



# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Mother Makes Daughter's Dream of Owning a Business Come True



*(L-r): Em Hunt and her daughter, Harmony hold hand-crafted bath bombs sold by their company, Harm's Charms. The duo also sells plant-based soaps; hand-crafted bath bombs; shower steamers; and men's beard balm and oil. Harm's Charms products are plant-based and cruelty-free. Em started a small business with Harmony because Harmony dreamed of owning her own business and being her own boss.*

*(See article on page 9)*

*Photo credit: Mike J. Photography*



## Sisters Connect with Schools to Develop, Stock Free Clothing Closets for Youth

By Andrea Blackstone

Chanay Banks and Juanita Banks-Whittington had a mutual desire to honor the memory of their late mother's legacy.

"Charlene Banks was a beloved mother, sister, daughter, and friend whose kindness and generosity persisted despite her struggles with addiction and personal hardships," Banks-Whittington revealed.

In 2023, Charlene's Circle of Support (CCOS) became a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of vulnerable youth in Maryland who are impacted by parental mental illness, substance abuse, and/or incarceration. Banks-Whittington, an author, veteran, and Anne Arundel County resident explained that she and her sister grew up receiving community support. They now provide a similar circle of support for today's youth through their decision to brighten children's futures by means of their nonprofit.

"Our vision is to break down barriers and foster a compassionate, empowered community where these challenges no longer dictate the futures of underserved youth. CCOS's programs are anchored in three key pillars: awareness, support, and advocacy. These pillars form the foundation for our care package, clothing closet [Charlene's Closet], and group mentorship programs," said Banks-Whittington, CCOS's co-founder.

Anne Arundel County-based schools, such as Hillsmere Elementary School and Annapolis Middle School, have received donations from CCOS.

Kimberly Terry, principal of Hillsmere Elementary School, located in Annapolis, Maryland explained that in recent years, student enrollment has

fluctuated between 380-400 students. She further stated a few students have already needed to access the closet.

"They have always known that could come to us for academic needs and socio-emotional support. Now, we have enhanced our support with personal hygiene items and basic clothing; therefore, continuing to make Hillsmere their safe space. When students feel safe and comfortable, the learning will come," she added.

Terry mentioned that Hillsmere had a supply closet for younger students. Efforts to collect personal hygiene items for older students began last year with PTA support.

"This year we have additional hygiene items and a larger variety of sizes of clothing to accommodate all students, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Banks-Whittington."

Personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair ties, brushes, combs, and basic clothing items for third through fifth graders were requested.

"Students and families are grateful that we are able to meet the needs of students without interrupting their instructional day," Terry noted.

She added, "As I explained to Mrs. Banks-Whittington, we often receive donations of clothing for our younger students, but our older students have accidents at lunch, recess, and personally we have not had the resources in-house to help the students. Having the closet now, we can quickly address the needs of all students in a way that maintains their dignity and allows them to quickly return to class and focus on learning," said Terry.

The clothing collection for Meade Middle School is underway.

Mia DiBene-Bennett, the Community School Program Manager at Meade



*(L-r): Hillsmere Elementary Assistant Principal, Colleen Sedora with Juanita Banks-Whittington after Charlene's Closet was set up on August 23, 2024. Photos courtesy of Charlene's Circle of Support*



*Charlene's Circle of Support donates money towards Annapolis Middle School Dragon/Uniform Closet.*

Middle School, stated that items such as black leggings, athletic shorts, and dark-colored t-shirts have been requested from CCOS.

"Having these resources at their fingertips allows students to continue to engage in learning and concentrate on academics, rather than worrying about their appearance or lack of proper clothing," she explained.

DiBene-Bennett anticipates that the forthcoming clothing closet should be up and running in October.

DiBene-Bennett added, "By providing this resource, Meade Middle can reduce barriers, promote student well-being, and foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment. That, in turn, helps to fulfill the vision of our strategic plan to make our school system a community where everyone can belong, grow, and succeed."

Meade Middle School established an initial clothing closet with help from other partners. However, CCOS will further sustain it through the school year, according to DiBene-Bennett,

who said that the school is grateful to receive the support.

DiBene-Bennett further stated that meeting the basic needs of students promotes regular attendance, engagement, and a more positive school experience for all students.

Chanay Banks, CCOS's founder and executive director, resides in Charles County. She recalled that she and her sister grew up having a strong circle of support. She said that being able to offer the same to other youth has been priceless.

"We know our mom, Charlene, is proud of us, and continuing her legacy feels like she's still with us, guiding us every step of the way," Chanay proclaimed.

