

# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Md. Food Bank Receives \$300K From Giant in Fight Against Hunger, Food Insecurity



Giant Food representatives presented a \$300,000 check to Maryland Food Bank (MFB) on March 22, 2023 at Billie Holiday Elementary School in Baltimore City. The school serves anywhere between 35 to 40 families a month and has been a MFB school pantry site since 2014. The financial donation will support MFB's School Pantry Program. (L-R): Grethen Derewicz, Regional Program Director for Baltimore City; Teana Coulter, Maryland Food Bank; Elise M. Krikau, Senior Vice President, Development, Maryland Food Bank; Joe Urban, Vice President, Supply Chain Operations, Giant Food; Carmen Del Guercio, President and CEO, Maryland Food Bank; Kori Leach, Community School Coordinator, Billie Holiday Elementary School; Felis Andrade, Director of External Communications and Community Relations; and John Arons, Giant Food attended the brief ceremony. (See more on page 4) Photo credit: Paris Brown



## Join the Good Deeds Day Movement 2023

# Shining the Spotlight on the Jewish Volunteer Connection

Amidst the unsettling world and local news of violence and dissension, the idea of doing good deeds to make the world a better place is still alive and well. Good Deeds Day 2023 will take place on Sunday, April 16, 2023, this year.

“I believe that if people will think good, speak good and do good, the circles of goodness will grow in the world,” Shari Arison, the initiator of Good Deeds Day once said.

Arison—a philanthropist and businesswoman— took interest in kicking off the day in 2007.

“The first Good Deeds Day kicked off with 7,000 volunteers in Israel,” according to the Good Deeds Day website. “Now, millions of people from thousands of businesses, nonprofits, schools, families, and individual good-doers have taken part.”

It was also mentioned that “over 100 countries worldwide “have participated to make a positive impact on other people and the planet.

Jewish Volunteer Connection (JVC), a nonprofit that is based in the Park Heights community in Baltimore, Maryland, will host the Baltimore area’s Good Deeds Day again. JVC has been hosting Good Deeds Day since 2013.

JVC will offer various service project placements through nonprofit partners. Examples of some of the 11 opportunities to volunteer include dog kennel cleanup and grounds upkeep at Baltimore Humane Society; sorting donations for Second Chance, Inc.; sorting donations and taking inventory of used sports equipment with Leveling the Playing Field; and serving lunch to women and children at My Sister’s Place Women’s Center.

JVC is also hosting its own service project to celebrate the third birthday of its Bunches of Lunches program. Since April of 2020, the organization has rallied the community to donate hundreds of meals weekly to help

fight food insecurity in Baltimore. Volunteers will pack 400 lunches for individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty and food insecurity. The lunches will be donated to local nonprofits. A \$5 volunteer registration fee covers supplies for making bagged lunches. Volunteers will participate on Sunday, April 16, 2023, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Har Sinai – Oheb Shalom Congregation, located at 7310 Park Heights Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland.

“We believe that volunteerism is a great engagement tool. It’s something that a lot of people in our community are passionate about so we’re excited to use volunteerism and create volunteer opportunities to engage people from all across our community,” Alli Berger said. “Volunteerism is never going to address the systemic needs of our community. That makes logical sense, but what volunteerism does is it meets those urgent needs that need to be addressed right now.”

The senior associate who works for JVC planning volunteer programming explained that JVC is a part of the Macks Center for Jewish Connections. It is aimed at engaging Jewish Baltimore in different kinds of programs and providing a connection to resources for the purpose of creating a thriving Jewish community in Baltimore. Good Deeds Day is just one of JVC’s volunteer programs.

Berger further noted that people outside of the Jewish community can participate in JVC’s programming.

“Not all of our volunteers are Jewish,” she said. “If people want to volunteer, we’re going to help them find something meaningful.”

Additionally, JVC finds out the needs of the organizations with whom they partner, to strengthen their collective impact.

“We partner with several nonprofits in Baltimore. Very few of them are



*Volunteers help to clean up a local park. Photo credit: David Stuck*

Jewish. Some are other religions, but mostly just secular, amazing organizations helping people experiencing a variety of issues in our community,” Berger said.

She added that the Bunches of Lunches program meals are generally not donated to members of the Jewish community. They are provided to whomever needs them and has relationships with nonprofits where the meals are taken.

