



THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 38 No. 19

March 1 - 7, 2024

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Maryland Black Legislative Caucus Celebrates Historic Gains for Black Businesses



(L-r): Dr. Heidi Anderson, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Coppin State University; Dr. David K. Wilson, Morgan State University; Dr. Aminta Breaux, Bowie State University. Small and minority-owned business owners, Maryland state agencies, department heads and elected officials attended the 2024 MBE Night in Annapolis on February 22, 2024. This annual event, founded by former Delegate Herman Taylor, was co-sponsored by the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Panel discussions were held along with an overview of the 2024 Session in Annapolis. A highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Maryland governor, Wes Moore. Photo Credit: Adrian Harpool (See article on page 5.)



8 Basic Steps for Building a Budget

Budgeting can be a useful tool to help you reach your financial goals. A budget can help you keep track of your spending, avoid and get out of debt, limit overspending, pay bills on time and build savings habits.

Let's explore how a budget can benefit you and how to build one:

- **1) Start with the basics.** A budget helps you figure out how much money to set aside for regular expenses like rent, mortgage, bills, groceries and entertainment. As you're planning your budget, think back to last year and identify any trends in your expenses and any unexpected costs that surprised or challenged you. Was there a particular expense that pressured your budget? Has your take-home pay changed since last year? Are there new recurring bills for medical or education needs? Understanding your past financial habits can help you make the proper adjustments for this year's budget.

- **2) Create your budget.** This takes a few simple steps including calculating your take-home pay; gathering credit card and bank statements and receipts for the past few months; organizing expenses into categories, such as rent, groceries, and entertainment; and determining how much you spend in each category per month. Now that you've crunched the numbers and can see how much money is coming in and going out, you can start making your budget.

- **3) Don't forget to save.** Make a place in your budget for savings. You can set aside money from each take-home pay period and use some funds from holiday bonuses, cash gifts and tax returns toward saving as well.



Photo: Courtesy of Pexels

- **4) Pay down debt.** Your plan should also include a list of money you owe, including balances and interest rates. Evaluate your debt payoff goals against savings goals and prioritize the most critical ones. Any extra money you may receive can also go toward your debt payoff plan -- paying off an additional bill or debt earlier than planned can help ease budget pressures.

- **5) Set some limits.** Some expenses remain the same each month, like rent or mortgage payments, while others like groceries and entertainment are more flexible. Set spending limits for your flexible expenses, although you may plan for celebrations and treats so your budget doesn't feel too restrictive.

- **6) Use budgeting tools to track spending.** This can be as simple as using paper and pen to write down your income and spending categories, entering numbers in a computer spreadsheet or using budgeting apps -- like Chase's Budget feature in the mobile app and on com -- that are linked to your accounts.

- **7) Adjust as needed.** Update your budget when your income or goals change. If you're using tracking tools, you should know when you're getting close to spending limits or if you have more money than expected.

- **8) Find ways to cut costs.** Small recurring expenses go unnoticed, but they can add up. Scan your bank account and credit card statements for recurring charges and evaluate whether they are worth continuing.

Adjusting to a budget can take time—it's about finding the right balance of spending and saving. You might discover some of your spending limits are too low, while others are higher than they need to be. You can always review your budget against your expenses and rethink how you've set it up.

Keep working at it -- that's the best way for your budget to be effective.

For more information, visit chase.com/personal/financial-goals/budget

More Notable African Americans in the Field of Information Technology

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

As we wrap up our celebration of Black History Month, in this article, we will spotlight the achievements of three more remarkable innovators: Gerald Lawson, Valerie Thomas, and John Henry Thompson. Their groundbreaking work not only paved new paths in their respective fields but also inspired countless others to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Gerald Lawson:

