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A Journey to Remember: Two Organ Donors Give a Marylander the Gift of Life

*Bridgette Ann Greer celebrated 18 years of her successful double lung transplant in March 2024. She was later diagnosed with end-stage renal failure due to the long-term use of anti-rejection drugs. Greer's niece was a living donor who donated a kidney for Greer's kidney transplant in 2018. Greer raises awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation. She participated in a "Donate Life Flag Raising Ceremony" honoring organ, eye and tissue donors on April 8, 2024 at the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center. Greer was the main speaker at the event.
(See article on page 7)
Photo courtesy of the Greer family*



Sabrina Thompson: An 'Artsy NASA Engineer,' STEM Advocate, and Spacesuit Designer

By Andrea Blackstone

Gender equality in STEM fields has improved, but it still has a long way to go.

"Women working in engineering occupations increased from 3% in 1970 to 15% in 2019," according to The United States Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/01/women-making-gains-in-stem-occupations-but-still-underrepresented.html>

Black women engineers are rare. Mary Jackson, an American mathematician and engineer, became NASA's first Black female engineer in 1958. Today, Sabrina Thompson, an aerospace engineer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center NASA engineer, scientist, designer, and founder of GIRL IN SPACE CLUB™ continues to break barriers while empowering girls and women in STEM.

Originally from New York, Thompson now resides in Baltimore. Her interest in STEM and engineering was sparked in high school.

"I was the artsy kid, so I thought I was going to become an artist or a famous basketball player, because those are the things I did a lot and I enjoyed. However, I was a valedictorian of the school, and I was in my twelfth-grade year. It was a panic almost to find a college for me, because I didn't have as much guidance in that arena throughout my high school career," Thompson explained.

Her art teacher suggested that since Thompson was good at math, science and was creative, she should consider pursuing the engineering field. Her recommendation resonated with her student. Thompson earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical

Engineering from Stony Brook University, and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Working at an internship at Honda's manufacturing plant in Ohio revealed that Thompson liked to work on complex systems.

"I was testing some of the new model vehicles there. I was taking apart transmissions and testing different things. I really liked that," she explained.

Then she thought of what system was more complex than a car.

"That's what made me think of all the subsystems that are involved in a spacecraft," Thompson noted.

As an aerospace engineer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Thompson specializes in spacecraft trajectory design, flight dynamics, and mission planning.

Thompson also addresses her passion for merging STEM and creativity by redefining functional fashion and wearable innovation through GIRL IN SPACE CLUB™, a for-profit program that includes workshops where clothing products or accessories are created that blend art and STEM through art projects. Thompson's patent-pending flight suits and a STEMulating Art® program allows Thompson and a small staff to teach STEM concepts through art projects for various age ranges.

"We want them to think future forward. I don't want them [students] to create something that already exists," the CEO/founder of GIRL IN SPACE CLUB™ added.

She stated that the program serves nonprofits in DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia.

The idea that jumpstarted GIRL



An all-female crew of analog astronauts from the Hypatia I Mars simulation mission wear GIRL IN SPACE CLUB flight suits Sabrina Thompson created from Thompson's Kickstarter funds. Photo: Pau Fabregat



Sabrina Thompson, an aerospace engineer and founder of GIRL IN SPACE CLUB models the GIRL IN SPACE CLUB Space travel suit that she created. Photo: Pat Bourque

IN SPACE CLUB™ ignited after Thompson had not picked up a paintbrush since her college years. She began to draw and paint astronauts with dreadlocks. She shared her creations on social media and feedback poured in. A painting called "Girl in Space" began a movement to engage youth through STEM, especially in the inner cities. After the pandemic, Thompson began to garner interest in Baltimore. Boys and girls participated, although girl participation was emphasized and competition was deemphasized.

Students have seen her show up for talks at schools wearing Jordans on, or some cool sneakers and her customized my flight suit.

"I want them to get excited about science and how cool it could be," said Thompson.

Thompson also launched a Kickstarter campaign in 2022 to address the issue of including women in STEM.

"I took on the issue of taking these two worlds, stem and art, and

combined them in a way that's tangible. Something that we can show like this is what it looks like when you bring more creativity into the space world and with STEM. So, we created a flight suit that solves a problem for women. Any woman who wears a one-piece garment knows how difficult it is to go to the bathroom and how you have to plan your day around it," Thompson shared.

