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### Entrepreneurs, Community Helpers Continue Back to School Backpack Giveaway in Annapolis





Moon's Barbershop is widely known for hosting a Back to School Backpack Giveaway. The event will return to the Wiley H. Bates Boys & Girls Club, located 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland on Sunday August 11, 2024 from 12-3 p.m. Team Moon in 2017: (Bottom right, l-r) Darrick Ross; Edward Moon; Yukon Prann Ross; and Vincent Jacobs. (Middle row, l-r) Crystal Johnson Brown; Nikki Jones; Colleen Moon; Khara Boston; Tonya Booth; Mariah Moon; Zina Thomas; Evelyn Washington; and Jarcares Washington. (Back row, l-r) Steven Brown; June DeJesus; Robert Hector III; Donna Thomas; Ramsay Johnson; Carlos Evans; Roger Morrow; Carlos Richardson; and Dane Thomas. (See article on page 7)

### **Custody Matters**

### **Do-It-Yourself Guide on How to File in a Custody Proceeding**

#### By Nancy Grimm, Esq.

Getting ready for a custody case can be really stressful and frightening. Here are some simple steps to help make the process easier.

#### File a Complaint

To file an original custody matter, you will file a Complaint for Custody Form, CC-DR-004 (mdcourts.gov). The following forms must accompany it or your claim may be rejected by the court.

Civil Domestic Case Information Report CC-DCM-001 (mdcourts.gov)
Certificate of Service CC-DR-058

(mdcourts.gov)

• Financial Support Form (Child Support Guidelines) CC-DR-030 (mdcourts.gov) or CC-DR-031 (mdcourts.gov) depending on your income

• A Notice Regarding Restricted Information MDJ-008 (mdcourts.gov) to protect your privacy and to ensure the proceedings are sealed and inaccessible to the public

• Financial Support Form Worksheet A (Child Support Obligations) CC-DR-034 (mdcourts.gov) or Financial Support Form Worksheet B (Child Support Obligations) CC-DR-035 (mdcourts.gov) depending on the type of custody sought

#### Where to File

A custody matter must be filed in the Maryland Circuit Court that has jurisdiction over the matter. This usually refers to where the child lives or where you or the other parent lives.

For all Maryland jurisdictions, you can file online by going to https://maryland.tylertech.cloud/OfsWeb and registering for a Self-Represented (Pro Se) Account. There is a filing fee of \$165, which can be waived if you meet the income requirements. See Filing Fee Waivers (mdcourts.gov).

#### Service of Process

When filing your child custody petition, the other parent must be served all documents listed above. You cannot personally serve these documents. But another adult can, if over the age of 18 and not involved in the case. You must provide the court with proof of service. The following are some options:

1. Have the adult send the documents to the other parent by Certified Mail with Restricted Delivery and Return Receipt Requested. If this method is successful, return the following documents to the court:

• Affidavit of Service (Certified Mail Restricted Delivery – Receipt Requested) CC-DR-056 (mdcourts.gov) completed by the person who mailed the documents

Return Receipt green card

2. Have the adult serve the documents in person to the other parent or to another adult who lives at the same address. You can also hire a private process server to do this, but it can be expensive. If successful, have the adult server or process server complete an Affidavit of Service, CC-DR-055 (mdcourts.gov), and return it to the court.

3. Have the sheriff serve the documents in person to the other parent. There is a fee for this service, but there is nothing else you need to do after the documents are served. See Service of Process (mdcourts.gov).

#### File an Answer

If you are served with a Complaint for Custody by your child's other parent, you have 30 days to respond if you live in Maryland, 60 days if you live outside of Maryland and 90 days if you live outside the country. If you fail to respond to the complaint within the required period, the other parent may file an Order for Default and the court could rule for the other parent without a hearing.

To respond, you should file an Answer



Photo courtesy of MVLS

to Petition for Custody Form CC-DR-050 (mdcourts.gov). If you want to propose a substantially different custody arrangement, you may also file a Counter Complaint for Custody Form CC-DR-095.pdf (mdcourts.gov). You will need to provide the same additional forms listed under filing a custody matter with your answer.

You can request that the proceedings be sealed from the public by filing MDJ-008 (mdcourts.gov) with your answer.

