

# The Annapolis Times

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## 2022 Highlights



1. 100-Year-Old Daisy Nanton Takes the Spotlight at 2022 Aging Expo
2. Erica Griswold, First African-American Anne Arundel County Register of Wills
3. Inspiring Maryland Woman Graduates from College at 82
4. Miguel Coppedge, CEO of Krulle, Speaker, Author
5. 2022 CIAA Tournament
6. Dorchester County Celebrates Harriet Tubman with a New Bronze Sculpture (file photos)



# Sheriff Everett Sesker Discusses Plans as Anne Arundel County's Sheriff

## Part II of a Q & A with Sheriff Everett Sesker

Everett Sesker began his law enforcement career in Prince George's County. He also served as Commander of the Narcotic Enforcement Division and Community Services Division. Sesker, who has worked in law enforcement for 22 years, became Anne Arundel County's first African American sheriff. Sesker's term is four years.

**Q: Some people may not know much about the Anne Arundel County's Sheriff's Office. Can you provide a few examples of key duties that your office handles?**

**A:** Take for example, when you go into the courthouse. You've got a court case or you're there for somebody else. Hopefully you're just the witness. When you're in the courtroom, you may see the defendant. They'll come from the back and the deputies will escort them in front of the desk. That's what people see. What people don't see is that there's a huge operation that goes on in the basement of the courthouse. You have multiple offenders with deputies in holding cells. Every inch of the courthouse is covered by cameras. They have to get the defendants up to the right courtroom on time, take them out of the courtroom and bring them back down. Then, they've got to take them back to Jennifer Road to the Department of Corrections, or they have to bring new people in for the one o'clock hearings that will be going on. So, there's so much going on, Monday through Friday, every day that the courthouse is open.

On the other side of matters, we deal with the warrants. When these



*Sheriff Everett Sesker is sworn in by the  
Clerk of the Court for Anne Arundel County, Scott Poyer*  
Photo courtesy of Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office

warrants come in from the courts, we have a great group of civilian personnel and they're handling hundreds of warrants each week. They'll put these warrants into different systems such as NCIC [National Crime and Information Center] so other jurisdictions are aware that this person has an open warrant. We deal with the other jurisdictions also because they will call all the time and say, 'Hey, do you have this individual? If you do, hold them. We're coming to get them.' The process of doing extraditions and things like that is all done by civilian personnel.

We also have deputies that go out on the street. They're looking for people. In any given week, they can serve close to 100 warrants, but they've probably made 150 attempts just looking for people, going from house

to house, jobs, everything. We have the civil process people who serve evictions. It's unfortunate that we must do evictions, but this is part of the job that we have as sheriff's deputies. It's so much that we do that a lot of people are not aware of, so I'm going to try and show our work and promote the things that we do and let people know.

This is a shameless plug. We're looking for deputies right now. We've got civilian positions that are open so we're hiring. If anybody's interested in a career law enforcement, please look at us and hopefully it'll work out.

*continued on page 10*

## NOTICE

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# GIVE BLACK 4 THE HOLIDAYS

## A DIGITAL MARKETPLACE

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.

Please join us in supporting Black Entrepreneurs and the jobs that they provide by GIVING BLACK 4 THE HOLIDAYS...

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# Starting Fresh, Hitting Reset to Prepare for a Productive New Year

By Andrea Blackstone

Making New Year's resolutions is a common tradition. NPR (National Public Radio) even created a resolution planner called a Life Kit to provide "practical and inspiring ways to grow in 2023." Experts give advice about everything from falling in love to training a dog or starting therapy.

Garry O'Neal, Jr. is a Baltimorean, business owner and podcast host of "The See.Plan.Do Show." He is passionate about mindset and business coaching. O'Neal is also a certified life coach who knows that sometimes people need help to manifest their heartfelt desires and goals. The expert explained that crafting a strategy to address them always boil down to a person's mindset, so he leads from this starting point.

"The benefits of life coaching, mindset coaching, is understanding the reality that we can do what we want to do," O'Neal said. "And a lot of times, unfortunately, in men and women, we don't believe this simple fact. We don't believe that we can get the job that we want. We don't believe that we can pursue our goals. We don't believe that we can do in essence what we want, when clearly, we see people doing what they want all the time."

Developing a new path is important for individuals who have experienced a setback or challenge in 2022 because "we are our habits," according to O'Neal. He added that "how you do one thing is how you do all things."

He further explained that becoming a better person entails establishing new positive habits to create a positive result. But the first thing O'Neal recommends when it comes to resetting in preparation for 2023 is taking a moment to breathe. Realize that we have had a lot of things to undergo within the last year, including still dealing with COVID-19. Utilizing a blackboard or journal was a recommended method for an individual to review and



*Garry O'Neal, professional life coach*

Photo credit: J. Perk Production

document what a person wanted to achieve in 2022.

"What went well? What are some areas that you need to adjust to help you move forward? Now that we're moving into a new year, what are your goals? Also, what are your commitments to those goals?" O'Neal asked. "A lot of people nowadays will start off the year with vision boards and vision boards are amazing. I even have vision boards which are called motivational mapping or mindset

mapping because it's really about seeing a vision, but a vision board is not enough. It's going to reward you immediately in putting it together, but if there's no subsequent action behind it, then it's just going to be a cute collage that finds its way in the trash or closet."

O'Neal added that planning how to move forward in 2023 entails shedding yourself of any past thinking, focusing more on the future, and being very specific about setting goals. Asking

yourself what you are willing to do to commit to performance and execution of a goal is important.

