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Nonprofit Celebrates Dr. King, Upholds Impactful Community Work to Improve Lives



Andrew Muhammad, left, is the executive director of the Baltimore-based nonprofit organization We Our Us. Dr. Andrey Bundley, right, serves as the director of the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement. The men birthed a movement that focuses on consistent and collective action to strategically assist boys and young men. We Our Us also assists with guiding them to resources. Individuals are invited to meet at the corner of Eutaw and MLK Blvd. in Baltimore at 12 p.m. on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16, 2023. A parade will be held, in addition to a community walk, grocery giveaway at Poe Homes projects, live entertainment, drug treatment support, expungement opportunities and more services. Photo Credit: Final Xcolter (See more on page 6)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Opportunities Offer A Chance to Take Action in Communities

By Andrea Blackstone

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service will occur on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, this year. On this National Day of Service, Americans are encouraged to volunteer to improve their communities. A prime way to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy is by serving others.

King was born on January 15, 1929. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, but his words and deeds of advocating for justice, racial brotherhood and radical change through nonviolent means have not faded.

King's wife, Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and civil rights leader who delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The March on Washington was also known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was a protest that was intended to draw attention to continuing inequalities and challenges African Americans faced.

Many opportunities to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through service have been noted below, in addition to event information.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Baltimore

Baltimore's Mayor Brandon Scott said that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade in Baltimore is back on as scheduled. It will kick off at noon at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Eutaw.

Volunteering Throughout Maryland

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism invites Marylanders to volunteer on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 2023. Visit <https://gosv.maryland.gov/mlkdayofservice/> to search for opportunities to locate places to lend a hand by utilizing the AmeriCorps Volunteer Search, powered by VolunteerMatch.

Baltimore

Keith Snipes and Company will perform an inspirational tribute to democracy and freedom on Saturday, January 14, 2022, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Baltimore Room inside of Lexington Market, located at 112 N. Eutaw St. in Baltimore. The show will offer a collection of songs and poetry reminiscent of the movement that pays homage to the ideals of the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visit www.lexingtonmarket.com for more details.

The Giveback at Lexington Market will be held on MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 16 for individuals who are experiencing homelessness from noon - 2 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m. in Lexington Market's Baltimore Room, located at 112 N. Eutaw St. A resource fair will kick off the event that will be followed by a community lunch which is scheduled from 3- 5 .pm. Visit www.lexingtonmarket.com for more details.

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (SVDP) will be distributing winter wear and school supplies for children ages 3-5 at its new Head Start facility on January 16 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. at 1010 Somerset St. located in East Baltimore. The newly rehabilitated facility is scheduled to open in early

2023. Children will be given free coats, gloves, hats, backpacks, and school supplies while learning more about the new Head Start program. To RSVP for the MLK Day of Service event, please email Kelsea Guckin at kelsea.guckin@vincentbaltimore.org. If you would like to donate to the winter wear and school supply drive, please contact David Sanders at david.sanders@vincentbaltimore.org. You may also order from the Amazon Wish List via <https://amzn.to/3Z4ciKG>.

A 12th annual community service event honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be hosted by the Midway Community Development Corporation on Jan 16, 2023, at 1100 E. North Ave. in Baltimore, Md. 21202. The Sixth Branch, Inc. will conduct the community service activity. Volunteers are needed to help with environmental/ outside project work from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. The overgrowth and large-scale trash clean-up work will also involve basic landscaping, but no experience is necessary for any of the projects. Registration beforehand is highly recommended, but volunteers will be able to fill out the registration form onsite on the day of the event. It is a family-friendly event, but parents still must supervise their children. Volunteers can follow the link here to register or

email Colin Lyman at colinlyman@the6thbranch.org. Street parking is available surrounding the meeting area. Visit <https://the6thbranch.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/the6thbranch/eventRegistration.jsp?event=4508&> to sign up.

