five Ventures (35V), and Maryland native and NBA player, Kevin Durant. Leiweke continued, "we are ultimately committed to making sure that we build a building that becomes the heart and soul of downtown Baltimore."

OVG also partnered with a Black-owned bank, Harbor Bank of Maryland, for the financing of this project. "When entities like OVG bank Black, they demonstrate their support for real economic equity by supporting the institutions that are at the front lines of this country's racial wealth gap," National Black Bank co-founder, Brandon Comer said, according to a press release.

The newly renovated arena will provide a financial boost for Baltimore's economy. Hoping that renovations will advocate for more events like those from his childhood to occupy the arena, Mayor Brandon M. Scott recalled moments from his childhood when



Tim Leiweke, Mayor Brandon M. Scott, and stakeholders at the groundbreaking ceremony held to set forth the start of renovations on the Baltimore Arena.

Photo credit: J.J McQueen

he visited the Baltimore-based arena to watch monster trucks, the circus, and concerts. Once refurbishments are completed the arena is expected to accommodate 14,000 guests. "Oak View Group has laid out a bold plan that will not only redevelop the Baltimore Arena but serve as an anchor to completely revitalize our downtown community for generations to come," the mayor stated, according to a press release.

The renovations will also serve as a beneficial boost to the Baltimore sports scene in Baltimore. According to The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) website, "Men's and Women's basketball tournament will extend its run in Baltimore for 2024 and 2025 following a successful first year in-person in Baltimore in 2022." The arena is set to be

completed by February 2023, just in time for the CIAA's return to the Baltimorean staple.

Clark Construction Group, a construction firm that has completed over 70 different projects for Baltimore, has agreed to administer the construction of the Baltimore Arena. During

the duration of the groundbreaking ceremony construction workers could be overheard working on renovations. Leiweke joked with the audience about not stopping the construction process to conduct the ceremony. The project will provide an ample amount of employment for the area over the next 12 months. Upon completion in February 2023, the arena will have added seating, upgraded concession, LED lighting, exterior changes, and more.

Currently known as Royal Farms Arena, the name is subject to change at a later date. "Baltimore Development Corporation, the city's economic development agency, is currently looking for a new corporate suitor to sell the naming rights to," according to Fox Baltimore. The mayor spoke briefly during the ceremony about the name change and the plan to terminate the agreement between the arena and Royal Farms, the privately-owned convenience store based in Baltimore. The arena has been named Royal Farms Arena since 2014 in a "\$1.25 million, five-year naming agreement," according to The Daily Record.

Located at 201 W. Baltimore Street, The Baltimore arena is set to be fully refurbished by February 2023. The arena will promote traffic to the downtown area with a variety of events like concerts, tournaments, NBA exhibition games, UFC, and more.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Statement by President Barack Obama on the 10th Anniversary of DACA

Ten years ago, our nation strengthened its commitment to the principle that every American deserves a chance to build a better life here. Amid congressional gridlock and decades of failure to address our broken immigration system, my administration took action to protect hundreds of thousands of young people who were American in every way but one.

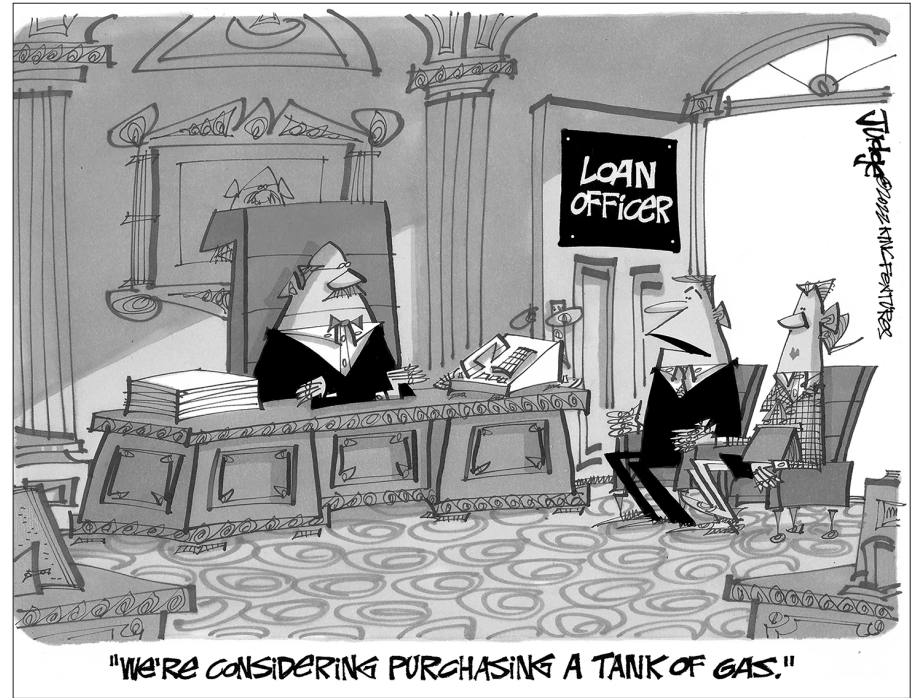
These Dreamers came to this country very young, sometimes as infants, and did everything right. They studied hard, worked hard, and proved to their parents that the risk of coming to America had paid off. Many did not know they were undocumented until they applied to college or tried to enlist in the military. And not only did a piece of paper suddenly stand in the way of their aspirations, it added a threat of deportation to a country they might not know with a language they might not speak.

But rather than accepting defeat and living in fear, these Dreamers did the opposite: They publicly proclaimed their immigration status. They showed how much the American Dream meant to them, sharing their stories of hope and heartbreak. And they called on their elected officials to do something to fix the system. That's who I was thinking about when our administration made it possible for them to apply for work authorization and protection from deportation through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Instead of living in fear, DACA made it possible for these promising young Americans to continue to thrive in the only country they had ever called home. It lifted the shadow of deportation from people of extraordinary promise. And the results—for them and for us all—cannot be denied.

The more than 800,000 people who have received DACA protection are now teachers, service members, business owners, doctors, and parents. They are our friends and neighbors. With the protection of DACA, they helped to close the gap in high school graduation rates between citizens and noncitizens by 40 percent, as one study found. More than 200,000 of them have served on the frontlines of our nation's COVID-19 response, working on behalf of their fellow Americans at great risk to themselves. And hundreds more have defended our country in the military, making all of us safer. A few weeks ago, I met with several DACA recipients who are excelling in medicine, organizing, and more. To me, they're exceptional in part because I know they're not exceptions—there are hundreds of thousands of stories like theirs. We are a better nation—a stronger nation—because of DACA recipients.

It is not lost on them or me that the DACA program was, and is, temporary. It remains vulnerable to politicians who choose to ignore DACA's remarkable benefits to our country. These Dreamers lived through the cruelty of the previous administration's attacks and legal challenges to the program, their families, and their communities. And Dreamers graduating high school or entering the workforce today face an even steeper climb than they did a decade ago. Only a quarter of the undocumented students graduating high school this year are eligible for DACA under existing rules. Some states restrict in-state tuition from undocumented students, even when they meet all residency requirements. And some professions remain out of reach because of a patchwork of unreasonable state-level licensing requirements.

