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Erica Griswold Takes Oath in Historic Milestone as Anne Arundel Register of Wills *County Celebrates Swearing-in of First Black Elected to Post in the 246 Year History of the Office*

Erica Griswold, right, was sworn in as the first African American to ever become the Anne Arundel County Register of Wills in Maryland on Monday, December 5, 2022. Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Court of Anne Arundel County, right, administered the oath of office at the Anne Arundel Circuit Court. Griswold's responsibilities include keeping copies of wills and determining what happens to people's possessions after they pass away. Griswold is a native Annapolitan. Darius Stanton, chief deputy register of wills, stands in the background. Photo credit: Darryl Fields/Peripixel (See more on page 9)

Sponsored by Donate Life

Daughter and Mother's Organ Donation Story Reminds That Life is the Most Precious Gift

Andrea Blackstone

While some people scurry to gather presents to beat the Christmas shopping deadline, Danette Ragin is a Baltimorean who knows what it feels like to receive a gift that money cannot buy. She has been an organ donor for over 40 years. Ironically, she once found herself in need of a kidney. Danisha "Angel" Whitaker, who is Ragin's own daughter, became her living kidney donor.

"I was able to give the gift of life to the very person who gave me life," Whitaker wrote in a reflection about the unique experience.

Her mother's kidney transplant journey began when Whitaker was a high school sophomore. Ragin received her first kidney transplant in 2008. Her first kidney donor experienced heart complications. Ragin was first given the gift of a

kidney that functioned strongly until 2016.

"Around my seventh year, I started getting this little feeling within myself that something was going to happen with this kidney, because I started losing weight again," Ragin said, recalling the timeline of events.

She returned to the transplant doctor who monitors her kidney function. He informed her that when the kidney function dropped below 20%, Ragin would need to be placed back on the transplant list, possibly restart hemodialysis, but he also suggested that she consider the option of finding a living donor.

Surprisingly, her daughters, Whitaker and her sister, Eboni Ruley-Freeman, and their godbrother, Tony Price all were donor matches.

The Baltimorean who dealt with end stage renal disease had already endured a medical roller coaster ride that commenced with lengthy episodes of migraine headaches and extreme weight loss.

"Although I had those headaches, I didn't put two and two together as far as losing the weight, because I thought I was bringing sexy back, but I was getting sicker by the minute," Ragin said.

She was officially diagnosed with end stage renal disease around 2002. Her primary care physician and nephrologist, which is a kidney specialist, pinpointed that protein was spilling in her urine. This was the cause of her migraine headaches.

Ragin also had constant high blood pressure that would not come down. The health problem created concern. Ragin needed to be monitored by a nephrologist.

She had worked as a phlebotomist, and at one point, in the dialysis field. Ragin experienced a range of emotions from anger and denial to acceptance that she was ill.

"I was juggling my family, my church life, my social life, my work life. I was doing it, so I thought I was Superwoman, but Superwoman had met her kryptonite," Ragin said, mentioning that her stamina declined.

Ragin began peritoneal dialysis in December of 2007.

A catheter was placed in her stomach to enable her to do home dialysis. The option was short-lived. After informing her nephrologist that she experienced constant itching on her skin, he replied that hemodialysis was needed. According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, hemodialysis is when blood is filtered through an external machine in a clinic setting.



Danette Ragin, a two-time organ kidney recipient and organ donor

"So they started me with hemodialysis mid-March of 2008. I stayed on that until obviously my first kidney in June of 2008," Ragin said.

The chain of events led to the second phase of the journey in June of 2016 when Ragin revealed that she needed a second kidney transplant. At that time, Whitaker was too young to consider donating a kidney to her

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Living kidney donor, Danisha "Angel" Whitaker, left, and her mother, Danette Ragin
Photos courtesy of Danette Ragin

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Protect Children From Criminal Minds, Our Most Vulnerable Needs the Village to Return

Relisha Tenau Rudd was just eight years old when she went missing in Washington, D.C. in 2014. Authorities believe that the little girl had been with 51-year-old Kahlil Malik Tatum before she disappeared. According to reports, Tatum took Relisha to a motel. When the incident occurred, Tatum was employed as a custodian at what was at the time the District's homeless shelter for families, per NBC4 Washington's report. The story also mentioned that Relisha was last seen on March 1, 2014, but no one reported Rudd missing until March 19.

Where was Relisha's village? Not one person in her family, an individual who may have been familiar with her at the homeless shelter where she stayed, or even staff at her school took action to inquire about a child. Shamika Young is Relisha's mother who allegedly knew that her daughter was with Tatum. A person who knew Young, and her daughter could have voiced their concerns about Relisha's whereabouts quickly, too.

Since no one bothered, Relisha's whereabouts remain a mystery. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children released an updated age-progression image in July to continue to raise awareness about the ongoing search for the missing child.