CityFam's mission is to connect people with purpose. Volunteers are needed on Monday, January 16, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by serving food, cleaning tables, plating food, and sort donations at Our Daily Bread. The location of Our Daily Bread is 725 Fallsway Baltimore, Md. 21202. Legal services, lunch, healthcare services, case management, and employment assistance is provided to adults in need. A parking lot is available for volunteers. Masks must be worn. Volunteers should bring or wear a hat if they would not prefer wearing a hairnet. Volunteers who are under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. They must provide proof of vaccination. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/serve-lunch-with-our-daily-bread-tickets-507649402027?aff=ALLEVENTS> to reserve a spot to volunteer.

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Guest Editorials and Commentary

Teachers Deserve More Compensation, Hazard Pay

Educators were tasked with virtual teaching requirements during the pandemic. It was extra work for them. Some left the profession and quit from burnout. Many K-12 educators stuck around despite earning pay lower than what their labor and expertise is worth. The pandemic hasn't ended, but the world's business has resumed on familiar terms. And although school is open, normalcy is still closed. Teachers are left to be mindful of COVID-19 variants while in-person learning has returned. On top of this frustrating health crisis, civility is getting sparse.

A mass shooting, which is defined by the FBI as four or more victims whose lives are ended by a gun, increased during the coronavirus pandemic during the United States, according to research published in the journal JAMA Open Network. School shootings increased, too.

"There were a total of 93 school shootings with casualties at public and private elementary and secondary schools during the 2020-21 school year, more than in any other year since data collection began, according to the Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2021," according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

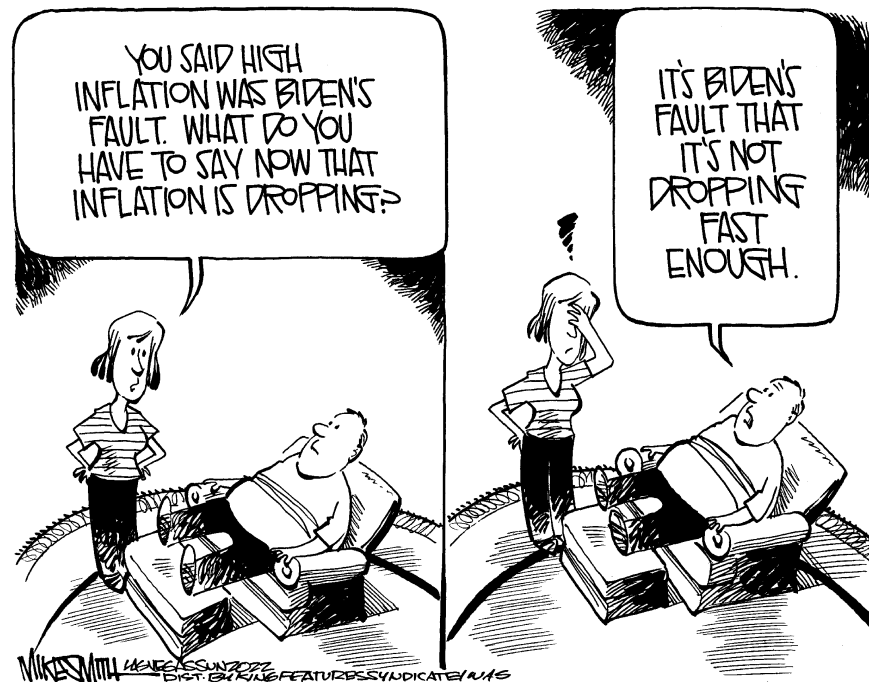
At one point in time, talking back to a teacher was taboo. Now, teachers must be mindful that shooters might include students who sit inside of classrooms to learn. Authorities said that a 6-year-old student at a Virginia elementary school shot and intentionally injured a first-grade teacher who was teaching a lesson in Virginia. Abby Zwerner is her name. The 25-year-old was allegedly shot with a handgun that was brought to Richneck Elementary School on Jan. 6, 2023. Zwerner reportedly sustained life-threatening injuries. Her condition is now stable. She has been recovering in a local hospital.

"The accused 6-year-old student was taken into custody that Friday. Police say he used his mother's legally purchased gun in the shooting, but no charges have been filed at this time," according to WAVY.com.

Zwerner's concern for her students didn't stop, even when she'd been wounded. She made sure that all of them were safe. Surveillance video showed that Zwerner was the last person to exit the classroom, Newport News police Chief Steve Drew explained. The incident that occurred in the Newport News Public Schools system isn't an isolated one.