Father of Modern Gaming

Gerald “Jerry” Lawson had a love of science and invention from a very young age. His father, a longshoreman, was a science bug and encouraged Lawson to always experiment with things. He earned an amateur ham radio license at age 13 and built his own radio station in his room, with an antenna hanging out of his window! Lawson earned money fixing television sets, visiting people’s homes for in-house repair, and working at local electronics stores. Lawson, known as one of the first African American video game designers, is often hailed as the father of modern gaming for his invention of the first cartridge-based video game console, the Fairchild Channel F. Before Lawson’s innovation, video games were hardwired into consoles, limiting players to the games that came with the machine. The introduction of the cartridge system in the 1970s revolutionized the gaming industry, allowing users to swap games and paving the way for the gaming ecosystems we know today. Lawson’s contribution is a critical chapter in the history of video



Karen Clay, Clay Technology and Multimedia Courtesy, Karen Clay

games, highlighting the importance of innovation and adaptability in technology. Remarkably, Lawson was the only African American member of Silicon Valley’s famed Homebrew Computer Club in the 1970s, where early computer programs were freely shared.

Valerie Thomas:

An Inventor Ahead of Her Time

Dr. Valerie L. Thomas, a physicist and inventor, was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She was raised in the historic all-Black Cherry Hill community and attended the all-girls public Western High School. She developed an interest in physics before graduating in 1960, later attending Morgan State and matriculating with a degree in physics. NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) hired Thomas as a mathematician/data analyst immediately after graduating in 1964. She retired in 1995, rising to associate chief of the Space Science Data Operations Office. During her tenure, she made significant contributions to the field of imaging



Inspiring future generations to break new ground in technology

Graphic design by Karen Clay

technology. In 1980, she patented the Illusion Transmitter, a device that creates optical illusions using concave mirrors, making it possible for objects to appear in 3D even when viewed on a flat surface. Dr. Thomas’ innovation laid the groundwork for advancements in 3D imaging and has applications in modern technology, from television and video games to medical imaging techniques. Her work at NASA, where she managed projects developing satellite technology and data systems, further exemplifies her pioneering role in technology and space exploration. Throughout her life she has encouraged young people, especially African Americans and girls, to pursue a career in science and technology. Currently, she resides in Prince George’s County, Maryland and continues her participation in STEM organizations such as Women in Science and Engineering and Shades of Blue, which focuses on aviation and aerospace.

John Henry Thompson:

The Mind Behind Lingo Programming

John Henry Thompson developed an interest in computer programming languages in high school. He later taught himself several programming languages such as FORTRAN, PLI, COBOL and JCL while working in a New York research facility. Thompson’s goal was to absorb as much knowledge as possible so he could invent his own computer language. As a computer scientist, he accomplished that goal by inventing the Lingo programming language, which became the backbone of Macromedia Director software. Lingo allowed creators to develop graphics and animations, significantly impacting the multimedia and web development industries. Thompson’s work facilitated the creation of interactive websites, games, and educational software, contributing to the rich multimedia experience of the modern internet. His passion for blending technology with artistry underscores the creative potential of computer science and its capacity to enhance digital expression.

The stories of Valerie Thomas, Gerald Lawson, and John Henry Thompson are emblematic of the diverse ways African Americans have contributed to and shaped the technological landscape. From fostering diversity in STEM education to pioneering advancements in gaming and digital media, their achievements embody the spirit of innovation and resilience. As we celebrate their contributions, we also recognize the broader impact of their work in challenging stereotypes, breaking barriers, and inspiring future generations to dream big and break new ground in technology and beyond.

“New Hope for Children with Food Allergies: The Promise and Impact of Omalizumab”

By Jayne Hopson

Here is a welcome update from an earlier HealthBeat story on the life-threatening dangers children diagnosed with food allergies face when exposed to trace amounts of common allergens. <https://baltimoretimes-online.com/featured/2024/01/11/popular-spice-triggers-life-threatening-allergy-attack-of-baltimore-times-publishers-grandson-i-have-lost-faith-in-our-food-safety-laws/>

In a groundbreaking clinical trial, a 16-week course of the monoclonal antibody, omalizumab has shown significant promise in increasing the tolerance of children, as young as one year old, to common food allergens such as peanuts, tree nuts, egg, milk and wheat.