For all they have done for our nation, and all they will continue to do, DACA recipients and their families deserve better. Today, I'm renewing my call for Congress to redouble its efforts to build a smart and compassionate immigration system that offers Dreamers a path to citizenship. Let's honor these Dreamers and everything they've done to strengthen our country. Let's treat them like the Americans that they are. And let's do everything we can to help build a commonsense immigration system that honors our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. It's on all of us to finish this work.



Community Affairs

Stop the Violence Concert

The [Stop The Violence concert](#) will be the first of the sixth annual #BmorePopUp 10-week series.

Every Friday at 6:00 PM from June 24th to August 26th, the SAO will host a pop up party for young people and their families at no cost. In the summer of 2017, State's Attorney Mosby launched the #BmorePopUp series. Since that time, the SAO has hosted pop ups including: Skate Jam at Shake and Bake Family Fun Center, Night at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Paint & Jam with Art with a Heart at Jubilee Arts Center, and pool parties. To date, 20,000 youth and families have participated in #BmorePopUps.

This summer's pop up series, the longest to date since the inception of the program with 10 weeks of Friday programming, is made possible by public and private partnerships

including: the Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success, the Baltimore City School Police, the Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore Rec & Parks, Baltimore City Schools, Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center, DTLR, Radio One, and BlackOut Management.

How to Register:

To participate in the #BmorePopUp series, youth must register through [Eventbrite](#) for each event due to capacity limitations.

To receive text alerts when registration has opened, youth can text "BALTSAO POPUP" to 468-311 and get weekly details regarding the events.

For the latest information and details for future PopUps, follow @BaltimoreSAO on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and #BmorePopUp.

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Sentencing Project Report Debunks Myth of Youth-Led Crime Wave

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

The D.C.-based research and advocacy nonprofit, The Sentencing Project, has debunked a widespread narrative that youth crime has exploded during the pandemic.

In a new report released on Tuesday, June 14, the group said it found scarce evidence of a new youth-led crime wave.

The report titled, “Data Reveals Violence Among Youth Under 18 Has Not Spiked in the Pandemic,” revealed that most of the data suggests that rates of violence among people under 18 have been flat or declining.

“This report comes at an important moment. Throughout the pandemic, many media outlets and policymakers have perpetuated a narrative that youth crime is skyrocketing,” the report authors wrote.

“Simultaneously, recent mass shootings have shown the heinous damage



Courtesy Photo/NNPA

that a single individual can cause with easy access to guns.”

Further, scattered anecdotes and talk of out-of-control youth are fueling calls for stricter punishments and harsher treatment, the authors noted.

But such methods have consistently

people’s access to deadly assault weapons,” Mendel stated.

He continued:

“But the evidence is overwhelming that imposing more extreme punishments on youth doesn’t work.

“Instead, we need to implement strate-

“Pervasive discussions about adolescent crime have revitalized calls for punitive approaches to youth justice that don’t work”

proven to be ineffective at preventing crime, and are likely to cause crime to increase, they continued.

“It’s crucial to set the record straight. There is no evidence of a significant increase in youth crime or violence,” said Richard Mendel, Senior Research Fellow at the Sentencing Project and author of the report.

“Of course, we must do everything we can to steer young people away from delinquency, and we must block young

gies that actually reduce crime – like minimizing youth confinement and improving social, emotional, and mental health support for young people within their schools and communities.”

The report revealed that the share of crimes in the United States committed by youth has fallen by more than half over the past two decades and continued to fall for all major offense categories in 2020 – the most recent year for which data is available.

Additionally, the overall number of offenses categorized by the FBI as violent – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault – committed by youth declined in 2020.

Authors also tackled youth-led carjackings, which have received blanket media coverage based on a spike in youth arrests in some jurisdictions.

They noted that no national data on carjackings is available, and that evidence about the share of carjackings committed by young people is inconclusive.

Data does show that total robberies by youth – of which carjackings are a sub-category – declined in 2020.

Further, the authors cited “conclusive evidence that punitive policies in the youth justice system don’t deter crime or improve community safety.”

“Indeed, transfer to adult court, heavy reliance on detention and confinement, and criminalization of routine adolescent misbehavior in school all tend to heighten delinquency, worsen youth outcomes, and undermine public safety,” the authors determined.

Fortunately, the authors observed, there are plenty of strategies proven to improve youth outcomes and steer young people away from crime – like hiring counselors rather than police officers in public schools, diverting young people accused of less serious offenses into restorative justice and other community-led alternatives to court, and reducing overreliance on detention, incarceration, and transfers to the adult justice system.

Also, The Sentencing Project has also developed a media guide with 10 Crime Coverage Dos and Don’ts to help media outlets better inform the public and policymakers about crime issues.

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Publisher
Joy Bramble
Associate Publisher
Paris Brown
Editor
Dena Wane
Director of Special Projects
Dena Wane

Dir., Promotions/Entertain. Columnist
Eunice Moseley

Administrative Assistant
Ida C. Neal

Writers
Ursula Battle
Andrea Blackstone
Stacy Brown
Demetrius Dillard
Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor

Website
James Collins
Layout
Chris Jones

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Mailing Address
The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900- www.baltimoretimes-online.com

Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

Please contact: The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218
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Managing Divorce with Kids Creatively

A Loving Father Pens and Publishes a Book Full of Heartwarming Letters to His Girls

By Andrea Blackstone

Divorce is a life disruptor that can create emotional wounds for adults and children.

When a marriage ends, loving fathers often desire to remain routinely involved in the lives of their children, regardless of dissolving bonds shared with mates. Edmund H. Moore, Ph.D. —

an engineer who works for the U.S. Air Force—knows the feeling of wanting to maintain a bond filled with unconditional love and communication for the sake of girls, despite divorce’s heavy strain on a family’s original structure.

During an interview with The Baltimore Times, Moore reflected on his path of penning “With A Father’s Love: 52 Weekly Letters To My Beloved Daughter.”

“Before I wrote the book, I was going through a divorce, and I was writing my daughter’s letters each week, and I did that for two weeks on a variety of topics, with the first letter being ‘I Will Always be There for You,’” Moore said.

The creative Ohioian shaped a way to cement a forever bond with messages in mind. His caring, fatherly spirit led Moore to handwrite the letters and type them. Typically, he gave a copy each of his girls once every week.

“My daughters were 13 and nine years of age at the time of the divorce. I wanted them to know who I am as their father, and how much I love them,” Moore said in a press release.

Information provided on the author’s website also mentioned that Moore feared losing a custody battle. Moore told The Baltimore Times that

sharing information about who he was, and providing helpful information for his girls, were among reasons that he chose to pen the letter. Moore added that he wanted both children to know that even if they endured a trying time in life, it would not affect unconditional love that would still be in place. It would remain coupled with protection and nurturing. Additionally, life

lessons were included in Moore’s letters, too. Other topics ranged from confidence and finance to faith in God.