### Modifying an Existing Child Custody Order

To modify an existing Child Custody Order, follow the same procedures as above. There must be a material change in circumstance since the prior ruling, including the following:

• Has either parent's income significantly changed?

• Has a party become unemployed, incarcerated or disabled and is now unable to care for the child?

• Has one or both parties relocated affecting the original custody order?

• Has the child's living arrangement changed?

• Has the child's environment changed so that their well-being or stability is at risk of harm?

• Where did the existing order originate?

In Maryland, either parent can file a motion to modify the order at any time. If a parent desires to modify an out-ofstate custody order, it is important to contact an attorney or seek help from a Family Law Self Help Clinic, as the process can be complicated.

To view additional court forms pertaining to child support, custody and visitation, and instructions for completing the forms, visit Family Law Court Forms (mdcourts.gov). For additional information on child custody, see Child Custody in Maryland (peopleslaw.org) or How to File a Case (peopleslaw.org).

Nancy Grimm, Esq., is a family law attorney with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.



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### **Technology and You**

### A 5-Part Primer on Artificial Intelligence: Part Three – Uses of AI for Computing and Productivity

#### By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

In my last article, we discovered some ordinary tools that use embedded AI. In this article, we will explore some examples of the widespread applications of AI in computing and productivity, showcasing how these technologies streamline our activities and improve efficiency.

During the global shutdown, more people became familiar and more comfortable with participating in virtual meetings, and using computers and other devices to complete tasks such as accessing the Internet, and creating presentations, documents, spreadsheets, etc. All along, AI-driven technologies have been reshaping how we interact with digital devices and perform various tasks. From personalized recommendations and intelligent virtual assistants to advanced security features, AI-driven technologies are improving our productivity, streamlining our activities, and improving the efficiency with which we get things done. Here are some examples:

#### AI in Browsers

Web browsers have evolved beyond being a means to access the internet. They now incorporate sophisticated AI features that enhance user experience, security, and efficiency.

1. **Google Chrome** leverages Google AI to provide personalized search results and smart autofill, making online searches faster and more relevant. Additionally, AI-powered security features in Chrome help identify phishing and malware sites, protecting users from potential cyber threats.

2. **Microsoft Edge** integrates Microsoft AI to offer advanced functionalities like Collections, which organizes information intuitively, and Smart Copy, which preserves content format. Edge's AI also optimizes browser performance and enhances security by identifying and mitigating threats.

3. **Mozilla Firefox** uses AI for enhanced tracking protection, blocking trackers to ensure user privacy. Firefox's contextual recommendations suggest relevant articles based on browsing history, while AI-driven performance optimization ensures a smooth and efficient browsing experience.

4. **Safari**, powered by Apple AI, incorporates Intelligent Tracking Prevention to block cross-site tracking, enhancing user privacy. Safari's AI also suggests strong passwords and alerts users about compromised ones, while optimizing performance and resource usage for efficient browsing.

#### AI in Productivity Tools

Productivity tools also have seen significant enhancements through the integration of AI, offering features that streamline work processes and improve efficiency.

1. **Microsoft Office 365** uses Microsoft AI to provide advanced features like Microsoft Editor, which offers grammar and style suggestions, and Excel Insights, which analyzes data for actionable insights. Cortana, the virtual assistant, helps manage schedules and tasks, enhancing overall productivity.

2. Google Workspace incorporates Google AI to enhance Gmail with Smart Compose and Smart Reply, providing grammar suggestions in Google Docs and data analysis through Explore in Google Sheets. These features simplify communication and data management, making work more efficient.

3. Adobe Creative Cloud, powered by Adobe Sensei, enhances creative workflows with features like auto-tagging in Lightroom, content-aware fill in Photoshop, and automated video editing in Premiere Pro. These AI-driven tools allow users to create and edit content



Karen Clay, Clay Technology and Multimedia. Courtesy, Karen Clay

more efficiently and creatively.

4. **Apple iWork** integrates Apple AI to offer predictive text in Pages, data insights in Numbers, and enhanced visual recognition in Photos. These features streamline document creation, data analysis, and photo management, making iWork a powerful productivity suite.

5. **Zoom** leverages AI for real-time transcription, background noise suppression, and automated meeting summaries. These features improve the quality and efficiency of virtual meetings, making it easier to communicate and collaborate remotely.