Before this breakthrough, oral immunotherapy (OIT), which involves the daily ingestion of increasing doses of a specific food allergen, was the only available treatment for food allergies. Omalizumab operates differently, binding to the immunoglobulin E antibody in the blood that triggers allergic reactions and prevents it from activating key immune cells.

Monoclonal antibodies are like highly specialized soldiers in the immune system’s army, created in a lab to target specific invaders, such as viruses or allergens. Imagine your immune system as a team of defenders in your body, fighting off harmful invaders like bacteria and viruses. Monoclonal antibodies are like reinforcements designed to target and attack one specific type of enemy.

They’re made by copying a single type of immune cell, hence the “mono” (meaning one) in their name. These

lab-made antibodies can latch onto the invaders or diseased cells, marking them for destruction or blocking their harmful effects, helping to protect or treat your body against diseases.

Presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the study reveals that nearly 67% of participants who underwent antibody treatment could consume 600 milligrams (mg) or more of peanut protein—equivalent to 2.5 peanuts—without experiencing a moderate or severe allergic reaction.

This is a stark contrast to the less than 7% of participants who received a placebo and achieved similar results. The treatment also proved effective for other common allergens, including egg, milk, wheat, cashew, walnut, and hazelnut, with participants able to ingest 1,000 mg or more of these proteins.

This indicates that omalizumab could potentially offer protection to children and adolescents from accidental exposures to foods they are allergic to, despite diligent avoidance efforts.

Jeanne MARRAZZO, M.D., M.P.H., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the trial’s regulatory sponsor, highlighted the constant vigilance required by individuals with food allergies and their caregivers to prevent life-threatening allergic reactions.

The study’s findings suggest that, alongside food avoidance, omalizumab can help reduce the risk of such allergic reactions, offering a layer of protection from accidental exposure emergencies.



Shutterstock

The trial, supported by NIAID with additional backing from Genentech, a Roche Group member, and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, comes as a beacon of hope for the estimated 7.6% of children in the United States—around 5.5 million—who suffer from food allergies.

On February 16, 2024, the Food and Drug Administration approved omalizumab for reducing allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, that may occur with accidental exposure to food allergens in adults and children aged one year and older with food allergies.

It is important to note that individuals taking omalizumab should continue to avoid foods they are allergic to, as the treatment is not approved for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions.

Conducted by the NIAID-funded Consortium for Food Allergy Research (CoFAR) across ten U.S. locations, the Omalizumab as Monotherapy and as Adjunct Therapy to Multi-Allergen OIT in Food Allergic Children and Adults (OUtMATCH) trial enrolled

177 children and adolescents aged 1 to 17, and three adults aged 18 to 55, all with confirmed allergies to peanut and at least two other common foods.

The trial’s first stage aimed to determine if omalizumab could increase the threshold of food causing allergic reactions, thereby reducing the likelihood of reactions from accidental exposure. The results were promising, showing omalizumab’s superiority over placebo in raising the reaction threshold for peanuts, milk, egg, cashew, wheat, walnut, and hazelnut to levels that could protect against accidental allergic reactions.

Many participants treated with omalizumab were able to consume significantly more than the threshold amounts of peanut protein without a moderate or severe allergic reaction, with some consuming amounts equivalent to about 25 peanuts.

This tolerance extended to multiple foods, suggesting that omalizumab could dramatically improve the quality of life for individuals with food allergies by reducing the risk associated with accidental exposure.