Moore’s feelings of wanting to ensure that his daughters knew how he felt about them were not far-fetched, considering today’s prevalence of relationship challenges. Parental conflicts may trickle down to children, even because of logistics.

In a study authored by Jane Anderson, findings revealed that despite changes in laws, the majority of children “spend more time with one custodial parent and obviously have less time with each parent overall.” And for most children, having to spend “less time spent with their fathers” is another aspect of a divorce’s impact.

Although Moore did not intend to share the letters with the general population, his status as an author took shape because friends and colleagues discovered the father’s heartwarming actions. They were the ones who suggested writing a book. “With A Father’s Love: 52 Weekly Letters To My Beloved Daughter” was the result of Moore taking their advice to publicly

share fatherly contemplations. In 2019, Moore published his work through Lift Bridge Publishing.

Despite the period of Moore’s divorce, he was able to ascend to a better place. And now, the father, author, and community leader serves as an example to others who may also want to improve relationships with their girls.

“Edmund Moore’s down-to-earth nature and sense of humor shine through in these thoughtful notes from a father to his daughters. His labor of love allows parents who share his values to provide wise guidance to our children,” C. Kelly Robinson, author of “Between Brothers” said in a press release.

Per information provided on Moore’s website, he does not claim to know it all or “be a perfect dad.”



Moore admitted that he remains dedicated to striving to be the best father that he can be. His transparency is well stated, considering that men are often stereotyped as rarely expressing emotion or their feelings. In the process of redefining fatherly expression, Moore empowers other fathers and father figures, through advice and action.

“Well, the biggest thing I thought about was, ‘If I had a son, how would I treat my son,’ and I said, ‘I want to make sure that I treat them equitably. So, if you think about going to games where your son was playing, you would do the same thing for your daughters,’” Moore said, mentioning that both genders should be treated the same.

Visit <https://edmundmoore.com/> to learn more about Moore.



Madison Moore, left, Dr. Edmund Moore, middle, and Mackenzie Moore, right.
Courtesy photos



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“A Day of Science with Terrence Howard”

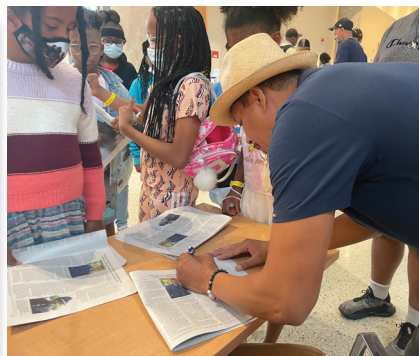
Photos Courtesy of Morgan State University



Critically-acclaimed actor, Terrence Howard discusses his patented technology with a panel of experts to include tech founders, physicists, engineers, aviation educators at Morgan State University (MSU) on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Included among the day's events were youth workshops, Howard's signature Lynchpin Drone Stimulator demonstrations, 3-D modeling and design and construction labs, an expert panel discussion, and community forum.



Terrence Howard poses with Ursula V. Battle, who wrote *The Baltimore Times*, “A Day of Conversation with Terrence Dashon Howard.” Ms. Battle is joined by her mother, Vashtied Brown.



Youth STEAM participants walked away with a personally autographed copy of *The Baltimore Times* in which Howard Terrence was featured.



“A Day of Science with Terrence Howard” panel experts Delali Dzirasa, Founder, Fearless; Dr. Tammira Lucas, CEO The Cube CoWork and Venture Growth Advisor for TEDCO's Urban Business Innovation Initiative; and Dr. Ron Williams, Founding Director, Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship, (CSE), Coppin State University, College of Business



Deborah Roy, Staff Engineer, Engineering Process and Metrics Department, General Atomics; and President of the General Atomics Black Employees, served on the “Panel of Experts.” She is pictured encouraging young girls to pursue careers in engineering, “the industry needs you,” says Roy.



The day concluded with a community conversation and an opportunity to ask one-on-one questions.



Over 30 youth participated in the Youth STEAM Interactive Workshop from the Eastern Shore of Maryland.



Mr. Howard explains how the protons come together in this larger model as the youth of YEES WE CAN listen. He explained that he spent the last three weeks building models in preparation for the STEAM workshop.



Terrence Howard presented each STEAM youth participant with a gift—a seashell that he and his wife gathered. He shared, that it “reflected the uniqueness of each human being.”



Youth participant looks on intently as Mr. Howard explains how protons connect.



Dr. Jeff Menzise, Associate Professor, Institute for Urban Research, School of Graduate Studies at Morgan State University, played a key role in orchestrating Howard’s event at Morgan.



The Young Elites of the Eastern Shore West to East Coast Aviation Network (YEES WE CAN), a youth aviation training and education program headquarter at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore travel from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to participate in the Youth STEAM Workshop hosted by Morgan State University.

Author, Producer, Screenwriter Rodney Barnes Will be Honored by Annapolis with Key to The City

By Andrea Blackstone

Rodney Barnes—a California-based screenwriter, producer and author with Annapolis roots— knows that it is possible for an individual who was raised in a small town to dream big and achieve phenomenal results. In an interview, Barnes recently told The Baltimore Times that getting up and facing the work every day is not easy in his profession, but he often gets “stuff done.” This is what makes the industry veteran proud of himself. Over time, Barnes’ successful formula has entailed lots of listening, learning, and taking action.

In a previous interview with The Baltimore Times, Barnes explained that he left his hometown of Annapolis, Maryland to pursue a career in screenwriting and production, after meeting and working with comedian, writer and actor Damon Wayans on projects as a production assistant. His early career climb entailed commuting from Md. to Los Angeles by car.

“And we had a frank conversation one day where he said, “You know, if you really want to write, you have to move here,”” Barnes told The Baltimore Times. “And this was before the Internet was the Internet in the same way it is now. There was no social media. There was no way to communicate the same way you can now.”

Barnes relocated to L.A., lived in his car for approximately eight months, and made a risky sacrifice pay off. According to a press release issued by the City of Annapolis, Barnes “has written and produced *The Boondocks*, *My Wife and Kids*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, *Those Who Can’t*, *Marvel’s Runaways*, *American Gods*, *Wu-Tang: An American Saga*, and is currently an executive producer/writer on HBO’s *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty*.”

Barnes is a multidimensional, African American creative who captivates a variety of audiences. *Zombie Love Studios* is Barnes’ publishing compa-

ny, and he established Rodney Barnes Productions for film. Barnes also told The Baltimore Times about his work with HBO.

“I have an overall deal with them for three more years. It’d be five years all together,” Barnes said. “I have other shows that I have in development at HBO that haven’t been announced yet.”

Horror is Barnes favorite genre, although he described it as “one that was the hardest to break through in.” Barnes recently finished a monster movie for a production company called New Regency. Other horror projects are in development, including a graphic novel co-created with Snoop Dogg called “*Tales From The Crip*.”

But Barnes has even kept a hometown flavor in the mix. Crownsville—the old state mental hospital—is on Barnes’ forthcoming project list. The graphic novel, which is a ghost story set outside of Annapolis, blends fact with fiction.