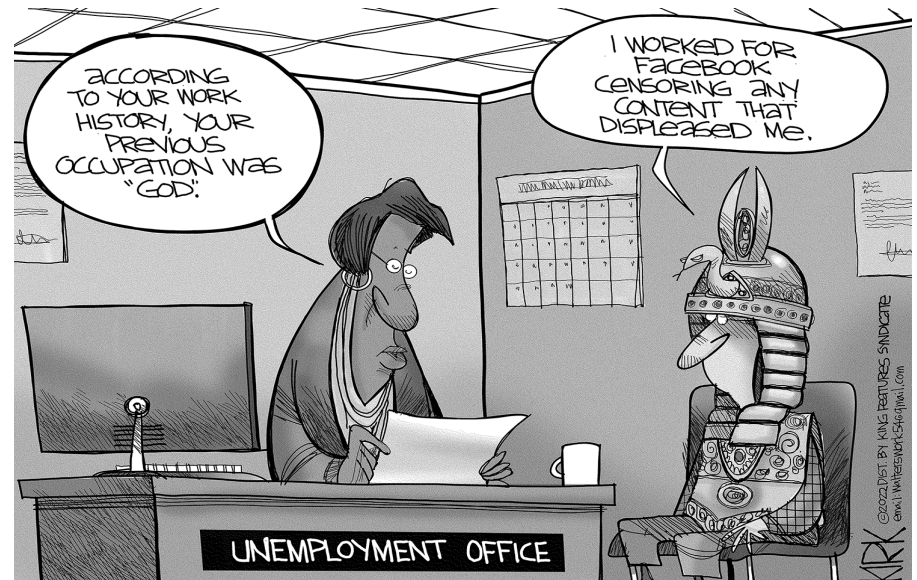
In 2022, 4-year-old Codi Bigsby was added to the list of missing children. He was officially reported missing from his home in Hampton, Virginia by his father, Cory Bigsby. He informed police that he saw his son around 2. a.m., but when he woke up at approximately 9 a.m. the following morning, Codi was gone, according to 13News Now. According to MSN, Codi's father was a person of interest when the Hampton police began investigation into the child's disappearance. Cory was also jailed for unrelated child neglect charges. Where was Codi's village before flyers were distributed and search parties were organized to try and find a small boy?

Just this month, authorities in Texas said that a contract FedEx driver named Tanner Horner confessed to abducting and ending 7-year-old Athena Strand's life. WFAA reported that authorities initially said that Athena possibly left home after having an argument with her parents. It was determined that Horner had made a delivery to Athena's home.

These three child abduction cases remind us that not everyone who sees something suspicious will report it, even if a child's welfare is at stake. In some cases, parents could end up being suspects. And while children are more vulnerable today, the village is dwindling, but it needs to make a prominent return.

Kids are often given access to cell phones and games without supervision although pedophiles and violent criminals can prey on vulnerable children through the Internet and social media. This is not the time to be passive. Parents and mentors who have skipped discussions about any of these three unfortunate cases should consider having important conversations about child abductions and safety. Many young people think that they know it all, but they must be reminded that they are not invincible. Youth today may even know people in their lives who could have the worst intentions.

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Community Affairs

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development Announces Help for Baltimore City Small Businesses

Small businesses in Baltimore City that experienced a tough period during the pandemic could receive up to \$18,000 to cover the cost of hiring new employees. The Mayor's Office of Employment Development announced that The Small and Minority and/or Women-owned Business (SMWB) Wage Subsidy supports Baltimore City business owners in hiring Baltimore City residents. These businesses may be reimbursed for wages of \$6,000 for up to three residents, totaling \$18,000. This subsidy application period began early in 2022. It will remain open as long as funds are available, according to online information provided by The Mayor's Office of Employment Development. Additionally, Baltimore has up to \$1,500,000 in total wage subsidies that are for employers under the program. It supports hiring or rehiring 250 city residents at \$6,000 per subsidy. "Employers may receive up to three subsidies in a given year with each subsidy of \$6,000. An employer may receive a total of \$18,000 in subsidies under this grant," per details provided online.

A list of listed requirements must be met for a business to be eligible for a wage subsidy. The business must be lo-

cated in Baltimore City. It must have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The business cannot be a franchisee of a business with locations outside of Maryland or be a national chain. Finally, the small business must have 100 or fewer employees and 51% or more of the business share should be minority and/or woman-owned although the business does not need to be certified.

Please review complete terms and conditions before applying for the program via <https://bit.ly/SMWB-ToC> to ensure that the business meets all eligibility requirements to be considered for this grant. Individuals who have questions about this opportunity may contact Joseph Kim at joseph.kim@baltimorecity.gov or 410-913-9883. Visit https://moed.baltimorecity.gov/employer-services/small-and-minority-and-or-women-owned-business-wage-subsidy-program?fbclid=IwAR0wbdpd-PNqn-pRMgKUSmZEu7rpKuvI_sfAcIAUF-Sgw2CFwLIGqv5WxmL0g&mibextid=Zxz2cZ to learn more about The Small and Minority and/or Women-owned Business Wage Subsidy Program. Apply via bit.ly/SMWB-form.

National News

Brittney Griner Freed

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

After 294 days in Russian custody, including the past several weeks in a dreaded and dangerous penal colony, WNBA star Brittney Griner is free.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with Griner's wife at the White House, where they spoke with the basketball player on the telephone.

"She's safe. She's on a plane. She is on her way home," Biden declared.

The Biden administration secured Griner's release after agreeing to a one-for-one prisoner swap that saw the president commute the 25-year sentence of notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

The White House said it would continue efforts to bring home retired U.S. military officer Paul Whelan, who remains in Russian custody.

Whelan has been imprisoned in Russia for nearly four years, and, recently, his family said they hadn't heard from him.