WAVY.com also reported that a 16-year-old pleaded guilty in April to six felonies, including discharging a firearm on school property. A 17-year-old boy and girl were left wounded in 2021. The shooter was sentenced to 10 years active prison time. Additionally, a fatal shooting occurred in a parking lot of Menchville High School in 2021, according to the Newport News Police Department.

Virginia is not the only state with a growing list of school shootings, but one involving a 6-year-old student is by far one of the most disturbing. Not only are teachers underpaid, but they deserve permanent hazard pay. Signing up to teach has become a risky profession. Educators who love what they do keep teaching to make a difference in the lives of youth, despite the complications that they endure.



Letter to the Editor

Editor:
The new House majority is majority election-deniers

Everyone should be concerned about the new House majority, which can't even select a Speaker without historic chaos.

The House of Representatives is now controlled by MAGA Republicans. According to the Washington Post, over 70% of House Republicans are election deniers, and they will use their power to enrich their corporate donors and advance their extreme agenda—including threatening our freedom to vote, criminalizing abortion, and cutting Social Security and Medicaid.

Judging by how the election for the Speaker of the House has gone, we

should all be concerned about their ability to govern.

MAGA cronies like Kevin McCarthy, Jim Jordan, Steve Scalise, and Marjorie Taylor Greene have already indicated that their top priority in 2023 will be sham investigations into the Biden administration and other democracy defenders, including those charged with investigating the attack on the Capitol on January 6th.

We must call out their lies at every turn and combat their far-right agenda to protect our freedoms and our democracy in 2023.

Barbara Woodard
Baltimore, MD 21215

Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

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Commentary

Amid the Chaotic Speakership Debate in the House, A Star is Born

By Stacy M. Brown
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It's possible that after the bitter campaign for House Speaker ended on January 7th, Americans – especially Black Americans – felt a strong sense of déjà vu.

New York Democratic Rep. Hakeem Jeffries provided a masterclass on leadership and served up a clear reminder of what an up-and-coming senator from Illinois named Barack Obama once did during a divided America.

“Progress asserted itself tonight, manifested in [Hakeem] Jeffries, even amidst a hostile takeover of the House by neo-fascists,” Jason Randolph of Vote.org commented.

Randolph said Jeffries delivered “what’s likely the best political speech not given by Obama in generations.”

On July 27, 2004, during the Democratic National Convention in



Courtesy photo: nnpa.org

Boston, a 42-year-old Barack Obama, who a few months earlier won a Senate primary in Illinois, spoke eloquently and inspiringly about the divide facing America.

“Now even as we speak, there are those who are preparing to divide us, the spin masters, the negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of ‘anything goes,’” Obama asserted.

“Well, I say to them tonight, there is not a liberal America and a conservative America; there is the United States of America. There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America; there’s the United States of America.”

Nineteen years later, in 2023 where many say politics are as divisive and dangerous as ever, Jeffries, 52, channeled Obama by providing a masterclass on leadership.

He called for “maturity over Mar-a-Lago,” a direct shot at new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy’s praise of Trump.

Throughout Jeffries’ speech, Trump supporting Republicans jeered while Democrats rose to applaud the Brooklyn born congressman.

Jeffries smoothly went through the alphabet to capture all the ails America,

and what’s needed to repair the divided nation.

“House Democrats will always put American values over autocracy, benevolence over bigotry, the Constitution over the cult, democracy over demagogues,” Jeffries asserted.

“Freedom over fascism, governing over gaslighting, hopefulness over hatred quality of life issues over Q’Anon, reason over racism, substance over slander, triumph over tyranny, understanding over ugliness, and voting rights over voter suppression.”

Earlier, the Republican Party did, in fact, select a speaker, albeit grudgingly; however, given the 15 rounds it took for McCarthy to secure the necessary votes, it’s possible that his tenure as speaker won’t last.

Whether or not McCarthy remains speaker, his ascension to the top post in the chamber is unlikely to be remembered as the 118th Congress’ defining moment.