The key to mindset coaching stems from the coach's ability to ask a client to write questions to create an atmosphere of change. O'Neal believes that people have been conditioned to believe that we do not need help but grown people can benefit from having mentors and individuals to hold them accountable while efforts to improve are being made.

"When you have an accountability partner, you have someone that can openly be able to assist you in what you said you wanted to do, not what we think you should do. So, if I pick commitment, and I say, 'Hey, I am committed on doing these things,' you have a person there that can openly address you and confront you. Sometimes we feel like confrontation is negative. Confrontation doesn't mean, 'Hey, meet me outside. It simply means that we're addressing something that's wrong. Your behavior is conflicting with what you said you wanted to do,'" O'Neal explained. "Having an accountability partner allows you to have someone that can help push you where you need to go. Iron sharpens iron."

While looking forward to the new year, O'Neal reminded that we are amazing beings who have the capacity to create the reality that we want.

"What I leave people with as we're looking for the great reset of 2023 is to look what you've overcome in 2022. And moving forward in 2023, you can start the journey of simply making a commitment that you're going to reset," O'Neal said.

Find O'Neal's podcast via <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-see-plan-do-show/id1500830090>. His website is <https://lifecoachgarryonealjr.com/>.

# Commentary

## BWI Marshall/Maryland Aviation Administration RFP Removes Entry Barriers for Lucrative State Contract

### *Vote to Award MD Minority-owned business recommended by BWI/MAA Halted*

*On May 31, 2022, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) and the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the Non-Exclusive Right to Redevelop, Renovate, Lease & Manage the Retail, Restaurant & Commercial Services at BWI Marshall Airport. During the RFP process, amendments were made to address mandatory team qualifications, and another addressed joint venture arrangements. This is a 20-year, lucrative state contract. In November, BWI/MAA recommended New Market Development, a Maryland based minority-owned business for the award. Earlier this month, MAA halted moving forward with the vote to award the contract and a lawsuit has been filed against MAA concerning the RFP process and its amendments.*

*By Paris M Brown  
Associate Publisher  
The Baltimore Times*

*There are SO many questions around these issues yet to be answered.*

Is this *really* about the RFP process or is a “new standard” being challenged? Are the multi-national corporations blindsided by a new standard that has unlevelled their playing field and created an opportunity for full access for all businesses, including minority owned businesses to now be prime contractors? Has the cream risen to the top because

there are no longer barriers for equal access to this local lucrative airport concession industry? *Minority businesses know all too well about ‘unleveled’ playing fields!*

The question is, was the RFP amended to ensure that the standard can truly be *one* standard by which all businesses could truly participate. Or was it leveled to “hurt” conglomerates, who currently have easy access? A “standard” foundation for any RFP is built upon equal access for *all* businesses whether they choose to participate or not. Did the RFP in its original form allow for equal access for US- and Maryland based, minority and local businesses? Or did it just allow for the conglomerates that continue to dominate this industry with relative ease? Or is it that the RFP just does not “work” now in its amended form for those corporations “that it has always worked for in the past?” Did the new standard offer an opportunity, for the first time in Maryland history or perhaps American history, for minority owned businesses to serve as potential primes to a lucrative state contract? Is there something wrong with the standard when it only benefits a certain category of people, or in this case, certain businesses? *Is there something wrong with the standard when entities cannot compete equally under the RFP? Yes!*

Or is it the case of a healthy competitive environment being challenged? Can the issue be that collectively the parts make a whole that now makes for a whole healthy competitive marketplace? A “collective part” that can effectively compete and win a contract that has his-

torically been awarded to the whole, namely multi-national conglomerates with similar history and experience. Does healthy competition somehow constitute a grave injustice towards a conglomerate, multi-national corporation? *Does this really constitute a sound case?*

Or should minority-owned businesses be content with simply participating in such RFPs as only an MBE? That, I am sure, would satisfy the “current business environment.” I do understand that MBE programs have their merits; however, the “*spirit*” and construction of MBE programs are to ensure that minority-owned businesses are positioned to be sub-contractors *only*. *These programs are subject to quotas, with no regulatory oversight and enforcement, and is not intended to produce a prime contractor or generate wealth for MBEs.*

*Where is the outcry for justice for minority and women-owned businesses* that have never had an opportunity to bid on such a lucrative state RFP because it was prepared to only allow entry by a select group of businesses, namely multi-national conglomerates oftentimes headquartered in other countries? Is it because “that is the way it has always been?” Or is it because minority-owned businesses simply accept “what has always been?” Does “the what and the who have been awarded in the past” get to dictate “to whom and how the RFP is amended and how the award will be managed?” And, further, how business will be conducted within the State of Maryland? *And we thought that Black lives mattered!*

Inequality ranks among the top offenders of injustices in America, along with discrimination, violence, racism, and poverty. It serves to undermine us as a nation. Lack of diversity has cost America \$16 trillion dollars over the course of 20 years (according to a study published by Citibank in 2020) because of discrimination and a lack of diversity. *Maryland, how much will we save over the next 20 years?* \

We must work towards deep structural change if we are to realize the ideals of this country and the great State of Maryland. Yes, the appointment of diversity, equity, and inclusion representatives (DEI) is a start, but it is just that, a start. Change comes when we take a hard look at “what has always been” and make laws, and yes, *amendments* to see “more of what we can imagine our nation and state to be—equality for all under the law.” Is this not how we create long-term change and sustainability in our communities, the State of Maryland and in America?