“We’ve heard from some of those nonprofits that the meals we’re

delivering are the only meals those clients are going to get in a day,” Berger said.

JVC assists volunteers to give back to schools, shelters, hospitals, synagogues and organizations throughout Baltimore. Building a viable network in the Baltimore community supports JVC’s vision and mission of strengthening communities through supporting “purposeful and committed volunteering.”

*continued on page 9*

## NOTICE

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## **The Baltimore Times**

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# Md. Food Bank Receives \$300K From Giant in Fight Against Hunger, Food Insecurity

By Demetrius Dillard

Maryland Food Bank, one of the state's leading hunger relief organizations, was the recipient of a hefty donation from Giant Food that will allow the nonprofit to further its mission in fighting hunger and food insecurity through providing a reliable source of healthy food to children and families in the region.

In a brief ceremony on the morning of March 22, 2023 at Billie Holiday Elementary School in West Baltimore, Giant Food representatives presented a \$300,000 check to Maryland Food Bank (MFB) that will support the organization's School Pantry Program. School leaders were also in attendance.

The donation was made through the grocer's Giant Family Foundation.

Among the most well-known grocers in the Mid-Atlantic, Giant Food has partnered with MFB for decades and regularly supports the nonprofit in a variety of ways, from volunteering assistance, to direct food donations, to monetary donations and fundraising campaigns.

Studies show that students are more likely to succeed when they are well-nourished. Fighting hunger has always been Giant's top charitable pillar, according to a company spokesman.

"Kids are more likely to exceed in and out of school when they are not hungry," said Jonathan Arons, the communications and community relations manager for Giant Food.

Arons said that he and his colleagues enjoyed their time at Billie Holiday Elementary School while getting to speak with school and food bank leaders. Giant Food representatives visited the school's pantry and learned more about how the program benefits their students, Arons added.

While the check presentation signified a major victory for local students and families and was a



**Joe Urban, Vice President, Supply Chain Operations, Giant Food and Carmen Del Guercio, President and CEO, Maryland Food Bank hold a \$300,000 check that was presented to Maryland Food Bank. Photo credit: Paris Brown**

monumental step in the fight against hunger, there still remains much work to be done, Arons noted. Thousands of Baltimore City residents, many of whom are children in the public school system, face the harsh realities of chronic food insecurity while residing in food deserts.

"Unfortunately, we know that the need is still there which is why it is important for us to continue to support MFB and other programs that fight food insecurity," he said. "This program will help provide millions of meals again this year to help make sure our youth are food secure and can succeed."

Billie Holiday Elementary School has housed one of MFB's School Pantry Program sites since 2014, serving anywhere between an estimated 35 to 40 families a month.

Last year, the program operated out of 178 school sites and distributed enough food to provide nearly 2.3 million meals.

The grant funding will help support MFB youth programs — known collectively as "MFB Kids" — including the nonprofit's school pantry, supper club and summer clubs. In the past, MFB has used Giant's funding to help its youth program partners store and distribute perishable, healthy foods with the purchase of refrigerators, freezers, coolers and thermal blankets while raising awareness around healthy eating by producing a series of informative nutritional videos.

As part of the 2023 Fighting Child Hunger grant, MFB leaders will be able to help food-insecure children and their families gain access to more

than two million pounds of nutritious food through school-based pantries, according to an MFB statement.

"We're grateful to Billie Holiday Elementary School for hosting us for this very special event, and of course, to Giant Food for the incredible donation," MFB officials said.

"We know it's going to take a long time for this economy to recover from all the headwinds it's currently facing. In fact, we expect the elevated need for food assistance to continue for many months, if not years, to come."

Approaching the new year, the food bank's purchasing power was reduced by more than half due to inflation and the rising cost of food. Consequently, the cost of the organization's core business, which is food distribution, has increased significantly. Fortunately, Giant's investment will enable MFB to distribute an estimated 2.5 million pounds of food to nearly 200 schools statewide.

According to MFB, approximately 24,000 households will receive access to food assistance through this donation to these school pantries.

Billie Holiday Elementary, located between the Midtown Edmondson and Mosher neighborhoods in the heart of West Baltimore, is situated within a food desert, highlighting the need for access to essential resources such as the MFB food pantry.

"The Maryland Food Bank's presence in Baltimore City is more important than ever, especially since most of our school pantries reside in Community Schools that serve as hubs of resources for their communities," MFB told The Baltimore Times.