McCarthy, despite multiple defeats before winning the speakership race and his previous condemnation of former President Trump’s role in the 2021 insurrection, still praised Trump.

The person elected to lead Congress and look out for America’s best interests praised an alleged would-be over thrower of the U.S. government just two years and one day after the Trump-inspired insurrection in which several lives were lost.

Although a congressional committee recommended criminal charges and numerous members of Trump’s inner circle testified to the committee about the former president’s guilt.

McCarthy, upon being presented with the speaker’s gavel, remarked, “I do want to especially thank President Trump.”

“Do not doubt, in my opinion; in fact, no one should doubt his influence. He was with me from the beginning. So, thank you, President Trump.

However, two years earlier, McCarthy held that “the President bears

responsibility for Wednesday’s attack on Congress by mob rioters. He should have immediately denounced the mob when he saw what was unfolding.”

McCarthy’s moments aside, many people who watched the inauguration of the 118th Congress said that Jeffries, the first African American to lead a major political party in Congress, demonstrated true leadership.

“McCarthy’s speech should have contained some of the words Jeffries spoke,” Dean Obeidallah, a lawyer and host of a self-titled SiriusXM show, opined.

“[McCarthy] should have made it clear he denounces autocracy, fascism and the grave threats facing our democracy by Trump and the MAGA wing of the Republican Party,” Obeidallah insisted.

The radio host wasn’t alone.

“Rep. Hakeem Jeffries speaks truth to power,” declared attorney Ben Crump. “Politicians must remember that they represent U.S. All of us. Let’s encourage our lawmakers to work together and pass policy that helps all American people and that preserves our democratic form of government,” Crump said.

“This is what leadership looks like, sounds like and does,” podcaster Chris Hahn tweeted.

Strategist Steve Schmidt added, “The early morning hours of January 7 marked the rise of a new American leader: Hakeem Jeffries. The thunderclap was the magnificence of his voice rising in defense of the American creed and his taking his place in a long line of liberty’s defenders.”

Actor Rob Reiner simplified the outpouring of accolades resulting from Jeffries’ speech.

“A star is born,” Reiner declared.

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Nonprofit Celebrates Dr. King, Upholds Impactful Community Work to Improve Lives

By Andrea Blackstone

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s federal holiday on the third Monday of each year is often described as "a day on, not a day off." He was born on Jan 15, 1929. Some students and adults elect to serve the community and celebrate the legacy of a civil rights leader on MLK Day since King worked tirelessly to fight for equality for all people.

"He [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.] stood for so much and certainly we want to make sure that that dream remains alive through us and our work. We want to continue to impact his legacy here in the city of Baltimore," said Antoine Burton, president, We Our Us.

We Our Us is a Baltimore City-based men's movement and nonprofit that has been going strong for five years. It is composed of Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and men of diverse backgrounds and ages who do not designate a faith. They unite to serve for the betterment of others in various capacities.

Burton—who is also lead pastor of Changing Lives Ministries of Baltimore— noted that We Our Us is one of the biggest faith-based movements, if not the largest, in the city of Baltimore.

"We currently have over 1,500 men that are active participants with the movement," Burton said. "We go out to some of the toughest hit communities, and we provide resources to Black men in those communities."

Burton mentioned that resources consist of employment, expungement, treatment, life coaching and even mediation to reconcile conflicts between individuals.

A 24-hour "Stop The Beef Hotline" has allowed We Our Us to mediate hundreds of "beefs" or worsening conflicts in Baltimore City, according to Burton. There is no police involvement, although We Our Us



We OUR US provides food in the community. Photo Credit: Final Xcolter

partners with the Baltimore Police Department. Callers reach out through the hotline to de-escalate situations. Burton explained that We Our Us is connected to community influencers who have established trust.

"While we're not able to stop every shooting or every murder, we've been able to be impactful and try to neutralize situations before they escalate," Burton said.

Seven-year-old boys to 25-year-old men are typically served through We Our Us. Every service that is offered is provided free of charge.

Micah Robinson, 18, is among young men who has benefited from connecting with We Our Us. He recalled walking and engaging with people from different neighborhoods We Our Us has visited while gaining more than the total number of service hours required to graduate high school.

