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Chrissy Thornton Takes the Helm at Associated Black Charities

By Andrea Blackstone

Chrissy Thornton became Associated Black Charities' (ABC) president and CEO at the top of the new year in 2023. The Morgan State University alumna arrived in Baltimore from New York. She graduated in 1997 with a degree in sociology. Thornton later earned a business degree in organizational management. She has been previously employed by healthcare advocacy organizations and Thornton worked in the vocational rehabilitation field while helping people return to work, specifically focusing on ex-offenders.

ABC, the Baltimore-based nonprofit, remains on a mission to address racial equity.

“Our mission is to work as an educator, advocate and supporter to eliminate the race-based barriers that have been created by structural racism and to create new opportunities for African Americans to succeed,” Thornton said.

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Chrissy Thornton, president and CEO of Associated Black Charities (ABC) now leads the Baltimore-based nonprofit organization. ABC remains committed to eliminating race-based barriers that have been created by structural racism and creating new opportunities for African Americans to succeed. Thornton continues the work that ABC is known to perform as a statewide organization. Photo credit: Flawless Photos and Videos

Computer Health Checkups and Security

An Expert Shares Tips About What You Should Know

By Andrea Blackstone

The importance of monitoring the health of your computer, and better safeguarding private information may slip your mind, but making time to tend to these matters can pay off exponentially. Vernon Eric Smith, owner of Elaycire Technology Consulting, has been running his small business for 30 years. The Anne Arundel County Maryland resident also works as an information technology specialist, utilizing his skills as a technology and cybersecurity advisor and also providing hardware/software recommendations.

Smith began the computer health and security discussion by mentioning that the most pervasive computer threat is “users not protecting their data.” Consumers should question why sharing personal information is needed, such as requests to provide a social security number. When it comes to changing email and login passwords, Smith mentioned that having a unique password for all user accounts and changing them daily is not practical. He recommended using multi-factor authentication (MFA) instead. Users are required to use more than a single authentication factor to gain access to online accounts. Smith shared additional information.



Vernon Eric Smith works on a microcontroller for a coding class.

Q: What is the difference between malware and a computer virus?

A: Malware is malicious software. It's installed on your device to do something that you didn't intend for it to do. A virus is a type of malware. It's designed to infect as many computers as possible.

Q: How do malware and viruses affect computers?

A: This list could be endless, but I'd say the most serious malware/viruses will delete all your data, or encrypt your data (ransomware) so you cannot access it unless you pay to decrypt it.

Q: What are a few mistakes that people make that leave their computer susceptible for virus and malware attacks?

A: Using social media (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) It's no longer just your personal computer that needs to be secured. It's your actual data. All of this information is willingly shared on social media platforms. With the pervasiveness of all the social media applications many people use, they may forget to be mindful of the links they are clicking on within the pages. All it takes is one click on the wrong ad or the wrong video and boom!

Q: How do some hackers gain access to computers from other locations?

A: They gain access through embedded malicious links in emails, and social media sites and by calling you on the phone and asking for your passwords.

Q: Do you have any helpful tips for selecting virus protection software?

A: If a user is running Windows 10/11, he or she already has free antivirus, anti-malware, and anti-ransomware applications built into the Windows Defender operating system.

Q: Is it harmful to the life of the computer to leave it running all the time?

A: No. Computers can be left



*Vernon Eric Smith, owner of Elaycire Technology Consulting
Courtesy Photos*

running 24/7. As a matter of fact, the default setting for Microsoft Windows 10/11 to update is 3:00 a.m. If the computer is turned off overnight, it will update once it is powered on. You may be annoyed by the update messages.

Q: What is the most efficient way to back up data?

A: Use a USB device to back up your important data or use the backup feature built into Windows 10/11.

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The Black Queen in All of Her Splendor and Glory

Lawyer and Artist Anson Asaka Honors Black Women Through Exhibit

By Ursula V. Battle

From the courtroom to the canvas, Anson Asaka is making his mark. The work of the civil rights attorney and visual artist is currently on display at katsea gallery located at 1 West Pennsylvania Avenue in Towson, Maryland. Entitled *The Black Queen in All of Her Splendor and Glory*, the solo exhibition opened March 4, 2023, and will be on view through March 31, 2023. The exhibition celebrates and honors Black women during Women's History Month and is free and open to the public.

"This exhibition is for mothers, sisters, wives... every woman in our lives," said Asaka. "It's about celebrating and uplifting them. What inspired me to do this was when I traveled to Paris, I also went to the Palace at Versailles and saw images celebrating white women. That's natural in a European country, and I thought about the African American equivalent to this kind of celebration of women. I decided to create a tribute to our women."

