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'Let's Get Back to Work': Scott Inaugurated for Second Term



Mayor Brandon Maurice Scott was sworn in as the 52nd mayor of Baltimore City with his family alongside him during his inauguration ceremony on December 3, 2024. Scott is the first mayor to be reelected in two decades. The event drew hundreds of supporters, local and state elected officials, and religious leaders. (See article on page 2)

Photo: J.J. McQueen



Inauguration Ceremony Held at Morgan State University

'Let's Get Back to Work': Scott Inaugurated for Second Term

By Demetrius Dillard

Tuesday afternoon marked a special moment for Baltimore City as it welcomed its first mayor to be reelected in two decades.

During an elaborate inauguration ceremony on December 3, 2024, at Morgan State University's Murphy Fine Arts Center, Mayor Brandon Maurice Scott was sworn in for his second term. The event attracted local, state and national leaders and hundreds of supporters.

This year's mayoral inauguration was a far cry from the ceremony in 2020, which was socially distanced and could only accommodate a few individuals due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns.

Event signage that read "Baltimore: Experience The Renaissance" reflected the overarching theme for Scott's second term as the Park Heights native aims to lead Charm City to a promising future with support of partners and city residents.

As Scott laid out his focus for the next four-year term during his inaugural address, he solicited all Baltimoreans to join him in building a better Baltimore, echoing optimism of what he hopes will be a resounding renaissance.

"I often talk of being in the midst of Baltimore's renaissance," Scott said.

"And I deeply believe we are poised to move this city in an unprecedented and positive trajectory. But I know that this work does not happen overnight – and it simply does not live and die with my administration or my time in this office. That is why I am calling on every Baltimorean, every resident and every visitor alike, to be part of this renaissance we are building."

The event featured musical, dance and spoken word performances in addition to remarks from esteemed political leaders, including



Mayor Brandon Scott was sworn in as the 52nd mayor of Baltimore.

Photos: J.J. McQueen

Governor Wes Moore, Congressman Kweisi Mfume and former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

Scott's inauguration was a great day for the city, state and nation, Moore told the audience.

"It's exciting to be here because we know what we're celebrating. We're celebrating a leader who is special. We're celebrating a leader who, every single day, fights for us. We're celebrating a leader who most definitely earned it," Moore said, acknowledging some of Scott's accomplishments.

"We all know that we collectively have more work to do. We all know collectively that we have more places to invest, more wounds to heal, more lives to build, more barriers to eliminate. But I want to be clear – because of Brandon Scott's leadership, the foundation has been set.

"So now the work continues and I want to say from the bottom of my heart that Mayor Scott – from the Moore-Miller Administration and the state's 63rd governor – you don't just have a partner. You have a friend and you have a fan."

During his inaugural address, Scott touted the successes of his first term and highlighted some of the challenges. His violence reduction strategy and the



Mervo's cheer team, along with a massive crowd of supporters, welcomes Brandon Scott to the mayoral inauguration ceremony on December 3, 2024. The event was held in Morgan State University's Murphy Fine Arts Center.

five pillars of his administration were key talking points during his 36-minute speech.

Since taking office, Scott has partnered with law enforcement officials to remove more than 10,200 guns off the streets of Baltimore, he emphasized.

"That is what it means to have a truly comprehensive approach. Now, we see the results of that partnership and commitment. This year, we're seeing a 24 percent reduction in homicides and a 34 percent reduction in nonfatal shootings," Scott said.

"That, of course, is on top of a historic 20 percent reduction in 2023 – which at the time, the largest single year drop that Baltimore had ever seen."

Scott said he wants to be remembered as "the foundational block for a better city" as he detailed childhood experiences that influenced his pursuit for a career in public service.

He also pointed out some of the administrative goals over the next term, including how the city is funded

and the fight in the ongoing vacant housing blight.

"No matter what the world throws at Baltimore, we will continue to do the work and do it the right way for all of Baltimore's people," Scott said.

"My presence here today proves that we've turned the page on a new chapter of growth and closed the old chapter of instability. Now, we must keep writing that chapter – and I hope everyone in this room, everyone watching at home, everyone who stumbles upon this speech down the line – will join us in helping to write that chapter."