"With continued partnerships from corporations like Giant Food, we're better positioned to meet the evolving needs of all communities facing hunger all across Maryland, including Baltimore City."



# Commentary

## Black Women Leading

### Four Leadership Lessons From Candice C. Jones

Black women have always been at the vanguard of movement work in the United States. **And they have done it despite limited resources and endless challenges.**

The uprising and shifts in justice reform in the last few years have been no exception. Black women are leading the reinvention of our nation's justice system, abandoning tinkering to focus on the tireless work of creating a system that's actually just.

Black women are the leaders we have been waiting for, but they have seldom been acknowledged or sufficiently supported by society for their leadership contributions. As increasing numbers of Black women hold leadership positions and work to usher in transformation across all sectors, we must dissect and advance leadership lessons that honor our unique leadership and perspectives.

After over two decades of working for criminal justice reform in philanthropy and government, I've recognized four fundamental insights for avoiding dis-



**Candice C. Jones**  
Courtesy Photo

traction and achieving goals. While my perspective may not prove helpful for every Black female leader, I hope it starts to offer a perspective currently missing from the leadership discourse.

#### **I. Prepare to be underestimated — and use it to your advantage.**

I have been underestimated in every role I have held. The ability to overlook the hard work and leadership contributions of Black women is a vestige of racism, like so many that plague American society. I do not minimize that truth, but I do acknowledge the reality, and where possible, I use it.

When I joined the U.S. Department of Education as a prestigious fellow, a colleague I was assigned to work with suggested I use the fellowship to write a report that would look good on my resume. I was more interested in writing policy to restore access to educational opportunities than seeing my name in print. Rather than being discouraged by his dismissal of my potential contributions, I saw the appointment as an opportunity to effect change that would improve lives. The report would have sat on a shelf collecting dust. Instead, I seized the opportunity and created the framework to restore Pell grants to thousands of incarcerated adults and youth in custody.

Later, as the Director of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, I was overlooked by a wave of enthusiastic but

largely inexperienced professionals that came with a new administration. While they were paying attention to other matters, I positioned the Administration to close a juvenile prison in a rural jurisdiction that provided inadequate services to Black and Brown kids from Chicago. I accomplished what I set out to do before anyone realized they should have been paying attention to me. Being underestimated is wrong, but it can create the space to work unimpeded. A lot can be accomplished under the radar.

#### **II. Understand the thing you want to change.**

You can't dismantle what you don't understand. Having reverence for the thing being changed allows you to approach the transformation process thoughtfully. When we don't understand what we dismantle, we end up destroying it to the point there's nothing left to rebuild a transformative replacement.

Be a student of the system you've inherited — both its impact and its function. I had to become an expert on the operation of a state prison system, learning each administrative rule and detail of the state's union bargaining agreement to advance the work of system transformation. And it resulted in a closed youth prison.

Studying what you want to change will allow you to target the dismantling and frame a way forward for those you hope to serve.

#### **III. Understand the assignment.**

Too often, we get the job, relish a new title, and forget why we're there. Whenever you take on a new assignment, it is critical to center your goal. In my current philanthropic role, my goal is to drive funding, resources, and investment to people of color.

This focus transcends job title and is fundamentally tied to a goal to advance justice and equity over my lifetime. It's why we've been able to shift our funding from primarily investing in national, white-led organizations to 72 percent of our funding going to proximate, people-of-color-led organizations in just a few years' time.

Stay on assignment. Don't get distracted and forget your goals.

#### **IV. Work with people, not titles.**

This is *imperative*. I've briefed mayors, governors, a U.S. President, and a legion of high-level officials. My job sometimes involved telling these people things they didn't want to hear. I did four things consistently:

- I was the same person in each space.
- I walked into the room knowing my expertise.
- I was consistently professional.
- I came armed with solutions.

We get paid to problem-solve. Rather than focusing on what's broken, offer scenarios that more effectively achieve the end goal. When you're seen as a consistent partner willing to do what it takes to get the job done, you gain trust and respect.

You're serving people, not titles. Remember that.