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Maryland Black Legislative Caucus Celebrates Historic Gains for Black Businesses

Forecasts for the Work That Lies Ahead

By Adrian Harpool

Over 1,000 minority business owners made the pilgrimage to attend the 2024 MBE Night in Annapolis held February 22, 2024. This annual event has become a highlight of Maryland’s legislative session bringing together small and minority-owned businesses with Maryland state agencies, department heads, and elected officials. Founded by former Delegate Herman Taylor, the event is co-sponsored by the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

The evening was filled with panel discussions and an overview of the 2024 Session in Annapolis was offered by Legislative Black Caucus Chair Delegate Janelle Wilkins (District 20) along with Event Co-Chair, Senator Nick Charles of Maryland’s 25th District. Remarks were offered by Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones; Attorney General Anthony Brown; Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman; Treasurer Dereck Davis; and Maryland Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson.

In addition to Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, others representing the Moore-Miller Administration included Secretary Atif T. Chaudhry, General Services Administration; Transportation Secretary, Paul J. Wiedefeld; Ricky Smith, Executive Director of the Maryland Aviation Administration which includes the BWI Thurgood Marshall International Airport; Craig Thompson, Chair of the Maryland Stadium Authority; Secretary of the Environment, Serena McIlwain; and Yolanda Maria Martinez, Special Secretary of Small, Minority, and Women’s Business Affairs. Also in attendance was Audrey Johnson, Executive Director of the Maryland Office of Social Equity who



Governor Wes Moore and Austin Taylor. Photo credit: Patrick Sibert / Joe Andrucyk



(L-R): Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair of Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Photo credit: Adrian Harpool

oversees the state’s developing cannabis industry. Troy LeMaile-Stovall, CEO of Maryland TEDCO was also on hand to discuss opportunities for funding tech-oriented ventures.

A discussion on “Black CEOs Growth and Success” featured B. Doyle Mitchell, CEO of Industrial Bank and Warren Thompson, CEO of Thompson Hospitality. The discussion was moderated by Delegate Jazz Lewis of Maryland’s 24th District. They discussed the challenges and triumphs of managing and scaling up successful Black businesses.

Another panel composed of the presidents of Maryland’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) was moderated by Delegate Scott Phillips of the 10th District engaging Morgan University President, Dr. David K. Wilson; Dr. Aminta A. Breaux, President of Bowie State University; Dr. Heidi Anderson, President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Coppin State University President. The group shared the numerous and potentially profitable

opportunities for more minority businesses supporting their institutions’ operations and future growth.

A highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Maryland governor, Wes Moore, who reiterated his commitment to increase opportunities for minority businesses by meeting or exceeding the state’s goals for MBE participation. He inspired the crowd as he began his remarks acknowledging Austin Taylor, the son of MBE Night Founder Herman Taylor by remarking, “This young man is the reason that we are all here tonight.” He further stated: “It is our responsibility to lay a firm foundation for him and his peers to become the next generation of successful minority entrepreneurs” After placing his lapel pin on the boy’s jacket, he commenced to offer statistics reporting the success in the past year of the efforts of Maryland agencies to reach their goals for doing business with minority companies. Governor Moore further pledged to continue his efforts to ensure equity and opportunity for minority businesses in the years ahead.

HIV/AIDS Streaming Discussion Series to be Held Online March 3-9

By Andrea Blackstone

The Balm In Gilead, Inc., an organization whose mission is to equip faith communities serving Black Americans to become community hubs for health awareness, education and support, will host the “The Doctor and the Preacher” series during the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

The free, streaming series will be available live on Facebook and YouTube at 12 p.m. EST, Monday, March 4 through Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

“Despite huge advances in preventing, diagnosing, and treating HIV/AIDS, Black families and communities continue to bear the most severe burden. We represent 13 percent of the population, yet we account for 40 percent of people who have HIV/AIDS. Our goal with “The Doctor and the Preacher” is to remind our communities that HIV/AIDS is at a crisis level and that we must continue to work to eliminate racial disparities in HIV diagnosis and treatment,” said Dr. Pernessa C. Seele, founder/CEO of The Balm In Gilead, Inc.

It is interesting to note that the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. led to disruptions in HIV testing and access to clinical services throughout 2020, according to the CDC.