He added, "I wanted to make a difference and to celebrate our women during this special month, especially in light of some of the things we see on social media and hear in some of the music. These things were some of the motivating things behind the exhibit."

The exhibition includes paintings of famous Black women as well as those who are not well-known.

"This exhibition celebrates the accomplishments of Black women in every single career field," said Asaka. "Women in entertainment, such as singing and acting to athletics. The exhibition celebrates women in law such as lawyers and judges, women politicians, and trailblazers in writing and activism. The exhibition also recognizes local heroes here in Baltimore who are doing great things."

He added, "I wanted to celebrate all these great women now by giving them their flowers while they are still alive. I wanted to celebrate them through my art."

Asaka is a Baltimore-based, self-taught visual artist. He has completed commissioned paintings for FMC Corporation and the Howard County Public Library, East Columbia Branch. Recently, Artspace in Richmond, Virginia selected Asaka to participate in the JAZZ: February/March Juried Exhibition. When he is not painting

and drawing, he serves as senior associate general counsel for the NAACP national office in Baltimore, Maryland. He has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Howard University and Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey.

"Since I was a kid, I've always been into drawing and painting as far back as I can remember," said

Asaka. "Within the last couple of years I've really been focused on it. I've had three solo exhibitions, and this was



Anson Asaka, civil rights attorney and visual artist
Courtesy photo



Anson Asaka's painting of Lupita Nyong'o.
Courtesy photo

the first one that I've had at a gallery. I've also had one at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. For a long period of time, I did not paint or draw. Fortunately, someone inspired me to get back into the arts."

He continued, "When my daughter was young, I took her to an art workshop at the Baltimore Museum of Art. One of the facilitators saw a sample of my art that I was doing with my daughter and liked my work. They encouraged me to paint or draw every day. From then on, I got back into my art, and I have really focused on taking it very seriously."

Asaka says some of the artwork on exhibition is available for sale.

"I'm trying to make the most out of my talent of art. My art is not just for art's sake. My artwork usually has a social justice dimension to it. My last exhibition was about using art to protest against police brutality."

Asaka's exhibition at katsea gallery kicked-off with an opening reception.

"A lot of people really appreciate the artwork and the event, which also centered around the theme of celebrating women," he said. "The

reception received a lot of attention along with the artwork. The reaction has been very positive, and I'm very pleased with how the exhibition has been received."

Asaka encourages those who haven't seen the exhibition to experience it for themselves.

"People who come out to see the exhibition can expect to see powerful images of extraordinary Black women and ordinary Black women," said Asaka. "The exhibition includes paintings of my mom, my mom and her sister, and my two daughters. My hope is that people will see themselves in these paintings and the possibilities and that there are no limits in terms of what our women can accomplish and what they can do. Not only in the professional arena, but in family life as mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters. I want people to take pride in themselves by seeing themselves in these powerful, great images of success and accomplishment."

For exhibition hours, visit www.katseagallery.com. You can learn more about Asaka and his artwork on his Instagram page [@the_asaka_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/the_asaka_gallery).

Women's History Month

An Educational Trailblazer and Visionary

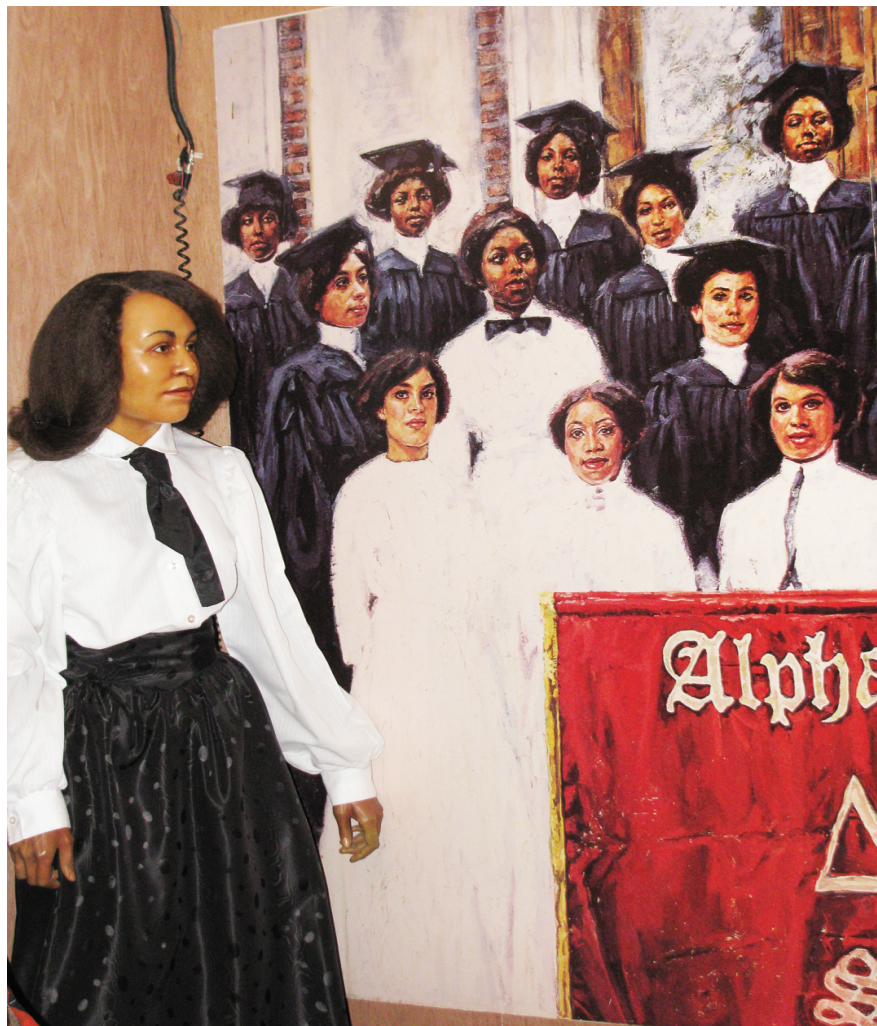
Delta Sigma Theta Co-Founder Vashti Turley Murphy