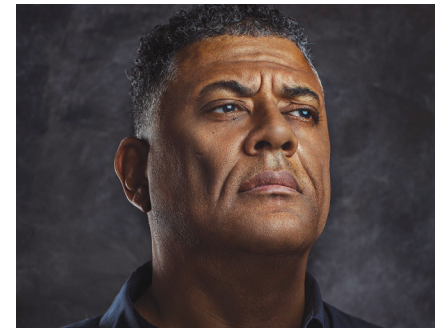
Annapolis is officially recognizing Barnes for his career accomplishments. On Friday, June 24, 2022, the author and producer will be presented with a key to the City of Annapolis, in collaboration with Maryland Hall, from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. The free event will be held at 801 Chase Street in Annapolis, Md. A special screening of HBO’s *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty* will be held, in addition to a Q & A with Barnes, hosted by William Rowel.

“We are so pleased to be honoring Rodney Barnes with a key to the City. He grew up in Eastport and attended local schools, went to Howard and then out west to follow his dreams. Even though he is a successful writer, producer, graphic novel author, and more - his success hasn’t kept him from remembering where he came from,” Mayor Gavin Buckley said in a statement to The Baltimore Times.

Barnes remarked that the acknowledgement is truly an honor.

“I doubt that my grandparents, and the people who knew me growing up, would ever have thought that I would have gotten a key to the City. I certainly didn’t think it, and I do take into consideration that 200 years ago, just because of the mass of what was happening in the world, this would be unheard of. So, it’s an amazing honor,” Barnes said. “I’m really, really appreciative, and I hope it’s the beginning of building an even more substantive relationship with the City, both in civic activity, and business in general.”

On June 25, a comic book signing will be held for Barnes at Third Eye Comics, located at 209 Chinquapin Round Rd, Suite 200, from 11a.m.-1 p.m. Please visit <https://www.annapolis.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=8651> to obtain a ticket and register for the Key to the City Presentation.



*Rodney Barnes is an American screenwriter and producer who originally hails from Annapolis. The industry veteran who has written and produced *The Boondocks*, *My Wife and Kids*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, and others shows. He is currently an executive producer/writer on HBO’s *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty*. The City of Annapolis will honor Barnes on June 24, 2022 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at Maryland Hall located at 801 Chase Street in Annapolis, Md. Courtesy photo by Allan Amato*



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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed banning menthol cigarettes. This rule would remove all menthol cigarettes, like Newport, from the store shelves if the rule goes into effect.

BANNING MENTHOL IS BAD PUBLIC POLICY AND WOULD CREATE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Great progress has been made reducing smoking rates in this country. Adult and youth smoking are at historic lows; menthol smoking by youth is rare (0.6% smoked even a puff in past 30 days) per recent government data.

We do not believe the science justifies regulating menthol and non-menthol cigarettes differently. A ban would cause widespread negative unintended consequences including increases in illicit cigarette trade, crime, smuggling, lost tax revenues, strain on law enforcement and the risk of making it easier for youth to access cigarettes through illicit channels.

THE PATH FORWARD: TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION

There is a larger public health issue at stake: reducing the harm from smoking cigarettes (menthol and non-menthol) and how to accomplish that. Public health policy should encourage innovative and acceptable alternatives to cigarettes – and provide accurate information about them – for those adult smokers who choose not to quit. The pathway to real progress is reducing the harms from smoking in this country by ensuring access for adults to consumer-acceptable alternatives to the cigarette that may present less risk.

YOUTH PREVALENCE

99.4% of youth have not even taken a puff of a menthol cigarette in the last 30 days.

National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2021, MMWR 71(5):1-29 (Mar. 11, 2022), at Table 5

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Dedicated Father, Musician and Author Drums Up a Positive Coparenting Narrative

By Andrea Blackstone

Wes Watkins is a full-time musician and noted drummer based in Odenton, Maryland who has toured the world with multi-platinum selling music artists. These days, Moore primarily performs in bands locally and records with industry professionals. Despite maintaining a demanding career, Watkins pauses from picking up his drum sticks when the time comes to tend to daddy duties for his 14-year-old son, Demauri, and his 2-year-old daughter, Drew.

“He’s a supporting and caring father, and I like how he normally stays on top of me and makes sure that everything’s good,” Demauri said, also mentioning key pointers that he gleaned from Watkins. “I’ve learned about taking care of my actions, and basically just making sure that I have everything that I need to be successful in life.”

Taking excursions to Six Flags and Dave & Busters are a few of his favorite activities that Demauri enjoys doing with his father. The father and son even penned a book together called “Fathers Need Their Kids &

Kids Need Their Fathers.” Coming up with concepts and writing portions of it were among the teenager’s contributions for the book that was published in 2021. Some of the book’s contents were inspired by family time.

Watkins described penning the book with Demauri as a memorable bonding opportunity. The musician was able to expose his creative son to new undertakings. Virtual school prevented Demauri from illustrating for the book, although Watkins explained that his son possesses a drawing gift. Conversations, such as talks with his son about his future happen often. Therefore, Watkins is aware that Demauri has an interest in a counseling career.

“He doesn’t have to be a musician, but I want to be able to open his eyes up a little bit to any other thing,” Watkins said. “That was like my main reason for wanting to write a book with him, and then on top of that, I also wanted him to be able to look back at something (and say) ... ‘Me and my dad, we did that,’” Watkins said.

Watkins grew up in a two-parent household. His parents are still

married. Although Watkins’ parental journey did not include marriage, Demauri’s positive development is also due to the example Watkin’s father provided about fatherhood and positive coparenting between Watkins and his son’s mother, Demetria Seegars.

The Prince George’s County based mother mentioned that coparenting their son peacefully, although they are no longer personally involved, entails effective communication.

“We make sure that we communicate about whatever Demauri needs and wants, and we also make sure we’re on the same page,” Seegars said.

In the beginning of their parenting journey, legal issues were tangled in it. As time passed, Watkins and Seegars matured. Seegars added that Watkins is “an amazing father,” and she “could not have asked for a better father for her son.” Watkins credited Seegars for having a collaborative approach, too.

The arrangement is working out well now. The pair even began writing a book about pushing peace as coparents to help other adults to be better parents. Watkins noted that if they could move forward, anyone could, while letting go of hurtful events.

“We started working on it (the book) back in March. I feel like we just have so much advice and a lot of helpful things for people that they can utilize that may be able to help them, because we’ve gone through it all,” Watkins said. “We’ve gone through the court. We’ve gone through the arguing. We’ve gone through the ‘I hate you.’”

Now that they have each other’s backs, Seegars and Watkins acknowledge their positive space.

“Those past moments shouldn’t define you as parents,” Watkins said.

While stressing the importance of communication, Seegars reminds other



Wes Watkins shares a playful moment with his daughter, Drew. His son, with Demauri, looks at his sister having fun up in the air.

Photos by Mickey Freeman

mothers who may want to coparent more peacefully to remember a few practical perspectives.