Scott left listeners with words of encouragement and assurance as he continued his quest to create a bright future for Baltimore City.

"Baltimore – you have nurtured and inspired me my entire life. And, so, I have dedicated my life to you," he concluded.

"That is the greatest decision I could have ever made – and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue doing so. Now, let's get back to work."

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Keep Your Season's "Holly-Jolly" From Becoming a Season of "Melancholy"

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

It's that time of year again! There's excitement in the air as children anticipate the gifts they will receive, and grown folk look forward to spending quality time with family and friends. Or maybe you are looking forward to a quiet contemplative period of reflection on the year's journey with hope for a new year. Either way, whether you are shopping in the stores or online or anticipating receipt of a package, make sure you keep your "holly-jolly" intact. As we approach the holidays in 2024, here are my top two scams to watch out for and tips to protect yourself.

Fake Delivery Scams: These scams are a growing threat, particularly during the holiday season when online shopping spikes, and people eagerly await packages. Scammers send fake shipping notifications via texts or emails claiming to be from UPS, FedEx, or other carriers. These messages can trick you into revealing sensitive information or paying bogus fees. They often include a link to a fake website that mimics the legitimate delivery service. Clicking on the link allows the scammer to install malware on your device or harvest your information for identity theft or financial fraud. Additionally, they may leave counterfeit notices on your door or in your mailbox, instructing you to call a number or visit a website to claim your package. These notices also can lead to phishing attempts or fraudulent transactions if you act on the notice.

To protect yourself, consider taking the following steps:

1. Verify the Source: Check the sender's email address or phone number. Scammers often use addresses that resemble legitimate services but include

subtle differences, like extra letters or unusual domains.

2. Avoid clicking on links or calling numbers in unsolicited messages: Contact the delivery service directly through their official website or customer support.

3. Be Wary of Unsolicited Messages: If you weren't expecting a package or the message is vague about what is being delivered, it's likely a scam. Legitimate delivery companies typically don't send text messages or emails requiring sensitive information or immediate payment.

4. Inspect Websites Carefully: Scammers create fake websites that look like official delivery portals. Check the URL to ensure it starts with "https://" and matches the company's legitimate domain. Do not enter any personal or financial information on questionable websites.

5. Don't Rush: Scammers often use urgency to pressure you into acting without thinking. Take your time to verify the legitimacy of any communication.

6. Enable Delivery Tracking: When you order items online, sign up for official tracking alerts directly from delivery services for any packages you expect. This minimizes your reliance on unsolicited messages.

Fake Online Retailers: Online shopping continues to dominate holiday spending, and scammers are taking full



advantage. Fake websites that mimic legitimate retailers pop up every year, luring shoppers with offers that seem too good to be true. These websites often sell counterfeit goods or collect payment for items that never arrive.

Protect yourself by keeping the following in mind:

1. Stick to well-known retailers: Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails or advertisements. Instead, navigate directly to the retailer's official website. Be cautious of deals that sound unrealistic, especially on social media platforms.

2. Research the Retailer: If you are unfamiliar with the retailer, look up reviews and feedback from other shoppers. Additionally, websites like Trustpilot or the Better Business Bureau can provide insights into a retailer's reputation.

3. Verify the Website's Authenticity: Use tools like Google's "Safe Browsing Transparency Report" to check if a website is flagged as unsafe. Visit the official website of the brand directly instead of clicking on links in ads or emails.



*Karen Clay,
Clay Technology and Multimedia
Courtesy, Karen Clay*

4. Pay Securely: Use credit cards or secure payment platforms (e.g., PayPal) that offer buyer protection. Avoid using debit cards or direct bank transfers, which are harder to recover in case of fraud and never save your payment details on unfamiliar websites.

5. Enable Alerts: Set up alerts on your bank account or credit card to notify you of any unauthorized transactions.

In short, staying vigilant is your best defense against scams. Take your time when shopping or responding to messages. Rushed decisions are often what scammers count on. Question the legitimacy of emails, offers, and websites before acting, and trust your instincts if something feels off. A little extra scrutiny can save you from falling victim to fraud, ensuring your holiday season remains joyful and stress-free. Remember, it's always better to double-check than to regret later. Stay safe, stay informed, and enjoy the holidays with peace of mind.