By Ursula V. Battle

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University. These students wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to those in need. In March of 1913, the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. performed their first public act, participating in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C.

Vashti Turley Murphy was among this remarkable group of women and is among the wax figures you will find at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum located at 1601-1603 E. North Avenue.

"Vashti Turley Murphy is immediately recognized by many visitors to the museum as one of the co-founders of Delta Sigma Theta," said Dr. Joanne Martin, co-founder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. "She was truly a trailblazer. The Murphy family has such a



The wax figure of Vashti Turley Murphy at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Photo courtesy

"Many people visit Turley Murphy's exhibit to see within the context of history, particularly through education and civil rights," said Dr. Martin. "In 2023, her name and legacy is still very relevant. That says a lot about the tremendous contributions she made to society."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was incorporated in 1930. Today, the sorority has 1,000 collegiate and alumnae chapters located in the United States, Canada, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, West Africa, Southern African, United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Korea.

Dr. Frances 'Toni' Draper is the Chairman of the Board and Publisher of The AFRO-American Newspapers. A member of the Deltas, the following is an excerpt from a piece Dr. Draper wrote about her grandmother Vashti Turley Murphy in a piece published by The AFRO-American Newspapers:

"More than 60 years ago, in a speech for a Delta sponsored mother-daughter luncheon, Grandmother said, "As a founder, it has been my privilege to rejoice quietly in the growth of this child; to see it stretch north, south, east and west; to see it expand into regions, boards, committees and projects. It has been a joy to note its work in fellowship, libraries and the creation of jobs; to discover that everywhere Delta goes, it encourages women to reach for the noblest, the highest and the best in our civilization and shed its sweetness and light upon our communities."

To see the wax figure of Turley Murphy and other African American champions, visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum. For more information including hours of operation visit <https://www.greatblacksinwax.org/>

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Website

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Layout

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times

2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201

Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627

www.baltimoretimes-online.com

rich history. She was married to Carl Murphy. The two had the same sense of purpose regarding the struggle of Black people and doing everything within their power to bring about change."

Under the editorial control of Carl Murphy, The AFRO-American Newspaper rose to national prominence. He served as its editor-publisher for 45 years, using the editorial pages of The Afro-American to push for the hiring of African Americans by Baltimore's police and fire departments; to press for black representation in the legislature; and for the establishment of a state supported university to educate African Americans.

Born in 1884 in Washington, DC, Turley Murphy graduated from Howard in 1914. She was founder of the Baltimore Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and co-founded the Philomathian Club, a Black women's study group. She encouraged all Delta alumnae to vote, and to join the NAACP. She was a member of the board of directors of the Baltimore YWCA, president of the St. James Episcopal Church Women's Auxiliary, a member of the wives' club of Alpha Phi Alpha and the first president of the Women's Auxiliary of Crownsville State Hospital.

continued from cover

Chrissy Thornton Takes the Helm at Associated Black Charities

ABC started in 1985 by a group of Black businessmen and women, in addition to leaders in the faith community, according to Thornton.

“It has always been a statewide organization. I think a lot of our work and impact has happened in Baltimore because of the demographics there and it just having such an economic disparity for Black people that it’s provided a great case study of how to approach some similar issues in other areas of the state and eventually other areas of the country,” Thornton said.