Can the State of Maryland become the model for charting new “standards” of equality in various industries, including the American aviation industry? Can it be a state that ensures equitable participation in our state economy for all businesses? Can the State of Maryland create a “new standard” that “leaves no business behind?”

*Or do we have to wait another 20 years for the advances of equality and justice?*

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# Youth Advocate Empowers Young Women, Event Encourages Setting Intentions for 2023

By Andrea Blackstone

Shaleece Williams knows the importance of youth having a voice and opportunity to utilize resources as they develop. Williams grew up in Baltimore. Her parents struggled with drug addiction, but they were able to get back on their feet.

“So, with my parents, dealing with their issues, I was adopted at a young age for a few years and then moved back with my parents once they made it through the program where they went to resolve their drug addiction.”

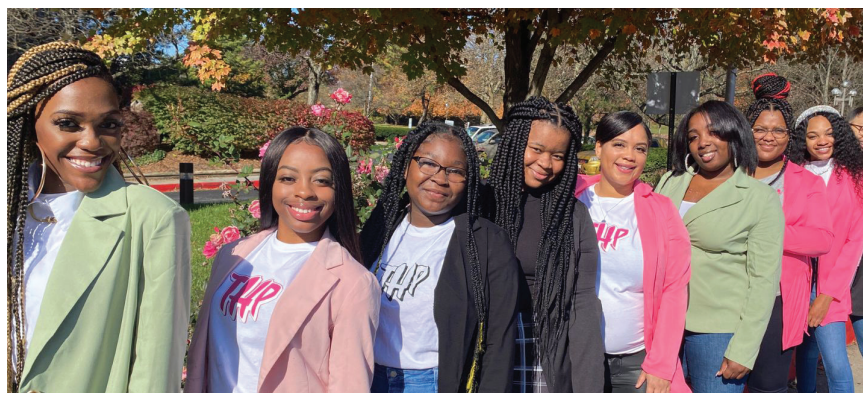
Williams recalls staying with a few different families. She returned to her parents when she was approximately eight years old. Williams was able to access mental health resources and utilize community centers in her teenage years.

“I was always privy to mentors who made it their duty to make sure that regardless of my circumstances, I could still have a fair shot,” Williams said.

Anthony Pressley—the long-standing Executive Director for Druid Heights Community Development Corporation—was among the individuals who positively impacted Williams’ journey. She met her lifelong mentor at the age of eight when she attended a summer camp. Williams later received her first job as a youth



**Shaleece Williams,**  
**Tree House Project, Inc. co-founder**  
Photo credit: Ariana Perez



**Tree House Project Annual Dream Big Retreat weekend where participants are honored for completing a 6-week Peer Mentoring & Personal Development cohort. THP Peer Mentors are gifted with a blazer jacket to represent growth and leadership. Participants left to right: Monique Shelton-El, Deandra Fisher (co-founder), Maya Williams, Ja’tearah Brooks, Kyrah Williams, Kaiya Alford, Zykeia Tillman, Sidney Maye, Khayia Brown.**

counselor at the nonprofit organization. She credits Pressley with contributing to her professional development while also ensuring that she could experience additional opportunities in her professional career.

Williams’ life experience navigating through challenges, and harnessing self-empowerment, now benefits youth. She works as the Director of Youth Programming for No Boundaries Coalition, a resident-led advocacy organization specifically working with seven communities in Central West Baltimore. Williams is also the co-founder and Executive Director of the Tree House Project, Inc. It was founded in 2016 with Deandra Fisher.

“Tree House Project, Inc. is an organization where we connect youth to resources that are related to their own personal development. We do peer mentoring, and with peer mentoring, young women come in and we host open conversation circles and peer mentoring training in different types of workshops for the self-development of young women,” the youth advocate

said. “It’s not really like a young Black woman type thing. It’s just womanhood and sisterhood in general.”

Young women are given opportunities to engage in self-development and self-improvement. They venture out of their everyday environments monthly while engaging in yoga, meditation, hikes, and visiting different parks in Maryland. Young women are also connected to resources such as mental health or housing agency resources if they come to the nonprofit with those needs.

Additionally, events hosted by Tree House Project, Inc. are usually open to the public.

“We do say that we’re looking to serve young women between the ages of 14 to 24, but we’ve also hosted events outside of Baltimore,” Williams said. “We take our workshops, our conferences, and our trails, anywhere where the need is, or someone reaches out to us to have us come out and host workshops or events.”

Williams also explained that young women from Annapolis have also participated. Event attendees who are over 18 typically bring another young woman with them.

Tree House Project, Inc. will be offering A Beyond the Resolution Workshop for girls who are ages 14 and older on Saturday, January 21, 2022, from 11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. at Baltimore Unity Hall, located at 1505 Eutaw Place in Baltimore, Md.

“Once they come in, they’ll participate in a workshop where they’ll identify their goals for the upcoming year. They’ll get a schedule for Treehouse Project where they’re invited to come back to additional events. It’s also open to 18 and older for women who just want to come in and either get connected to an organization, learn about the volunteer opportunities with the organization, but also work on developing what their goals are for the year, and work on their own personal development,” Williams said.

Williams’ investment in youth benefits parents such as Tierra Carter who is from Baltimore. Her daughter, Khayia Brown participates in Tree House Project, Inc. and No Boundaries. She said that she has observed a big difference with her daughter and the teenager’s self-esteem. She is more vocal in the community activism space, too. Carter described Williams as “amazing.” She has reportedly supported Khayia with school and personal needs.