WNBA star Brittney Griner
Courtesy photo: nnpa.com

They were told he was transferred to a hospital, but the family doubted that explanation.

The deal to release Griner was consummated a week ago in the United Arab Emirates.

Biden said Griner's expected to be home within 24 hours.

"It's a good morning," the president exclaimed at a news conference where Vice President Kamala Harris and Griner's wife, Cherelle, stood close.

"After months of being unjustly detained and held under intolerable circumstances, she's coming home," Biden asserted.

The president said his administration "never stopped pushing for her release." "It took painstaking and intense negotiations for her release," Biden stated.

He thanked the UAE for helping to facilitate Griner's release and noted that's where her plane landed after finally leaving Russia.

Biden noted that the past few months had been "hell" for Griner and her family. He said she's in good spirits and relieved.

"She lost months of her life," Biden stated.

He said she deserves space, privacy, and time to heal in a not-so-subtle appeal to media members.

Biden added that Griner wrote him in July, not asking for special treatment.

"She said, please don't forget about me and the other American detainees," Biden said.

"We have not forgotten about Brittney and Paul Whelan."

Biden emphasized that the one-for-one swap wasn't America's choice.

He said he wished to bring Whelan and any other wrongly detained American home.

"We have not yet secured Paul's release. But we have not given up, and we will never give up," Biden insisted.

"We'll keep negotiating for Paul's release in good faith. I urge Russia to do the same. My administration has brought home dozens of wrongly detained Americans and many who were detained before I took office," Biden continued.

"Reunited Americans with their loved ones remain a priority. We will continue to work to bring home every American who endures such injustice."

Cherelle Griner called Brittney's plight one of the darkest moments of her life.

"Over the last nine months, you all have been privy to one of the darkest moments of my life. I'm overwhelmed with emotion but sincere gratitude to President Biden and his administration," Cherelle Griner stated.

"Today, my family is whole. As you are aware, there are so many families who are not whole. BG and I will remain committed to the work of getting every American home, including Paul, who remains in our hearts."

As expected, civil rights activists, many in the sports world, and politicians applauded Griner's release.

"This is long overdue," Rev. Jesse Jackson declared. "This is a cause for global celebration and could be a step toward peace. Releasing prisoners and prisoner swaps as opposed to more bombing and killing is good news," Jackson stated.

Texas Democratic Congressman Al Green said he was delighted at the timing of Griner's release.

"There's no place like home for the holidays," Green tweeted.

Tennis legend Billie Jean King tweeted, "Thank you to President Biden and all those who worked so hard to secure her freedom."

And fellow Democratic Texas Rep. Colin Allred called Griner's release a relief. "Brittney Griner is coming home. This is a huge relief for Brittney and her family after months of uncertainty," Allred said.

"I commend President Biden, Secretary [Antony] Blinken, the State Department, and all those who made this happen. We remain committed to getting every American detained abroad back home."

The Black Press of America also saluted the Biden administration's efforts in bringing Griner home.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) profoundly welcomes the release of Brittney Griner from a Russian prison," NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. stated.

The NNPA is the trade association of more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States.

"Brittney Griner was a political prisoner," continued Chavis, the leader of the famed Wilmington 10, also political prisoners.

"Thanks to the effective leadership of President Joe Biden, our beloved sister is now free," Chavis declared.

Twitter Tags/Handles:

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How to Effectively Cope with Holiday Grief

By Andrea Blackstone

Everyone does not feel happy during the holidays. Some people may feel empty when loved ones die or close relationships change. Managing trauma and grief is intertwined in surviving life's ups and downs.

The CDC reported that "grief is a normal response to loss during or after a disaster or other traumatic events." Common grief reactions include shock, disbelief, or denial; anxiety; distress; anger; periods of sadness; loss of sleep; and loss of appetite.

Black people are known to be resilient but having space to properly grieve deserves acknowledgement. Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis is a Canada-based RN-psychotherapist, leading trauma recovery specialist and award-winning speaker who offers insight about coping with holiday grief. Samuels-Dennis has specialized in promoting the mental health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities for over a decade through her groundbreaking trauma recovery strategy, The Forgiveness Method. She pointed out why holiday grief is quite common.

"I would say approximately 50% of us are experiencing grief for two reasons. Many of us are grieving the loss of someone who has died or transitioned on, but I would say a greater portion is grieving because of a 'leaving' experience. That is, someone we care deeply for has chosen to leave our relationship or we have chosen to leave the relationship. Whether we leave or are left, there is a grieving process that we must move through," Samuels-Dennis said.

Family grieving has increased during the pandemic. Some individuals are grieving the loss of loved ones who passed away because of the coronavirus, but Samuels-Dennis said that other families are also

grieving significant changes, such as facing chronic illnesses and disabilities resulting from COVID-19. Additionally, isolation caused an increase in the incidence of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts, especially among teens and young adults, according to Samuels-Dennis.

Adults may support a grieving child if a parent, grandparent, relative or friend passed away by simply being present and teaching the young person through books, videos, art, and pointing out what the stages of grief look like. Samuels-Dennis noted that the grieving journey is divided into seven stages.

She stated that they consist of shock/denial, being overwhelmed, fear with associated responses such as fight (anger)/flight (avoidance) and shutting down (isolation and silence), acceptance, engagement in recovery work, emotion immersion and letting go, and moving on.