“Although the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV in the U.S. will not be known for some time, recent CDC data have shown concerning setbacks to HIV prevention, including sharp declines in HIV testing and diagnosis, as well as slowed pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) prescriptions. In 2020, 44% fewer HIV tests were administered among Black people in non-healthcare settings than in 2019.”

Information provided by the CDC also revealed that due to disruptions in testing and clinical care services, the CDC was



Dr. Pernessa C. Seele, founder/CEO of The Balm In Gilead, Inc.

Photos: Courtesy of The Balm In Gilead, Inc.

unable to estimate new HIV infections for 2020 or to provide HIV trends through that year. Thus, the impact of the pandemic could have also impacted knowledge of HIV status.

The CDC also warned that “data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state and local jurisdictions.”

Despite 2020 data on HIV diagnoses and prevention and care outcomes being available, the CDC stated that web content with data from these reports was not updated with the information.

The Balm In Gilead, Inc.’s work can help remind individuals in communities that HIV/AIDS should remain topics of interest. Resources such as the nonprofit can raise awareness about issues such as these.

Dr. Seele further stated that the series will give important information that people with HIV and their families need to be aware of, including a discussion about how the disease is impacting us and what we need to advocate for in terms of government policies.



Elder Will Francis

“The unique aspect of “The Dr. and the Preacher” is that the conversations reflect the central role that faith, churches and prayer play in the lives of most African Americans,” Dr. Seele added.

Health experts whose focus is HIV/AIDS will participate.

They understand and work within our community and will provide information that speaks to our culture and the reality of our day-to-day lives. I guarantee that even if a viewer is knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS, they will nevertheless learn something new from our esteemed participants,” Dr. Seele also said.

The event lineup includes “The State of HIV in African American Communities” on March 4. Scheduled speakers are Stacy W. Smallwood, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Community Health; Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University, Savannah, Georgia; and Pastor Dr. Shane Scott, Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California.

The discussion will continue on March 5 with “Understanding Current HIV Policy Trends.” Speakers will



Dr. Tamara Taggart, Associate Core Director, DC Center for AIDS Research, Assistant Professor, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University.

be Cedric D. Pulliam, PhD, Former Director of Global Public Policy, Prevention Access Campaign, Atlanta, Georgia and Elder Will Francis, Lead Practitioner, Lives and Soul Global, Atlanta, Georgia.

The final day of the discussion series on March 6 will conclude with “Women in HIV Research.” Speakers will be: Tamara Taggart, PhD, Associate Core Director, DC Center for AIDS Research, Assistant Professor, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, Washington, DC and Rev. Dr. Dominique A. Robinson, Assistant Professor of Preaching Seminary of the Southwest, Itinerant Elder, AME Zion Church, Austin, Texas.

Churches, organizations and individuals are invited to observe the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. Online attendees can obtain more information about participating speakers, and about free resources for churches, individuals and organizations from www.BalmInGilead.org. Pre-registration is optional at <https://www.balmingilead.org/nwpha-2024>. Visit the link to access the streaming discussion series.

Ahead of Her Time: Morganite, Census Bureau Trailblazer, Matriarch

By Andrea Blackstone

Leonora Myles Gross, a resident of Harwood, Maryland, preceded the big push to interest girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). She was born September 6, 1935 and passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

The trailblazer who lived a full life exemplifies that it is possible to shatter glass ceilings against the odds. Gross became a successful mathematical statistician, while retaining community leadership ties.

“Black women were not really taught to pursue a career in the field of science or mathematics. My grandmother had a vision of what she wanted to do. Her aunt talked to her about Morgan State University [then Morgan College], which is in Baltimore, Maryland. She had gone to school there and graduated and thought that it may be a good fit for my grandmother to study,” Gross’ granddaughter, Shanita Wilkins said.

Gross was educated at Wiley H. Bates High School, located in Annapolis, Maryland. The public, segregated school was “the only high school for African Americans in Anne Arundel County from 1933 to 1966,” according to information provided online by Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center’s website.