"I have met some of the most motivated and powerful people in the state of Maryland like current and prior mayors, state attorneys,

and many more wonderful people," Robinson said.

Burton described men who comprise We Our Us as "connectors, protectors, mediators and messengers."

He added, "As connectors, we serve to guide boys and men to appropriate resources. As protectors, we mobilize young men in these prominent roles in communities as models of positive and constructive behavior."

Burton noted that We Our Us has ties to the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME). Dr. Andrey Bundley is the director of MOAAME. Andrew Muhammad currently serves as the executive director of the nonprofit organization.

"It was the brainchild of Dr. Andrey Bundley and Andrew Muhammad. They birthed the movement. Since then, it has absolutely grown beyond anything that they could have ever thought or imagined," Burton said.

Muhammad mentioned that continuing to build relationships with individuals from all walks of life, train

new and younger leaders, and creation of long-term service is how he would like to see the movement grow.

Burton added that We Our Us wants to bring communities together in Baltimore on MLK Day on January 16, 2023. Individuals are invited to meet at the corner of Eutaw and MLK Blvd. in Baltimore at 12 p.m. A parade will be held, in addition to a grocery giveaway at Poe Homes projects, live entertainment, drug treatment support, expungement opportunities, and partnering organizations offering support and information.

"At the end of the resource fair, we're going to have a community walk. We're going to end up at the Poe Homes, which is the former Lexington Terrace community," Burton said. "We're going to be giving out so many resources to the communities and to the residents of that area."

We Our Us has partnered with ex-offender friendly employers who will be available onsite.

Although We Our Us focuses on helping men, Burton explained that women partner with the nonprofit. We Our Us participants venture out in the community three times a week while extending love and providing tangible resources to promote change. Men have even been taken from the streets directly to drug treatment facilities. Other men have been given interview dates on the spot when the movement shows up in communities.

Robinson reflected on King's motivational speeches, legacy and work. He is reminded that Black men should know their worth and stand for what is right.

"I will be attending the MLK parade this year. There's no better place to be on MLK Day than the parade," he said.

Visit www.weourusmovement.org to learn more about We Our Us and the MLK event. Early arrival is recommended on Jan. 16, 2023.



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A THOUSAND THANKS

Thanks to the thousands of Baltimore Times Readers and Subscribers that made the Give Black 4 the Holidays Initiative such a success. Your support of the 100 Black Businesses in Baltimore during the recent Holiday Season helped to “keep the cashflow flowing, the cash registers ringing, and most importantly, the workers working.

Please watch for our future efforts to leverage the community’s economic power to benefit these and other Black Businesses and those they serve.

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Part II

Tips to Improve Financial Wellness in 2023

By Andrea Blackstone

Marcella Mollon-Williams is a Behavioral Financial Advisor™ and co-founder of Legacy Builder Group, LLC. She provides insight about how a person may improve his or her relationship with money.

Q: Who is your average client? How do they benefit from working with a Behavioral Financial Advisor™?

A: Our clients are decision makers. They are the heads of households and individuals who are ready to feel confident as the chief financial decision maker of their money and investments. My team and I fully engage our clients in the plans we implement that educate them on how to break free from social, cultural and religious restraints around money in order to create the legacy they desire.

Q: What is a common financial mistake that people make?

A: A common financial mistake that people make is not knowing their numbers. That is, a working knowledge of how your money is flowing in and out. Not knowing your numbers can lead to a number of financial difficulties including, overspending, lack of savings, and even identity fraud. Having a budget is a good start but that only covers your expectations. You need to be conscious of what is actually happening with your financial accounts. I recommend scheduling a standing appointment with yourself weekly or bi-weekly to review all of your financial accounts which may include bank accounts, investment accounts, loan accounts, etcetera. This will help you to gain more control over your spending, stay on top of any fraudulent activity and create a mental habit of financial awareness.



Marcella Mollon-Williams
Photo credit: Sadrea Muhammad

Q: What is a good way to track financial progress?

A: A good way to track your financial progress is to set financial stages for your SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound). This could include paying off credit card debt, building an emergency fund, and/or saving for retirement. For example, if your goal is to have six months' worth of emergency funds available to you, start by saving for two weeks' worth. Then one month, and two months. Each stage gets you closer to your ultimate goal, right? How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

Q: Is there anything key you feel that people should know about debt that they may miss?