Thompson stated that the future is going to require teams that can contain both the people who can think technically and the people who use their imagination and think about the possibilities.

She added, "My mission in all of this is to expose youth to those possibilities and get them thinking that way as early as possible."

Clothes and customized jackets are sold through www.girlinspaceclub.com.

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Malware Part 2: How to Manage the Risk of Infection of Your Childrens' Devices

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

Living in a digital world with all of the available technology has its perks. We have opportunities to expand our knowledge, sometimes in real time, beyond the bounds of a specific geographic area. We are exposed more readily to different cultures and incredible opportunities to learn in different ways. From online learning to creative exploration, technology can empower, educate, and connect our children, including those who are differently abled, like never before. The key is finding the right balance between embracing these benefits and protecting ourselves and our children from the very real cybersecurity threats that can accompany them.

The Ways Technology Use Benefits Our Children

Unlike those of us who grew up in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, children today can learn virtually anything with the click of a button or the press of a key. Online resources like National Geographic Kids, Khan Academy, and PBS Kids bring science, math, history, and storytelling to life in ways that weren't possible generations ago. A curious child can instantly explore space, learn about animals, or master multiplication through self-directed, interactive games and videos, geared to their learning levels.

The availability of digital tools opens doors to new forms of creativity, enabling children to create digital drawings, compose music, produce videos, and even build apps or games using simple coding platforms like Scratch. With these tools, and encouragement from parents and teachers, the child who loves storytelling

can create a digital comic book, complete with voiceovers, animations, and original characters.

Technology also helps children, friends, and families stay connected in an increasingly global world, through messaging apps, video chats, and online communities that provide opportunities to socialize and find support across geographic regions. Given that technology can adapt to each child's pace, style, and abilities, the "playing field" for learning is more even for every child. Apps can identify strengths and weaknesses and adjust the presentation of the content accordingly, making learning more effective and less stressful.

Balancing Benefits with Safety: A Parent's Role

Of course, all these benefits still come with risks. Children are naturally curious, and their lack of experience can make them more vulnerable to clicking dangerous links or downloading malware.

Here are some ways you as a parent can help protect your children without discouraging their exploration and learning:

1. Set Boundaries with Parental Controls:

Use parental control tools on devices and Wi-Fi to limit what your child can access. Create age-appropriate filters for websites, apps, and search engines. Use features like Apple's Screen



It's important to teach our children responsible uses of their computing devices. Graphic Design by Karen Clay



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

- Time or Google's Family Link to monitor activity and manage downloads.
- 2. Talk Openly About Digital Dangers:** Explain what malware is in simple, age-appropriate language. Encourage your child to tell you if they see pop-ups, strange links, or are asked to download something. Help them develop the habit of asking before installing new apps or clicking unfamiliar links.
 - 3. Model Safe Online Behavior:** Practice what you preach by using strong passwords. Don't click suspicious links and explain your own choices when using technology. Let your children watch how you research a new app, evaluate its safety, and decide whether to download it.
 - 4. Create Tech-Free Zones and Times:** Balance screen time with offline play and conversation. Ban devices from the dinner table, and instead, encourage conversation. Encourage regular breaks from screens during the day and keep devices out of bedrooms at night.
 - 5. Stay Involved in Their Digital Lives:** Play the games they play. Watch the videos they watch. Ask them to show you what they're learning or creating. Being engaged builds trust and provides insight into their online habits and exposure.
 - 6. Keep Devices Secure:** Install reputable antivirus and anti-malware software on all family devices.
 - 7. Configure Children's Devices Appropriately:** Use child accounts with limited permissions and keep systems updated to close security vulnerabilities.
 - 8. Encourage Critical Thinking:** Teach your child how to evaluate websites, question online offers, and recognize suspicious behavior. Help them understand that not everything online is true or safe.
- Technology is a powerful tool for discovery, creativity, and growth, but like any tool, it must be used wisely. When parents stay informed and involved, they can create an environment where children enjoy the benefits of a tech-enabled life while recognizing the inherent pitfalls.

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



Health Care

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Commits \$7.1 Million to Address Diabetes Through 31 Community Organizations

Baltimore and Washington (March 20, 2025) — CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst), one of the country's largest not-for-profit healthcare organizations, is investing \$7.1 million in 31 community-based organizations in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia to combat diabetes.