“I definitely know that she [Shaleece] has impacted my daughter’s future,” Carter added.

Visit <http://www.treehouseprojectinc.org/> to learn more about The Treehouse Project, Inc. and <http://www.treehouseprojectinc.org/events> to obtain event information. Tickets for the upcoming workshop will be sold from December 30, 2022, until January 18, 2023. They can be reserved on the website. The event will be free for young women who are ages 14 to 17. Admission is \$30 for young ladies who are 18 and older.

# Local LEGO Master Showcases Creative Skillset, Wins Holiday Building Challenge

By Andrea Blackstone

LEGOs are not just for kids. An AFOL is an Adult Fan of LEGO. Mel Brown also achieved the status of LEGO Master and appeared on Fox's reality competition show as a season 1 LEGO Masters USA contestant. The Glen Burnie, Maryland resident who is affectionately known as LEGO Master Mel returned to the television screen, winning the LEGO Masters: Celebrity Holiday Bricktacular on December 20, 2022, by creating a LEGO sleigh that held 320 pounds of weight. The retired police officer's celebrity partner was the late actor, Leslie Jordan. Holiday builds were televised from December 19-21, 2022.

In addition to Jordan, Brown appeared on the show with singer Robin Thicke, actor Cheryl Hines, comedian Finesse Mitchell and several former LEGO Masters reality show contestants.

"We were raising money for charity because of the celebrities, so they got to choose," Brown said. "It was just us and the celebrities who never really touched LEGOs at all."

In an era when many homes are saturated with trendy electronic games, Brown illustrates the benefits of playing with toys that make people think. He initially appeared on LEGO Masters in 2020 immediately before the pandemic, while engaging in brick-building challenges in a competitive team environment.

"A LEGO Master is a person who can basically bend the shape of the bricks the way they need them to make something that's pleasing," Brown explained.

Brown worked in law enforcement for 18 years. Ten of them were spent serving Annapolis. LEGO Master Mel currently works with the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis at the Bywater club as the club director. The



**Mel Brown, left, works with Leslie Jordan on a LEGO project  
Photo courtesy of FOX LEGO MASTERS, Endemol Shine**

Bywater community is a low-income housing neighborhood.

For kids who prefer LEGO sets over other toys, Brown said that he would encourage parents to allow them to partake in the LEGO building hobby. He also pointed out that the elderly population can benefit from using LEGOs to enhance cognitive skill and hand and eye coordination.

"LEGO unlocks the creativity of engineers and problem solvers," Brown said.

Behind the scenes, Brown has been building with LEGOs since 2017. You can find LEGO Master Mel tinkering in his very own LEGO room. His adventure began because his three-year-old grandson Kian inspired his LEGO building hobby after the young boy wanted to see the LEGO Batman Movie. The pair took a trip to the store to buy the Batmobile LEGO set to assemble. Brown's story reminds that families can enjoy constructing LEGO projects together.

"Me and my grandson started building LEGO as our pastime," Brown said.

Social groups and YouTube streams began to intrigue Brown. His artistic ability continued to evolve as he kept building with LEGO bricks. The self-

taught LEGO enthusiast also ventured to a LEGO convention that was held in Virginia.

"It was just like a whole new world. It was like an amusement park everywhere you looked around, it was somebody making something creative out of LEGO," Browns said.

He likes to build skyscrapers and towers. Brown has even created six feet structures and taller.

"I had a chance to build a commemorative coin in D.C. with my friend Jermaine Gardner, who was on LEGO Masters with me. The National Law Enforcement Memorial Museum commissioned us to build a 90,000 LEGO piece commemorative coin.

It's about seven feet tall and it's 500 pounds of LEGO. If you think about it, my artwork is sitting in a museum. It's still there today. They own it, so it's always going to be there," Brown said, mentioning just one LEGO commissioned art project.

Brown put Anne Arundel County on the map by mastering something different. He feels pretty good about it.

"I want the kids to know that the world is full of opportunities, and never count yourself out of anything," Brown said.

When it comes to youth he works with, Brown wants them to be able to unlock their creativity in their minds to be a better citizen, or a better productive person in life.

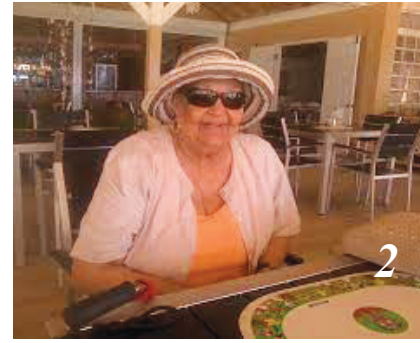
"Whether if they decide they want to go into sports, or if they want to be a banker or an owner of a building, or just work in the workforce, I want them to apply their abilities to those challenges and rise above anything that they put their mind to," Brown said.

Follow Brown on Instagram via [https://www.instagram.com/iceberg\\_bricks/](https://www.instagram.com/iceberg_bricks/) or <https://www.facebook.com/FoxLEGOMasterMEL>. See <https://www.hulu.com/series/lego-masters-fd4ada37-965a-4f86-9ea4-0b214f3e6d7e> to find the LEGO Masters: Celebrity Holiday Bricktacular on hulu.