**Make no mistake; there will be challenges as you lead in your purpose. This work is not for the faint of heart. But the reality is that we can make things happen, and when we do, it transforms the trajectory of where we are going.**

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# A Tribute to the Old 4th Ward in Annapolis Coming in April

By Andrea Blackstone

The intersection of West and Washington Streets in Annapolis, Maryland—which is known as the “Old Fourth Ward’s gateway”—is intertwined in historical pride and pain. Janice Hayes-Williams’ mother, Virginia Phelps Hayes, and grandmother, Louisa Hebron Phelps were born in Annapolis’ Old Fourth Ward. Hayes-Williams is a historian who currently lives in Severn, Maryland who reflected on the importance of an era that is wrapped in memories there.

“It is where my maternal family once lived,” Hayes-Williams said.

She added that it is currently the Second Ward. Many members of African American families like Hayes-Williams’ in Annapolis’ Old Fourth Ward inherited stories about a place that was comprised of businesses, churches and entertainment hot spots. Black and Jewish residents were deeply rooted in it until government action changed the bustling place. Homesteads were lost, too. Hayes-Williams mentioned that the Old Fourth Ward was a self-contained community that was also known as “the Annapolis Black Wall Street.”

“It was decimated by urban renewal in the late sixties and early seventies. I kind of grew up seeing the change and the devastation of whole blocks being wiped out, all because of the urban renewal, which was a state law,” Hayes-Williams said. “There were 33 businesses lost.”

She added that urban renewal caused a surge of public housing in Annapolis because of people being forced to move from their homesteads and having to find a place to live. Along the way, a parking garage for Anne Arundel County employees was added on some of the land. A park that was “nothing” drew homelessness and



*The Old 4th Ward in Annapolis, prior to the parking garage being built.*

Photo courtesy of Maryland State Archives

crime, according to Hayes-Williams.

“I became concerned about the park in 2010. That’s when I worked for Councilman Chris Trumbauer as his legislative aide,” she said. “Chris Trumbauer and I worked to get the park out of Central Services to Recs & Parks. Once that happened it took on a whole new persona because it was now for the people, so the 10th county executive, Steuart Pittman, based on requests, gave the park a name—People’s Park. It was now under Recs & Parks and the cleanup began.”

Hayes-Williams said that people can now use the park as a “better space.” Trumbauer and Hayes-Williams noted that it was saved from development. Trumbauer mentioned that in 2012, he was a county council member who represented that district. He is currently Anne Arundel County’s budget officer.

“People’s Park really is a hub

of action now where you have community events, rallies and other people-centric activities,” Trumbauer also said. “I’m proud to see that the park has become, I think, more important as a focal point to that area and to the community.”

The inclusion of the Speaker Michael E. Busch Amphitheater is among the improvements.

A Tribute to the Old 4th Ward Ribbon Cutting and Community Event will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the People’s Park, located at 44 Calvert Street in Annapolis, Maryland. County Executive Steuart Pittman’s office, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks and others will provide the tribute. New storyboards will be unveiled to honor the Old 4th Ward while celebrating its vibrant history and once thriving community.

Hayes-Williams created three storyboards. She said that one tells

the story of urban renewal. Another recounts the story of the people and what the Fourth Ward was. The third storyboard incorporates men and their commitment to service, including the masons (Freemasons) who were messmen at the United States Naval Academy, veterans of the Civil War and others.

“That storyboard tells about the early organizations out of the Fourth Ward,” Hayes-Williams said. “This was a loving community that was decimated by urban renewal and has taken 10 county executives to give a tribute to those people that were traumatized by the change.”

Hayes-Williams added that those who lost property in the block of the parking garage’s location will be recognized by having their names placed on benches in the park. She credits Pittman for overdue progress that is being made. Pittman added perspective about the park’s evolution and the tribute.

“In 2020 we renamed ‘Whitmore Park’ to ‘People’s Park’ to honor the contributions of the people of the Old 4th Ward,” said County Executive Pittman. “We hope this tribute will bring much-needed awareness and attention to their stories because they deserve to be told.”

Hayes-Williams reflected on hard-earned progress that has been achieved over time, in addition to her contributions to the storyboards.

“If my mother was here, she would be proud,” the historian said.

Register via <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=>

[a07ejoy888d555c367b&llr=9d8tzdeab?oeidk=](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejoy888d555c367b&llr=9d8tzdeab?oeidk=)

[a07ejoy888d555c367b&llr=9d8tzdeab](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejoy888d555c367b&llr=9d8tzdeab) or call Anne Arundel

County Recreation & Parks at 410-222-7316 for further details about the Old 4th Ward tribute and community event.