Chanay shared how members of the public can support CCOS. Follow the nonprofit's social media pages; volunteer for a committee; make a tax-deductible donation; or contribute to the clothing closet through the Amazon Wish List that is available via [www.charlenescircle.org](http://www.charlenescircle.org).



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## Beyond Drugs and Alcohol: Discussing Other Addictions and the Need for Recovery

By **Andrea Blackstone**

September is National Recovery Month. When these three words come to mind, they often elicit thoughts of individuals who are recovering from drug or alcohol addiction.

Dr. Cashuna (“Shun”) Huddleston, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and owner of New Way Psychological Services, works with children five years old and older; adults; and couples who struggle with a range of issues and disorders. She shared insight into addiction and recovery.

“While substance use disorders (alcohol, drugs, etc.) are the most commonly recognized form of addiction, there are several other behavioral addictions and situations where professional help is necessary. These involve compulsive behaviors that can be harmful to a person’s mental, emotional, social, or financial well-being,” Dr. Huddleston said.

She also stated that addiction is defined as a chronic disorder that involves compulsive engagement in a rewarding behavior, despite knowing the harmful consequences. It often includes an inability to stop the behavior; intense cravings; and continued use or engagement even when it interferes with daily life.

Additionally, she added: “A behavioral addiction involves compulsively engaging in certain non-substance activities, even when those activities cause harm. These behaviors stimulate the brain’s reward system in a similar way to substances, causing dopamine release and reinforcing the behavior. Though no external substance is involved, the psychological pattern of craving, compulsion, and loss of control is the same as with substance abuse.”

Dr. Huddleston added that non-substance-related behavioral addictions can significantly disrupt a person’s life, even though they don’t involve physical substances like drugs or alcohol. These behaviors provide a temporary dopamine boost. Over time, they can lead to harmful patterns that affect a person’s mental health, relationships, and overall well-being.

Some common behavioral addictions and the ways they can become problematic include: exercise addiction; shopping addiction (Compulsive Buying Disorder); sex and love addiction; and gambling addiction. Additional behavioral addictions are gaming addiction; food addiction; work addiction; and social media addiction.

“Behavioral addictions can be triggered by various psychological, environmental, and biological factors that cause individuals to engage compulsively in certain activities. These triggers can lead to the reinforcement of unhealthy behaviors that provide temporary pleasure or relief, creating a cycle of dependence. Behavioral addictions often develop when individuals use certain activities to manage or escape from emotional distress, boredom, or psychological challenges. While these behaviors may provide short-term relief or pleasure, they can ultimately become compulsive and damaging when relied upon as a coping mechanism,” said Dr. Huddleston.

She further stated that compulsive patterns and negative consequences can affect anyone. Children are more likely to become addicted to gaming or social media, although adults may struggle with gambling, work, or exercise addiction.

Behavioral addictions often do not

receive the same level of societal attention and seriousness as substance-related addictions, despite their potential to cause significant harm, according to Dr. Huddleston. However, Dr. Huddleston explained that a prevalent treatment method for behavioral addictions is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

“CBT is highly effective because it focuses on helping individuals identify and change the negative thought patterns and behaviors that contribute to their addiction. Other common treatment approaches include group therapy, motivational interviewing, mindfulness-based therapies, 12 step programs, and medication,” she said.

It is noteworthy to mention that once someone is diagnosed with a behavioral addiction, they typically need to remain vigilant throughout their life to guard against the possibility of relapse. Many people who struggle with behavioral addictions may not fully realize the extent of their addiction or its negative impact on their lives.

“Recovering from any addiction, whether behavioral or substance-related, requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the physical, emotional, and psychological aspects of the condition. An important part is acknowledgment and acceptance which is a crucial step in recovery. Without this, it’s impossible to move forward with meaningful change. Acceptance involves self-awareness, emotional



**Dr. Cashuna (“Shun”) Huddleston,  
Ph.D., licensed psychologist**

*Photo: Cherish This, photography by Ashley*

honesty, and commitment to change,” the licensed psychologist said.

Dr. Huddleston also stated that recovery from addiction often requires outside help from professional or structured programs and can include therapy, support groups, medical or psychiatric help.

Reputable online screening tools can help individuals gauge whether they might have a behavioral addiction, although they are not a substitute for professional diagnosis. Mental Health America (MHA) – Addiction Screening Tool; Gambling Self-Assessment Tool (G-SAS); Internet Gaming Disorder Test (IGD-20); and the Bergen Shopping Addiction Scale (BSAS) can offer an initial assessment of whether further evaluation by a healthcare provider might be needed.

Learn more about Dr. Huddleston via [www.newwayspsych.com](http://www.newwayspsych.com) and <https://www.instagram.com/newwayspsychologicalservices/> on Instagram.