6. **Canva** integrates AI to offer design suggestions, automatic photo enhancements, and AI-driven layout recommendations. These features make it easier for users to create visually appealing content with minimal effort.

#### AI in Security

AI has become a cornerstone of cybersecurity, enhancing the ability to detect, prevent, and respond to threats. Just about all security software includes AI-enhanced capabilities to promote a safer computing environment for home and office technology users.



Using AI for computing and productivity. Graphic Design by Karen Clay

1. Norton 360 with LifeLock uses AI for real-time threat detection and identity theft protection, safeguarding users' personal and financial information.

2. **McAfee Total Protection** integrates AI to enhance antivirus capabilities, secure browsing, and identity theft protection, providing comprehensive cybersecurity.

3. **Sophos Home Premium** leverages AI for real-time protection against malware and hacking attempts, with features like web protection and parental web filtering.

4. **Kaspersky Total Security** uses AI for real-time malware detection, parental controls, and secure VPN, ensuring user safety online.

5. **Trend Micro Maximum Security** employs AI for advanced threat detection, ransomware protection, and secure online banking, protecting users from various cyber threats.

The integration of AI into everyday tools for computing and productivity continue to transform how we work, play, communicate, and secure our digital lives. These AI-driven technologies streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and provide robust security, making them indispensable in our daily routines. As AI continues to evolve, its impact on our lives will undoubtedly grow, offering even more innovative solutions to meet our needs. Paris Brown Publisher

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### Inspiring and Empowering the Next Generation

### **BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Celebrates Successful Conclusion of Eighth-Annual Summer Youth Initiative**

50 Baltimore City Students Spent Week Learning About Career Opportunities in Aviation

**Baltimore, Maryland**— Fifty Baltimore City students participated last week in the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative. The program was established to provide students with the unique opportunity to learn about airports and the wide range of careers related to aviation.

"Each summer, we are proud to work with so many important partners to introduce our young people to the world of the airport and the aviation industry," said Ricky Smith, Executive Director/CEO of BWI Marshall Airport. "This program is intended to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders."

This year, participants in the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative came from three Baltimore City recreation centers. Throughout the week, the students were immersed in the day-to-day operations of BWI Marshall Airport, Tipton Airport, and other transportationrelated businesses and organizations in the region, including the transportation, distribution, and logistics program at the Community College of Baltimore County Catonsville.

The BWI Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative provided instruction and a comprehensive array of activities. Specific sessions included airport management, airline operations, transportation logistics, law enforcement and aviation security, engineering, and business. The students explored new interests and developed valuable skills related to the aviation industry. The program featured guest speakers who offered inspiration, insights, and experiences.



Photo credit: David Trozzo



Photo credit: BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport

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### Part I of II Win with Strategic Communication: Manage Your Online Reputation Like a Pro!

#### **By Andrea Blackstone**

Genise Thomas, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, established Be iNPowered to focus on professional development and personal branding.

"I teach professionals how to enhance their skills and market themselves more effectively to advance their careers and business, by way of digital products, workshops, and networking," said Thomas.

After running her business for 15 years, her typical clients are professionals seeking to advance their careers in corporate environments or entrepreneurs.

But in this climate of publically voicing personal and political opinions, Thomas reminds us that online reputation management is highly valuable.

She stated that "in today's interconnected world, your online presence is your digital resume, first impression, and personal brand all rolled into one."

Effective reputation management involves actively shaping and maintaining the public perception of an individual or organization.

"The goal of reputation management for professionals is to maintain and enhance their personal and professional image. This involves actively managing and influencing the perceptions of others, including colleagues, clients, employers, and the public," Thomas further explained.

Key objectives include establishing and maintaining credibility and reliability in your field; creating opportunities for career growth and professional development; addressing and mitigating any negative information or incidents that could harm your reputation; facilitating better relationships and connections within your respective industry; and developing a strong personal brand that aligns with your professional goals and values.

According to Thomas, reputation management should remain top-ofmind for "everyone who has a public presence." This includes individuals, businesses, and organizations.

The expert added, "A positive reputation can lead to better opportunities, trust, and success, while a negative one can harm relationships and future prospects."