# Entrepreneur Balances Making Biscuits Her Business, Gives Back Through Incubator

By Andrea Blackstone

Lesley Riley, a Germantown, Maryland resident is founder and CEO of Mama's Biscuits. The serial entrepreneur inherited her grandmother Ida Lillian Stoner's beautiful, handwritten cookbook. Stoner passed away in 2005.

"I always watched her cook, and then I would go out in the country because my dad's family lived there. I'd pick wild blackberries. My other grandmother (Francis Riley) would make blackberry cobbler and homemade slippery pot pie for me," Riley recalled reflecting on childhood years spent in Amish country in Pennsylvania.

Riley inherited cooking genes from two talented grandmothers who influenced her future trajectory of mixing food with business. She worked for the federal government and once owned an upscale restaurant in North Carolina. Riley's journey took another turn when she noticed the lack of healthier biscuits that were available in the marketplace. She also aspired to infuse them with various flavors and began experimenting in her kitchen. Riley's supportive coworkers were her taste testers in 2014.

"I said, 'You guys are going to eat biscuits until the end of the year because I'm going to come up with 50 different flavors,'" Riley said. "Since then, we have created over 50 different flavors of sweet savory, gluten free and vegan biscuits. We are the first certified vegan biscuit on the market. As a matter of fact, we are the only vegan biscuit on the retail market and we have done cobblers. We've sold those on QVC. Now we just started our new themed breakfast



*The Mama's Biscuits team offers America's first gourmet biscuits. Lesley Riley (center) founded the Black-owned brand. Photo credit: Rodgers Polk Photography*

sandwich line which has been picked up nationally. That will launch in September."

Riley added that her company's vegan sandwich is a partnership with JUST Egg and Beyond Meat. Despite her success, the full-time entrepreneur still works a full-time job.

"We rebranded in 2019. So, within two years I took the company to a multi-billion-dollar company and with that I continue to bootstrap the business. It's been a labor of love. We always face issues with capital. I've never done the raising of capital. I'm looking into that now, but I've always bootstrapped my projects and it worked," Riley said. "I didn't sell off a piece of my business. That's what I'm most proud of. I know a lot of people must in order to grow, but by the grace of God, I've been able to maintain it."

Riley makes time to give back to other entrepreneurs through a program

that is offered on a rolling basis. There is no cost to approved participants who must have a food or beverage product. Meals, juices and desserts are several examples.

"I partnered with Hagerstown Community College, and it's called Mama Biscuits Culinary Incubator. We mentor and inspire the next generation of food and beverage startup companies. We offer hourly space, on-site mentoring and business development. We have a financial investment part and we support other entrepreneurs in the community in Hagerstown, Maryland and the surrounding area," Riley said. "I strictly volunteer. I don't get paid to do this, but we currently have 15 food and beverage companies in the incubator right now. Each entrepreneur is matched with four different industry experts."

Riley explained that some participants want to get their products on local or national store shelves. A

virtual program also began in March.

"So, some of the entrepreneurs that are in this program are all across the country," Riley said, noting that several cohorts have evolved to date.

Janese McCutchen from Florida is the owner of Rell-Brook House of Naturals.

"We produce elderberry products. It is for immunity support," McCutchen said. "When I was diagnosed with Lupus, I started making elderberry. Once COVID-19 hit, people got wind of me making this elderberry and my business took off."

McCutchen searched high and low for a mentor. She stated that Riley answered questions when she reached out to her for advice.

"I just thought that was my blessing. God answered my prayers," McCutchen said.

Riley informed McCutchen about the virtual incubator cohort. She became a participant.

"I've gained more knowledge about how to properly prepare my product to get on the retail shelf," McCutchen said.

The entrepreneur explained that her product is currently sold in a few small chain stores in the South Florida area, but she is preparing to pursue selling her product in larger ones.

"We have discussed packaging, we have discussed pricing, and I've learned so much that I didn't know in the past," McCutchen said.

Visit <https://mamabiscuit.com/mamas-biscuit-culinary-incubator-at-hagerstown-community-college/> to learn more under the Mama's Biscuit Culinary Incubator at Hagerstown Community College and visit [www.mamabiscuit.com](http://www.mamabiscuit.com) to obtain more information about Mama's Biscuits.