“My grandmother and her older brother had to walk from where they lived in Harwood, Maryland out to near Route 2, which is located also in Harwood, Maryland, but it’s on a different street. They lived on Sands Road but walked to what is now the Harwood Post Office near Route 2. They had to walk about 7.5 miles. From there, they had to catch a bus into Annapolis, Maryland to Bates,” Wilkins said.



Leonora Myles Gross and Shanita Wilkins Courtesy photos

Wilkins noted that the disciplined students repeated the process to return home.

Gross graduated from Bates cum laude in 1953, illustrating academic excellence as an honor student, before applying to Morgan College. Gross earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a minor in physics, back in 1957.

After marrying Samuel Gross, the budding mathematician eventually applied to work at the Census Bureau in Suitland, Maryland.

Wilkins explained, “My grandmother was hired as a mathematical statistician in the Construction Statistics Division. By that time, she was responsible for counting the number of new constructions for the Census, but doing it more from a statistical standpoint, to understand demographics and information that could be used to make decisions.”

According to Wilkins, Gross worked there her entire career and retired in 1990. Her excellence was recognized by the Census Bureau through highly



Leonora Myles Gross’ Morgan College graduation photo from the yearbook.

coveted awards. “I think it should be noted that she reached the highest level possible in the government, which is the Senior Executive Service. That is beyond the general schedule scale. Why that is so significant is because she was the first Black female in the Census Bureau to rise to that level,” Wilkins said. Gross invested in the success of others, even when she was a student who stayed on campus at Morgan State University.

“When she had breaks, she would come home and work in the field. Her father passed away when she and her siblings were very young, so a part of her responsibility was supporting the family,” Wilkins said. “During her last year of school [college], when she started internships, she put money towards her sister’s education, so she could become a teacher. She also did the same for her youngest sibling as well.”

Wilkins also benefited from Gross’ hands-on nurturing. When she was in the eleventh grade, Gross transported her to the Secret Service’s James J. Rowley Training Center to enable her



Leonora Myles Gross at a Census Bureau meeting conference.

granddaughter to start her career. She taught Wilkins how to network and present herself with grace and poise.

Wilkins followed in her family matriarch’s footsteps by exhausting the pay scale to reach the GS-15 in the federal government.

“I have a certificate that states that I am qualified to be an executive within the government. Right now, I’m just looking for the right job to get that appointment,” Wilkins said, crediting her grandmother with planting seeds for her to excel in her career.

Gross was a generous, wise woman who reached back to uplift other people and community youth. She was a longtime member of House of Prayer Church of God No. 1.

“If you came to my grandmother seeking something, you were always going to walk away with something, whether it was intended or not,” Wilkins said, reflecting on her grandmother’s legacy. “She was just so generous. When they say, ‘God loves a cheerful giver,’ I think she may have taken that and just multiplied it by a million.”

TICKETS AND TOURS AVAILABLE

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LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF HEARING

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DOCKET NO.: SKO-PC-2023-011

IN RE: MICHAEL P.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO Unknown Father, whereabouts unknown: Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. §4001 et seq., the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (hereafter, "DHHS") has petitioned the Court for a Child Protection Order and/or Termination of Parental Rights Order, concerning the child: Michael P. d/o/b: 09/21/2007. The mother is Lucy DeMille and the father is/ or may be Unknown Father. DHHS has met the requirements of M.R. Civ. P. Rule 4(g)(1)(A)-(C). Hearing on the pending Petitions will be held at **Maine District Court, 47 Court Street, Skowhegan, ME 04976, on April.23.24, at 3:15 PM a.m./p.m. Failure to appear at this hearing may result in the issuance of a child protection order, the termination of your parental rights, and/or any other order permissible under 22 M.R.S. §4001 et seq.** You may be entitled to legal counsel in these proceedings. Contact the court at the above address or 207-474-9518. To obtain a copy of the Petition(s), contact the court or DHHS at 207-624-7900, 2 Anthony Ave, Augusta, ME 04333. DHHS is represented by the Maine Office of the Attorney General, 84 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401.