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## Suicide is a Major Public Health Concern

### September is National Suicide Prevention Month

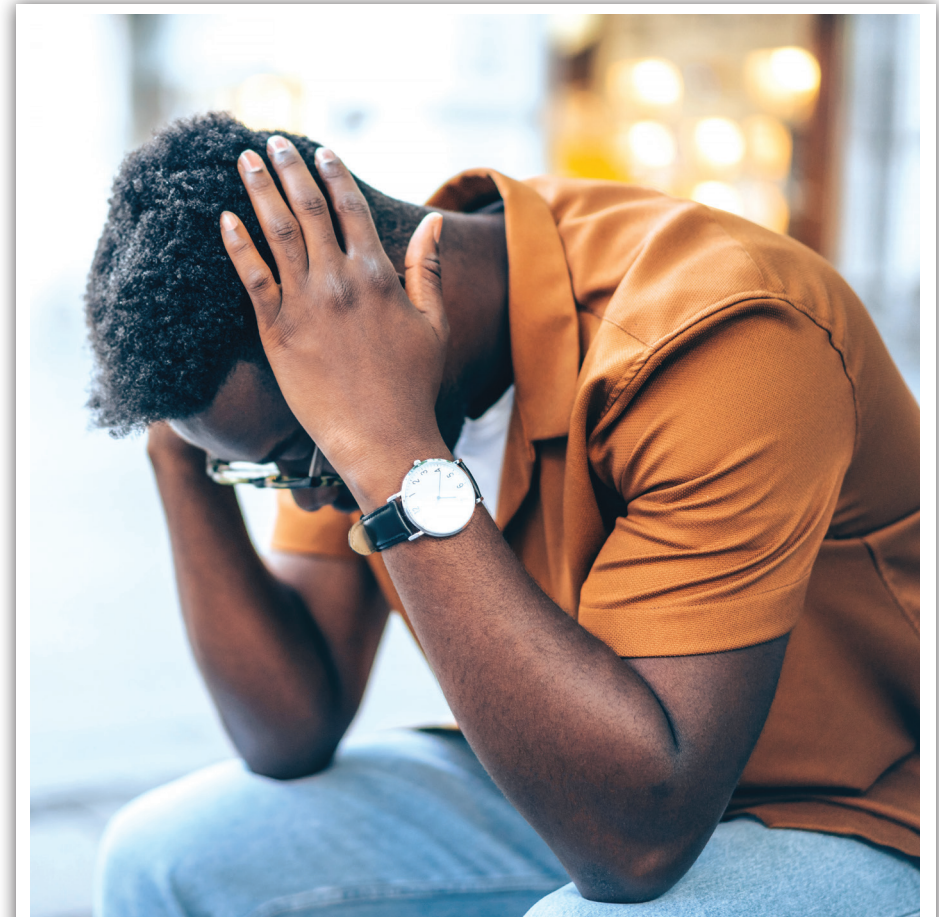
**TOWSON, MD –** (September 16, 2024) – September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness of this major public health concern. According to the CDC, suicide rates increased 37% between 2000-2018 and decreased 5% between 2018-2020. However, rates returned to their peak in 2022, with the CDC noting that year, over 49,000 people died by suicide.

During this month, the Baltimore County Department of Health is urging residents to take an active role in raising awareness, knowing the facts, recognizing the warning signs of suicide and how to get help.

"We must all do everything to prevent a person from reaching the point where they feel that suicide is their only option," said Della Leister, RN, Interim Health Officer. "Becoming aware of warning signs can literally be the difference between life or death. One life lost to suicide is one life too many."

In Baltimore County from 2016 to 2022, there were 600 deaths by suicide among residents. The majority of deaths by suicide occurred among males (79%) and residents over the age of 84 (19 per 100,000 residents) had the highest suicide rate compared to all other age groups. Youth deaths by suicide accounted for 6% of the total deaths by suicide. The most common method of death was by firearm (43%) followed by hanging/suffocation (32%) and drug/poison ingestion (12%).

The Baltimore County Department of Health (BCDH), Bureau of Behavioral Health is committed to supporting our residents through education, advocacy, linkage to resources and treatment. Residents are encouraged to reach out 24/7 to



Getty Images

our Baltimore County Crisis Response System by calling 410-931-2214 or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988 if they or someone they know are experiencing a mental health crisis or need someone to talk with.

To learn more about 988 in Baltimore County, please visit [www.988helpline.org](http://www.988helpline.org). You may also contact the Baltimore County Behavioral Health Help Line, 410-887-3828, or visit the HHS Behavioral and Mental Health Services for more information.