# Rambling Rose

**46th SEASON OF THE BALTIMORE  
FARMERS' MARKET ON APRIL 2**



**Rosa Pryor Trusty**

Hello my dear friends,

My goodness. How are you enjoying this weather? I ordered it just for you. Can you believe this? Our winter is over and spring is here. We really did not have a real winter this year. I am so excited because more music and so many new events, shows and are coming your way. I am going to tell you all about them.

First, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts has announced the return of the Baltimore Farmers' Market which will open on Sunday, April 2, 2023, bright and early at 7 a.m. underneath the Jones Falls Expressway, located at Holliday and Saratoga Streets. As you know, The Baltimore Farmers' Market has added a monthly event that is called the B-Side. Live entertainment, musicians and performers, special activities, and a lot more will be showcased from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. I will see you there.

I want to say happy 33-year anniversary to my two dear friends, Kevin Brown and William Maughlin. They also own the restaurant at Nancy by SNAC in Baltimore. May you both celebrate 33 more years.

Come to Myra Grand Chapter Tots and Teens Talent Showcase to see amazing and talented youth perform on Saturday, April 8, 2023, from 3-7 p.m. at Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland, located at 1307 Eutaw Place. Children who are ages 5-18 will participate, in addition to individuals and groups. Call Patricia Cousar-Brown at 410-241-2919 for more information.

My talented and gifted friend, Ursula Battle is doing it again. On Good Friday, April 7, 2023, she will present her new stage play called "The Homegoing

Service For A Man Named Jesus." A noon and a 6 p.m. show will be held at Huber Community Life Center, located at 5700 Loch Raven Blvd. For more information, call 443-531-4787.

The African American Music Association and my friend, Beverly Lindsay-Johnson will present a Marvin Gaye Birthday Celebration on Sunday, April 2, 2023 from noon to 5 p.m. Live entertainment featuring R&B, go-go, jazz, gospel, spoken word, hand dance showcase, food vendors, merchandise vendors and a lot more will be held at the Sandlot Anacostia, located at 633 Howard Road, SE, Washington, D.C. This is an outdoor event that is free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chairs. Gate opens at 11 a.m. For more information, call 202-552-0000.

Another outdoor event that you must not miss will be given by Nu Planet Entertainment. The Kings of Southern Soul will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from noon until 9 p.m. at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, located at 10624 Dumfries Road in Manassas, Virginia. The show will feature King South, Fat Daddy, Cadillac Man, Big G, Calvin Richardson, Sir Charles Jones, Tucka, King George, Pokey Bear, West Love, Annie B and my buddy, Dr. Nick Johnson. For more information, call 252-578-3504.

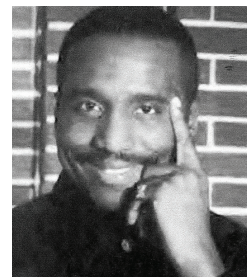
The Banderleros MC "Mother Chapter" will hold their fish and chicken fry at their clubhouse located at 2025 Edmondson Avenue on Saturday, April 1, 2023, from noon to 6 p.m. Fish and chicken dinners with two vegetables included will be sold. Fish sandwiches and desserts will also be available to purchase. Bring your folding chairs and enjoy this outdoor event.



**The Palovations, Baltimore's own singing group and soloist Charron Oliver, will perform at the Randallstown Community Center, located at 3505 Resource Drive in Randallstown, Maryland on Sunday, April 2, 2022, from 1-4 p.m.**



**Baltimore's own karaoke king and vocalist, Reggie Kelly will present a "Rock 'N' Soul" Karaoke Show on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 7-11 p.m. at Mondawmin Mall on Liberty Heights Avenue. The event is open to the public.**



**"Sanford and Son," a stage play written by comedian Howard G and directed by Sheila Gaskins will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023, for 2 shows; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., located at the American Legion Hall, 125 York Road in Towson, Maryland. For ticket information, call 410-808-5805. Food and drinks will be on sale.**



**John Lamkin II and the Favorites Jazz Quintet will perform at Caton Castle, located at 20 S. Caton Avenue in Baltimore on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 6-9 p.m. featuring Bob Butta on piano, Michael Graham on Bass, Michael Hairston on saxophone and Jesse Moody on drums.**

**BREAKING NEWS:** Yours truly, Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor and Travis Winky will be honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards by Hassan Rasheed and Brian "Tee-Shirt" Brian at the Soul Marathon on April 22, 2023, on stage at the Lyric Baltimore, located at 140 W. Mount Royal Avenue. Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston, The Intruders, Bloodstone, Eddie Holman, The Softones, Temprees, Shades of Darkness, J'Kar and Style will be the featured entertainment. For ticket information, call 443-621-7449. Thank you, Hassan and Brian for giving me this honor.