Thomas stated that an online reputation audit is a proactive approach to manage and improve your online presence to support personal or professional goals.

It involves assessing all digital platforms, including search engines, social media, and reviews.

She also said, "In my opinion, anyone with an online presence should consider doing this periodically, especially professionals, businesses, and public figures, as it helps identify areas for improvement and maintains a positive digital footprint that aligns with their image."

It is helpful to remember that every online post, comment, or share is a chance to demonstrate an individual's expertise, connect with industry leaders, and showcase his or her professional growth.

"Remember, potential employers, clients, and collaborators are just a click away from forming an opinion about you. By thoughtfully curating your online presence, you're not only safeguarding your reputation, but also actively building a platform that can propel your career forward," Thomas stated. Another key takeaway is to remember that views expressed online can have immediate and long-lasting consequences, such as job loss or public backlash, and long-term effects. Career prospects and personal relationships can be damaged.

Thomas added, "For instance, in 2020, a survey by a Harris Poll found that 36 percent of people have reconsidered a relationship or business interaction based on social media posts. According to businessnewsdaily.com, 88 percent of employers and hiring managers would fire an employee for posting certain kinds of social media content on their personal account. Unprofessional comments or language, such as overly negative, racist, or in poor taste, can be seen as reflecting badly on the organization."

Children and teens are not immune to feeling the sting of posting inflammatory views online.

"Every post, like, and comment becomes part of your digital story. Allow me to enlighten you on the case of Kyle Kashuv

(https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/06/18/ us/harvard-rescind-admission) which serves as a reminder of how past online behavior can impact future opportunities. Kashuv, a young conservative activist, had his Harvard admission rescinded in 2019 after the discovery of racist comments he made online when he was 16. This situation highlights the long-lasting consequences of digital actions, even those made in youth," Thomas reminded.

Everyone can benefit from keeping in mind that opinions stated on the Internet can have more than one lifecycle.

Thomas reminds us, "While social media posts aren't technically permanent, there's always a chance



Genise Thomas, business owner, seasoned career and business strategist, and personal brand cultivator. Photo: Socially Crafted

someone screenshot it or it was archived somewhere."

Strategic communication requires the use of skill, a dash of savvy, and a heap of wisdom. People may feel passionate about sharing their personal opinions, but venting on social media can invite professional or personal setbacks. The Internet can lend itself to building relationships or decreasing them.

"In summary, be kind, responsible, and thoughtful in your online interactions. Think before you post. Your online actions today can affect your opportunities tomorrow," Thomas stated.

Visit www.beinpowered.com to obtain more information about Thomas and Be iNPowered.

Positive stories about positive people!

### Save the date: August 11, 2024

### **Entrepreneurs, Community Helpers Continue Back to School Backpack Giveaway in Annapolis**

#### By Andrea Blackstone

Preparing youth for a new school year is not inexpensive. Purchasing uniforms, lunch boxes, combination locks, headphones, uniforms, chrome books, flash drives, and calculators could be just some of the more expensive required items. The mandatory list of what is needed depends on a student's grade, and the school where he or she will attend.

Some parents or guardians have already browsed online to check their school's supply lists for their students. After making Internet trips, a percentage of adults try to locate cost-saving sales at stores, to ease the financial pinch of required items.

"Families with children in elementary through high school plan to spend an average of \$874.68 on clothing, shoes, school supplies and electronics. This is approximately \$15 less than last year's record of \$890.07 but is the second-highest amount in the survey's history. Total back-toschool spending is expected to reach \$38.8 billion, also the second-highest figure on record, after last year's high of \$41.5 billion," according to The National Retail Federation's July 11, 2024 press release.

Community programs and volunteer efforts can help parents and guardians save money. Simply taking the time to show up with a child who needs items for school—from pencils to backpacks —can pay off. When families with multiple school-age children can receive free items, less trips to stores are needed.

Edward Moon, a master barber and owner of Moon's Barbershop, located at 904 West Street, in Annapolis, Maryland, has been in business for 22 years. His wife, Colleen Moon, is the co-owner.

Moon's Barbershop is widely known for hosting a Back to School Backpack Giveaway to support local children.

"My husband and I work as a team to coordinate the day's events and backpack distribution," said Colleen. "Any child in attendance is eligible to receive a backpack."