The investment, part of CareFirst's Place-Based Grants Initiative, will support community and health collaboratives to address diabetes and diet-related chronic conditions for sustainable improvements in community health. Targeting priority areas identified as Healthy Food Priority Areas, with a high prevalence of diabetes, the multi-year grants will focus on improving access to healthy, affordable food and promoting well-being in our communities.

"Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in D.C., Maryland and Virginia, disproportionately affecting underserved communities in our region, so we must address it together," said Lester Davis, Vice President and Chief of Staff, who leads CareFirst's community and public health initiatives. "Food security and nutrition education play a critical role in preventing and managing diabetes. This is why CareFirst is investing in local programs that directly address these issues to ensure communities have access to the resources they need to lead healthier lives."

CareFirst projects the grants will impact 1.5 million residents across the region. The funded programs focus on three key areas:

- Expanding local food systems to increase access to healthy, affordable food options in Healthy Food Priority Areas;



- Implementing food-is-medicine programs, including produce prescription programs to support chronic disease management; and
- Providing food literacy, nutrition education, and healthy meal preparation training.

"CareFirst's commitment to place-based solutions aims to create lasting health improvements through access to nutritious food and education," said Kimberly Harris, Director of Community Health and Social Impact at CareFirst and 2024-25 Chair for the American Diabetes Association's State of Diabetes. "Addressing the root causes of diabetes requires a comprehensive approach that extends beyond clinical care to tackle the underlying social drivers of health. Our investment shifts the focus from treatment to prevention, ensuring everyone – regardless of zip code – has access to fresh, healthy food and essential health resources."

Food insecurity is a significant public health issue that affects overall wellness. One in nine Marylanders, including one in seven children, faces food insecurity. To alleviate the burden of food insecurity, and the impact it has on overall wellness, it is essential to drive investments to generate access to high-quality, nutritious food and resources across our region.

CareFirst engages with local

communities to understand their most pressing needs, using that feedback to guide its investments. Over the past few years, CareFirst has dedicated \$1.7 million to local health improvement coalitions and community-based organizations addressing the factors that contribute to the severity and likelihood of developing diabetes. This latest \$7.1 million investment builds on those efforts, further advancing health equity and nutritional security while enhancing access to quality care across the region.

The Baltimore City grant recipients include:

- BIT Community Center Inc. (Baltimore City, MD)
- Engage with Heart (Baltimore City, MD)
- Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm (Baltimore City, MD)
- So What Else, Inc. (Baltimore City, Frederick County, Prince George's County)
- SONS of Phoenix (Baltimore City, MD)
- UEmpower of Maryland (Baltimore City, MD)
- Union Memorial Hospital (Baltimore City, MD)
- YMCA of Central MD (Baltimore City, MD)

To learn more about how CareFirst is transforming healthcare, visit www.carefirst.com/transformation.

“Not My Family; The Monique Smith Story” Airs on Lifetime April 12, 2025

By Andrea Blackstone

The U.S. Department of Justice reported that the first 48 hours following a child’s disappearance are the most critical to ensure that a child is returned home safely. Additionally, the first three hours are the most crucial window of time.

Creating a Child ID-Kit that includes personal information such as your child’s full name; nickname; address; date of birth; distinguishing characteristics; medical information; fingerprints; all emergency contacts; and an up-to-date, high-resolution, color head-to-shoulders photo of your child is just one way parents can prepare ahead of a crisis involving a missing child and 911 is called.

Moreover, the “total abductions of infants related to healthcare [was] confirmed by National Center for Missing & Exploited Children from 1964 to January 2025 in the USA” is 345.

S. Monique Smith, a philanthropist, entrepreneur, speaker and author of “I Am The Ancestor: Before I Die, I Must Share My Story” proves that all missing children are not dead, and some children really are abducted in their infancy.

Smith stated that she was stolen as a baby, trafficked to Baltimore at the age of one, and endured decades of trauma. The resilient Baltimore City resident did not give up on uncovering her identity, the history of existence, and her blood family. Smith’s determination paid off in numerous ways.

“I discovered my true identity and gained my birth certificate in 2022 after being missing for over 50 years. Nothing is impossible when you focus and put your mind to it,” said Smith.

“Believing in myself, trusting the process, and living the story I want told, turned my pain into an impactful purpose.”

At the beginning of her search, Smith felt lost, alone and confused. After a group of DNA detectives completed an extensive process, Smith reunited with six of her sisters in 2019. Smith has been through trials and tribulations, but a new journey is underway.