Courtesy photo







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# Creatively Black Baltimore Showcases Regional Talent

By Larry “Poncho” Brown

Joy Bramble, founder of The Baltimore Times, invited me to a meeting to discuss creating an art initiative. During our conversation, she proposed launching a new art initiative and sought my suggestions, given their 39 years in business and my longstanding relationship with her. I suggested dedicating an issue of *The Baltimore Times* to “100 Black Artists in Baltimore You Should Know.” Paris Brown, then Associate Publisher, was also present, and together we began brainstorming ideas for this special edition to highlight Baltimore’s talent.

Our discussions began in May 2023. In a subsequent meeting, Bramble and Brown inquired about the possibility of planning an exhibition to coincide with the feature’s release. I agreed, noting that it would add a unique dimension to the project—something unprecedented in my 45 years as a professional artist. As a Baltimore native educated in the city, I’ve found the support for the local arts scene frustratingly lacking.

Despite numerous art institutions and museums, there has been little interest in promoting and uplifting African American artists. Baltimore artists from the seventies often banded together, and some even opened galleries to provide support. However, today, with more creatives than ever, the conversation about specifically African American initiatives has become almost nonexistent. Under the diversity and equity umbrella, African American causes often seem to be a low priority.

Baltimore artists have faced these challenges for decades. Opportunities were scarce, and many artists were excluded from events and grant systems. While some have managed



*Youth from Arts for Learning received a guided tour by artist “Poncho” Brown*

to succeed despite the bias, many are left frustrated by rejection and bureaucratic hurdles. We named our project “Creatively Black Baltimore” to celebrate Black excellence in the Baltimore arts community and to reconnect two to three generations of artists separated by a lack of opportunities. The Black Arts District is a fine example of an arts organization dedicated to empowering Black creatives and their communities.

Our first challenge was finding a suitable space for the exhibition. Initially, we considered the space above The Baltimore Times offices, which was large enough to accommodate the artwork if we limited the size. However, as time passed and finding a venue became more difficult, we eventually revisited an opportunity at the Inner Harbor’s Light Street Pavilion.

In the fall of 2023, The Baltimore Times hosted a pop-up exhibition at the Inner Harbor to celebrate Black cyclists through technology as part of our media partnership with the

Maryland Cycling Classics race. The success of this exhibition led MCB Real Estate to approach The Baltimore Times with the prospect of our current project. They offered us the old Ripley’s Believe It or Not! space, approximately 12,000 square feet. The space was in a state of disrepair, with most displays ripped from the foundation. During our initial walkthrough, it wasn’t clear how things would come together, but with some imagination and ingenuity, we decided to make this the home of “Creatively Black Baltimore.” Many are aware of the development scheduled to occur in two years at the Inner Harbor. Ironically, I was at the space in 1979 when it first opened to the public, making it a full-circle moment to be there for both its opening and closing with “Creatively Black Baltimore.”

The beginning was slow as I attempted to connect with artists in the region. We started with a few pieces and quickly expanded to over 400 works by more than 80 artists. The exhibition showcases a diverse



*Larry “Poncho” Brown, artist, curator and co-creator of Creatively Black Baltimore. Courtesy Photos*

cross-section of talent from emerging, mid-career, and established artists. The only criteria were that participants lived in or had worked in Baltimore; all other limitations were removed. The show emphasized participation and engagement, eliminating the jury process. Artists could submit their work regardless of their experience levels. Some participate professionally, while others are exploring it, but our goal was to provide a venue where all could be seen together in a pop-up environment.

Pop-up exhibitions have become a creative trend in many cities, converting uninhabited buildings into art spaces. In this regard, the Ripley’s space became a unique pop-up opportunity. As we began minor repairs and painted the space white, things quickly came together as the art began to arrive.

See **TALENT**, page 10



## Young Entrepreneur ‘Charms’ Customers

# Mother Makes Daughter’s Dream of Owning a Business Come True

*“Giving up isn’t an option when I have someone calling me Mommy.” –Em Hunt*

By Andrea Blackstone

Harmony Hunt dreamed of owning her own business at just eight years old.

“I wanted to learn how to become my own boss, so I could work for myself and make my own rules,” 11-year-old Harmony Hunt said.

The confident sixth grader from Baltimore County, Maryland, who recently stated that she wants to become an entrepreneur who owns many successful businesses, is headed in the right direction. She has gained experience making bracelets; creating designs; creating scents; packing items, and mailing orders for Harm’s Charms, a business that was founded in 2022 along with her mother, Em Hunt. The duo also sells plant-based soaps; hand-crafted bath bombs; shower steamers; and men’s beard balm and oil. Harm’s Charms products are plant-based and cruelty-free. Customers who use the products can add a little luxury to their bathing and showering regimens while indulging in self-care during a spa-like experience.