The event hosted by the Annapolis residents and entrepreneurs is still going strong. They continue to bring like-minded people together to support local youth and families who can benefit from the distribution of free items.

To date, over 4,000 young people and counting have been served through the giveaway. This year, Team Moon strives to touch and help many more families with school supplies, and team Moon wants the children to have fun.

Child Resource Connect; NAACP Voter Registration, a moon bounce; face painting; pony rides; a game bus; and basketball are some of the planned additions and activities. Complimentary hot dogs; hamburgers; snowballs; and chips will be provided to children in attendance.

The genesis of the Back to School Backpack Giveaway is rooted in community engagement and proactive partnership.

"Current Team Moon member, Melvin L. Brown, former Annapolis City Police Officer, presented us with the idea of hosting the event to help the families in Annapolis and surrounding communities," said Edward.

He added, "We have been hosting the Back to School Backpack Giveaway drive since 2009. The first few years it was held at the barbershop parking lot, but we outgrew the space, so we then partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. It's been held there ever since."

The event will return to the Wiley H. Bates Boys & Girls Club, located at 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland on Sunday, August 11, 2024 from 12-3 p.m. Anne Arundel County; Tuwa Temple No. 228; Tuwa Court No. 210; and a host of Team Moon Members are participants and partners.

Colleen, who is also a military retiree and human resources manager for the Defense Intelligence Agency, further explained that 25 volunteers are expected. They will assist with

the backpack distribution, cook and serve food, and provide support with logistics.

"The volunteers are a combination of barbers, family, friends and community members," she said.

Colleen expressed her thoughts about Moon Barbershop's legacy of helping young people get to a good start before the school year begins.

"I'm blessed and overwhelmed to be able to provide this opportunity to those in need. This provides a sense of purpose, and it also creates a stronger



Attendees receive free backpacks at a Back to School Backpack Giveaway presented by Moon's Barbershop. Photo: Andrea Blackstone

and more vibrant community. I hope that we inspire others to pour into their community as well."

Her husband agrees that lending a hand to support children is worthwhile.

"The importance of helping the children is to promote social health, make a difference in their lives, and to prepare them for a successful school year," Edward said.

Items will be available while supplies last. Visit https://www.facebook.com/p/ Moons-Barbershop-100024343701123/ for details.



# Why Your Business Needs to be Certified as a Diverse Supplier

Now more than ever, consumers and companies alike are prioritizing businesses that are actively addressing diversity, equity and inclusion. They're seeking out diverse suppliers – defined as businesses that are at least 51 percent owned and operated by underrepresented groups – in an effort to address racial injustice and support minority entrepreneurs.

Being certified as a diverse supplier is more important than ever. Certification not only creates new business opportunities with larger corporations, it also increases access to resources and support. It serves as proof that your business is diverse, stable and ready to take on new growth opportunities.

### Why should diverse-owned businesses get certified?

With the right connections, diverse small business owners can develop new ideas, avoid common mistakes and uncover opportunities. Getting certified can help you build connections with hundreds of U.S. companies, representing billions of dollars in sourcing. Further, diversity certifications serve as proof that your company meets inclusion program requirements and can be considered for supplier contracts with large companies, such as JPMorgan Chase, that go through formal procurement processes, as well as the federal government.

#### What are the benefits for minorityowned businesses to get certified?

Certifying your business is an investment in your business. Corporations seek certified companies on an ongoing basis to ensure a diverse and competitive supplier base. The time spent now collecting documents and meeting with people can pay off for years to come.



Significant benefits include: • Business Opportunities. By getting

certified, businesses are entered into a national database where customers go to find companies that can meet their business needs and advance their diversity goals.

• Access to Capital. Certification provides companies with additional financing opportunities through banks and venture capital firms.

• Meaningful Support. Certification organizations invest in their member businesses by providing educational sessions, training, networking events and matchmaking programs that can provide opportunities for connections and growth.

Photo courtesy of Pexels

### What does the official accreditation process entail?

Supplier diversity certifications are available through many organizations, including the National Minority Supplier Development Council, and the National Veteran Business Development Council, among others. Each certification is designed for a specific historically underrepresented group, so each has its own requirements.