“Not My Family; The Monique Smith Story” will premiere on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 8 p.m. on A&E Lifetime. The movie is a full adaptation of Smith’s memoir that is rooted in Smith’s mission to find answers to baffling questions.

Smith further stated that “A first look at “Not My Family; The Monique Smith Story” is based on a true story about a woman who endured a horrific childhood only to discover that her family was not hers.”

Solace Kimbro Jones makes a debut as Smith’s childhood self and the film stars Yaya DaCosta.

Smith explained that survivors of any trauma and their loved ones; advocates and activists; law enforcement and social workers; parents and caregivers; members of the general public; and anyone who believes that “this could never happen to my family,” should view the film to see how deep the issue of missing children runs, and why awareness is key to protecting communities. Smith also said that the movie is a wake-up call. It is about inspiring action to do more for missing children, whether through policy change, personal advocacy, or simply having conversations that save lives.

The Baltimore Times interviewed Smith in 2019. At that time, Smith

told her story at a public event. She explained how she discovered that her identity was fictitious. Smith patiently told her harrowing story that involved a woman who reportedly raised her and falsified records.

Smith also released a documentary, “The Longest Living Jane Doe” in Baltimore, Maryland at the Senator Theater. Proceeds supported several nonprofits assisting victims, survivors, and community awareness campaigns. She received The Baltimore Times’ Positive People Award in addition to others for her commitment to help elevate humanity and raise awareness about missing children.

She remains passionate about never giving up on finding missing and exploited children.

“No one should ever stop searching,” Smith stated. “Closure is everything.”

Smith explained that her advocacy work led to the opportunity with “Lifetime.” When “Not My Family; The Monique Smith Story” is shared with viewers, Smith wants people to take away a message after watching her story unfold on screen.

“Hope lives. Never give up on yourself. Master the best version of yourself, turning what most will see as ordinary, but it’s actually extraordinary. Persevere! Take from a person that went from being beaten



“Not My Family; The Monique Smith Story” will be shown on Lifetime on April 12, 2025. The movie is based on a true story. After searching for answers, she discovered that her family was not hers.

Photo: Antonio Hunt, Jr. The Hunt Media Solutions

daily to beating the odds,” Smith advised.

She added, “I’m extremely blessed, excited, and delighted about A&E Lifetime Movies. It truly exceeds my goal with regard to understanding, embracing, and living your truth. Sharing your story just might be a story to save lives.”

Watch a sneak peak of the movie here: https://youtu.be/z7d8M_e27EY?si=xjDlarYdabgEr1F3

Visit www.KnownAsMonique.com to learn more about Smith. Connect with her on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1KnownAsMonique>.

A Journey to Remember: Two Organ Donors Give a Marylander the Gift of Life

By **Andrea Blackstone**

After growing up playing sports, Bridgette Ann Greer blossomed into an avid exerciser who jogged about twenty-five miles a week. The active attorney also enjoyed strength training, water aerobics and racquetball. Then, her health took a surprising turn.

“In 1999, I was jogging a lot more. It was probably more of a trot than a jog, and I noticed that when I exercised my breathing was becoming labor-intensive. When I went to the doctor, I was referred to a pulmonologist who said I had pulmonary sarcoidosis,” said Greer, noting that it is an inflammatory disease.

The condition had severely reduced Greer’s breathing capacity and created irreversible scar tissue on Greer’s lungs. She had been diagnosed with sarcoidosis in her eyes that almost caused her to lose vision ten years prior. Greer’s sarcoidosis was treated with heavy steroid dosages until it resurfaced and started attacking her lungs.

She added, “I was probably breathing at like in the high 30 percentage, and so I had to use oxygen on exertion. I exercised with two oxygen tanks.”

Greer was hospitalized for pneumonia. Doctors informed her that mold and fungus were growing in the sputum samples. Greer had also developed aspergillosis, which is an airborne disease caused by breathing aspergillus mold spores. Her pulmonologist said that she would need a lung transplant in approximately six years. Greer was not a typical lung transplant patient, so the seriousness of her prognosis did not immediately register.

“I worked every day. I exercised every day. I was president of the Bar Association. In 2003, I was planning

a wedding. I got married in 2003. I was building a house. Other than using oxygen and it being very difficult to breathe, I just didn’t believe that I needed a lung transplant,” Greer recalled.