Samuels-Dennis is a firm believer that every individual should engage a mentor, a coach, and a therapist throughout all major transition points in life. She mentioned the value of therapy for children, too.

"Every child who has lost someone should receive grief therapy and the guardian's role should be one of preparing the child for engagement in the therapeutic process."

She also remarked that most people move through a grieving process alone, but it is so important to decide to partner with an individual while experiencing it.

"When you partner with someone, you can make a decision to learn about the stage of grief and regularly assess where you are now," Samuels-Dennis explained. "You can set up times to touch base and honestly express how you are feeling. You should do this with someone you feel can hold space for you to be raw and real.

Even though this is a non-judgement space, this is where we honestly notice where professional help is needed and connect with a grief or trauma therapist when ready."

Connecting with a person who called to check on someone repeatedly, and who thinks about a person often, was also recommended. Even making plans to do something simple like go for coffee can be a productive step.

Samuels-Dennis added that deciding to embark upon a healing journey may also begin with listening to podcasts, reading books, or going on a weekend healing retreat. There is no timeline when it comes to how long a person may grieve, so most people who are sad do not have the energy to engage with others.

Samuels-Dennis also explained that forgiveness is significant to the death, dying, and grieving process. She remarked that it is often overlooked, although it is essential to a person's healing journey. Forgiving the person for leaving us, forgiving ourselves for leaving the person, forgiving our mothers and fathers for their imperfections, and forgiving ourselves for withholding love and affection due to the anger we carried were specific facets of forgiveness Samuels-Dennis discussed.

"Without it, we can never move on," she said, referring to the need to forgive. "As we forgive, we acknowledge our feelings as a



Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis, registered nurse, psychotherapist, trauma recovery specialist
Photo courtesy of Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis

necessary part of the healing process, but there is also a beautiful moment in every forgiveness where we recognize that as we forgive, we are also forgiven."

Samuels-Dennis is holding a free 90-minute webinar via Zoom on Saturday, December 17, 2022, to help individuals to create a peaceful and restful holiday. The workshop is entitled "5 Steps to Creating a Peaceful & Restful Holiday." The expert will teach participants how to align the subconscious, conscious, and superconscious mind and how to harness the power of the superconscious to create a peaceful and restful holiday. Visit <https://createapeacefulholiday.eventbrite.ca> to register.

Next week, read Part II, a Q & A with Dr. Joan Samuels-Dennis.



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Rent-Free Office Space Helps Business Owners in Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

When entrepreneurs roll out a start-up venture, renting office space on a shoestring budget, being aware of options to access legal counsel, and even having time to network can leave a business owner or nonprofit founder scrambling.

Two former law school classmates stepped up by creating an idea to help local business owners make strides to grow by providing office space and resources. Jennifer Curry, managing shareholder of Baker Donelson's Baltimore law office, had a conversation with Alicia Wilson, Vice President for Economic Development at the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Health System.

"Because of the pandemic and our flexible remote work schedule, we had a lot of attorneys who were no longer coming in to work regularly, and that left a lot of empty offices. We consolidated our offices to bring those who were coming to work in-person closer, but that left an entire floor empty. We didn't want to just sub-let that floor out to another business or firm, so we decided to do something more thoughtful and useful with it. One of our attorneys came up with the idea of opening the space up to small businesses, and that started the ball rolling," Curry said. "We decided to go even bigger

and find a way to donate the entire floor to small businesses, rent-free."

When the idea was in development, Curry and Wilson talked by phone. They ultimately partnered to create The Light of Baltimore Incubator at Baker Donelson.

"That call happened in June, and by September we had businesses moving in to form The Light of Baltimore Incubator at Baker Donelson," Curry said.

The duo utilized the programs that Johns Hopkins University had started with Goldman Sachs and Bloomberg Philanthropies to complete the task. Curry further explained that John Hopkins' team identified members of their current small business cohort and past cohort members, to find a mix of businesses that would complement each other.

A total of 30 businesses are currently participating in the incubator. Baker Donelson donated the entire 23rd floor of its Baltimore office that is located at 100 Light Street.

"The retail value of the floor is \$300,000. The group that is in the incubator right now will have their offices for at least the next year," Curry said.

Additionally, Baker Donelson is offering legal help and mentorship. Incubator members will have an

opportunity to partner with the law firm's BakerBridg program. It offers grants to small businesses in the form of free and discounted legal services.

Chanel White, program and events manager, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses

Program explained that she selected the businesses for the first incubator cohort. She also addressed their logistical needs. White said that participants who utilize the space at Baker Donelson include business owners from the construction;

beauty and hair; legal; event planning; adoption consulting; IT; real estate; consulting services; video and film production; and nonprofit industries.

"This space allows businesses an opportunity to work around their peers while gaining knowledge and sharing their business expertise with each other in an effort not only to sustain and grow their business, but to provide a resource to and within the community," White said.

Felicia Daniel, owner of Beck & Call Professional Services, provides commercial janitorial services and facility service management. She is participating in The Light of Baltimore Incubator at Baker Donelson.

"This space will allow us to hold staff meetings, meet face-to-face with current and potential clients and provide a real business address at one of Baltimore's most prime real estate and locations. Lastly, the office will bring our leadership team together in one space allowing us to be better prepared to scale our business by increasing essential staff, service expansion and new channel development," Daniel said.