Guess what, my dear friends? I just finished my third book and sent it off to my publisher. The title of it is "BALTIMORE & MARYLAND BLACK HISTORY STORIES; WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE? 1950-1980."

Well, my dear friends, I've got to go. I'm out of space. Enjoy the rest of your week. Be kind to each other. Treat other people the way you want to be treated. Stay safe. Remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



# Ravens Add Nelson Agholor, Eye Odell Beckham Jr.?

*continued from page 2*

*Join the Good Deeds*

*Day Movement 2023*

## Shining the Spotlight on the Jewish Volunteer Connection

“We try to have ongoing relationships with our nonprofit partners, so if someone knows of an organization that has needs for volunteers or donations, they can certainly reach out to us and we can try to establish a relationship with that nonprofit,” Berger said.

A complete list of opportunities to volunteer with JVC on Good Deeds Day is available online via <https://jvcbaltimore.org/annualevents/good-deeds-day/>. Registration must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, 2023. Inquiries about partnering to help the community can be established by emailing [info@jewishconnect.org](mailto:info@jewishconnect.org).



*Odell Beckham Jr.*

Photo credit: Kevin C. Cix/Getty Images

*By Tyler Hamilton*

The Baltimore Ravens continue to take shots bolstering their wide receiver group, this time with the addition of veteran pass catcher Nelson Agholor. Agholor signed a one-year deal with the Ravens worth \$3.25 million last week.

Adding Agholor gives Baltimore another experienced receiver, but the Ravens' possible pursuit of Odell Beckham Jr. would prove to be a major boost. Beckham was at the NFL owner's meetings in Phoenix on Tuesday to reportedly meet with teams that could be a future destination for him. The Ravens are reportedly one of the teams that plan to speak with Beckham.

The current group of receivers would be led by Beckham if he joins the team. Beckham last played for the Los

Angeles Rams in 2021. He had ready caught two passes for 52 yards and a touchdown before tearing his ACL in the second quarter of the Rams' 23-20 Super Bowl win over the Cincinnati Bengals in February of 2022.

Beckham really came on for the Rams in the postseason where he had 288 receiving yards and two touchdowns in four playoff games, including 113 yards on nine catches in the NFC Championship Game against the San Francisco 49ers. The Los Angeles playoff performance came after a contentious exit from his previous team, the Cleveland Browns.

New Ravens offensive coordinator Todd Monken was the Browns offensive coordinator for one of the seasons Beckham was in Cleveland. Monken seems to already have an understanding of what makes Beckham tick.

“He’s like every skill player,” Monken said. “He’s no different. I don’t know why everybody gets pissed off; like, he wants the ball. Well, really? I don’t know where I’ve been where a great player didn’t want the ball.”

Beckham held a workout on March 11 in Phoenix that drew representatives of 11 NFL.

As for Agholor, he figures to be a legitimate speed option from the slot or out wide. His pedigree includes a 2017 Super Bowl victory.

Agholor's most recent season included 31 receptions for 362 yards and two receptions and one downs. If Baltimore is able to get this production from Agholor and Beckham, they'll have a potent one-two addition to their offense.



*Mayor Scott stopped by Jewish Volunteer Connection's 2023 MLK Day program.*

Photo credit: David Stuck



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

#### PROJECT NO. 1383 ON-CALL STORMWATER STUDY AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform On-call Environmental and Stormwater Study and Engineering Design Services and post-award services. Three (3) firms will be selected to perform design services for Storm Drain Improvement Projects. The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document including but not limited to:

1. Ability to complete the design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
  2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, facility construction, operation, and maintenance.
  3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
  4. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates, and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits and approvals from regulatory authorities required for the design, construction, and operation of the facility.
  5. Experience in rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for the procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.
  6. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals, and evaluating potential change orders during construction.
  7. Experience in using geographical information systems (GIS) and database management.
  8. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.
- Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation, and forest conservation plan.