Dated: FEB 06 2024

Andrew Benson
Judge, Maine District Court

Susan Furbush
A True Attested Copy
Clerk, Maine District Court

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

JENNIFER CARDONA

Plaintiff

v.

JASON OBREGON

Defendant

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Case No.: C-03-FM-21-004074

LEGAL NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: DEFENDANT JASON OBREGON

Pursuant to the Court's Order and in accordance with Maryland Rules §§2-121 and 2-122, NOTICE is herein given that: on the 6th day of August 2021, Jennifer Cardona, the Plaintiff in the above-referenced matter, filed a COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE AND CUSTODY, (hereinafter, "Complaint") against you in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland for an Absolute Divorce and Custody of the Minor Child, A.O., born December 2006. You are named as a party to this case. To participate in your case, you must file an Answer or other defense to the Plaintiff's Complaint in accordance with the law of the State of Maryland, to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in writing within sixty (60) days from the date of the posting of this Legal Notice by Publication. Failure to file an Answer or other defense to the Plaintiff's Complaint may result in judgment against you or granting of the relief requested by the Plaintiff. Further information on this case and a copy of the Complaint can be requested from the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland, located at 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204. Legal Counsel for Jennifer Cardona is Sandra V. Guzman, Law Offices of Sandra Guzman-Salvado, 11 N. Washington Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20850; Phone: 301-340-1911.

Legal Notice

ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 35 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740 will receive bids from qualified, responsible contractors until 10:00AM current time, Tuesday, March 19, 2024, for the Potomac Towers Sliding Glass Door Replacements Project at 11 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Potomac Towers is a 14-story, high-rise building, housing 326 residential units. Anticipate award of contract to successful contractor by end of March 2024. Construction period will be discussed once the contract is awarded. The actual construction start date will be established by mutual agreement between the owner and the contractor. Davis-Bacon wages for Washington County, Maryland and Liquidated Damages apply to this solicitation. Current electronic drawings and specifications are available at www.hagerstownha.com/procurement. Contact Randy Bailey or Sean Griffith at telephone 301-733-6911 Ext. 150 or EXT. 126 or email: rbailey@hagerstownha.com or sgriffith@hagerstownha.com for bid documents.

Sean Griffith
Contract Officer

To place Legal Notices,
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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for: Wastewater Improvement Project, Cove St. & Rubberset Wastewater Pump Station Replacement for City of Crisfield, Somerset County, MD. Contract #187A020.B01. Bids due in our office March 18, 2024. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Excavation, Paving, Pipelaying, Jack & Bore, Directional Drilling, Plumbing, Electrical, Pipe, Pumps, Aggregates, and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709 or email:

schummerinc@aol.com

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CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACT NO. 4130RRR-Environmental Restoration Project 15 will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on April 17, 2024. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on Charm TV's cable channel (Channel 25/1085HD); charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of February 23, 2024 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of 100.00. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is D02800 Landscaping and F02200 Earthwork and Site Preparation. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be \$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 PASSCODE: 527 667 67# on March 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

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

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Doreen.Diamond@baltimorecity.gov -
dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov

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

Construction of Tier II structural BMPs using environmental site design (ESD) measures including stormwater bump-outs, containing bioswales or micro-bioretenion, open-space bioswale, bioretention, micro-bioretenion, and tree pits (a micro-bioretenion) to attenuate peak runoff discharges and improve water quality.