Maya Gilmore and her business partner, Charneice Fox are two additional incubator participants who are utilizing the rent-free office space. Their business, The PKWY Agency, offers development and visual marketing. Their portfolio ranges from corporate commercials, documentaries, narrative feature films and music videos, casting services and more. The PKWY Foundation is their new 501(c) (3). It offers visual arts education to young people, teaching them the art of TV/Film and Media production.



A launch of The Light of Baltimore Incubator at Baker Donelson was held at The Center Club of Baltimore, located at 100 Light Street. Baker Donelson donated the 23rd floor of its Baltimore office to help 30 local small businesses. Officials and partners attended the launch in October. Photo credit: Michael Ciesielski



Maya Gilmore, executive producer, The PKWY Agency and incubator participant
Photo credit: Michael Ciesielski

Gilmore mentioned that having office space helped her and Fox to establish a stronger business profile.

"Our business was registered to a residence, so the office address helped establish us as a more legitimate business. Being part of the incubator is connecting us to other businesses that may need our services in addition to Baker Donelson and Johns Hopkins University partners," Gilmore said. "We've made so many connections and hope that we are at the top of mind when people are thinking about promotion and marketing campaigns for their businesses or initiatives."

Visit <https://www.bakerdonelson.com/the-light-of-baltimore-incubator-at-baker-donelson> to learn more about the incubator. You may find information to apply for Baker Donelson's BakerBridg program via <https://www.bakerdonelson.com/bakerbridge>. It is intended to assist selected, early-stage minority owned businesses needing financial assistance for legal representation.

Daughter and Mother's Organ Donation Story

mother the first time. The second time around, Whitaker was given a new opportunity to give the gift of life by getting tested and finding out that she was a match to give her mother a kidney. After the successful surgery, Whitaker also became even more of an advocate for organ and tissue donation. She also considers herself to be an honorary Donate Life ambassador.

"I am so appreciative to have had the opportunity to give my mom an extended warranty through the gift of life. Everyone calls me a hero, but the truth is, my mom has always been my hero; and I would do it all over again if I could," she also wrote.

Today, Ragin finds satisfaction volunteering for the Living Legacy Foundation and bringing awareness to organ eye and tissue donation. The nonprofit saves and enhances lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation. Donate Life Maryland handles registrations of the state's organ, eye and tissue donors.

Additionally, help Ragin received through organ donation inspired three of her family members to sign up to become donors before they passed away. She educates others about organ, eye, and tissue donation, while dispelling myths about donation, especially in the African American community.

"I am a two-time organ kidney recipient, and I am also an organ donor," Ragin said.

Please visit Donate Life Maryland via <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org/> to learn more about organ donation.



Erica Griswold Takes Oath in Historic Milestone as Anne Arundel Register of Wills County Celebrates Swearing-in of First Black Elected to Post in the 246 Year History of the Office

Scott Poyer, left, Clerk of the Court of Anne Arundel County with Erica Griswold, right, the first African American woman to become the Anne Arundel County Register of Wills Photo credit: Darryl Fields/Peripixel

December 5, 2022 (Annapolis, Maryland)— The Anne Arundel County Register of Wills Office announces the swearing-in of Erica Griswold as its 29th leader and first African American to ever assume the post in its 246-year history. The public ceremony was held in the historic Anne Arundel Circuit Court with the oath administered by the Clerk of Court and witnessed by Griswold's family, friends, and several current office staff members on Monday, December 5, 2022.

A native Annapolitan and former Community Outreach Specialist with the Mayor's Office, Griswold has been a fixture in civic affairs for decades. She has leveraged an associate degree in Communications from Anne Arundel Community College and her local roots to serve as a link between bureaucrats and members of traditional underserved or marginalized communities. In 2020, Griswold founded Shadez of Excellence as a non-profit vehicle for empowering women and promoting equity.

Griswold was elected on November 8, 2022 in the Maryland General Election and will serve a four-year term.

Her remarks offered some insights on goals she plans to pursue as outlined during her campaign for the office of Register of Wills which include transparency, efficiency, increased performance, and an enhanced "customer-centric" focus. She pledged to better educate the public on the importance of creating, filing, and updating wills; and to establish a pro-active and inclusive outreach effort.

"Although I am the first African American Register, we represent all of Anne Arundel County residents and our focus will be what we campaigned on educating our community to protect family assets," Griswold said. She continued by saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way!"

Following her election last month, a transition team was assembled to review the office's operational procedures, staffing, budgets, and other resources. The group will soon

offer recommendations for shaping and implementing a plan to affect the types of improvements and upgrades citizens suggested were critical during numerous community discussions held during the past year's campaign season. Guidance from this team will support anticipated systemic and human capital decisions to be considered in the coming weeks.

The office also announced the swearing-in of Darius A. Stanton as Chief Deputy Register of Wills today. Stanton, born and raised in Annapolis, has had a storied career as a human services professional and non-profit executive. He has a master's degree in Human Services Administration from Lincoln University and has functioned in leadership roles with the Boys & Girls Clubs of both the Washington Metro and Greater Baltimore regions. Currently, Stanton serves as president of the Maryland Black Caucus Foundation and holds several civic posts including chairman of the Annapolis Art, Sports, and Leadership Academy.

Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock Wins Georgia Runoff

By James Collins

Sen. Raphael Warnock has defeated GOP challenger Herschel Walker in Georgia's Senate runoff, giving Democrats a 51-seat majority next year.