“So the first thing would be to put your pride aside, put your ego aside. When it comes to your child, make it be within his or her best interest, but always know what, it’s not about you. It’s not about the father. It’s always about the child,” Seegars said.

She also feels that a father’s involvement in a child’s life is invaluable.

“Kids need their mom, but they also absolutely need their father to guide them, teach them things that sometimes a mom can’t do, or don’t know how to do. So..., every child needs their father,” Seegars said.

Visit www.gotmyownsound.com to learn more about Watkins and future projects.



Professional drummer, Wes Watkins, fist bumps his daughter, Drew.

When Love and Work Mix

A Blended Baltimorean Family in the Making

By Andrea Blackstone

On-air personality and celebrity DJ, Jay Claxton is a vibrant Baltimorean who is embracing fatherhood from a blended perspective. The biological father of two reflected on being a student who attended Northern High School, while growing up in northeast Baltimore, with a backdrop of old school turntables and tape decks. Claxton told The Baltimore Times that he was able to be heard on radio in his hometown for 19 years, SiriusXM, and other radio stations. Although Claxton feels that making strides in “his career is his biggest (career) accomplishment,” the pandemic did not prevent him from making a personal win. He became engaged to an ambitious mother of three named CaSandra Vaughn (Dr. Casay Vaughn).

One conversation with Claxton and his future wife makes it easy to observe parallels in their lives. Vaughn was reared in that northwest part of Baltimore. The pair met years ago and reconnected in 2016, since a few of their children attended a mutual school. Vaughn has worked in television and radio. The Franchise Group—which houses various businesses—is owned and operated by Claxton and his “media maven.” Vaughn and Claxton mixed business and pleasure, but it worked out.

“It started with her (Vaughn) becoming my business partner. She met my kids early on,” Claxton said, explaining that his daughter and son were with him often.

The partners fell into a pattern of helping each other out, despite living in two different households. These days, Claxton coparents with his 10-year-old daughter’s mother, while also building a future with Vaughn, who has been actively involved with Claxton’s kids over time. Vaughn was quick to mention that Claxton had immersed himself in her children’s lives, too.

“There wasn’t one pivotal moment. It was just who he was,” Vaughn said.

Claxton has conversations with her son, Caleel, and steps up to fill in gaps where a woman cannot.

“Caleel is 16, and Caleel needs a male role model,” Vaughn said. “As much as Jay talks about what I’ve done for his kids, Jay was the person who was at my daughter’s college graduation. Jay is the person who is heavily in my grandson’s life. Jay



Jay Claxton, left, and Dr. CaSandra Vaughn, right, became engaged during the pandemic. The Baltimoreans began doing business together, while helping each other with their children who are not biologically shared. Claxton is an on-air personality and celebrity DJ who openly embraces a new, blended family along with his fiancée. Vaughn has experience working in television and radio.

Photo credit: Fond Memories

is the person... who makes a heavy presence in my son’s life.”

But accolades are not just voiced by Vaughn. Caleel said that he does not want to put a lot of pressure on his elderly grandfather. The teenager added that talking on the phone to Claxton is enjoyable. “Mr. Jay” has already been acting like a dad for years, according to Caleel.

“He’s like a role model, because...

I barely have... any man to talk to,” Caleel said.

Vaughn also mentioned that Claxton and her adult daughter have a good relationship. Vaughn knew that Claxton would be a great father figure, while observing the father in action who attended mid-day school assemblies and participated in “Daddy Donut Day.”

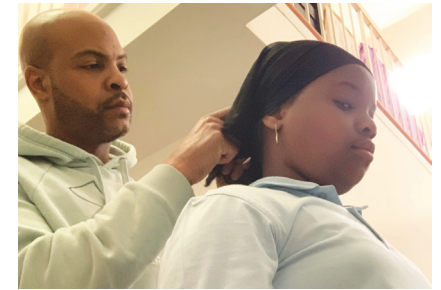
“If a person is that involved in their own lives, why would I think he wouldn’t be involved in mine?” Vaughn said.

Claxton and Vaughn stay on the move at home and at work. Franchise Radio is another endeavor. Week End Therapy, is a wrap up of the week with live guests. It is available on Franchise TV—which is a “global streaming network.” According to Vaughn, the couple partnered with former professional boxer, Evander Holyfield, to make content available through his platform called Airy TV.

Regardless of success’ demands, Claxton’s time is given to the collective mix of older and young kids, his fiancée, and even individuals in the community. He and Vaughn quietly partner with others to distribute food, toy drives, and give back to others. Nevertheless, home obligations remain a priority.

“I just do what I what I have to do. If the kids are in need, we’ve got to handle that. My parents help out,... her parents help out. We just make it work. It’s something that... I tell CaSandra all the time, sometimes we come up with challenges, but none of it is going to kill us,” Claxton said. “A lot of times we put more strain and stress on us about a situation than there has to be. Regardless of what happens, Lord willing, we’re going to see the next day. The situation is not going to make us perish.”

While juggling life’s demands, the father still finds joy in observing the development of children. Even when COVID made life bumpier, Claxton



Jay Claxton and his daughter, Tyler Jae share a tender moment while Claxton gets his daughter ready for graduation. Courtesy photo



Crystal Fox-Thomas, Dr. CaSandra Vaughn’s daughter, celebrated graduation from Clark Atlanta University in 2021. Jay Claxton, right, supports her during the milestone. Photo credit: Dr. CaSandra Vaughn



Jay Claxton’s son, James Claxton IV, and Claxton’s daughter, TylerJae, middle, appear with their father, Jay Claxton, right. Courtesy photo

mentally viewed it as “a blessing.”

“That’s the only way you really live is when you take a chance,” Claxton said.

Part 2 of a 2-Part Series

Huber Memorial Church's H.O.P.E Academy Over 36 Years of Helping Our People Excel

By Ursula V. Battle

Each year, the vision of the Rev. Dr. P.M. Smith culminates with the graduation ceremony of The H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People Excel) Academy. Located at 1808 Edison Highway in Baltimore, the school provides a quality, low-cost education in a Christian environment. The 21st Fifth Grade Commencement Exercises took place June 2, 2022, at the Huber Community Life Center, 5700 Loch Raven Blvd. in Baltimore.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Emmy-Award winning journalist and WBAL-TV Education Reporter Dr. Tim Tooten, who encouraged the graduates: Lawson Ausby; Tommi Bazemore; Kiata Foster; Ayden Caple; Autumn Johnson; Genesis Jordan; Micah Pardue; and Josiah Thornton to never give up on their dreams.

In addition to The H.O.P.E Academy/ Huber Child Development Center and The Huber Community Life Center, Huber's physical plant and grounds also consist of Huber Memorial Church located at 5701 York Road, where Rev. Smith is Pastor. The H.O.P.E. Academy and the Huber Child Development are the expressions of the Huber Memorial Church: to RESCUE our children, to REDEEM our families, and to RECREATE our communities.

"The generation of my parents and grandparents focused my generation on education, and education transformed my life," said Pastor Smith, who earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan. "Education elevated me, and we owe

the next generation what the previous generation gave us, and that was pushing for and receiving a quality education."