“Charm’s mission is to become a household name while mentoring and giving back to other single mothers and their daughters,” Em explained.

Em also stated that Harm’s Charms began with a vision that was God-given to her during one of the most challenging financial periods of her life.

“With only a few thousand dollars left, I took a leap of faith and invested it into a business for Harmony, who often asked if she could have her own. Though I wasn’t in a position to start it for her before, I knew this business was something that could be passed down from generation to generation,” Em shared.



*(L-r): Em Hunt and Harmony Hunt run Harm’s Charms together.*

*Photo: Mike J. Photography*

Em decided to call the products “Charms” while adding the word “Harms,” which is short for Harmony. Despite challenges that were present when Harm’s Charms began, Em pressed forward to begin the business endeavor.

“There were nights I wondered how a bill would get paid because I had invested everything into the business. That’s what faith looks like—trusting and believing in God so deeply that you surrender and watch the pieces fall into place,” the determined mother added.

Some of Em’s priceless moments manifest when she now sees Harmony’s eyes light up whenever she informs her daughter that they made a sale, have a business meeting, or are headed to another pop-up shop.

“Those moments make every tear, drop of sweat, long hours of planning, and hearing “no” or “not right now” all worth it,” Em said.



*Harmony Hunt holds a popsicle bath bomb.*

*Photo: Iconic image photography llc*

Em explained that building the Harm’s Charms empire with her only child and that the “Queen in the making” was absolutely amazing.

“Watching how much she’s blossomed since 2022 when we went to our first pop up to now is awesome. I’m blessed beyond measure. When there’s ever a time I feel overwhelmed or feel like I can’t go on, she will literally say, ‘it’s going to be okay, Mommy’ and follow up with a positive comment. Giving up isn’t an option when I have someone calling me Mommy,” Em added.

According to Em, Harmony is learning discipline and how to harness her creativity because of co-owning a business.

“Harmony is understanding that if you don’t work, you don’t eat. Being involved in the foundation of Harm’s Charms is teaching her the value of hard work, and that success doesn’t



*Sunflower Sweet Pea Soap*

*Photo: Em Hunt*

come from waiting for a handout or being given a silver spoon. We also volunteer at the Veteran’s Hospital [in Baltimore, Maryland (Loch Raven)] and donate to less fortunate children, so she’s learning the importance of giving back,” Em stated.

Harmony added that she learned to save as much as she can without spending all her earned money on snacks and things that she really does not need.

The mother and daughter team has successfully hosted their first sip and paint event with some of Baltimore’s veterans, and they achieved their goal of getting our products into the Maryland Zoo gift shop after mentioning a year prior that it would be nice to have our items there.

“My favorite product is our donut bath bomb because they smell amazing and it leaves my skin soft,” said Harmony, the young entrepreneur who is building valuable marketing and sales skills.

She believes that the public should support her business because she is a big dreamer who works hard. “I love people and my supporters. I have great customer service and give back to my community!” she added.

The Maryland Science Center also sells Harm’s Charms. Orders can be placed via [www.harmscharms.shop](http://www.harmscharms.shop).



# Talent

Continued from page 8

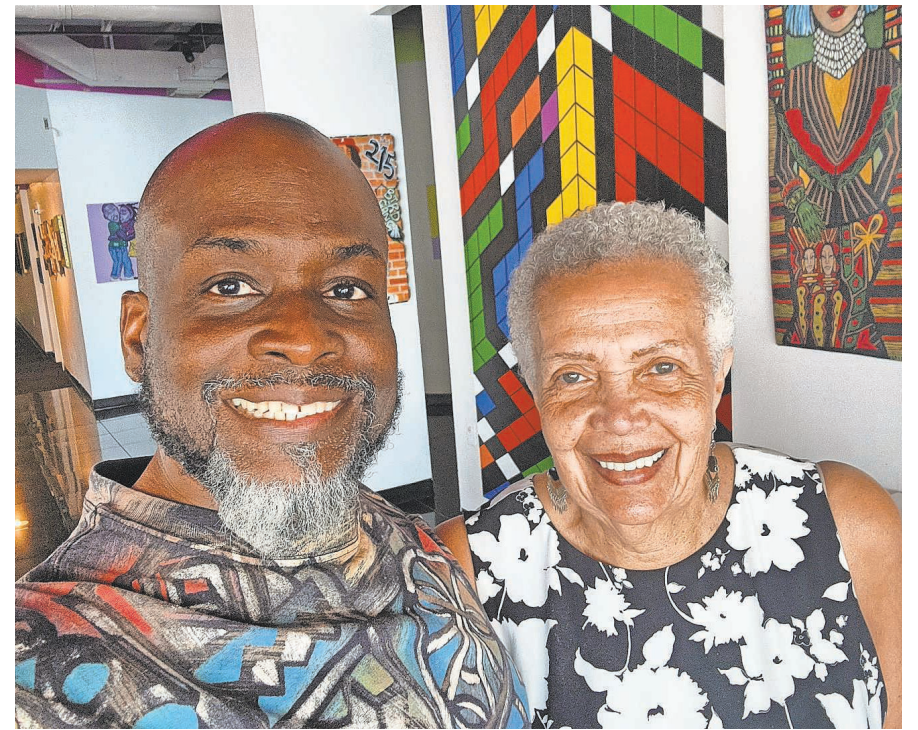
We are not adhering to the traditional rules of museums or galleries but are fully expressing ourselves with creativity. This pop-up environment has certain restrictions based on space, electrical access, and lighting, especially since most fixtures, electronics, and wiring were removed when Ripley's relocated. We collaborated, used our ingenuity, and secured resources to make the space minimally operational—and the rest is history. Our mission is to nurture and uplift Baltimore's African American art scene.