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10. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, and outfall stabilization.
11. Experience in identifying dynamic stormwater modeling software and methodologies that are applicable to urban drainage and that other stormwater owners/operators have implemented and have been accepted by Federal, State, and Local regulators.
12. Expertise and experience in gathering and reviewing the various information sources and data sets needed for building stormwater models.
13. Experience in building an integrated and dynamic model of the hydrologic and hydraulic components of stormwater drainage systems.
14. Expertise in stormwater model calibration and verification of industry standards.
15. Expertise in stormwater drainage system characterization and analyzing deficiencies based on discrete synthetic storms and multi-year continuous simulations model runs. Analysis to include but not limited to:
  - \*Hydraulic performance of the 2D overland flow and the 1D sewer pipe drainage systems,
  - \*Interactions of the above-ground and the below-ground drainage systems,
  - \*Hydraulic limitations in drainage pipes, inlets, culverts, as well as overland flooding areas, and
  - \*Sensitivity and resiliency analyses of the impact of higher flood frequency events, storm surge or sea level rise.
16. Experience in developing comprehensive reports documenting:
  - \*Data collection and gap analysis,
  - \*The stormwater model development, calibration, and verifications,
  - \*Findings from system characterization and project recommendations, and
  - \*Plan to develop the overall stormwater drainage system model extrapolated from resources, time, lessons learned, and costs associated with generating the pilot sub-watershed model.
17. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization.
18. Expertise and capacity to provide storm drain inspection services to:
  - \*Perform condition assessment of the stormwater drainage system utilizing electronic and multi sensor technologies in-

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- cluding, but not limited to, visual, CCTV, sonar and laser, and
- \*Develop maintenance and rehabilitation plans.
19. Ability to provide appropriate skilled personnel and resources to ensure effective performance and delivery.
  20. Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises and demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project on schedule and within budget.
  21. Experience in developing knowledge management processes, City staff training and project repositories.
  22. Experience in using drone technology for environmental engineering projects.
  23. Experience in designing and delivering sustainable, resilient, and equitable projects using Envision Sustainability Toolkit or equivalent toolkit, a rating system that encourages systemic and holistic changes in the planning, design, and delivery of sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
- The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.
- The City intends to select the service of three (3) firms for a period of five (5) years at an estimated fee not to exceed \$2,000,000.00, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term.
- DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.
- Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact **Ms. Kirastin Spence via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at [Kirastin.spence@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Kirastin.spence@baltimorecity.gov)**
- Prequalification Requirement**  
All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline *at time of submittal* for this Project. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal pack-*

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age. Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### Submittal Process

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1383 is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to May 5, 2023 by NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may e m a i l : [OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

### MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's



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Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 30%

The WBE goal is 15%

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

### Verifying Certification

The firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

### Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

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

### Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

### Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to con-

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tracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oedworks.com](http://www.oedworks.com) for details on the requirements of the law.

### Additional Information

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE firms, must be shown on the page provided within the application. Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

*A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.*

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

Firms will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

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

Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

To place Legal Notices,  
call: 410-366-3900  
email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)

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### AECOM

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PLANNING, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION RELATED SERVICES

AECOM is a provider of Engineering Services and is requesting information from subcontractors of qualified Minority and Women's Business Enterprise businesses. The following types of services are requested for projects that are undertaken solely by the Newark and Millsboro, Delaware offices of AECOM through our transportation and water business lines. The projects are projected for planning, design and construction during the next two years in the States of Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and includes projects related to work generated by state, county and municipal agencies in these specific areas:

- Water and Wastewater Treatment Design
- Water Distribution Design
- Wastewater Collection and Conveyance Design
- Roadway Design
- Geotechnical and Field Testing Services
- Construction Review Services
- Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections
- Elevated Water Tower Painting Inspections
- Road Paving Inspections
- Water and Sewer Pipe Inspections
- Surveying Services
- Civil and Structural Engineering Services
- Electrical and Mechanical Services
- Architectural Services
- Preparation of Preliminary Engineering Reports and Environmental Reports

Additional information for specific projects can be obtained by contacting Donna Bolender, AECOM, 248 Chapman Road, Suite 101, Newark, DE 19702, [donna.bolender@aecom.com](mailto:donna.bolender@aecom.com). Qualifications will be due by April 21, 2023.

These projects are, in part, funded by Revolving Loan Funds and other Federal and State funding sources. All subcontractors will be required to follow all pertinent guidelines as related to specific funding sources.

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