Warnock addressed an energized ballroom full of supporters shortly after 11 p.m., walking out to chants of "six more years."

"After a hard fought campaign, or should I say campaigns, it is my honor to utter the four most powerful words every spoken in a democracy: 'The people have spoken,'" he said.

Democrats will have a 51-49 Senate majority, gaining a seat from the current 50-50 split with John Fetterman's victory in Pennsylvania. Some say this will continue the history of a government split as the Republicans were able to narrowly flip control of the House.

Walker conceded the race around 11 p.m. saying, "There are no excuses in life and I'm not going to make any excuses now because we put up one heck of a fight."



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The Baltimore Times and Times Community Services, Inc. have teamed up with other civic-minded corporations and organizations to promote Black Businesses during this year's holiday shopping and gift-giving season.

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Part Two of a Two-Part Q&A with Ivan J. Bates

Bates Talks about Prosecuting Violent Offenders, Working with Police Chief and More

Baltimore City's newest City State's Attorney Ivan J. Bates recently sat down with Baltimore Times Staff Writer Ursula V. Battle to discuss tackling violent crime, addressing the needs of older adults, and other topics. In July, Bates defeated two-term incumbent Marilyn Mosby in the Democratic primary and ran unopposed in the November general election.



Ivan J. Bates is an attorney, former city prosecutor, and managing partner of the law firm Bates and Garcia, LLC. Photo Credit: Ursula V. Battle

Q. How do you plan to address the mistrust that exists in some cases when it comes to the citizens of Baltimore and the State's Attorney Office?

A. I think one of the things we must do is be transparent. I'd love to eventually get a look at the numbers and the data, try to get someone to run the data and give us an analysis and do a data dashboard so that the citizens can pull up what's happening on the case and see what's going on for themselves.

I think a lot of it also has to do with educating the community about the criminal justice system. What it really means, how cases come through, and how we could gather evidence. The biggest thing about getting rid of the mistrust is talking to the citizens about the cases. For example, educating them about what it is we really do, what are real good outcomes and what we're able to do. It also involves explaining the law, how the law changes, what it means to have a change in the law.

Those are some of the types of things I'm really focused on. I think that is how we work to get rid of some of the mistrust in terms of the police working with the police and helping the police to put together good cases so that jurors and other people say, 'Wow, that was a good case'. That's how we alleviate some of the mistrust.

Q. How do you plan to work in concert with Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael Harrison?

A. About a month and a half ago, we went to lunch and talked about a number of things. I explained to him that come January 30, low-level offense quality of life crimes that the current State's Attorney said they were not going to prosecute, I think it's very important for us to hold people accountable right then and there. And so, you'll see that from me.

It's about having a conversation, but having it on a continuous basis, and letting him know what I'm trying to do to support him and vice versa. I think overall, he's been a very well-respected police commissioner. I'm the new kid on the block. So, it's also making sure that I understand the process of everything and to keep him informed and have that discussion. At the of the day, we're two separate organizations, but we need each other to be successful.

Q. What is your plan to help keep violent, repeat offenders off the street?

A. We have to win those cases against violent repeat offenders. It's working

to build better cases against those violent offenders and holding them accountable. And I think once we're able to do that, work with the Parole and Probation offices, and make sure we are working with the police to make sure we don't cut corners, we are doing things the right way.

Q. How do you plan to deal with the issue of drug addiction in Baltimore?

A. I believe we have to try to focus on drug treatment as much as possible. I've already begun to have conversations with some of the treatment providers... what they're offering, what they don't offer, and hopefully be part of the plan. In the future, my goal is to have everything under one roof and deal with the drug addiction issues, because right now fentanyl is killing people.

Q. What do you believe will be your greatest challenge as the City's newest State's Attorney?

A. Managing expectations and rebuilding that office to the level that the citizens deserve. Also, what's going to be challenging is trying to hold everyone together and working collaboratively... putting aside all the egos, and not trying to go out and embarrass and attack. It's a heavy lift. There's a lot that has happened in that office, and we must educate the community about who we are, where we are, what we can realistically do, and continue to focus on the law.

My hope is that because I've been a lawyer, a prosecutor, a defense attorney and have my own firm, it won't be as hard, and not as deep of a learning curve. Some things will be very, very deep, and other things won't. For me, it's just making sure I have the best team possible so I can do the best job.

Q. You are an attorney, radio talk show host, Army veteran, and Locust Point resident. In what ways do you feel serving in these capacities and living in this area has helped prepare you to serve as State's Attorney for Baltimore?

A. Having been a former prosecutor helps me to understand the office, serving as a radio talk show host, I understand what people are saying, having been a veteran helped me with leadership, and being an attorney gives me the necessary skill set. Before I lived in Locust Point, I lived in Reservoir Hill. Living in different areas... especially racially diverse areas helped me to better understand the entire community.

I think understanding those areas and understanding what people really care about helps me tremendously. They just want you to be honest, and work hard for them.

Q. How will you make the transition from serving as an attorney to becoming State's Attorney?

A. The biggest thing is to change the handling of my practice from me to my law partner. But it's still managing people like I do here. It's still having a vision like I do here. It will be some sort of a change, but he I'm going to miss my friends... miss the people who have become my family over all these years.