**The winning LEGO sleigh was televised on December 20, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of FOX LEGO MASTERS, Endemol Shine**

# 2022 Highlights



**1. UMB's CURE Scholars Program Celebrates First Cohort of Future STEM Leaders**

**2. The Baltimore Times Publisher's Mother, Daisy Nanton, Celebrates Her 100th Birthday.**

**3. Harbor Bank Opens Northwood Commons Branch on Juneteenth**

**4. BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative Takes To The Skies!**

**5. Visit Baltimore Partners with City Schools for Cooking Competition**

**6. Tournament 2022 CIAA Tournament**

**7. U.S. Trade Representative and United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Trade Tour Fearless Headquarters**

**8. State And Local Politicians Highlight \$2 Million Revitalization Investment for The Pennsylvania Avenue Market**

**9. Men of Change Exhibition at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum**

**10. U.S. Navy Veteran: From Security Guard to Doctor**

**11. HBCU Graduates Establish Nonprofit, Host Mental Health Workshops to Help Baltimore Youth**

**12. Brother's BBQ Pitstop Opens at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport**

*(file photos)*







## Ravens Show Character in Clinching Playoff Berth



*Roquan Smith*

Photo credit: G Flume/Getty Images

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens faced their share of adversity but still managed to clinch a playoff berth with two games to go in the season. The Ravens gutted out a 17-9 win over the Atlanta Falcons in true old-school Baltimore fashion, ball control offense and super stingy defense.

To be able to clinch a spot in the playoffs despite facing injuries of key players like Lamar Jackson, Ronnie Stanley and others is quite an accomplishment.

“It says a lot, because I feel like this is a high-character team. [Ravens owner] Steve Bisciotti often says, ‘Character is always rewarded in the end.’ I feel like in games like this, you see that character rewarded because they put the work in every single day, [and] they never bat an eye,” Ravens coach John Harbaugh said.

“Yes, they get frustrated, they get disappointed, they want things to go smoother sometimes, but they stick together bottom-line, and they work really hard. To see them rewarded with an early clinch in the playoffs, heck yes. That’s something very notable and to be excited about.”

Added safety Chuck Carr, “It’s huge for us. We got to finish out the regular

season strong and we know we got one more guaranteed game. That’s all we wanted though, is to get one more guaranteed [game] and keep moving from there.”

The defense had its share of struggles this season. They gave up multiple fourth-quarter leads that resulted in losses. The most significant one came early in the season when the Miami Dolphins overcame a 21-point deficit in the fourth quarter to win the game.

But reinforcements came by way of an unexpected trade when Ravens GM Eric DeCosta acquired inside linebacker Roquan Smith from the Chicago Bears in exchange for a fifth-round pick and veteran linebacker A.J. Klein. Suddenly, Baltimore had a true difference maker in the middle of their defense.

Smith has responded by posting 62 tackles, six tackles for a loss along with two sacks and an interception. Coming to a team like the Ravens eased Smith’s pain from leaving Chicago.

“When I heard that I was getting traded here, besides my heart dropping for a minute not knowing where I was going,” Smith said. “Then I heard Ravens, I knew every year this team has a chance at competing for the playoffs, regardless of if I was here or not. So, just knowing I was coming

here surrounded by a lot of good teammates, you know, and the coaching staff is amazing. I’m just happy to be here, but we’re just getting started.”

Smith said the playoff berth is satisfying but the Ravens are taking a game-by-game approach and want much more. Quarterback Tyler Huntley added that while filling in for Lamar Jackson he’s taking a go 1-0 each week approach to his opportunities.

At 10-5, the Ravens are one game behind the Cincinnati Bengals who are 11-4. Next week’s game against the Pittsburgh Steelers still has meaning because a win will set up a showdown with Cincinnati for the AFC North division title and the right to host a postseason game.

Tight end Mark Andrews likes where the Ravens are right now but wants to enter the postseason hitting on all cylinders.

“There’s a lot of hard work that we put in to get where we’re at right now,” Andrews said. “So, it’s taking advantage of that and not looking too far forward. Just taking it each week at a time, and as we move towards the playoffs, it’s about being the most well-rounded team we can be.”

## Sheriff Everett Sesker Discusses Plans as Anne Arundel County’s Sheriff

*Part II of a Q & A with Sheriff Everett Sesker*

**Q: What website may people visit to learn more about the positions?**

**A:** They can go straight to our web website, <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/sheriff/>. They can visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AACOSHERIFF/>.

**Q: Is there anything that you want to do to improve trust building in the community, particularly outreach in the African American community or communities of color?**

**A:** It’s about getting out into the community. When people can see you, and they can approach you and ask some questions, they feel more comfortable with you. The Caucus of African American Leaders had a ceremony with Carl Snowden. They had a few elected officials there and I was one of them. They redid the swearing-in ceremony for us, and they also did another swearing-in, where it was a commitment to the community to keep the promises that we made to get us elected. I take both of those swearing ins very seriously because I made promises to the community, and four years from now, I want them to say, ‘Yes, he kept his word.’

**Q: What’s the best way to contact you if someone is interested in you coming out to speak to the community?**

**A:** They can email me. My email address is [shwebmail@aacounty.org](mailto:shwebmail@aacounty.org).

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

BUREAU OF WATER AND WASTEWATER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## RFI # 1385 - RESOURCE RECOVERY AT CITY OF BALTIMORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The City of Baltimore (The City) owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants; the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (BRWWTP) (located at 8201 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224) and the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant (PWWTP) (located at 3501 Asiatic Ave, Baltimore, MD 21226). The City is envisioning transforming its existing wastewater treatment plants into resource recovery facilities. As part of this vision, the City is considering opportunities to harness the energy value, particularly of the biogas produced from anaerobic digestion at the BRWWTP, for on-site use or revenue generation through selling of either electricity or Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). The City is soliciting information from qualified firms specializing in handling and processing biogas to identify the best available and sustainable practices to recover energy from biogas as well as the best available procurement models to deliver the project.