The racial wealth gap, workplace discrimination, issues with healthcare equity and health care access, housing policies, education inequality and the criminal justice system are some

of ABC’s focal areas along with advocacy. Financial literacy is taught through a Black wealth series.

“We also are hosting webinars monthly to highlight how equity has played a role in professional life and also helping Black people to navigate some of the obstacles created by racism in the workplace. We also do a lot around racial equity training for organizations that need workplace support from us,” Thornton said.

ABC’s community conversations is an in-person addition.

“That’s actually something that we’re doing that’s new to 2023 and we’re really excited about those. It’s really steeped in my, I would say, strategic analysis of the organization’s work and our desire to focus on really engaging with the Black community. So, I think it’s been a priority of mine personally to make sure that we’re actually hearing from the Black community about what their needs are so we can respond with purposeful programming that has real meaningful impact,” Thornton said.

The first session took place in Baltimore’s Cherry Hill. Another event will be held this month in the Johnston Square neighborhood.

“We don’t have the capacity to solve all of the problems, but we certainly have had years of success in being able to bring entities together who can bring forward solutions, and so that’s our goal,” Thornton said.



*Chrissy Thornton, president and CEO,
Associated Black Charities*

Photo credit: Flawless Photos and Videos

Data from the inaugural session was recorded. An open letter was published on ABC’s website with the intent of presenting a call to action for any organizations, businesses, community leaders or agencies that had resolutions that they could bring forward to help solve the issues that were identified.

“It’s not only had very positive response, but we are literally in the process of brokering and convening solutions to some of the problems that were presented, because organizations responded to that call and are stepping up where they have capacity and resources to help serve that community, because we issued the call,” Thornton said.

She added that ABC’s visibility and communication of impact may not have been as prominent, but most of what is currently underway has been in the wheelhouse. For example, ABC Academy is now featured on the organization’s website. It is now accessible to anyone who needs it.

“It is a video resource library that features a video series on Black

wealth, one on financial literacy and we plan to grow that series to include features on diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as young adult leadership,” Thornton said.

Bernard K. Sims, Director of Culture/Community for ABC, has been working at the nonprofit for nine years. He wants people to know that ABC is resilient, capable, and equipped to continue doing the work that the organization has always done.

“I would say ABC’s greatest impact is creating a heightened awareness/education around institutional/structural racism and the ability to partner with other leaders and organizations in this space to move this work,” Sims said, while reflecting on ABC’s collective accomplishments.

Sims added a point that aligns with Thornton’s sentiments.

“Even though there’s been a change in leadership, our goal and mission remain unwavering,” Sims stated.

Visit www.abc-md.org to obtain more information about ABC.

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Re-Fueling JET Magazine Where Everyone Can Be ‘Beauty of the Week’

By Stacy M. Brown

Remember “Beauty of the Week,” JET magazine’s famous page 43, which featured Black women college students, actors, nurses, and everyday girls in swimsuits? Now, anyone can be a “Beauty of the Week” or even grace the cover as the iconic publication re-sets digitally and where readers and fans can go to myjetstory.com and upload their photos and create a personalized Jet cover.

“Everybody has a JET story,” said Daylon Goff, the president of JET.

“I’m always rocking JET merchandise, and when someone finds out what I do for a living, they immediately give me their JET story. Unprompted.”

For Goff, that’s all the fuel he needed to help in what he calls the re-set of JET.

“It’s super exciting for me to be able to take this on,” Goff insisted. “When you hear Beauty of the Week, you don’t have to even say JET Beauty of the Week. It’s synonymous. I get those conversations from both men and women at least three times a week.”

Founded in 1951 by John H. Johnson, JET proved a mainstay in primarily Black households across America. Like Ebony, founded six years earlier, JET chronicled Black life in America and provided a lens into the African American community that mainstream media either ignored or misrepresented. Goff recalled the disturbing but necessary images JET published in 1955 of

Emmett Till’s body after he was lynched and tortured.

“We had to be bold because you have that full ownership and understanding of the significance of that story,” Goff related.

“Jet was to the Emmett Till story what Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook live was to George Floyd. It started a movement. It wasn’t like little Black boys and men weren’t getting killed in Mississippi in 1955, but when you saw it on those pages, you felt you had to do something.

“The same way when you saw on social media George Floyd’s murder, you had to do something about it because it wasn’t as if before that moment, Black men weren’t getting killed by the police.”

While JET told real stories about real people, most readers began with page 43. With the re-set, Goff said one shouldn’t expect an immediate return of the “Beauty of the Week.”

“It was relatable and owned by our community,” Goff explained.

“The ‘Beauty of the Week’ was a college student at Fayetteville, a nurse, secretary, or actress. Relatable people that we all thought were attainable. But how can we be relevant to our audience in a world that’s different and the way we consume information and get information?”