There is much work to be done, and we can never have too many opportunities. Baltimore has a legacy of wonderful artists who have historically put us on the map. Now, we want to present a platform where others can be seen and supported. We intend to make this

pop-up exhibition interactive, inspired by the lingering energy of the Ripley's space. We encourage all artists to animate their works. Additionally, we will offer a 3D virtual tour of the exhibition and schedule events that include lectures, art talks, demonstrations, paint parties, small exhibitions, and other forms of community outreach.

Access to the show is free, and all works are available for purchase. We hope the community will support this project. Being at the Inner Harbor location has allowed several youth groups and private organizations to plan events with the *Creatively Black Baltimore* exhibition as the backdrop. People are often surprised to see so much African American talent in the city, which always amazes me.

The public is invited to the opening reception of "Creatively Black Baltimore" on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Light Street Pavilion, 301 Light Street, 2nd Floor. The brief program begins at 4:30 p.m.



*Poncho and Joy Bramble, Founder, The Baltimore Times, pictured in Creatively Black Baltimore's exhibition space. Courtesy Photo*

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# Ravens Justin Tucker Stuck in a Slump

By Tyler Hamilton

The days of automatically assuming the Baltimore Ravens were going to get points on the board when they reached the opponent's 35-yard line may be over. Ravens kicker Justin Tucker is 0 - 2 from 50 yards or more out this year. That comes after he was 1 of 5 from 50+ last season.

Tucker is 5-of-8 on field goals this year. His 62.5 percent conversion rate and well below his career mark of 89.7 percent. So, what happened?

"It's just a technique issue he's working through right now," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "He's got a technique thing going on. He'll work through it. He knows exactly what it is and just needs to smooth it back out. I'm very confident that he will."

Harbaugh would know. He cut his teeth as a special teams coach with the Philadelphia Eagles before taking the head coach job with the Ravens.

Tucker vows to continue working through the issues he's having. And he isn't going to lose his confidence.

"When I go out on the field, I'm confident that I'm going to nail every single kick, no matter where we are on the field," Tucker said. "Trying to overanalyze or dwell on a mistake or a performance that is not up to our collective standard, that's not going to do us any good. What is going to help us is continuing to trust the process, and just come together as a team, and get to work. This is a long season."

"I think everybody in here would say the real accountability is taking the burden of blame on yourself so somebody else doesn't have to. And everybody else in this locker room is built just like that. I think we're going to be just fine. We're going to be a really good football team."



Justin Tucker  
Getty Images

Tucker is considered one of the best kickers. His 89.9% career field goal accuracy is the best ever. Tucker's best season came in 2021 when he led the league at 94.6 percent and also drilled an NFL-record 66-yarder.

Tucker's resume boasts seven Pro Bowls, five first-team All-Pros, and includes being a member of the Ravens team that won Super Bowl XLVII. He's earned the respect and admiration of his head coach who believes in him.

"I just love [Justin Tucker], [and] I respect him. He's everything that you want in a player [and] in a friend," Harbaugh said. "Justin [Tucker] knows that we support him; I've tried to make sure he knows that – that's part of it, just relationship-wise. The talent and the ability, all of that stuff is there. That hasn't gone anywhere – we see it all the time – but [the issue is] a technique thing."

Tucker hopes to get back on track when the Ravens host the Buffalo Bills this weekend.