At this point the City is focusing on resource recovery at BRWWTP since the plant already has anaerobic digestion. However, the City will also consider implementation of a resource recovery framework that incorporates PWWTP, either through a central facility or a separate facility at each plant.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The BRWWTP is designed for enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) with a design tertiary treatment capacity of 180 million gallons per day (MGD) and an average operating flow of 130 MGD. Primary sludge (PS), waste activated sludge (WAS), and tertiary sludge generated by the liquid train at the BRWWTP are thickened, further stabilized to Class B biosolids using two-stage acid-phase anaerobic digestion system, and finally dewatered to cake solids that are either composted or dried and pelletized. The biogas generated from the anaerobic digestion of sludge is currently flared.

The BRWWTP is equipped with a combined heat and power (CHP) generator facility, however, the CHP generator has been experiencing various mechanical issues and was taken offline for maintenance. The BRWWTP solids treatment processes are illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

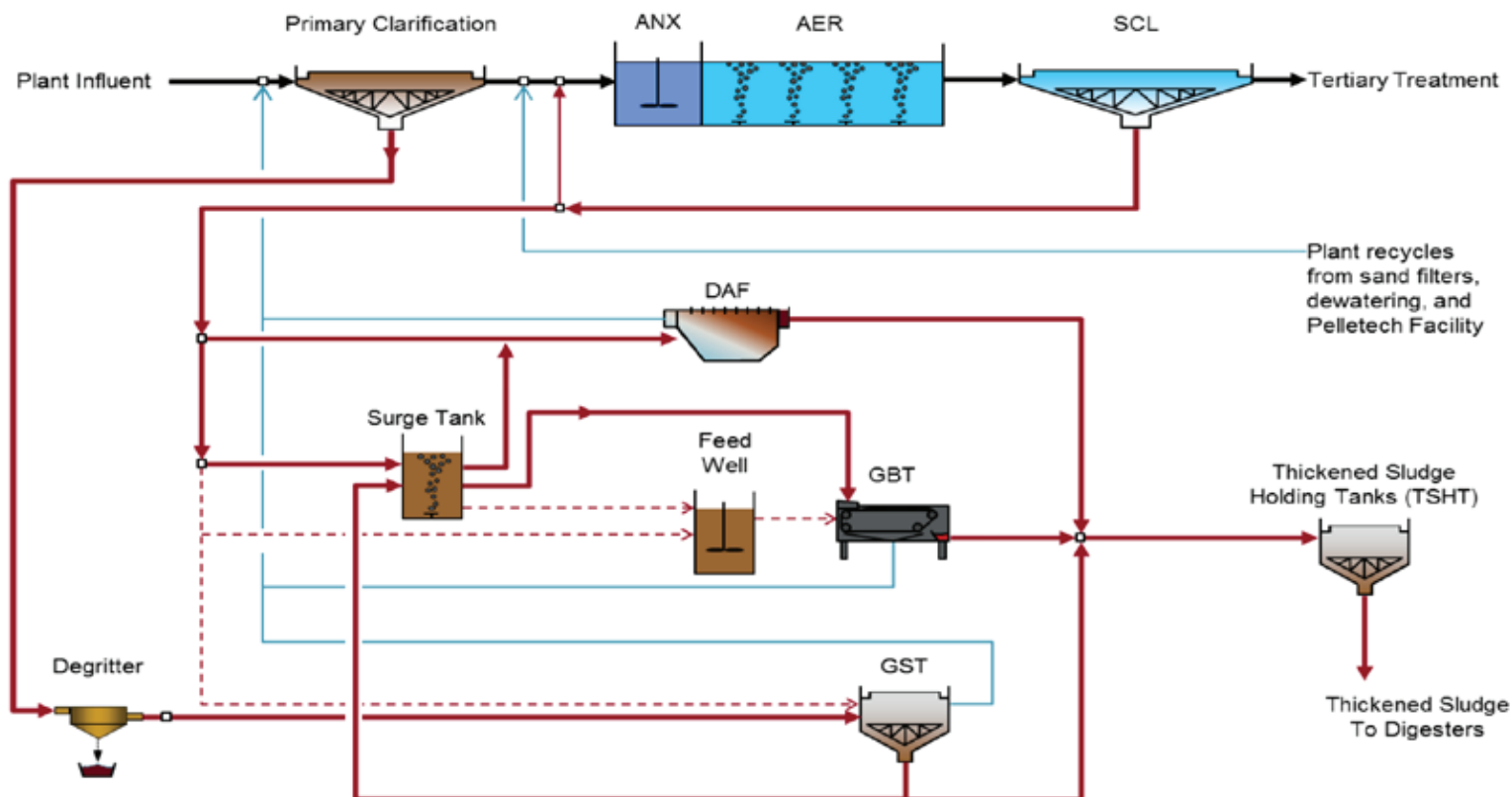
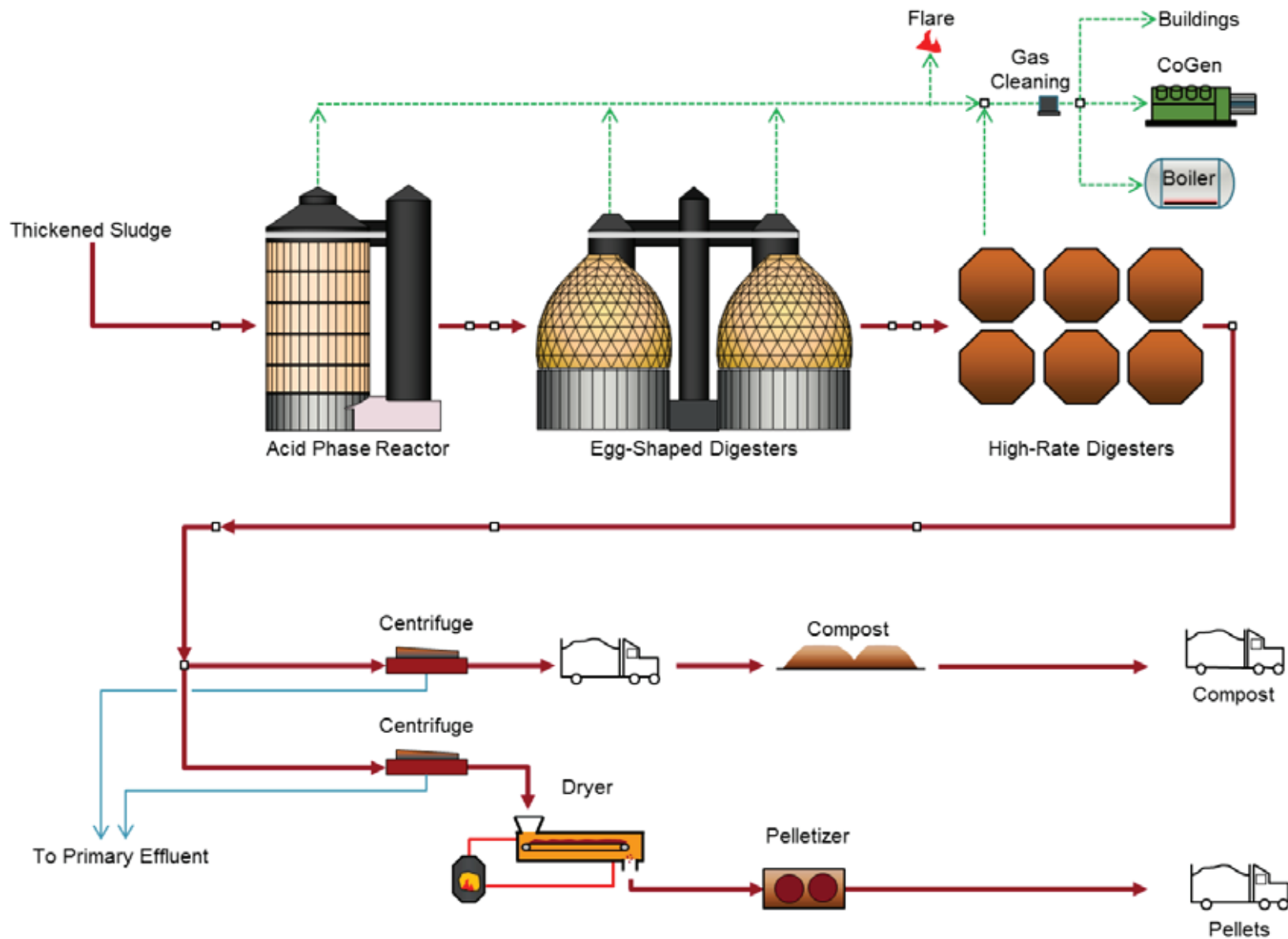