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New Podcast Series for Families

'Reimagining Hope' Podcast Shines a Light on the Conversation of Serious Illness

(PASADENA, MD, Dec. 3, 2024)

— As families and their loved ones struggle with serious progressive illness, finding information, resources and support is more critical than ever before in our history. In response, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Supportive Care are introducing a new, innovative and informative podcast series, "Reimagining Hope."

Hosted by Rachel Jordan, Director of Advocacy & Legislative Affairs, the series will feature guests who can provide valuable insight and help you reimagine the hope you may be missing. The podcast will provide quick, easy-to-understand information while giving you the critical skills and real-time tools you can use today to navigate advanced illness.

Jordan said that as a nurse practitioner, she sees patients and their families struggling daily to figure out what resources and services are available to them to care for themselves or a loved one. We are living with serious illness longer today than ever before in our history. Whether you are at diagnosis, months into curative treatment or nearing the end of life, each has their own unique experience.

"I love my role at Hospice of the Chesapeake but most importantly, I'm a daughter, a mom, a caregiver, an Army veteran, and a community advocate," Jordan said. "I have a passion for raising awareness about the care available for those living with serious illness and that's what I hope to share with you."

Discussions will include important topics like sustaining comfort, grief during the holidays, managing the overwhelming number of medications prescribed, and more. "We hope these



Rachel Jordan, left, host of the podcast *Reimagining Hope*, prepares to interview Dr. Sonja Richmond for the new podcast's first episode.

Photo: Sandra Dillon, Hospice of the Chesapeake

talks will bring you some comfort, skills, and peace," Jordan said.

The podcast debuted on December 4, 2024. The first three episodes are as follows:

- "When is it too much? Managing Mom and Dad's Medications" with guest Dr. Sonja Richmond, Hospice of the Chesapeake, Vice President of Medical Affairs & Hospice Medical Director.

- "Navigating Grief During the Holidays," with guest Jennifer Ward, Chesapeake Life Center, Bereavement Counselor

- "Sustaining Comfort: Hydration and Nutrition at the End of Life" with guest Dr. Richmond.

The podcast, which can be found at <https://sites.libsyn.com/556806/site>,

is part of the nonprofit's community outreach and education programming, which is made possible by the generous support of the John and Cathy Belcher Institute.

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Save the Date: December 9, 2024

Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial Dedication Scheduled in Annapolis

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Twenty-five years have passed since the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial was installed at the Annapolis City Dock where passersby can see memorialized sculptures of author Alex Haley reading to three attentive children with a book in his lap. Near this area, Haley's ancestor, Kunta Kinte was brought to the shores of Annapolis aboard the Lord Ligonier from the Gambia in 1767 and sold into slavery.

"It (the memorial) also symbolizes the importance of sharing your family's story regardless of your ethnicity. That is why the children were created to represent different cultures: African American, European, and Asian," said Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley.

He added, "The Compass Rose which sits embedded in the front entrance of the Market House is a spot where from its center you can look out toward the geographical direction of the continent of your ancestors. This was created to indicate clearly that while "Roots" core story is of one family's ultimate evolution from the horrors of slavery; its broader theme is inclusive of all people and their immigrant forebears."

Chris works as the Director of Research, Education and Outreach, and the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, Maryland State Archives, and also serves as a member of the advisory board of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, Inc.

Patsy Baker Blackshear, Ph.D., president of Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, Inc. added that the Memorial was created through a shared responsibility of many within the community who worked together



Alex Haley shakes the hand of Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Pascal in 1981 at the Annapolis City Dock. Photos courtesy of Maryland State Archives



Haley family members, political figures, and memorial organizers gather around the Alex Haley Memorial at its unveiling on December 9, 1999.

to obtain approvals, raise funds, create the Memorial design, and identify and select the artisans, to make the Memorial a true reality.

"This community endeavor was led by [my late husband] Leonard A. Blackshear and completed in stages, over a decade-long period," said Dr. Baker Blackshear.

She recalled that the attendees at the December 9, 1999, dedication and unveiling of the Memorial included Leonard A. Blackshear; Master of Ceremonies, Carl Snowden; actor John Amos who provided the keynote address; Edward Dwight, the Memorial's sculptor; Anne Arundel County Executive, Janet Owens; Governor Parris Glendening; and other officials and individuals.