This is a State Funded Project:

The MBE goal is 22%
The WBE goal is 16%

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

Legal Notice

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

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 1005-Herring Run Sewershed Inflow and Infiltration Reduction-Area B will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on April 3, 2024. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of February 23, 2024 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of 100.00. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package. All con-

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tractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is B02552 – Sewer Construction. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be \$20,000,000.01 to \$30,000,000.00.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendor can call 332-249-0605 Passcode: 864540565# on March 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> and -
dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov

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

Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining of sanitary sewers;
Excavate and replace segments of sanitary sewer via point repairs;
Manhole repair and rehabilitation work;
Sewer house connection (SHC) repair and rehabilitation work;
New manhole and cleanout installation work

This project is funded by SRF program

The MBE goal is 22%
The WBE goal is 16%

APPROVED:
:Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

Legal Notice

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

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for WATER CONTRACT NO. 1313-Watermain Replacement & Rehabilitation in Upper Fells Point & West Canton Neighborhoods will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on April 3, 2024. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of February 23, 2024 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of 100.00. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package. All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is B02551 – Water Mains. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be \$20,000,000.01 to \$25,000,000.00.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can either call 1 667-228-6519, Phone Conference ID: 365 828 351# on February 28, 2024 at 11:00 am. Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to Latonia Walston at LWalston@baltimorecity.gov by March 6, 2024 at 4:30 pm. Question submitted after the deadline may not be responded to and Contractors will be required to submit their bids based on the available information.

To purchase a bid book, please make

Cont'd on page 11

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an electronic request at:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Latonia.Walston@baltimorecity.gov**

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

Abandonment and/or removal of existing water mains and installation of various sized new ductile iron pipes, valves, fittings, and appurtenances, cathodic protection, pipe restraints, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, temporary bypass piping, erosion and sediment control measures, maintenance of traffic measures, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **11%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna

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

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. W.C. 1327R-Chlorine Handling Safety Improvements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **April 3, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443)

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984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **February 23, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **200.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003 Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$20 Million to \$30 Million**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted virtually on **February 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** Vendor can access this Microsoft Teams virtual meeting by utilizing the following ID and Passcode. Meeting ID: 264 776 061 501 PASSCODE: 3zbe84. Vendors can call in (audio only) 1-667-401-2804 Phone Conference ID: 861 422 633#.

Site visits for Montebello Plants 1 and 2 will be held on **March 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Site visits for five reservoir locations will be held on **March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Attendance at the Pre Bid Information Session and Site Visits is mandatory for all bidders.

Contractor questions will be accepted (in writing only) until **March 21, 2024**. For any questions, please contact Mr. Farid Sikander at **farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov**

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

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

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Chlorine Handling Safety Improvements at Montebello Filtration Plants 1 and 2, and at five remote sites located in Baltimore County.

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

The MBE goal is **16%**
The WBE goal is **6%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

Legal Notice

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

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1413-Lake Montebello and Montebello Washwater Lake Dredging** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **April 17, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **February 23, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **150.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that estab-**

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lished the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes. The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90013 Dredging**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$20,000,000.01 to \$30,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted virtually on Microsoft Teams on **February 29, 2024 at 10:00 am.** Vendor can access Microsoft Teams by utilizing the following ID and Passcode: Meeting ID: 263 700 783 268 Passcode: sjusB2. Vendor can also attend by Phone Conference ID: 470 868 753# on 1-667-401-2804.

A site visit to Lake Montebello and Montebello Washwater Lake will be conducted on **Monday, March 4, 2024 at 10:00 am.** For any Pre-bid questions, please contact Mr. Farid Sikander at **farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov** Contractor questions shall be submitted (in writing only) by **March 29, 2024 by 4:30 pm.**

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Doreen.Diamond@baltimorecity.gov**

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

Mobilization and furnishing of all labor, material, equipment, and incidentals necessary for the removal of alum sludge and filter backwash solids from Lake Montebello and the Washwater Lake and final disposal of the sludge and filter backwash solids in an approved disposal site. The solids will need to be removed from the lakes, dewatered on site to reduce the amount of water to be hauled and disposed, and trucked to a final disposal site. After the work is completed, site restoration of all disturbed areas will be performed.

The MBE goal is **15%**
The WBE goal is **8%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna

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