Figure 1 BRWWTP Solids Treatment Processes (Part 1 of 2)



*Figure 2 BRWWTP Solids Treatment Processes (Part 2 of 2)*

Table 1 summarizes the historical quality of sludge that was transferred from Thickened Sludge Holding Tanks (TSHT) into the Acid-Phase Reactor (APR) during the period from 2018 through 2021.

*Table 1 Historical Quality of Thickened Sludge at BRWWTP (2018-2021)*

Sampling Point	Parameter	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021
Thickened Sludge Holding Tank to Acid-Phase Reactor	Flow Avg	mgd	0.373	0.448	0.364	0.376
	Flow Max Month	mgd	0.432	0.528	0.408	0.485
	TS Avg		5.9%	5.3%	5.1%	5.7%
	TS Max Month		8.1%	5.8%	5.7%	6.1%
	TS Loading Avg	tons/day	93.3	99.4	78.9	89.0
	TS Loading Max Month	tons/day	130.2	115.3	92.5	122.3
	VS Avg		71.0%	78.0%	76.6%	74.2%
	VS Max Month		79.0%	80.2%	80.4%	80.0%
	VS Loading Avg	tons/day	64.6	77.7	61.3	66.1
	VS Loading Max Month	tons/day	84.2	91.4	72.4	87.4

Table 2 summarizes the historical quantities of biogas that was generated from the APR, Egg-Shaped Digesters (ESD), and HRD during the period from 2018 through 2021.