Pastor Smith, said the school vaccinates their children with a spiritual immunity system, which is the Word of God.

"We pursue academic excellence at The Hope Academy, but there's more

to life. Some of the smartest men I ever met during my legal career were incarcerated. Character is what matters, so we focus on building character in addition to pursuing academic excellence. That is something that in many cases, is just not happening in our public school system today. The Hope Academy is an extension of our ministry to rescue our children, redeem our families, and recreate our communities."

He added, "The reality of community is not based on geography, not based on economics, not so much based on ethnicity, but on commonly shared values nobody talks about anymore. At The Hope Academy, we try to make our students understand that good values are the foundation to building our communities."

The H.O.P.E. Academy opened in September 1996, and currently has more than 160 students ranging from Pre-K to grade five enrolled. Elena Simmons, is the principal of the school which has graduated many students who have gone on to attend college and achieve successful careers.

"I don't know if my mom or dad could read," said Pastor Smith. "But it was irrelevant because they lived a life that embraced and transmitted their

values. And we didn't know any better than to do the same thing for our kids. We raised our kids with good, Christian, biblical values. My mother and father came from an agricultural environment. You depend on the earth for your bank, and it gives you a direct channel to the Lord. You need rain and you need sunshine in certain stages of growth for your product. You are attached to the Lord, and you are productive. So, you can feed yourself and your kids."

He added, When you have that attachment you have that divine dependency whether you can read or not. You understand that you need God, and you also have a healthy fear of God."

Pastor Smith recalled a childhood that required completing chores and respecting elders.

"There were ten children on my father's side and ten on my mother's side," said Pastor Smith. "I wondered why everybody had these big families, but we were the workforce," he chuckled. "I had to sweep. Everybody had a job to do."

The Baltimore native said his upbringing came with high expectations. One that is reflected in The H.O.P.E. Academy's motto – "Where Excellence Is Expected."

"We give our students a solid foundation," said Pastor Smith. "We give them values rooted in faith that will hold. These are values rooted in Jesus Christ that say you can build a life, you can build a family, and you can build a community that will work."

According to Pastor Smith, Huber Memorial Church helps to subsidize the costs for students to make it more affordable.

"The average parent is a single mom dropping her child off at seven in the morning on her way to work, or
continued on page 15



The H.O.P.E. Academy's Class of 2022 included Lawson Ausby, Josiah Thornton, Micah Pardue and Ayden Caple. (Courtesy Photos)



Genesis Jordan, Autumn Johnson, Kiata Foster and Tommi Bazemore were also among the graduates.



For more than 36 years, The H.O.P.E. Academy has been helping kids to see brighter futures.

H.O.P.E Academy

a tech guy dropping off his baby. We know they can't afford it, and that's why the church has been subsidizing the cost for over twenty-five years. On average, they pay one hundred dollars a week, and you can't get a babysitter for that amount."

He added, "Our daycare center is a feeder school for The Hope Academy. We also make sure that people don't get caught up or confused about the value because some people treasure a certain item if they paid a certain amount of money for it. What The Hope Academy provides to our students is invaluable. The acronym for HOPE speaks to our intention, which is helping our people to excel."

For more information about The H.O.P.E. Academy, call 410-327-9020.

Optimism Abounds for Ravens Restocked TE Group



Photo: Mark Andrews with credit to Scott Taetsch/Getty Images.

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have had their share of outstanding tight ends

over the years. Players like Shannon Sharpe, Todd Heap and Dennis Pita were key contributors in some really good teams.

Current tight end Mark Andrews is carrying the torch now. Andrews was named a first-team All Pro and Pro Bowl player last season after posting 107 receptions for 1,361 yards and nine touchdowns.

"I'm hungry. But I don't really care [about accolades]," Andrews said. "Obviously, it was an honor to have a great season. But that's not the end goal. The end goal is to, hopefully, [become] a Super Bowl champion and have a ring. That's why I'm here right now, that's why we're working hard. We have a special team."

There's more to the group than just Andrews. Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta, used draft picks on Charlie Kolar from Iowa State and Isaiah Likely from Coastal Carolina. They're two different types of tight ends but they add to the group.

"We were pretty flexible with what we could do, but as I look at it, when you inject those kinds of players," offensive coordinator Greg Roman said. "Charlie's [Ko-

lar] a really big target. Really good catch radius. Good all-around player. Isaiah [Likely] has a little knack. He can do a lot of things unscripted as a receiver, and I think that he'll continue to develop in the other phases of the offense. They're definitely chess pieces and we'll see how it all fits together."

Nick Boyle is back in the mix as well after dealing with complications from a knee injury last season.

"Last year was tough for me. ... Seeing people practice, watching the film, being in the meeting rooms, it was like, 'I just have to try anything I have to do to get out there,'" Boyle said. "It's just so hard to sit back and watch when you've been a part of something."


Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said Boyle wasn't the same last year but looks like a new guy this season. That should spell good things for the tight end group.

Andrews will lead the room and be the primary pass-catching option. Likely should serve as a match up piece while Boyle will continue to be the best blocking option. Kolar has a unique skill set they will allow him to fill a variety of roles.

New tight ends coach George Godsey embraces the versatility in the tight end group to the point of it almost being a requirement.

"We're in line, we're blocking, we're tasked with some [defensive] linemen," Godsey said. "So, we're involved in the physical part of the game. And then when we're extended or out in space, it's our job to get open just like a receiver. So, I think that's what he [head coach John Harbaugh] means there. We've got to be versatile as far as our alignments go. We're in-line, we're detached, [we're] in the slot, we're extended at No. 1."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PROJECT NO. 1367

STREAM RESTORATION DESIGN AND POST AWARD SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform stream restoration design and post award services. Three (3) firms will be selected to perform design services of assessments at various locations along streams inside Baltimore City limits under the City's MS4 Permit Program. The assessment cover approximately 11,000 linear feet of stream. The work will involve but not be limited to design of Stream Restoration and Best Management Practices (BMP) within specific project watershed (Herring Run Watershed). The recommended project has deadlines and there are stipulated penalties associated with these projects.

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

1. Ability to complete design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, the facility construction, operation and maintenance.
3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
4. Experience in conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies utilizing computer models including but not limited to XP-SWMM (Visual Hydro), HEC-RAS, HSPF, TR-20, InfoWorks CS™.
5. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization, utility loca-

Project 1367 cont'd on page 17



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- tion and video inspection of underground utility pipes.
6. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits required for the construction and operation of the facility, rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.
 7. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals and evaluating potential change orders during construction.
 8. Experience in using geographical information system (GIS) and database managements.
 9. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.
 10. Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation and forest conservation plan.
 11. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, outfall stabilization.

DPW reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

The estimated project fee is \$1,000,000 and the duration of the project is estimated to be 5 years.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Mr. Prakash Mistry via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at Prakash.Mistry@baltimorecity.gov.

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.

Firms intending to submit a proposal as a prime consultant for this project should submit a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 (OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov).

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Since these letters are utilized to assist small, minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, the letters 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.