Q. You were very close to your Aunt Edna who was a senior citizen. Can you talk about your efforts concerning seniors?

A. One of the biggest things I did besides going to all the older adult buildings, was that I wrote a plan... a prosecution plan that talked about focusing on older adults, and how they're victims of certain crimes

continued on page 14

Rambling Rose

**GIVING TO THE LESS FORTUNATE
IS A BLESSING TO OTHERS**



Rosa Pryor Trusty



Gamel "DJ Mel" More is featuring a 45 and Over Oldies Black & White Dance Party on Friday, December 9, 2022, starting at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Northeastern Post 285, located on 2324 McElderry Street. For more information, call 410-493-2512.



Jas Corrine will be performing and holding a book signing on Friday, December 9, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. at the Next Phaze Café & Lounge, located on 112 E. Lexington Street. For more information, call 410-449-3232..

Hello Everyone,

The end of the year is already here. Some of us did make it while others didn't. I send prayers out to the families who lost a loved one this year. This month has a lot to offer as you will see while continuing to read my column. Before I proceed, I just want to take my hat off to the Young Timer's Old School Cabaret. It was one of the best events that I have attended in a very long time. Shorty and I so enjoyed seeing and catching up with some of the guys (women and men) from the old days, and from Pennsylvania Avenue, when it was still jumping up and down doing the James Brown. Every table of almost 200 guests was packed with food and booze. Anyone who stopped by your table was welcome. The music from the DJ was perfect for us old folks. The live entertainment which included gospel and R&B was awesome. I have never seen so many hands shaking and hugs being shared at an event since the old days. Thank you, Bill Nolan, Joyce, and Herman for the invitation. You must do it again next year.

Carlos Hutchins will be very busy this year as usual. His CH Productions Home for the Holidays Fundraiser and Toy Drive is up and running. On Sunday, December 18, 2022, from 4-8 p.m., the cabaret style event will be held at Diamondz Event Center, located at 9980 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland. As always, there will be live entertainment featuring the Slagz Band and DJ Rico. There will be free setups, BYOB, and BYOF, but remember that you must bring a new toy to donate. This is a

special fundraiser that Carlos and his friends organize every year for families who can't afford to buy items for their children.

The Black Genius Art Show will feature ARTMAGEDDON on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 8 p.m. The venue is the Center Plaza, located at 100 N. Charles Street.

American Legion Auxiliary Federal Unit 19 will be hosting a children's Christmas party on Saturday, December 17, 2022, from 1-4 p.m. at the American Legion Federal Post 19, located at 1502 Madison Avenue. Take the kids out to enjoy a safe and fun-filled day complete with hot dogs, toys and Santa Claus.

The Low Riderz Skate Club is another organization that is giving back to the community. Their 15th Annual Christmas toy, clothes and gift card drive will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022, from 7-10 p.m. at the Shake & Bake Skate Rink, located at 1601 Pennsylvania Avenue. For more information, contact Cecee at 443-857-3637.

My chapter of the Eastern Star named Trinity Chapter #5 OES-PH invites you to come and worship with us on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at New Antioch Baptist Church, located at 2401 St. Paul Street. The service starts at 11 a.m. Bishop Dr. Orlando Wilson is the pastor.

BWT Productions presents a Holiday Comedy and Talent Showcase on Saturday, December 10, 2022, for two shows, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., at the Café 12, located at 5627 Reisterstown Road. The event will be hosted by comedians Rickey Shackelford and Howard G. The



Carlos Hutchins is hosting his Home for the Holidays Celebration & Toy Drive on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Diamondz Events Center, located at 9980 Liberty Road in the shopping center. There will be free set ups and BYOB, but attendees need to bring a new toy. For more information, call 443-570-7209.

headliner is Ray Moore, and the acts are comedians Lynette Shaw, Tanya Watty, Myra Washington, Renee Sharpe, Whooda, Hansum Thug Rapper, Queen Jackie, and Crazy Eddie. For more information, call 443-226-9157.

My girl Shirley Duncan is doing it again with her annual Hand Dancing Day Award Ceremonies Party on Saturday, December 17, 2022, from 7-11 p.m. Dress to impress. Your ticket includes dinner, a cash bar, free



Baltimore Philharmonic Orchestra will present Steinway piano artist Lorraine Min with Terence Tam on violin in an all-Mendelssohn concert on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Loch Raven High School, located at 1212 Cowpens Road in Towson, Maryland. Free admission. For more information, call 410-602-2942.

soda and juice. For more information, call 410-370-8489.

Oh! By the way, I am looking for an editor for my new book. I am almost finished writing it, so if you are interested in my project, give me a call so we can talk. Well, my dear friends, I have run out of space. I've got to go, but if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Ivan Bates Talks about Prosecuting, and More

and making sure they have those wraparound services they need, making sure that we focus on those issues where they've been victimized, and to make sure you hold people accountable. So that's something that's important to me because we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them.

Q. You were inspired by Justice Thurgood Marshall. Can you talk about being inspired by Thurgood Marshall and being elected State's Attorney in his hometown of Baltimore?

A. The way he carried himself... his intellect... it's quiet at times and very lonely, but he was able to take that and use that to do what he needed to do to fight for his own people to be fair and hold on to his own integrity. That, to me, is something that is very important.