For instance, Goff wondered what would happen if Rihanna is chosen as the first beauty.

“Then Lizzo fans could say, ‘What about her?’ And if we choose Lizzo, RuPaul could say, ‘What about me?’” Goff stated.

“People would have every right to say that Jet is saying ‘I’m not beautiful.’”



Daylon Goff, president of JET magazine
Courtesy photo



A JET cover from
October 13, 1955.

Photo credit:
Wikimedia Commons

Indeed, JET was social media before Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Going viral in pre-social media days meant being on the cover of JET. Goff, whose background is brand marketing, understands that the Jet re-set is a challenging assignment, but he’s thrilled to take it on.

“I call this being re-fueled by JET. We can be relevant to our audience in a world that’s different, and the way we consume information and get information is different,” he stated.

“I also have to be relevant to an audience in a way that Ebony isn’t cannibalized. And we can do that. If we compare Ebony and JET to iconic television characters, Ebony is Claire Huxtable, and Jet is Martin [Lawrence]. They both speak to the Black experience but in a different way.”

The key, Goff said, is figuring out

how to keep JET around for the next 70 or so years.

“Basketball legend Charles Barkley still refers to JET as the ‘Black Bible,’” Goff said, but the challenge is to ensure that a younger generation connects with the publication.

“Talking to 20 and 25-year-olds, I’m sometimes surprised that they are familiar with Jet,” Goff said. “People never threw away JET. They put them in boxes, and I’m sure there’s a ton in someone’s attic. You just had to hold on to them. There’s a spark from the younger generation; for me, it’s about igniting that spark.”

Goff continued, “The great part about the next generation is that they also grew up with this computer in their pocket and can find and search for knowledge. So, we need to ensure that our iconic brands remain for years.”

A Woman's History Month Reflection

Lessons of Empowerment Learned from Flying in the Skies

By Andrea Blackstone

Barbara Brotman Kaylor, CEO of Rooftop Communications, stays busy running her successful advertising, public relations and marketing company. The Owings Mills-based business leader strives to achieve a commendable work-life balance. Her hobbies include staying connected with family, working out every morning and flying.

"I'm a commercial pilot and flight instructor," Brotman Kaylor said. "I started flying when I was 14."

Now in her sixties, Brotman Kaylor became a licensed pilot at just 17 years old. She mentioned that it is the youngest age that an individual can become a licensed pilot.

Upon reflection about her journeys, the pilot who likes to stay young, fit and healthy recalled flying to places such as California, Florida, Nantucket, Massachusetts, Mexico and even the Bahamas. She even reminisced in the past by flipping through old log books. Although they



Barbara Brotman Kaylor sits in the cockpit of a plane.
Photo credit: Piper Tudder



Barbara Brotman Kaylor, CEO and pilot balances family, work obligations and lifelong hobbies.
Photo credit: Piper Tudder

are important to have for insurance purposes, because it serves as proof of flights and certifications, they also can have sentimental value. Brotman Kaylor compared scanning them visually with looking through old photo albums, although log books contain writing.

"I've taken a plane pretty much everywhere," Brotman Kaylor said. "I used to fly out of BWI. Now, I fly out of Martin State Airport."

Brotman Kaylor's father was a dentist who introduced her to her flying hobby. She followed in his footsteps of becoming a pilot and a flight instructor.

"I think he was looking for something for us to do together to create a bond between father and daughter and we flew together as a family weekly. He thought it would be fun for me to learn how to fly and I loved it," Brotman Kaylor said.

The pilot further remarked that it is much more fun to fly with someone else. Brotman Kaylor is unafraid to soar to a city with a friend, grab lunch, then

turn around and take flight back home.

Flying has not only been a hobby in Brotman Kaylor's life. It became a full-time endeavor when Brotman Kaylor was just 22 years old. She flew commercially for a company called Air Inc of Maryland (Aircraft Instruction and Rental Incorporated of Maryland). Back then, Brotman Kaylor took a corporation's executives wherever they needed to go.

Flying positively impacted Brotman Kaylor's personal development.

"It empowered me to be very strong and confident. I truly believe that my strength as a woman and as an individual really stems from my background in aviation," she said.

Brotman Kaylor also worked as a flight instructor after she grew tired of the commercial flying schedule interfering with her personal life.

"I love teaching. I love giving other people the power to fly the aircraft," Brotman Kaylor stated.