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

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1402 ON-CALL MECHANICAL/ ELECTRICAL/PLUMBING (MEP) ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Department of General Services (DGS), Capital Projects Division, has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1402 for On-Call Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) Engineering Design services for the City of Baltimore from qualified Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) Engineering firms. It is the expectation of the City's that interested firms providing these services must demonstrate and document the following services for the City of Baltimore.

The services may include but are not limited to assisting the City's Capital Projects Division with studies, implementing and applying design and engineering principals, designs for repairs, renovations, and upgrades to a variety of City-owned or maintained structures, developing construction documents, commissioning, bid analysis, post-award services, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract claims and supports, estimating, scheduling, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and construction contract administrative support.

The needs of the Department of General Services Capital Projects Division vary as projects are identified and determined. Consultants should be capable of providing design and engineering services, which may include expertise in the following areas:

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Proven track record for providing MEP services for similar projects and complexities on time and within budget.

\*Proficiency in designing and managing energy-efficient MEP systems, including HVAC, electrical, fire protection, and plumbing for public buildings.

\*Experience providing coordinated design drawings based on field surveys, applicable codes, city programming requirements, and request and recommendations from project stakeholders.

\*Experience in preparing complete bid-ready contract documents, including but not limited to construction plans, specifications, cost estimates, and permits, and providing technical support services through contract bidding and post award services.

\*Experience in preparing field investigations, feasibility studies, life-cycle cost analyses, condition assessment reports for public buildings.

\*Experience with energy-efficient and sustainable design practices and ability to provide energy-saving engineering analyses and studies.

\*Experience providing comprehensive MEP commissioning, including design review, installation oversight, functional performance testing, and system optimization.

\*Experience with providing or coordinating additional professional services including architectural, cost estimation, quality control, civil and structural engineering, elevator design, and environmental to align with individual project needs and expectations.

\*In-depth knowledge and application of recognized industry codes and standards, including but not limited to the 2015 Baltimore City Green Construction Code, 2022 International Green Construction Code (IgCC), State of Maryland Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS), and 2021 International Energy Conversation Code (IECC).

\*In-depth knowledge of local, state, and federal codes, including but not limited to mechanical, electrical, fire, energy, building, and historic preservation policy and procedure, especially The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Property.

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\*Familiarity with industry-standard software including but not limited to AutoCAD, Revit, or Bluebeam.

\*Experience with innovative solutions for challenging design problems.

\*Strong project management capabilities with the ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously during design and construction, including change order and claim analysis and CPM schedule review using Primavera P6.

\*Familiarity with monitoring and verification methods for energy conservation measures related to energy performance contracting and guaranteed savings.

\*An overall team approach to utilize, manage and coordinate assigned tasks of the Minority/Women Business Enterprises partners and conform to City goals.

The consultant's team will provide engineering staff with the following capabilities:

\*Personnel with technical knowledge and skills equivalent to an Engineer and Senior Engineer, including a degree in Mechanical and Electrical engineering or a Professional Engineer (PE) license to practice Mechanical or Electrical engineering in the state of Maryland.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to an HVAC Testing and Balancing Technician, including a degree in Mechanical Engineering or a related field, a minimum of five (5) years of experience in HVAC system testing and balancing, and proficiency with HVAC testing equipment. Certifications preferred: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III or IV in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) or similar.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Preservation Architect, including a degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: 1) At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or 2) At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation

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projects. Such graduate study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to an Environmental Scientist, including a degree in Environmental Science or a related field and adequate experience in environmental material sampling and testing. Certifications preferred: Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) from ABCEP, Registered Environmental Scientist (RES) from NRP, or similar.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Contract Administrator II, including a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and three (3) years of experience in contract administration work, project management, or project coordination.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Construction Claim Analyst, including a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Construction Management, or a related field and seven (7) years of experience in construction claim or risk analysis work. Registrations/Certifications preferred: PSP from AACEI or similar.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a Senior Cost Estimator, including a college degree, a minimum of five (5) years of experience in cost estimating or construction management, and proficiency with cost estimating software. Certifications preferred: Certified Cost Professional (CCP) from AACEI, Certified Professional Estimator (CPE) from ASPE, or similar.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a CPM Scheduler, including a college degree, a minimum of five (5) years of experience in engineering or construction management, and a minimum of one (1) year in developing and analyzing critical path schedules using Primavera P6.

Registrations/Certifications preferred: PSP from AACEI, PMI-SP, or similar.

\*Personnel with skills equivalent to a CAD drafter, including a college

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degree and at least three (3) years of drafting experience using AutoCAD or Revit software.

The City intends to select the services of four (4) firms for a period of five (5) years, with an option to extend for two (2) years two additional terms at City's discretion, for a fee not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 for each selected firm.