Each prime consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with five (5) copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on **JULY 15, 2022**. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

Insurance Requirement

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.

Prequalification Requirement

All architectural, engineering, and surveying 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. If you need prequalification information call the Office of Boards and Commissions at 410- 396-6883 or download the application from our website at: www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw

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%

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Both the proposed Minority and the 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 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:

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

Local Law Hiring

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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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; rescission 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 simply 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 specified in this advertisement, or the application (Form 255) may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Office of Boards and Commissions

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PROJECT #1366 – ON CALL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES**

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of General Services, Major Project Division, to certify the qualifications of architectural firms to provide on call architectural design services on renovation, repair, and construction projects for various City agencies. Up to five (5) contracts will be awarded for a period of four (4) years each.

The services to be provided may include, but are not limited to assisting the City Major Projects Division with studies, designs for repairs, renovations, and upgrades to a variety of City owned or maintained structures, bid analysis, post award services, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract claims and supports, estimating, scheduling, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and construction contract administrative support.

The needs of the Department of General Services Major Projects Division vary widely as projects are identified. Consultants should be capable of providing design services which may include expertise in the following areas;

*Familiarity with current applicable codes, standards, and Baltimore City Green Building Code

*Knowledge of local, state, and federal historic preservation policy and procedure, especially The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Property

*Experience with change orders and claims analysis

*Environmental engineering services, sampling and testing for hazardous material

*Cost estimation services

*Quality control services

*Mechanical engineering services

*Electrical engineering services

*Civil/Structural engineering services

*Project management services

*Commercial high rise building (five

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(5) stories or more) expertise

*Elevator design services

*Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling

*Overall team approach with Minority/Women Business Enterprises

*Experience with Oracle Unifier software

Consultant's team will provide architectural staff with the following capabilities;

*Personnel with skills equivalent to an Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture.

*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Preservation Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: 1) At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or 2) At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects. Such graduate study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Contract Administrator II, including a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and three (3) years of experience in contract administration work, project management, or project coordination.

*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Construction Claim Analyst, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering or a related field, and seven (7) years' experience in construction claim or risk analysis work. Registrations/Certifications preferred: PSP from AACEI or a PMI-SP.

*Personnel with skills equivalent to a CPM Scheduler, including a college degree and at least five (5) years' experience in construction or construction management, and a minimum of 1 year in analyzing schedules. Three (3) years' experience in construction scheduling software using current in-

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dustry standard. Proficient with Primavera P3 and Primavera Project Management 6.0

*Personnel with skills equivalent to a CAD drafter, including a college degree and at least three (3) years' drafting experience using AutoCAD software and/or Revit.

Project fees have been estimated at \$2,000,000.00 per agreement for four (4) years. If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Mr. John Friesner at 410-396-1073.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal as a prime consultant for this project are requested to complete and submit a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Fl., 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 letters 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.

Each prime consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on **JULY 15, 2022**. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

All tasks 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.

Consultants interested in providing services to the City should be aware of City policies which determine the amount of overhead and profit a firm will be allowed. An Audited Financial Statement less than two (2) years old will be required to justify any requested overhead rate above 100%. The maximum allowed overhead rate is 172.73% for architectural firms, and 150% for engineering firms. Profit is fixed at

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10% and salaries are capped at \$65.00 excluding Principal's time.

Insurance Requirements

The Consultant shall procure and maintain during the life of this agreement, the following required insurance coverage.

Worker's Compensation coverage as required by the State of Maryland, as well as any similar coverage required for this work by applicable Federal or "other States" State Law.

Professional Liability, Errors, and Omissions Insurance at a limit of not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) including a 3 year extended reporting period, in the event that services delivered pursuant to this Agreement, either directly or indirectly, involves or requires professional services. Professional Liability, Errors, and Omissions coverage shall be provided. "Professional Services" for the purpose of this Agreement shall mean any services provided by a licensed CONSULTANT professional.

Commercial General Liability Insurance at limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for claims arising out of bodily injuries or death, and property damages. With those policies with aggregate limits, a minimum limit of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) is required. Such insurance shall include contractual liability insurance. The CITY, its elected/ appointed officials, employees, and agents shall be covered, by endorsement, when applicable, as additional insured's as respects to; liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the CONSULTANT in connection with this Agreement.

Business Automobile Liability at limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for all claims arising out of bodily injuries or death and property damages. The insurance shall apply to any owned, non-owned, leased, or hired automobiles used in the performance of this agreement

To the extent of the CONSULTANT's negligence, the CONSULTANT's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the CITY, its elected/appointed employees and agents. Any insurance and/or self-insurance maintained by the CITY, its elected appointed officials, employees and agents, shall not contribute with CONSULTANT's insurance or benefit the CONSULTANT in any way.

Legal Notice

Coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, reduced in coverage, or in limits, except by the reduction of applicable aggregate limit by claims paid, until after forty-five (45) days prior written notice has been given to the CITY. There will be an exception for non-payment of premium, which is ten (10) days' notice of cancellation.

Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a Best's rating of no less than A:VII, or, if not rated with Best's with minimum surpluses the equivalent of Best's surplus size VII and must be licensed/approved to do business in the State of Maryland.

The CONSULTANT shall furnish the CITY a "Certificate of Insurance" with a copy of the additional insured endorsement, when applicable, as verification that the coverage is in force. The CITY reserves the right to require complete copies of insurance policies at any time.

Prequalification Certification

All architectural, engineering, and surveying 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. A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package. If you need information on the City's Prequalification Certification process please call the Office of Boards and Commissions at 410-396-6883.

MBE/WBE Certification

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 18%
The WBE goal is 16%

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.

Legal Notice

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.

A bidder that is an MBE or WBE may count up to 50% of the dollar value of the work it intends to perform with its own forces toward the applicable MBE or WBE goal. The amount of credit may not exceed the MBE's or WBE's available work capacity as calculated with the Contractor Prequalification rules. **Intentions to count self-performance toward the MBE or WBE goal must be identified within submitted proposals and will be required to be indicated on Part C: Statement of Intent to Self-Perform.** (Art 5, §28-31(d)).

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; rescission 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.

Additional Requirements

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:

Legal Notice

A principal is any individual owner, partner of a partnership, shareholder of a Sub-Chapter 'S' Corporation, or an officer/director of any Corporation.

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

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 simply 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.

Ms. Deena Joyce
Chief

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

PROJECT NO. 1371 - ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL AND STORMWATER STUDY AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform On-call Environmental and Stormwater Study and Engineering Design Services and post award services. Three (3) firms will be selected to perform design services of assessments at various locations along streams under the City's MS4 Permit Program and Storm Drain Improvement Projects. The MS4 projects have deadlines and there are stipulated penalties associated with these projects.