But family, life and business led Brotman Kaylor to take an

approximate 20-year hiatus from flying. When her youngest daughter got married last September, the flying bug reenergized Brotman Kaylor to take to the skies during the next stage of her life. She reached out to a flight school based at Martin State Airport. The transition was pretty fast. Paul Kaiser got her back up to speed with her flying, including regulations. Brotman Kaylor explained that a pilot medical recertification requirement must be fulfilled. It is valid for 12 months at a time.

"I had to get my medical redone and get certified. The world of flying has drastically changed since I was flying 20 years prior to that. Not the flying the plane has changed, that all came back very quickly, but airspace has really changed and there was a lot of education that I needed. Things are all digital now with what's called a glass cockpit instead of the old steam gauge instruments. I believe it's a safer world out there than it was when I was flying 40 years ago taking a plane out for fun,"

Brotman Kaylor stated that it is critical for women to be persistent about trying new things or hobbies. Her 32-year-old daughter, Cori Kaylor Stethem, resides in Dallas, Texas. She has taken notice of her mother's confident and adventurous spirit. Brotman Kaylor shared that Kaylor Stethem recently remarked that "most people, when they get older, start playing, Sudoku. My mom got current as a commercial pilot and flight instructor."

Brotman Kaylor is a reminder that life should be enjoyed in the midst of work and life's busy obligations. Fear should be exchanged for bravery. Gender stereotypes can be chipped away and eradicated.

"There's no reason why somebody can't try something that a man does. I think especially in today's world," Brotman Kaylor added.

Youth Artist Spotlight

Fourth Grader, Chad Colston's Artwork Hosted by BMA

By Andrea Blackstone

Chad Colston, 10, is a creative fourth grader who attends Roland Park Elementary School. Chad is the grandson of The Baltimore Times' account executive, Sharon Bunch. Bunch's grandson recalls making a still life self-portrait art piece under the guidance of his art teacher, Kitt Repass.

"It took me a couple months to do it," Chad said, explaining why he worked hard on it. "I came to her (Ms. Repass') class every day in the morning so that I could finish it. Ms. Repass told me about the art show and I really wanted to be in it."

Repass mentioned Chad's hard working, positive attitude led to Chad's opportunity to have his artwork showcased. Chad's creation will be displayed with artwork created by pre-K through twelfth grade students at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) as a part of the 17th annual Student Art Showcase, FYI (For Your Inspiration!) exhibition from March 15-19, 2023. FYI showcases an array of Baltimore City Public Schools' brightest and best student visual artists like Chad, according to a press release. At least 320 pieces are included in the art show. Participating students represent 68 schools. The works of art will be featured in-person at the BMA and in Baltimorecityschoolsfinearts.org's virtual grade level galleries.

Chad is a first-time art show participant. He reflected on an important lesson learned about putting in hard work to achieve artistic greatness.

"The more you try, the more you can get better at it," Chad said. Repass mentioned that she teaches 750 art students weekly. The art teacher further explained that she selected four of her elementary students' artwork to be included in the art showcase. The assignment was inspired by French visual artist, Henri Matisse's artwork.

"When it came down to it, I chose four artworks from students who had put a lot of effort, care, time and love into their work. Chad had just put so much incredible detail in his portrait. He wasn't finished by the time the project was over in our class, and I just was heartbroken to see it not finished, so he came mornings before school started for the last few months like trying to finish it up," Repass explained. "His artwork will be hanging in the gallery along with the Matisse artwork."

FYI Art Showcase Week will be underway from Wednesday – Sunday, March 15-19, 2023. A reception will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday March 18, 2023, at BMA, located at 10 Museum Drive in Baltimore, Maryland. Admission is free. Information about the event can be found online at <https://artbma.org/exhibition/baltimore-city-public-scfhools-student-exhibition>, or by calling visitor services at 443-573-1701.



MEET THE ARTIST

Chad Colston

Chad's artwork has been selected to show for the annual BCPS art show this spring at the Baltimore Museum of Art! A Family Celebration and Showcase will occur on Saturday March 18th at 2pm. The artwork will be on display from March 15th-March 19th.

Baltimore Museum of Art
10 Art Museum Drive,
Baltimore, MD 21218

Rambling Rose

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME GIVES US
MORE TIME TO PLAY



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello Everyone,

How are you? How have you enjoyed our wonderful winter season? I loved it. Well, it depends on what part of Maryland you live in. I do understand in some parts of Maryland they did have ice and snow. I am so damn glad Baltimore City and Baltimore County missed out on that. No, I'm not! I am glad we missed out on shoveling the snow and putting out ice melt. Yes, we were blessed with a fantastic winter!