#### Why do you think there is reluctance among minority-owned business owners to get certified?

The certification process can be time-consuming, so some minorityowned business owners hold off on getting certified. The rigor of the process ensures high standards and trust – but the result **is** being eligible for significant growth opportunities.

#### What resources does JPMorgan Chase provide to help diverse businesses get certified?

JPMorgan Chase has designated resources to help educate business owners about the game-changing effect of becoming a certified diverse-owned business. Business owners can learn more by accessing this how-to guide or visiting https://www.jpmorgan. com/commercial-banking/insights/ benefit-from-diverse-owned-certification.



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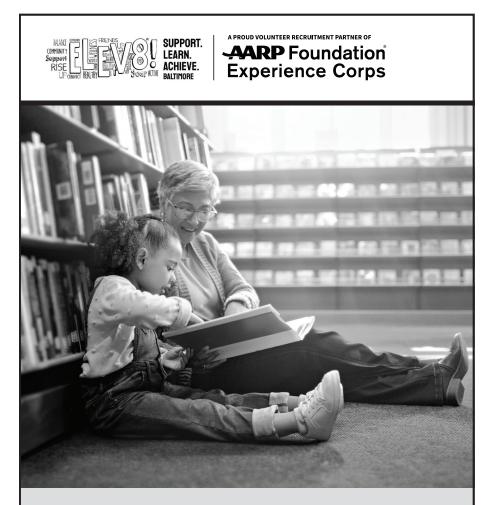
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Positive stories about positive people!

### **Sports**

### **Ravens QB Coach Tee Martin Sees Greatness in Lamar Jackson**

#### By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have learned to navigate some difficult water with their franchise quarterback Lamar Jackson over the last few years. Jackson has experienced difficulty with illness and recently missed some time during training camp. The show had to go one without Jackson, but his position coach Tee Martin is happy to have him back.

"It was good – just having [Lamar Jackson's] presence in the meetings, in the meeting room and on the field," Martin said. "He brings a certain energy, competitiveness and overall talent in the things that we've been doing. It's good to just get him back out [and] see the retention. I knew [that] once he came back, we could start getting some consistency, in terms of his growth and reps that we need in training camp. But it's been great."

Jackson was named the NFL MVP last season after leading the Ravens to a 13-4 4 record and the top seed on the AFC. Having him in the lineup is obviously imperative for Baltimore's success.

Martin said they've added some new things and tweaked others to gear up for Jackson's second year in offensive coordinator Todd Monken's scheme. They want to streamline the offense for Jackson while keeping focus on making explosive plays, but they don't want to be reckless while doing so.

Martin has been in Jackson's shoes. He was once a dynamic threat throwing the football as well as running with it. Naturally, he was able to put the balance of doing so in perspective.

"It's like a hitter in baseball; you don't step up to the plate and step



*Lamar Jackson and Tee Martin Photo credit: Nick Cammett/Diamond Images-Getty* 

into the box saying, 'I'm going to hit a home run every time.' You just want to put the bat on the ball, and sometimes it is a home run," Martin said. "And so, we get the ball in our hands, and we're going to play the system, we're going to play the play out, and if the end result is an explosive play, that's what we're going to achieve. And then there are times – with the two-minute clock running, you're down by seven, blah, blah, blah, blah – where you maybe [are] a little bit more aggressive in your approach."

Knowing how Jackson can extend plays, the wide receivers have to be aware of the play not being over and find ways to uncover for him. Martin said they've done a good job working on that I practice."

Jackson strives to be the best quarterback ever. He and Martin talk about it every day.

"We're not scared of that," Martin said with a smile.

Martin believed Jackson could be the best as far back as when he first saw him on TV playing for Louisville. That belief is something Martin works to make sure Jackson feels every day.

"When you see greatness, you tell them. You own it. You want them to believe in themselves. You believe in them. You want them to know that you believe in them," Martin said. "And that's what we're working for."

### Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

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(TR 15306) Russell Street (295) Rehabilitation From Russell Street Viaduct to County Line PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, August 20, 2024 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Westport Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore 2343 Norfolk Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230 If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations please contact Sandra Matier, Office of Engagement by email at Sandra.Matier@baltimorecity.gov

Or by leaving a voicemail at 443-271-7224. Accommodation requests should be received by Tuesday, August 13, 2024

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Corren Johnson, DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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