A: It is important to understand the difference between non-preferred debt and preferred debt as it can be a costly mistake. So many people look at their mortgage like a credit

card, non-preferred debt, and want to pay it off as soon as possible. This is often an emotional decision based on Great Depression Era thinking. Paying off debt and building wealth are two different approaches. When you learn the power of arbitrage, using the bank's money at a lower interest rate to address your mortgage while you invest your money to earn a higher rate of return while keeping liquidity, you will discover a smarter way to build wealth. The banks use this strategy everyday—with your money.

Q: How can the average person begin to build generational wealth?

A: One of the best ways that the average person can begin to build generational wealth is through life insurance. There are very few financial products in the market today that have the wealth building capabilities, asset protection and tax advantage as life insurance. Many policies can be designed to provide cash value for

retirement and long-term care benefits, along with a financial inheritance. An irrevocable trust can be used along with the life insurance policy to protect the wealth and manage the financial disbursements from one generation to the next.

Q: What is an effective strategy that an adult can try to teach kids or teenagers to be financially responsible?

A: The most effective strategy is to be an example of financial responsibility. We can do that by simply making sure that you are having conversations about money. Avoid the “No Talk Rule,” the unspoken agreement among family members that a particular topic will not be discussed, around money and start including your kids and teenagers in financial conversations as early as possible.

Q: Is there anything that people can do to begin to financially recover from student loan debt before it is paid off?

A: Yes. The looming debt of student loans can impact a person mentally just as much as financially. To begin recovering from both, start by gaining understanding about your financial situation. Know your numbers, set SMART goals, and most of all, keep your purpose for money in mind. Some people focus so much on paying off their student loan debt that they sacrifice their wealth building potential and long-term financial security. Have an educated plan of execution that suits your unique financial situation and remain open to asking for help from a qualified financial professional that can help navigate you through this process. You become more financially confident when you become more financially competent.

Mollon-Williams' website is www.marcellamwilliams.com.

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Ravens Were Right to Extend Roquan Smith

By Tyler Hamilton

The inside linebacker position has always been a premier spot for the Baltimore Ravens defense. Their two Super Bowl seasons were spearheaded by Hall of Fame Ray Lewis. Then, C.J. Mosley came via the draft in 2014 and led the Ravens on solid playoff runs before leaving via free agency when he signed with the New York Jets four years later.

The Ravens recalibrated a few years later when they traded linebacker A.J. Klein along with a second- and a fifth-round pick in 2023 for middle linebacker Roquan Smith, who at the time was leading the NFL with 83 tackles. Baltimore had long been looking to upgrade at inside linebacker, as Josh Byner has struggled, and Patrick Queen has fallen short of first-round expectations. Queen has blossomed since Smith arrived by posting 66 tackles and an interception.

It's no coincidence that Queen had some of his best games since Smith was acquired. Smith has since settled in perfectly with the Ravens. The Ravens have allowed more than 16 points twice in nine games. Smith's numbers have been impressive. Smith has 86 tackles, two sacks and an interception to go along with seven tackles for a loss and one quarterback hit in nine games. His 169 total tackles ranked third in the NFL as he made his first Pro Bowl. Smith is the first player since Lewis to record at least 100 tackles, multiple sacks and one interception in each of the first five years of a career.

That's why the Ravens signed him to a five-year, \$100 million contract extension this week that includes \$45 million in fully guaranteed money and \$60 million in total guaranteed. The deal makes Smith the highest paid off-ball linebacker in the NFL.

"Roquan, he has been fantastic," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "He's all about it. He doesn't worry about what people think; he doesn't



Roquan Smith

Photo credit: Michael Owens/Getty Images

care. He wants to do the things that are required to be a great player and to be a great unit and then to impact your team. That's what he's all about – 100% – [and] that's what I love about him. He's one of the top guys I've ever seen that way, and I think that does always impact everybody as a leader, for sure. I want all of our guys to lead that way."