Over time, simple tasks became increasingly more challenging for Greer to perform. After she was evaluated by doctors at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in November of 2005, she was advised that she was “too high risk” for them. She later found out that they did not do as many lung transplants. She chose Duke University Medical Center from some of the suggested places that were recommended.

By 2006, she relocated to Durham, North Carolina in preparation for a life-saving transplant. Greer received a call from a transplant coordinator informing her that potential donor lungs were available in March.

“I think the lungs came from an 18-year-old Caucasian male. I believe that he was in a car accident,” Greer explained.

Greer’s surgery was supposed to last between four to six hours, but it ended up being 16 because doctors discovered that the aspergillosis had calcified and turned into bone.

Despite numerous hurdles, the Prince George County, Maryland resident lived to experience retirement and achieve much more. March 2024 marked a celebratory 18-year mark of Greer’s surgery.

Greer had to pivot yet again. She was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure due to the long-term use of anti-rejection drugs. Greer underwent a kidney transplant in December 2018 at Johns Hopkins. Shanelle Hicks, Greer’s niece, became her living kidney donor who was chosen out of other family members to provide the kidney.



Shanelle Hicks kisses her aunt, Bridgette Ann Greer, on the cheek at Johns Hopkins before Greer heads into surgery for a kidney transplant in December of 2018. Photos courtesy of the Greer family



Bridgette Ann Greer (left) with her niece and living kidney donor, Shanelle Hicks at Johns Hopkins for evaluation/testing in preparation for Greer’s kidney transplant. Greer previously underwent lung transplant surgery in 2006 at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina.

The New Jersey resident described her aunt as a giving and loving person who is all about helping the next person.

“She will go above and beyond, and she will always exceed expectations,” said Hicks. “It’s rewarding to be around her, to know her, and to be related to her. So, when I had the opportunity to do something for her, because she’s always doing something, it wasn’t even a question. God had guided us through that whole process. There were no hiccups in between. Everything was perfect.”

Hicks also said, “It was a blessing for me to help her.”

Donating a kidney to Greer helped Hicks to become more aware of her health. She stopped eating meat but now consumes seafood and vegetables. The experience also assisted her with a fitness journey.

Greer is also living an active, quality life and honors the memory of her deceased donor by taking care of her

lungs and by being of service to others. She serves as an ambassador for Infinite Legacy, a nonprofit organ procurement organization. Greer speaks and lends a hand with administrative work. Greer volunteers in other capacities such as serving as chair of the Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission for Prince George’s County, and she serves as a commissioner on the Consumer Protection Commission.

Hicks advised other people to consider becoming a living donor.

“Just take into consideration that you’re helping someone live a life, and that’s the rewarding part of it,” she stated.

Visit <https://register.donatelifemaryland.org> to learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation.

The Dangerous Backlash Against DEI in Maryland's Healthcare System

By **Chrissy M. Thornton**

The fight for health equity in Maryland is at a crossroads, and the consequences of inaction will be devastating for those who need care the most. For years, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare providers across the state have worked to address disparities in access, treatment, and outcomes, knowing that racial and economic inequities in healthcare are not just statistics— they are life-or-death realities for too many people. But now, under the weight of new executive orders and the political rollback of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, many of these same institutions are being pushed into an impossible choice: comply with policies that threaten to erase progress or risk penalties for continuing the work they know is right.

For over a decade, we have made strides in expanding health equity initiatives that support historically marginalized communities. We have built programs that will work to ensure Black patients are heard and treated fairly, that LGBTQ+ individuals receive affirming and respectful care, that people with disabilities have accessible services, and that low-income families are not denied treatment due to financial hardship. We have fought to diversify the medical profession so that the doctors and nurses treating patients actually reflect the communities they serve. And we have done all of this knowing that without intentional efforts, these communities will continue to suffer from worse health outcomes, higher mortality rates, and deeper mistrust of the healthcare system.

But now, Maryland's healthcare

institutions— especially those that rely on public funding— are being scrutinized under executive orders and policy changes designed to dismantle these very initiatives. Hospitals and clinics that were once celebrated for their commitment to health equity are now being forced to reassess whether they can continue these efforts without jeopardizing their funding or facing legal consequences. The financial assistance programs that help patients afford life-saving medications, mobility aids, and treatment are being questioned under new restrictions that aim to eliminate targeted support for marginalized groups. Medical schools and training programs designed to recruit and support more Black and Latino— essential for improving patient outcomes— are now at risk of losing resources, threatening the pipeline of future medical professionals who understand the lived experiences of the patients they serve.