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

Legal Notice

1. Ability to complete design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, the facility construction, operation and maintenance.
3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
4. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits and approvals from regulatory authorities required for the design, construction and operation of the facility, rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.
5. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals and evaluating potential change orders during construction.
6. Experience in using geographical information system (GIS) and database management.
7. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.
8. Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation and forest conservation plan.
9. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, outfall stabilization.
10. Experience in identifying a dynamic stormwater modeling software and methodologies that are applicable to urban drainage and that other stormwater owners/operators have implemented and have been accepted by Federal, State and Local regulators.
11. Expertise and experience in gathering and reviewing the various information sources and data sets needed for building stormwater model.
12. Experience in building integrated and dynamic model of the hydrologic and hydraulic components of stormwater drainage system.
13. Expertise in stormwater model calibration and verification to industry standards.
14. Expertise in stormwater drainage system characterization and analyze deficiencies based on discrete synthetic storms and

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Legal Notice

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multi-year continuous simulations model runs. Analysis to include but not limited to:

*Hydraulic performance of the 2D overland flow and the 1D sewer pipe drainage systems,

*Interactions of the above ground and the below ground drainage systems,

*Hydraulic limitations in drainage pipes, inlets, culverts, as well as overland flooding areas, and

*Sensitivity and resiliency analyses of the impact of higher flood frequency events, storm surge or sea level rise.

15. Experience in developing comprehensive reports documenting:

*Data collection and gap analysis,

*The stormwater model development, calibration, and verifications,

*Findings from system characterization and project recommendations, and

*Plan to develop the overall stormwater drainage system model extrapolated from resources, time, lessons learned, and costs associated with generating the pilot sub-watershed model.

16. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization.

17. Expertise and capacity to provide storm drain inspection services to:

*Perform condition assessment of the stormwater drainage system utilizing electronic and multi sensor technologies including, but not limited to, visual, CCTV, sonar and laser, and

*Develop maintenance and rehabilitation plans.

18. Ability to provide appropriate skilled personnel and resources to ensure effective performance and delivery.

19. Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises and demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project on schedule and within budget.

20. Experience in developing knowledge management processes, City staff training and project repositories.

21. Experience in using drone technology for environmental engineering projects.

Legal Notice

The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

The City intends to select the service of three (3) firm for a period of five (5) years at an estimated fee not to exceed \$2,000,000.00, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term.

DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Ms. Kirastin Spence via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at Kirastin.Spence@baltimorecity.gov

All City of Baltimore Construction Projects comply with the standard 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize these specifications 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.

The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on **JULY 15, 2022**. 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

Legal Notice

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%

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

Legal Notice

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:

*The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE

*The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE

*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.oed-works.com for detailed on the requirements of the law.

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

Cont'd on page 21

Legal Notice

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

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

PROJECT NO. 1372 - ER 4137 LOWER STONY RUN REACH 3 REPAIR DESIGN AND POST AWARD SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of

Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform stream restoration design and post award services. One design firm will be selected to perform design services of assessments at various locations along streams inside Baltimore City limits under the City's MS4 Permit Program. The assessment cover approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream. The work will involve but not be limited to design of Stream Restoration and Best Management Practices (BMP) within Jones Falls Watershed. The recommended project has deadlines and there are stipulated penalties associated with these projects.

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

1. Ability to complete design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, the facility construction, operation and maintenance.
3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
4. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits and approvals from regulatory authorities required for the design, construction and operation of the facility, rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.

Legal Notice

5. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals and evaluating potential change orders during construction.

6. Experience in using geographical information system (GIS) and database management.

7. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.

8. Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation and forest conservation plan.

9. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, outfall stabilization.

10. Experience in identifying a dynamic stormwater modeling software and methodologies that are applicable to urban drainage and that other stormwater owners/operators have implemented and have been accepted by Federal, State and Local regulators.

11. Expertise and experience in gathering and reviewing the various information sources and data sets needed for building stormwater model.

12. Experience in building integrated and dynamic model of the hydrologic and hydraulic components of stormwater drainage system.

13. Expertise in stormwater model calibration and verification to industry standards.

14. Expertise in stormwater drainage system characterization and analyze deficiencies based on discrete synthetic storms and multi-year continuous simulations model runs. Analysis to include but not limited to:

*Hydraulic performance of the 2D overland flow and the 1D sewer pipe drainage systems,
*Interactions of the above ground and the below ground drainage systems,

*Hydraulic limitations in drainage pipes, inlets, culverts, as well as overland flooding areas, and

*Sensitivity and resiliency analyses of the impact of higher flood frequency events, storm surge or sea level rise.

15. Experience in developing comprehensive reports documenting:

*Data collection and gap analysis,

*The stormwater model development, calibration, and verifications,

Legal Notice

*Findings from system characterization and project recommendations, and

*Plan to develop the overall stormwater drainage system model extrapolated from resources, time, lessons learned, and costs associated with generating the pilot subwatershed model.

16. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization.

17. Expertise and capacity to provide storm drain inspection services to:

*Perform condition assessment of the stormwater drainage system utilizing electronic and multi sensor technologies including, but not limited to, visual, CCTV, sonar and laser, and

*Develop maintenance and rehabilitation plans.

18. Ability to provide appropriate skilled personnel and resources to ensure effective performance and delivery.

19. Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises and demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project on schedule and within budget.

20. Experience in developing knowledge management processes, City staff training and project repositories.

21. Experience in using drone technology for environmental engineering projects.

The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

The City intends to select the service of one (1) firm for a period of five (5) years at an estimated fee not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term.

DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.

Project 1372, cont'd on page 22

**To place
Legal Notices,
call: 410-366-3900
email:
legals@btimes.com**

Legal Notice

Cont'd from page 21

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Ms. Kirastin Spence via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at Kirastin.Spence@baltimorecity.gov

All City of Baltimore Construction Projects comply with the standard 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize these specifications 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.

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Legal Notice

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Legal Notice

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The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

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Legal Notice

their corporate resident agent within the application.

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

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Office of Boards and Commissions

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that this lien sale shall be conducted online at www.storage-treasures.com where additional information about the sale and the contents to be auctioned will be posted at least three (3) days before the sale date. The contents will be sold to the highest bidder on 07/12/2022 at 2PM

Unit # Name

1128	Diop, Abdoul A.
2181	Trusty, Kentinette S
2112	Pulley, Felicia
5020	Mitchell, Latonya R
2122	Cooper, Demetrious
3031	Hernandez, German D.
1067	Conway, Milton
1066	Larkin, Evelyn M.
1176	Hector, Phillip B.
3094	AHMADU, BAAM
2079	Samuels, Joseph A.
1021	Jones, Alicia M.
1029	Harris, Bohrer
5037	Lockett, Travis
3013	Carr, Kelly A.
2021	Holmes, Brandon
1033	Valles, Anna
1005	Hankewycz, Dylan T.

This sale is subject to cancellation without notice in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

**SECURITY PUBLIC STORAGE
3500 Pulaski Hwy, Baltimore, MD
21224**

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Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 888-965-0363

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AMERICAN & FOREIGN CLASSIC CARS AND MOTORCYCLES WANTED \$\$\$PAYING CASH\$\$\$ Corvettes, Mustangs, Jaguars, Austin Healeys, Broncos, Blazers, Ram Chargers, AMX, and Triumphs KR-Miller1965@yahoo.com 717-577-8206

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