She further explained that Leonard first led the effort to create the Kunta Kinte Festival. After Alex Haley's



The Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial at the Annapolis City Dock depicts author Alex Haley reading a story to three children of different ethnicities. Courtesy of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, Inc.

See **ANNIVERSARY**, page 12



ENTERTAINMENT

Spotlight

WATERFRONT PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

Holiday Makers Market

SAT DEC 7, 2-8 / SUN DEC 8, 12-6

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Small Business Saturday

Mayor Scott, Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development, and Baltimore Main Streets Kick Off 15th Small Business Saturday with Citywide Shopping Tour

BALTIMORE—Mayor Brandon M. Scott, the Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development, and Baltimore Main Streets kicked off Small Business Saturday with a citywide shopping tour on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

“Every year, Small Business Saturday offers us the opportunity to highlight the businesses, entrepreneurs, and neighbors who keep our communities together,” said Mayor Brandon M. Scott. “I looked forward to celebrating once again with so many Baltimore business owners across the city and shining a light on some of the spots that make Baltimore so special.”

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 and has been officially co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration since 2011. It took place the day after Black Friday and was an annual global awareness campaign to support small and local businesses. The year 2024 marked 15 years of the campaign's existence.

“Small businesses carry some of the best treasures, and together we can keep them thriving,” said Charlyn Nater, Director of Baltimore Main Streets. “Behind every small business is a story. This Small Business Saturday, be part of it by joining the Baltimore Main Street Program and shopping locally!”

The event kicked off at 8 a.m. at The Stoop Café in Pigtown. Throughout the day, Mayor Scott shopped at local businesses within the eight Baltimore Main Streets: Pigtown, Federal Hill, Fells Point, Pennsylvania Avenue, Park Heights, Waverly, Belair-Edison, and

Hamilton-Lauraville.

At 4:30 p.m., Stop 17 was The Flower Cart, a boutique flower shop. Tour 16 included Flourish and Nourish, a holistic wellness store offering herbal teas, crystals, candles, and more.



Owners of Highlandtown Protein House and the Laser Jewelry and their team members with Mayor Scott and Charlyn Nater, Director of Main Streets. Photo: Office of the Mayor



Sidney of Sidney's Ice Cream located on Belair-Edison Main Street. Photo: Baltimore Times



Main Streets Charlyn Nater, Director, strikes a pose in her newly purchased jacket from Retrospect Village (Vintage clothing and accessories boutique) located in Federal Hill Main Street.

Photo: Baltimore Times

Small Business Saturday

The holiday season is a great opportunity for small businesses to increase foot traffic from consumers in their neighborhoods. According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, small businesses in Baltimore City employed more than 300,000 workers and generated over \$19 billion in payroll for the local economy.

“I look forward to this event annually to give much-deserved attention to our fantastic local small businesses,” said Christopher R. Lundy, Esq., Director of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development. “Small Business Saturday is the kickoff of the holiday shopping season and a reminder of the impact that we can have by shopping locally. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Spending locally benefits not just the individual business owners but also their employees, and families, and strengthens our community.”

Additionally, Mayor Scott, the Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development, and Baltimore Main Streets encouraged Baltimore City residents to shop local and support small businesses from December 1 through December 24, 2024.



(l-r) Julia Fleichaker, owner of Greedy Reads located in Fells Point Main Street District and Ginny Longhorn of Main Streets.
Photo: Baltimore Times



Mayor Brandon Scott with Wanda Best, Executive Director, Uptown Planning Committee; and Annie Hall, President, Penn North Community Association, Inc. during the visit to the Pennsylvania Avenue Main Street. Photo: Office of the Mayor



(l-r) Councilwoman Odette Ramos (District 14); Mayor Scott (holding up his newly purchased James Brown album); Rupert Wondolowski, Co-owner of Normal's Books & Records (Waverly Main Street); and Diana Emerson, Executive Director of Waverly Main Street. Photo: Office of the Mayor



(l-r) Lenny McLean, owner of The Island Market; Paulette Davis, owner of Park Coffee and Tea (Park Heights Main Street); Mayor Brandon Scott; Andrea England, Program Coordinator, Baltimore Main Streets; and Yolanda Jiggetts, CEO of Park Heights Renaissance. Photo: Office of the Mayor

Diabetes Education, Management Ahead of Holiday Eating

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects how the body processes blood sugar which is also known as glucose. Around the holidays, regular mealtimes may change and tempting treats may be offered by hosts. Family members and friends can benefit from learning more about diabetes to better support loved ones who have been diagnosed with it from overindulging, but also for the purposes of guarding their own health.