*Table 2 Historical Quantities of Biogas at BRWWTP (2018-2021)*

Sampling Point	Parameter	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021
Biogas Flow	From APR Avg	KCFD	63	116	45	22
	From APR Max Month	KCFD	89	229	100	37
	From ESD Avg	KCFD	455	433	287	231
	From ESD Max Month	KCFD	725	577	521	422
	From HRD Avg	KCFD	1,017	977	800	965
	From HRD Max Month	KCFD	1,356	1,265	1,049	1,179

The PWWTP is designed for ENR with a design capacity of 73 MGD and an average operating flow of 63 MGD. It consists of preliminary treatment, primary treatment, secondary treatment, tertiary treatment, and hypochlorite disinfection to meet the final effluent criteria as per its NPDES Permit.

PS and WAS produced by the primary treatment and secondary treatment process are thickened on-site using gravity sludge thickeners and dissolved air flotation tanks. The thickened sludge is stored in a sludge blend tank and then conveyed to a Dryer (Pelletization) Facility that is owned and operated by a third-party vendor under a publicly procured long term lease/purchase agreement with the City since the early 1990s. There is no digestion process at the PWWTP.

Table 3 summarizes the historical quality of sludge that was transferred from Sludge Blending Tank (SBT) at PWWTP to the dryers during the period from 2018 through 2021.

*Table 3 Historical Quality of Sludge at PWWTP (2018-2021)*

Sampling Point	Parameter	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021
Sludge Blending Tank to Dryer	Flow Avg	mgd	0.431	0.401	0.423	0.270
	Flow Max Month	mgd	0.746	0.505	0.582	0.382
	TS Avg		2.40%	2.52%	2.39%	2.80%
	TS Max Month		3.09%	3.08%	3.24%	3.23%
	TS Loading Avg	tons/day	41.92	41.95	42.08	31.54
	TS Loading Max Month	tons/day	59.53	66.67	60.62	44.27
	VS Avg		76.31%	78.98%	78.85%	79.20%
	VS Max Month		83.21%	82.01%	82.14%	83.13%
	VS Loading Avg	tons/day	33.68	33.81	34.32	25.84
	VS Loading Max Month	tons/day	48.00	53.92	49.71	35.04

### III. SCOPE OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

The information the City is soliciting from qualified firms shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Identification of up to three (3) optimized concept solutions to recover energy at the BRWWTP (or BRWWTP and PWWTP) that meet the following City priorities:
  - a. High efficiency
  - b. Minimal staffing requirements
  - c. Demonstrated local and/or national installations including:
    - i. Description of the facility including biogas cleaning/conditioning processes
    - ii. Date installed.
    - iii. Is the facility still in service?
    - iv. Successes and challenges.
    - v. References.
  - f. Local and/or national service center and parts stock locations

- g. Short lead time requirements
- h. Future proofing/modularity/expandability to accept additional future loads
- i. Easy to operate and maintain

2. Identification of up to three (3) procurement project delivery models (such as DBO, DBFOM, DBOT, etc.) that minimize the duration, cost, and risk of the project. The City will be looking for partners to operate and maintain the proposed facilities. These models shall include various marketing strategies for selling or otherwise monetizing the generated renewable resources and/or revenue sharing arrangements or generate energy for local use. These models shall also include the expected agreement duration for each proposed delivery model.

3. Up to three (3) sample standard revenue sharing arrangements for marketing the generated renewable resources. This can be either generic or a redacted version of an existing agreement.

4. A general approach and corresponding scope of work of how the respondent is planning to generate, harvest, market or locally use the renewable resources. Include the apportionment of risks for unforeseen conditions inherent in the proposed approach.

5. Up to three (3) funding sources available to similar projects including the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

6. Projections for the estimated quantities of the renewable resource to be generated using the proposed approach, along with any conditions or prerequisites upon which the projection is based, and the corresponding estimate of revenue to the City.

7. A planning level (AACEI Class 5) life cycle cost analysis for each proposed solution. The respondent shall include anticipated capital cost, annual operating and maintenance costs, annual debt service costs, and annual revenue proceeds from marketing the generated renewable resource or energy cost savings for local use.

8. Concept level transitioning plan of assets back to the City at the end of the proposed agreement.

9. OPTIONAL: Respondents are encouraged to propose solutions to stabilize biosolids at the PWWTP and forecast renewable resources that can be recovered and marketed or locally used. The proposed solution could be combined with that proposed for BRWWTP or a separate facility at the PWWTP. If opted to do so, the respondent shall provide all relevant information listed in Section III-1 through III-8 of this RFI.

### **RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Firms intending to submit a response to the request for information shall submit any relevant questions to Yosef Kebede, P.E. (EMAIL: Yosef.Kebede@baltimore-city.gov) and Hatim Fadlalla, P.E. (EMAIL: hatim.fadlalla@baltimorecity.gov).

2. The response to the request for information shall be submitted electronically to Yosef Kebede, P.E. (EMAIL: Yosef.Kebede@baltimorecity.gov) and Hatim Fadlalla, P.E. (EMAIL: hatim.fadlalla@baltimorecity.gov).

3. The response shall contain a contact person and associated contact information.

4. The response shall be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on February 3, 2023. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

5. The respondent shall submit their experience and history in performing this type of work, particularly those projects that have been successfully constructed, operated, and met prospective revenue goals. Include references of persons, firms, or agencies that the City may contact to verify the experience of the proponent.

6. The respondent shall submit electronically descriptive material in support of their response including articles, drawings, photographs, or other media that would be helpful in evaluating the response.

7. NOTE: The City will not be making an award based on responses to this RFI. Instead, information provided will be evaluated internally to determine the approach to resource recovery that best suits the City. If the City chooses to move forward with a resource recovery project, a separate RFP will be issued to solicit proposals.



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