This rollback is not happening in a vacuum. It is part of a larger, dangerous narrative that claims DEI initiatives are unnecessary, divisive, or even discriminatory. That claim is untrue. DEI in healthcare exists because, without it, we know what happens. We have seen what happens when Black women's pain is ignored during childbirth, leading to maternal mortality rates that are far higher than those of white women. We have seen what happens when Black men walk into emergency rooms and are sent home with undiagnosed heart conditions that could have been treated if implicit bias training had been part of medical education. We have seen what happens when transgender patients are refused treatment or dehumanized by providers who

have not been trained in inclusive care. These are not hypothetical scenarios. They are real, and they happen every day.

The consequences of rolling back equity in healthcare will be swift and severe. Without targeted interventions, racial health disparities in Maryland, already some of the worst in the country, will deepen. Chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and asthma will go untreated in communities that already suffer from limited access to healthcare. Medical research that focuses on health conditions disproportionately affecting communities of color will lose funding.

Mistrust between patients and providers will grow, and more people will avoid seeking care altogether, leading to preventable deaths.

The communities that are being targeted by these rollbacks are not the ones that created these health disparities. These disparities exist because of systemic neglect, because of policies that have long denied marginalized groups the same quality of care as their white and wealthier counterparts. To now say that these communities no longer deserve the protections and programs that were put in place to address these inequities is not just unjust, it is extremely dangerous.

Hospitals and healthcare organizations must find ways to continue their equity work, even in the face of political pressure. They must push back against harmful policies and advocate for legislation that protects



Chrissy M. Thornton,
President/CEO of Associated Black Charities
File photo

the rights of every patient, regardless of race, income, gender, or identity, to receive quality care. They must invest in alternative funding sources to continue outreach programming where government funding falls short. They must be transparent with the communities they serve about what is at stake and engage them in the fight for their own healthcare rights.

The rollback of DEI in healthcare is not a debate about policy. It is a test of our collective values. It is a test of whether we believe that all people deserve the same level of care or whether we are willing to let political agendas dictate who gets to live a healthy life and who does not.

This is the moment to act, to push back, and to fight for what is right. The question isn't whether DEI belongs in healthcare. The question is: who will suffer if we let it disappear?

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THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Ravens Add Former AFC North Rival to Boost Secondary

By Tyler Hamilton

It didn't take long for veteran cornerback Chidobe Awuzie to find a new team after the Tennessee Titans released him. Awuzie quickly signed with the Baltimore Ravens 10 days after he hit the market.

The move comes just in time after cornerback Brandon Stephens signed a free agent deal with the New York Jets. Awuzie will help at corner where Nate Wiggins and Marlon Humphrey are the starters. The veteran can play both outside and in the nickel so his versatility will come in handy.

Awuzie got his start with the Dallas Cowboys when he was their second-round pick in 2017. He started 42 games over four seasons in Dallas and finished with 35 pass breakups, four interceptions and 213 tackles. His physical style of play stood out to the Cincinnati Bengals when he became a free agent.

The Bengals signed Awuzie to a three-year, \$21.75 million contract March, 2021. Awuzie started 14 of 17 games that season and intercepted quarterback Matthew Stafford in Cincinnati's Super Bowl loss to the Los Angeles Rams. The following season, Awuzie tore his ACL in Week 8 and was done for the year.

Awuzie worked his way back from the injury and was one of the starting cornerbacks in the Bengals season opener the following year. A herniated disc suffered in Week 5 caused Awuzie to miss a couple of games and limited his contribution to the team.

The Bengals didn't attempt to re-sign Awuzie after the 2023 season. The Titans signed Awuzie to a three-year, \$36 million contract and named him the starter opposite LaJarvis Sneed. Awuzie played the first three games of the season before a groin



Chidobe Awuzie

AP Photos

injury landed him on injured reserve. He made his return to the field after 10 weeks and posted his only interception of the season against the Jaguars.

A sparkling rookie debut by fifth-round pick Jarvis Brownlee Jr. and the return of Sneed from a leg injury caused new general manager Mike Borgonzi to release Awuzie. The Titans will still have to pay him \$7.5 million this season.