“When the pancreas can no longer produce insulin, or the body cannot use insulin effectively, blood glucose levels rise, leading to diabetes. This disease requires careful management and awareness, as it can lead to severe complications if left untreated,” said Maggie Bell, a registered nurse and registered dietitian.

There are two primary types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. While explaining more about diabetes, Bell provides more information cited by <https://idf.org/about-diabetes/what-is-diabetes>.

“Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the immune system mistakenly attacks the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. This destruction leaves the body unable to produce insulin, a hormone essential for regulating blood sugar. Type 1 diabetes is often diagnosed at a young age, and researchers are still working to identify its causes and potential prevention strategies,” Bell explained.

She added, “Type 2 diabetes, on the other hand, is a chronic metabolic condition where the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn’t produce enough of it. This results in high blood sugar levels over time. Though once predominantly diagnosed in older adults, Type 2 diabetes is now increasingly common in children due to rising obesity rates and sedentary lifestyles.

Bell notes that the American Diabetes Association gives insight into how diabetes is diagnosed.

“Diabetes is typically diagnosed through a blood test called the hemoglobin A1C, which reflects average blood sugar levels over three months. An A1C level of 6.5% or higher indicates diabetes, while levels between 5.7% and 6.4% fall into the prediabetes range. Fasting blood sugar levels above 126 mg/dl may also signal diabetes.”

Symptoms of diabetes include frequent urination; excessive thirst; fatigue; unexplained weight loss; blurred vision; numbness or tingling in the extremities; and slow wound healing, according to Bell.

“However, some individuals experience no symptoms, emphasizing the importance of regular screenings, especially for those at risk,” she added.

Bell further explained that people who are most at risk for Type 2 diabetes include individuals who are overweight or obese, and particularly minorities with a family history of the disease. Poor dietary choices and a sedentary lifestyle are the primary risk factors. These habits can lead to weight gain, insulin resistance, and, eventually, diabetes.

She also mentioned that “the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes continues to rise, particularly among African Americans and other minority groups,” according to the Office of Minority Health <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/diabetes-and-african-americans>.

Bell said that the trend is fueled by increasing rates of obesity, sedentary behavior, and poor dietary habits, exacerbated by socioeconomic disparities. Efforts to address these disparities and promote healthier lifestyle choices are critical in reversing this trend.

“Type 2 diabetes is not only manageable but also reversible with the right lifestyle changes. Take an honest look at your habits. Are you eating a



Maggie Bell, a registered nurse and registered dietitian, takes the blood sugar level of a patient in Kingston, Jamaica. Photo: Lee Lewis

diet high in sugar and refined carbs? Are you active or sedentary throughout the day? Are you getting enough rest and managing stress effectively? Small, consistent changes can lead to transformative results, improving not just blood sugar levels but overall health and quality of life,” Bell suggested.

She also stated, “Type 1 diabetes, however, can affect anyone regardless of age or lifestyle. Having a close family member with Type 1 diabetes significantly increases an individual’s risk.”

Additionally, Bell also remarked that individuals should be aware that prediabetes is a condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be classified as diabetes. Prediabetes indicates insulin resistance or inadequate insulin production by the pancreas.

“Lifestyle changes, such as eating a nutrient-dense diet, engaging in regular physical activity, managing stress, and getting adequate sleep, can reverse prediabetes and prevent the progression to Type 2 diabetes,” she said.

Bell stated that chronic stress and poor sleep habits elevate cortisol levels which can lead to increased blood sugar levels



Maggie Bell, a registered nurse and registered dietitian.

Photo: Paul Bostrum

over time. Consistently practicing stress-reduction techniques and prioritizing seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night are effective preventative measures.