The Capital Projects Division reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

DGS encourages all contracting 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. Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Mr. Hernan Guadalupe at 667-209-6933 or by email at [Hernan.Guadalupe@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Hernan.Guadalupe@baltimorecity.gov)

**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. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### **Submittal Process**

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1402 is required to complete and submit **an original**

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Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 / 330 unless otherwise specified in this RFP. Provide one **(1) original** submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies to the Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday, November 22, 2024**. Submittals will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 **cannot** be supplemented with additional pages, or additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; simply 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, or you may email:

[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 – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)**

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development

## Legal Notice

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

The MBE goal is 27%  
The WBE goal is 10%

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**

Each 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 Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from (SMBA&D). Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call (SMBA&D) 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:

\*The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE

\*The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE

\*The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

## Legal Notice

### **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 Hiring Law**

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts 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; nullification 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 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.*



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

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with 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. Applications should imply 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.

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

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

## Legal Notice

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

#### PROJECT NO. 1390 WC 1398 GEO- TECHNICAL SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Office of Engineering and Construction (OEC) has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1390 for the selected services for the City of Baltimore from qualified engineering firms perform Geo-technical Services for the horizontal water and wastewater utility projects. It is the expectation of the City's that interested firms providing these services must demonstrate and document the following services for the City of Baltimore.

The City intends to select the services of one (1) firm for a period of three (3) years, with an option to extend for two (2) year additional term at City's discretion, for a fee not to exceed \$1,500,000. for each selected firm. The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

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The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

1. Geotechnical services such as site and subsurface investigation and geophysical investigations. Services shall include:

a. Subsurface soil borings and rock cores to include continuous and bulk sampling, SPT testing and installation of temporary monitoring wells.

b. Non-destructive investigation methods such as seismic refraction, electrical resistivity, spectral analysis of surface waves (SASW) and ground penetration radar (GPR).

c. Soils analysis testing such as grain size analysis, moisture content, Atterberg limits, compaction, unconfined and triaxial compression, sieve analysis, California Bearing Ratio (CBR) and standard and modified Proctor testing.

d. Rock core testing such as unconfined and triaxial compression, tensile strength, point loading, direct shear, abrasion and weathering, permeability, hardness, durability and various other strength, classification, and permeability testing.

2. Onsite materials testing and inspection such as nuclear density testing, aggregate and soil sampling.

Preparation of geotechnical engineering evaluation and reports which may include:

a. Results of field and laboratory data and test results

b. Interpretation and evaluation of site geology and subsurface conditions

c. Analysis of available information so that the following may be designed by others:

i. Temporary earth support systems

ii. Groundwater control and mitigation measures including

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groundwater monitoring wells

iii. Soil preparation

4. Test pits (vacuum and traditional)

5. Miscellaneous services in support of the work described above, such as traffic control, maintenance of traffic plans preparation and approvals, permitting, right of way access, temporary patching, GPS/survey location of sampling locations and utility location and designation.

Services shall include, but not limited to, review of available information, project management, contract administration, field investigation, sampling, laboratory testing, urgent/emergency investigation services, preparation of reports and memoranda, work-related permit applications, right of ways etc. for city, state, and or federal funded water and wastewater pipeline projects

DPW encourages all contracting 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. Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Ms. Tarnisha Bailey at 410-396-8189 or by email at [Tarnisha.Bailey@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Tarnisha.Bailey@baltimorecity.gov)

**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. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

#### **Submittal Process**

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1390 is required to complete and submit **an original** Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 / 330 unless otherwise

## Legal Notice

specified in this RFP. Provide one (1) original submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies to the Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday, November 22, 2024**. Submittals **will not be accepted after the due date (NOON)** and **cannot be emailed**.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 **cannot** be supplemented with additional pages, or additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; simply 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, or you may email:

[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.

#### **COSTS OF RFP RESPONSE**

There will be no payment or compensation provided to firms' who desire to participate in any part of the submission. All expenses related to the preparation of a response, including additional requested information, interviews, and any other necessary information, will be the sole responsibility of the firm. The City, its staff, or its representatives will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs or expenses incurred as a result of providing a submission to this RFP.

## Legal Notice

### MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor’s Office (SMBA&D)

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) 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 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

Each 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 SMBA&D prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from SMBA&D. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call SMBA&D at (410) 396-3818 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:  
The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE  
The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE  
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 Hiring Law

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the “Local Hiring Law”)

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and its rules and regulations apply to contracts 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

Any firm submitting a SF255 in response to the RFP 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; nullification 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 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 providing a SF255 in response to an RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not qualified and will not be considered for further participation on the project.

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

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

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