Awuzie's deal with the Ravens is for the league minimum. The Ravens already have Jalyn Armour-Davis and T.J. Tampa looking to be the No.3 cornerback. The competition for the position got a little steeper with the addition of Awuzie.

Being able to flex Humphrey inside to cover the slot and still have a veteran like Awuzie on the outside should help defensive coordinator Zach Orr's unit. Awuzie, 29-years old, fits the physical,

in-your-face style of play the Ravens want from their secondary.

Awuzie comes to Baltimore after spending last season with Dennard Wilson as his defensive coordinator. Wilson was the Ravens defensive backs coach in 2023.

Added Wilson last April, "The way Chido plays the game of football, how tough he is, the athleticism, his ability to do multiple things, it allows you as a defense to line up and cover guys."

Legal Notice

REQUEST FOR BIDS COMMUNITY GARDEN REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The Upton Planning Committee, Inc. is seeking bids from qualified contractors to refurbish the Upton Gardens of Hope located at 1200 Block of Shields Place, Baltimore, MD 21217. This project aims to enhance the garden's usability and aesthetics for community enjoyment.

Scope of Work:

- *Landscaping and soil preparation
- *Installation of raised garden beds
- *Pathway reconstruction and accessibility improvements
- *Installation of seating areas and shade structures
- *Irrigation system upgrades
- *General beautification and planting

Bid Requirements:

Interested bidders must submit:

1. A company profile with relevant experience
2. A detailed project proposal and timeline
3. An itemized cost estimate
4. Proof of insurance and necessary licenses
5. References from past similar projects

Submission Details:

- *Deadline for submission: April 7, 2025
- *Bids should be submitted to:
Wanda G. Best, Upton Planning Committee, Inc., P.O. 16433, Baltimore, MD 21217 or upton@historicopton.com
- *For inquiries or site visits, contact: (410) 646-8744

The Upton Planning Committee, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to award the contract in the best interest of the community.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and working together to improve our community space!

Upton Planning Committee, Inc.
Wanda Best

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25005 CURB REPAIR CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 16, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 21, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled "**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**" to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors' Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **D02620 (Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$250,000.00 to \$400,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **April 2, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the

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Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to michael.donovan@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are Miscellaneous **Curb Replacement and Repairs – 4,000 LF; 5 in Concrete Sidewalk – 8,500 SF**. The MBE Goal is **20%**; The WBE Goal is **11%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **BALTIMORE CITY NO. RP22803 Garrett Park Phase 3: Southwest Entryway Improvements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **May 7, 2025**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Dept. of Rec & Parks at 2600 Madison Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21217 by appointment only Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm by emailing benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov as of **March 21, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90132 – Park Rehabilitation**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$175,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted **in-person at Department of Recreation and Parks, 2600 Madison Avenue at**

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11:00 A.M. on April 2, 2025. Principal Items of work for this project are new concrete entryway, concrete walkway stairs, and concrete patio, storm water management treatment/facilities, landscaping improvements along walkway. The MBE goal is **13%** and WBE goal is **11%**. APPROVED: M. Celeste Amato, Clerk, Board of Estimates

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Request for Proposal: Historic Parren Mitchell House Exterior Restoration

Proposals are requested for the exterior restoration of the Historic Parren Mitchell House at 828 N. Carrollton Avenue, Baltimore 21217. Work includes masonry cleaning and repointing and wood window and trim repair.

Project is partly funded by the MD Historical Trust. All work must comply with the Secretary's Standards and all State regs., incl. EEO.

Full Proposal Requirements available via request: Contact Jennifer Goold, jgoold@ndc-md.org, 410-736-9643. Pre-proposal site inspection March 31, 2025. Proposals must be rec'd before May 2, 2025, 5pm at the Neighborhood Design Center at 120 W. North Avenue, Suite 306 Baltimore, MD 21201. Contract awarded to lowest proposal from a qualified firm conforming to project schedule.

To place
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email: legals@btimes.com
dwane@btimes.com

\$2

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Reveal an "88" symbol, win prize shown!

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Match any of the TIME MACHINE NUMBERS to any 1 or more of the 3 WINNING NUMBERS, win PRIZE shown for that NUMBER.
 Reveal a "155" symbol, win the prize shown for that symbol! Reveal a "88" symbol, WIN ALL 10 PRIZES AUTOMATICALLY! Gigawatt Bonus not included in win-all and played separately.

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