Diet is a cornerstone of preventing and managing diabetes.

“A healthy diet that prioritizes whole foods minimizes refined sugars, and balances macronutrients helps regulate blood sugar levels, supports weight management, and reduces the risk of complications associated with diabetes,” Bell added.

Visit www.maggiellnutrition.com to learn more about Bell; <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/risk-factors-type-2-diabetes/diabetes-risk-test> to find information about type 2 diabetes; and <https://www.screenfortype1.com/know-your-risk> to explore risk factor information regarding Type 1 diabetes.

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SCAN ME! >>>

Anniversary

Continued from page 6

death, he led the effort to create the Kunte Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation. It became the lead and sponsoring organization for the Memorial's creation.

"The Memorial was inspired by the work of Alex Haley in searching for his family heritage, as represented in the book 'Roots,'" Dr. Baker Blackshear also stated.

Time has passed, but the value of the well-known Memorial has not faded. Dr. Baker Blackshear, Chris Haley, and Eric Elston, PhD. created the three-person 25th Year Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial Anniversary Committee to plan a commemorative event. The celebration, hosted by the Kunte Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation at the Annapolis City Dock, located at 1 Dock Street on December 9, 2024, at 1 p.m., will offer a chance to reflect on the value of history that should never be forgotten.

The program at Annapolis City Dock will include David Fakunle, Chair, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Michael Twitty, an award-winning culinary historian; Dr. Omékongo Dibinga, author of "Lies About Black People"; Lady Brion, Maryland's Poet Laureate; Bill Haley, grandson of Alex Haley; and Chris Haley. Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley and Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman will also address attendees, in addition to Dr. Baker Blackshear. Local activist, Carl Snowden, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event, just as he did in 1999 during the dedication and unveiling of the Memorial. A delegation of officials, including the Minister of Tourism & Culture, Abdoulie Jobe, and the Director General of the National Center for Arts & Culture, Hassoum Ceesaay are expected to attend the celebration.

Awards will be presented to six integral contributors to the initial Memorial effort, and Watermark, LLC. The company will receive the award for its continuous support to the African American heritage efforts. However, registration is now closed for the afternoon Banneker Douglass Tubman Museum reception due to space limitations.

Chris wants event attendees to feel compelled to talk to their family members about their own stories.

"Not everybody had a Kunta Kinte or an Alex Haley, but everyone had someone who preceded them despite whatever human struggles they experienced and they, too, had stories to tell."

Visit <https://kintehaley.org/conferences/25-year-anniversary-celebration> to learn more about the forthcoming celebration that is free and open to the public.



Alex Haley attends a huge gathering at the dedication of the Kunta Kinte plaque at the Annapolis City Dock in 1981. Photos courtesy of Maryland State Archives



Senator Paul Sarbanes, John Amos, County Executive Janet Owens, Bill Haley (Alex Haley's son) and the organizer of the Memorial, Leonard Blackshear, at the 1999 unveiling ceremony.



John Amos, left, greets former Governor of Maryland Parris Glendening at the Annapolis City Dock.

Ravens Justin Tucker Surprisingly Slumping This Season

By Tyler Hamilton

There once was a time when the Baltimore Ravens could all but guarantee they'd put points on the board if they reached their opponent's 35-yard line. That was because they had one of the NFL's all-time best kickers in Justin Tucker. The perennial All-Pro has fallen on tough times this season.

Since Week 8, Tucker has made just seven of the 12 field goal attempts. His five missed field goals have come from 50, 47, 50, 47 and 53 yards out.

Tucker missed two field goal attempts and an extra point in Sunday's 24-19 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. He is now 19-of-27 on field-goal attempts this season and has missed two extra points. His 10 missed kicks leads the NFL and his field-goal percentage of 70% is by far a career low.

"As simply as I can put it, I missed the kicks, and I'll leave it at that. I just left the points out there. I feel like I cost us this one," Tucker said on Sunday.

Tucker has made his share of game-winning field goals. His 66-yard field goal is the longest in NFL history. The misses are a rarity for the normally on-the-money kicker. But his teammates aren't losing any trust in him.

"I have the utmost confidence in 'Tuck' [Justin Tucker]. He's a [future] Hall of Famer for a reason," Ravens linebacker and team captain Roquan Smith said.