Q. What will your Cabinet look like?

A. I'm still trying to figure all that out. But one of the things I'm trying to focus on, is that I want people who've been prosecutors, and if they haven't been a prosecutor before, that they have some specific skill sets that is needed by the State's Attorney's Office. It's still a work in progress.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. It's a lot of work. I'm trying to meet as many people as I can and talk to as many people as I can to do the things I need to do so that I can hopefully hit the ground running. I'm looking forward to having a chance to be the State's Attorney for the citizens of Baltimore.



Ravens Tyler Huntley Once Again Called Upon in Relief Role

Tyler Huntley with Broncos safety Justin Simmons in the bottom left corner.
Photo credit: Phil Hoffman/Baltimore Ravens

By Tyler Hamilton

There are few teams that rely on their quarterback to make plays more than the Baltimore Ravens. Lamar Jackson doesn't have an All-Pro list of pass catchers but still manages to be one of the league's premier playmakers. Jackson's playmaking ability may be put on the shelf momentarily after he sprained his PCL in Sunday's 10-9 win over the Denver Broncos.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh told reporters that Jackson is "week to week." Harbaugh added that it is less likely Jackson will suit up this week against the Pittsburgh Steelers. In the meantime, backup quarterback Tyler Huntley will be called upon in a relief role for Jackson.

Huntley came on for Jackson on Sunday and completed 27 of his 32 throws for 187 yards passing and an interception. Huntley also rushed 10 times for 41 yards including the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Added Harbaugh, "Let's give 'Snoop' [Tyler Huntley] credit; he led a game-winning drive at the end there from what, the nine-yard line was it? That's pretty remarkable; that's pretty great. So, hats off to our guys for doing that."

The comeback win pushed the Ravens to 8-4 and kept them a game ahead of the surging Cincinnati Bengals. The two teams will meet in the season finale for what could be a clash for the AFC North division title, but Huntley has to keep the Ravens on track for however long Jackson needs to recover. This won't be the first time Huntley had to be a reliever.

Huntley started four games for the Ravens last season and the club went 1-3 over that stretch. While the record wasn't good, Huntley's play impressed his teammates.

"This is not my first time seeing 'Snoop' [Tyler Huntley] out there," outside linebacker Justin Houston said. "I was here last year, and I saw him throw 'tuddies' [touchdowns] over the best. I know, last year, some of the games didn't turn out like we wanted [them] to, but with him in the game, I believe in him wholeheartedly. He's shown he can play in this league and make plays time after time when he gets his opportunity. It was his time, and he stepped up to the plate."

Huntley's performance on Sunday reinforced it.

"Tyler Huntley has just so much confidence," tight end Mark Andrews said after the game. "You see the

way he plays. Things weren't perfect, but for him to be able to come in – especially that last drive – and do what he did, and have the composure that he had, just shows you how good he really is, how much he's learned. I'm thinking about Lamar [Jackson], but you have to tip your hat to 'Snoop' [Tyler Huntley] [and] just how well he played. It's impressive football."

The Ravens signed Huntley as an undrafted free agent out of Utah in 2020. Baltimore waived him and put him on the practice squad in September. Huntley was elevated to the active roster on December 2, December 19, December 26, and January 2, 2021, following injuries/COVID-19 issues from the Ravens' three other quarterbacks. Now, Huntley is cemented as a capable backup quarterback to Jackson. Things have certainly changed for Huntley, but he isn't taking anything for granted.

"I'm already blessed to be even playing with the Ravens," Huntley said. "So, I think it starts there – it's a blessing to be playing with the Baltimore Ravens, and everything else is going to take care of itself or after that."

Legal Notice

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

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. W.C. 1288-Small Water Main Replacement and Rehabilitation in Beechfield, Yale Heights Neighborhoods and Vicinity** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **January 18, 2023**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmvtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **December 9, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$10,000,000.01 to \$15,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 580 970 839# on **December 14, 2022 at 1:00 PM**. Last date for contractor questions (to be submitted only via Cynthia.Harry@baltimorecity.gov and Muhammad.Tak@baltimorecity.gov) is December 21, 2022, by 4:30 PM. Question submitted after the deadline will not be responded to and contractors will be required to submit their bids based on the available information.

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

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

Replacement, cleaning and cement-mortar lining of 4-inch thru 16-inch water mains, replacement of valves, fittings and appurtenances; Replacement of existing galvanized water service lines with new copper pipes, replacement of small residential meter settings and meter vaults, roadway paving, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter replacement, erosion and sediment control, and maintenance of traffic as required.

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

The MBE goal is **16%**

The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

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

Legal Notice

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
NOTICE OF LETTING**

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS 21802 – Baltimore Convention Center Elevator Replacement**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023**. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids.

Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. Bid opening proceedings can be also viewed live at <https://www.charmvtvbaltimore.com/live-stream> at 12:00 noon. Bid tabulation sheets detailing the bids received will be publicly posted to the Comptroller's website by COB on the date of bid opening.

The Contract Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00** by contacting Azza Rizkallah at azza.rizkallah@baltimorecity.gov as of **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2022**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture ("JV"), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90012 – INSTALLATION OF ELEVATORS**

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00** A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at the site: **1 W. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21201 on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Principal Items of work for this project are:

Installation of Elevators

Electrical

The MBE goal is **5%**

The WBE goal is **3%**

CONTRACT NO. GS 21802

APPROVED:
Erika McClammy
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Berke Attila
Director, Department of
General Services



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