Smith became available after an offseason hold-in that resulted from not getting the contract extension that he desired. The Bears were rumored to have offered Smith a five-year extension worth \$95 million. The deal reportedly was back loaded and had escalators in it that would potentially drop the value of the contract. Despite not having a deal, Smith reported to camp but didn't take part in any activities. Midway through the season, Chicago figured it was time to get whatever value they could, so they dealt him to the Ravens.

Smith saw right away that Baltimore was the place for him to spend the next phase of his career.

"I'm really excited to be here," Smith said via NFL Network's Good Morning Football on Monday. "This is a group

of great teammates and the guys have been very welcoming to me since I've been here. I've gotten adjusted to the playbook so I'm very excited for what is all in store here. I have a great deal of respect for those guys, Sizzle [Terrell Suggs], Ray [Lewis], Ed [Reed] and what those guys did back in the day. I'm excited about this group and think there's a lot of great things in store. We're just getting started."

Smith and the Ravens make a return to the postseason on Sunday when they visit the rival Cincinnati Bengals in the wildcard round of the playoffs. The game will be a rematch of last week's 27-16 loss to the Bengals. Smith would like nothing more than getting revenge in Cincinnati.

"We came up short, but I'm looking forward to next week, seeing these guys again. I think it'll be even sweeter then," Smith said. "All the marbles. It's an all-out war and those guys know that when we come back next week, we'll be here. I'm excited and I think it's going to be a great opportunity for us to show the world exactly what we're going to do."

Muslimat Al-Nisaa Shelter & Inge Benevolent Ministry is hosting an annual 'Chili Bowl' event to serve homeless neighbors in Baltimore on Monday, January 16, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at 700 Fallsway in Baltimore, Md. Hot bowls of chili will be served to homeless individuals on the streets. Cold weather clothing and toiletries will be distributed. Health screenings will be provided. Prior to the day of the event, donations should be dropped off by appointment to 3708 Liberty Heights Ave. in Baltimore, Md. 21215. Call 410-466-8686 for more information about bringing chili, gender specific personal hygiene kits, healthy snacks, warm winter clothing, or to volunteer. Visit <https://allevents.in/baltimore/chili-bowl-monday-mlk-day-of-service-feed-and-clothe-our-homeless-neighbors/10000488699131257> to register.

Howard County

Volunteers are invited to drop off non-perishable food items, baby clothing, baby supplies, coats, underwear, socks, blankets and other necessities at various supermarkets on Monday, January 16, 2023. Visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/OHRE-mlk> to find a list of locations. Donations will support Grassroots Crisis Intervention, Columbia Action Council's Food Bank and Columbia Community Care.

Montgomery County

Comfort Cases are backpacks that are filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system. Volunteers are needed to pack essentials at the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, located at 15825 Shady Grove Rd #60 in Rockville, Md. in shifts beginning on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Visit https://montgomerycountymd.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=764375 to learn more about the family friendly volunteer opportunity that will be held during MLK Week 2023.

Legal Notices

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. 1387-Water Infrastructure Replacement at Various Locations** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **February 15, 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; charmtvbaltimore.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 **January 13, 2023** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 555 537 984# on **January 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM.** Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to **Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov** by **January 25, 2023, at 4:30 PM.** Questions submitted after the deadline may 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 **Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov** and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

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

Cleaning and mortar of existing water mains and/or replacement of existing water mains with new ductile iron pipes of various sizes, replacement/installation of valves, fittings, and appurtenances, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renewal and replacement of existing water services, sidewalks restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**

The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

W. Michael Mullen
Chief Solicitor
City Hall

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

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

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. 1287-Water Main Replacement and Rehabilitation in Westgate, Hunting Ridge, and Uplands Neighborhoods** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **March 1, 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; charmtvbaltimore.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 **January 13, 2023** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$15,000,000.01 to \$20,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 458 846 939# on **January 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM.** Last date for contractor questions (to be submitted only via email to **Doreen.diamond@baltimorecity.gov** and **Muhammad.Tak@baltimorecity.gov**) is **January 27, 2023 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> and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**. For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Doreen.diamond@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 **12%**

The WBE goal is **5%**

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.charmtvbalTIMORE.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

Employment



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