"Hell yes, I have confidence in [Justin Tucker]," quarterback Lamar Jackson added. "[Justin Tucker] is the G.O.A.T. still. Whatever is going on, just block it out. I believe he's still the G.O.A.T."

Ravens coach John Harbaugh said he's not moving on from Tucker despite the recent struggles. Harbaugh, a former special teams coach, knows how mental kicking is. So, he wants to make his kicker confident while still setting an expectation to make the attempts. He's empowering Tucker to fix his mistakes.



Justin Tucker

Photo: AP Photo/Nick Wass

Tucker will get to clear his mind over the bye week before coming back on Monday to start preparing for the New York Giants on December 15.

Legendary former New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick weighed in on Tucker recently during an appearance on the Let's Go Podcast.

"I don't see that there's like a lack of talent. I think there's something mechanically that he's not doing consistently," Belichick said. "If you have the key to unlock that problem, then probably everything could be great."

"I think Coach Harbaugh is doing the right thing. I would stick with Justin Tucker. This guy was the most accurate kicker in the history of football. He gets great height on the ball. He's been super consistent. He's obviously having a little bit of a rough patch right here, but it doesn't look to me like his talent level has declined. There's something mechanically that just isn't quite right all the time. I think they just gotta work hard and try to find that."

gp² Black & African American
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Black and African American Communities



The University of Maryland, Baltimore is seeking individuals aged 18 years of age and older from the Black or African American community — **both with and without Parkinson's disease** — to join the BLAAC PD study. Participants will help advance knowledge about Parkinson's disease in Black and African American people.

To learn more and see if BLAAC PD may be an option for you, please contact:

The University of Maryland Research Team
410-328-1883

blaacpd.org

gp² Global Parkinson's
Genetics Program

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

20240909-US-ENG-PA-PAD-V1.0_Baltimore

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1405

Construction Management Assistance for Sanitary Contract 979 Dundalk Avenue Pumping Station Rehabilitation.

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of Engineering and Construction, to certify the qualifications of engineering firms to provide Construction Management Assistance for Sanitary Contract 979 Dundalk Avenue Pumping Station Rehabilitation. One contract will be awarded for a period of 5 years.

Scope of Work

The Project and Construction Management Assistance services to be provided include, but are not limited to, assisting the City Office of Engineering and Construction with construction monitoring and inspection, preparation of daily reports, 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 support documents, cost estimating, scheduling, time impact analysis, quality control, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and other documents.

*Experience in Facilities Rehabilitation and Construction at Wastewater Treatment Plants.

*Experience in development and implementation of a Construction Project Management program for Wastewater Treatment Plants.

*Familiarity with standard construction inspection procedures and requirements for Civil, Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical disciplines and SCADA system installation and implementation.

*Familiarity with the most current applicable building codes, Electrical NEC, and Wastewater Treatment Plant standards.

*Experience in providing and managing field inspection staff with Quality Control and Quality Assurance experience and with change orders and claims analysis.

*Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling, and Time Impact

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Analysis, using Primavera version 6 scheduling software.

*Experience with Primavera Contract Management version 14 and Unifier project tracking software.

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

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. Project fees have been estimated at \$3,500,000.00 for a period of 5 years.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Mr. Kevin Cookley at 410-396-5385 or email Kevin.Cookley@baltimorecity.gov

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package. Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410-396-6883.

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.

Submittal Process

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1405 is required to complete and submit **an original** 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 January 24, 2024**. Submittals **will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed**.

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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. 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.

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

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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") 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

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\$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 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.

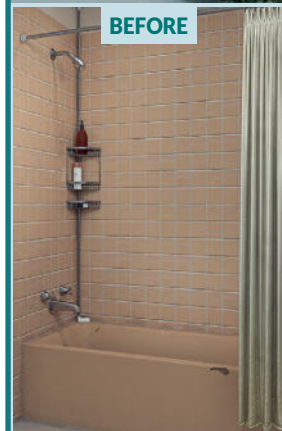
Firms providing a SF255 in response to an RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not qualified and will not be considered for further participation on the project.

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

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

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Legal Notices
email: legals@btimes.com
dwane@btimes.com

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