I will start off by saying that the tribute to the legendary **Mickey Fields** that was held at Towson University last week was awesome. "Shorty" and I had a chance to see his family again, including his wife, Connie Fields, and his son and daughter Michael and Jackie. They are such a wonderful and loving family. The scholarship was awarded to a young upright bass player, **Quinn Ketteringham**. He performed on stage with **Craig Alston**, a multi-instrumentalist and composer in woodwind, brass wind, keyboard, and bass guitar; **Gregory Hatza**, renowned organist and keyboardist and vocalist; **Gregory Thompkins**, drummer, and the music director of The Baltimore Jazz Education Project; Tom Williams, trumpeter and drummer; and **Eric Kennedy**, drummer, vocalist, educator, and composer. The purpose of the fund was to provide scholarship funds for a jazz student. Several scholarships shall be awarded per year.

I want to inform you and others that the Grind & Wine has made their mark in the Randallstown area. If you haven't visited this restaurant, located at 3627 Offutt Road in the shopping center in Randallstown, Maryland, then I suggest that you do soon. Grind & Wine should

be known all over Baltimore County and the city. It is making a lot of noise in the area—real good noise. They have a special "fish Fry" every Friday, live entertainment including musicians like my musical son, Isaac Parham every Saturday starting at 7 p.m. and Karaoke night every Wednesday at 6 p.m. The WORD is out. They are doing the Humpty Dumpty and the merry-go-round with their food, too. The folks are loving it. Oh! By the way, they not only serve their customers indoors, but they also offer outdoor dining too. You can call them at 443-405-7070 to order to-go meals.

Please check out another one of my music children, Todd Marcus. He is doing a damn good job at Werner's Diner & Pub on Redwood Street on Thursdays. He brings in local live musicians to perform every Thursday starting at 5 p.m. Todd, "Boo-Boo" and I will stop by to see you real soon.

I understand that the Bandoleros Motorcycle Club "Mother Chapter" located 2025 Edmondson Avenue in Baltimore is having a Fish & Chicken Fry on Saturday, April 1, 2023, from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call 410-982-3344.

Well, my dear friends, by the time you read this, my "Boo-Boo" and I will be heading out to the Timonium Fairgrounds for the Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Fest that is going on March 24-25th, 2023. It will be held on Friday, March 24 from 6-10 p.m., and on Saturday the event will take place from noon-6pm located 2200 York Road.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space, and I've got to go. But remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.



Bennie Hughes, the husband of Helen Hughes, passed away on February 23, 2023. He and Helen had been married for 55 years. Bennie was also the brother of Judson Hughes. Bennie's viewing and funeral will take place on March 20, 2023, at 10 a.m. at March Life Tribute Center, 5617 Old Court Road in Radallstown, Maryland. Helen is now residing at the Atrium Village at Lakeside.



Renowned musician, Todd Marcus is the host of "Jazz Night" at Werner's Diner and Pub, located at 231 Redwood Street in Baltimore. He presents live jazz with new bands every Thursday at 5 p.m. Towson University.



Larry Young is gearing up for his podcast very soon. It is in the works!



Grind & Wine Restaurant located 3627 Offutt Road in Randallstown, Maryland in the Shopping Center is jumping up and down doing the James Brown with their live entertainment every Saturday and their Karaoke Night on Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. (Kelly Carter, owner, inset)

UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M
MUSICALLY YOURS.

Three Free Agents the Ravens Should Consider



Bud Dupree
Photo credit: Getty Images

By Tyler Hamilton

The two-day negotiation period before the league year started on March 15, 2023 expired without any moves by the Baltimore Ravens. The team lost free agent guard Ben Powers to the Denver Broncos and tight end Josh Oliver to the Minnesota Vikings. The Ravens also released veteran defensive tackle Calais Campbell.

The big news regarding the non-exclusive franchise tag being placed on quarterback Lamar Jackson has overshadowed the lack of action from Baltimore in free agency. Jackson revealing that he received a guaranteed three-year contract offer worth \$133 million pushed free agent news further down the line, but the fact remains, Baltimore hasn't done much to improve their roster a week into the free agent period.

Here are three free agents the Ravens should target as the free agency period continues:

Wide Receiver Marvin Jones

Jones spent last season with the Jacksonville Jaguars. He started 10 games, played in 16 and finished with 46 receptions for 529 yards and three touchdowns. At 32 years old, Jones is still able to stretch the field and provide a veteran presence on the outside. Signing Jones to a low-cost deal fits with the Ravens limited cap space. Jones would provide leadership for a young receiver group that is looking to prove themselves.

Left Guard Rodger Saffold

Ravens coach John Harbaugh has always been a proponent of physical players. Saffold is a people mover that is especially solid in run blocking but

adequate in pass protection as well. Saffold fills the void at left guard created by Powers moving on in free agency. At 32 years old, Saffold is a veteran with playoff experience that would give the Ravens a starter for 2023 at a relatively modest cost.

Outside Linebacker Bud Dupree

The Titans released Dupree in a cost-cutting move last week. It became official at the start of the league year. Dupree's rugged style of play fits perfectly with the Ravens defense. Adding a player that brings a pass rush presence and aggressively sets the edge against the run is ideal for Baltimore. Dupree started 11 games last season and had four sacks. The Ravens could cash in if Dupree can steer clear of injury which he hasn't done over the last two seasons.

continued from page 2

Computer Health Checkups and Security **An Expert** **Shares Tips** **About What You** **Should Know**

Q: Does using public Wi-Fi increase the risk of a computer getting hacked?

A: Yes, it does increase the risk of being exposed to hackers. One of the nice features built into every website is the use of SSL (the padlock icon) users see while browsing the internet. This means that all the data being transmitted from your computer browser to the website server is encrypted. This will prevent casual hackers from intercepting and viewing your data, but it will not stop the determined hacker.

Q: What can happen when hackers access your computer?

A: Hackers can read your data, possibly redirect you to a malicious website, or install a virus.

Q: Who is likely to send email spam and what impact can it have?

A: Hackers and marketers cast their net as wide as possible. Some of the creators of the spam may insert malicious links within the body of the email.

Q: How can you keep your computer running in tip top shape?

A: Keep the operating system updated. Keep the anti-virus and anti-malware software updated. Enable spam and junk mail filters within the email application. Add known users to your contact list. All other mail will be filtered. Only click on links in emails from senders that you know. If an email doesn't seem legitimate, don't open it. Call the sender and confirm they sent it.

Visit www.elaycire.com to learn more about Smith's business.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23009, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, NORTH-EAST, SECTOR-I** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 26, 2023**, at 11:00 A.M. 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. As of **MARCH 17, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from

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\$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **APRIL 14, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 2,400 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 1,300 LF and Sidewalk 6,500 SF.** The MBE Goal is **20%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. **APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates**

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23010, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, NORTHWEST, SECTOR-II** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 26, 2023**, at 11:00 A.M. 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. As of **MARCH 17, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Fi-

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nance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **APRIL 14, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 2,800 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 900 LF and Sidewalk 7,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **20%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. **APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Esti-**

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23011, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SOUTHWEST, SECTOR-III** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 26, 2023**, at 11:00 A.M. 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

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215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 17, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **APRIL 14, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 2,700 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 1,400 LF and Sidewalk 8,700 SF.** The MBE Goal is **20%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. **APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates**

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23012, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SOUTHEAST, SECTION-IV** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 26, 2023**, at 11:00 A.M. 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. As of **MARCH 17, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be con-

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ducted via Microsoft Teams on **APRIL 14, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 2,600 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 1,025 LF and Sidewalk 7,500 SF.** The MBE Goal is **20%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **F.A.P. NO. AC-TAP-000B (666) E, S.H.A. NO. AXA14B51, CITY OF BALTIMORE CONTRACT NO. TR-17303, INNER HARBOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS & BIKE/PED WAYFINDING SIGNAGE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MAY 17, 2023** at 11:00 A.M. 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. As of **MARCH 15, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$100.00)** at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Con-

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tractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **G90029-All types of Pavement Markings, D02620-CURBS, GUTTER, SIDEWALKS).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$800,000.00 to \$1,100,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **APRIL 12, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. **By no later than APRIL 11, 2023**, all Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to ravic.miller@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **9 INCH PLAIN PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVEMENT MIX 9 - 1,400 SY; BRICK/UNIT PAVERS WITH 5 INCH CONCRETE SLAB AND ASPHALT SETTING BED - 4,100 SF.; TYPE X DUCT SECTION 2 - 4 IN ID 2W x 1H - 1,000 LF.** The DBE Goal is **11%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Clerk, Board of Estimates

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Baltimore City Department of Transportation - PUBLIC NOTICE

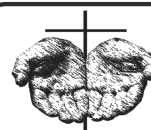
The Baltimore City Department of Transportation is applying for Federal Transit Administration and Maryland Transit Administration financial assistance to support the continuation of the Ridesharing/Commuter Assistance Program for Baltimore City. Through this grant, Baltimore City will work to provide ride matching, van-pool assistance, and regional transportation options to employees commuting to or within Baltimore City.

Written comments concerning this application will be considered. Comments should be submitted by **Friday, March 31, 2023** to the Baltimore City Rideshare Program at tammy.walters@baltimorecity.gov, by leaving a voicemail at 410-396-7665, or via mail to DOT Transit Bureau, 417 E. Fayette Street, 5th Floor, Room 559, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Upon receiving a sufficient number of requests, a virtual public hearing will be conducted on **Friday, April 7, 2023.**

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