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***“Built Different,
Building Different”
– Mayor Scott’s
Theme for the
2025 State of the
City Address***



Mayor Scott convened city officials, state electeds, stakeholders, and community members at M&T Bank Exchange to deliver the 2025 State of the City Address on Monday, April 21, 2025. (See article on page 2)

Photo: JJ McQueen

Mayor Scott Shares Baltimore's Progress and Vision for the City's Future in Annual Address

"Built Different, Building Different" – Theme for 2025 State of the City Address

Baltimore—When Mayor Brandon Scott stepped on the platform of the M&T Exchange, one of Baltimore's shining examples of the investments shaping the city's renaissance, he did so with the confidence and swag so justly deserved, given the progress his administration has made in drafting Charm City's new narrative. The theme for Mayor Scott's fifth State of City Address was "Built Different, Building Different."

Following a glowing introduction by Maryland's 7th District Member of the U.S. Congress, the Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Mayor Scott treated the standing-room-only audience to a litany of positive statistics displayed in a multimedia presentation that squarely validated his previous campaign promises. Flanked by Baltimore's First Lady, Hanna Scott, their three children, and his parents, the mayor referenced his roots as a Baltimorean and proud graduate of Mervo Vocational High School. Throughout the evening, he offered glimpses of authenticity and celebrated "all things Baltimore."

Continuing to note the many and varied successes realized over the past four years, he cautioned those attending that these gains, while significant, were not cause for celebration, but instead should be viewed as motivation to work ever harder to achieve goals he has set for the city's continued growth. Baltimore is indeed on the rebound.

The mayor's use of illustrations, data points, maps, and video clips, addressed a wide range of citizen concerns, from the reduction in homicides and non-fatal shootings to the much-heralded recent population

growth, giving cause for hope even among his staunch naysayers.

Applause and cheers rang out repeatedly as the news of Baltimore's descent on lists that track the nation's leading locales for less than favorable outcomes. Standing ovations were received as our rankings increased for positive metrics, such as public-school achievement in recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic learning loss realized by students across the country. He particularly beamed in noting Baltimore school students were second in the nation for improving reading and writing skills.

The dedication of teachers and administrators was on display as well when the efforts of Bettye Adams, Principal, and staff at Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School were amplified through a short but touching video.

The evening was dotted with highlights of heroism, courage, and personal sacrifice that embodied the spirit of Baltimore's grit and determination. The subjects of several such stories were introduced and celebrated. Among them was Sid Grossman, who served as City Hall's gatekeeper for decades. He was as much of a fixture as the clock that adorns the building's dome. Now retired, this former Baltimore City schoolteacher was welcomed by all, and his celebrity status was cemented by dozens of requests for selfies.

Also uplifted was the work of the Roca project that has played such a significant role in the mayor's violence reduction strategy. Members of the Roca team were present and rose to applause following a brief video sharing the deeply personal insights



Mayor Brandon Scott is joined by his family. (L-r): Alvin Scott, father; Donna Scott, mother; stepson, Ceron; Mayor Scott holding baby Charm; and First Lady, Hana Scott holds baby Camden. Photo: JJ McQueen

of a young man's life-transforming testimony. Baltimore's success in drastically reducing crime has made it a model for other US cities and continues to set the standard through its innovative and comprehensive approaches.

There were few dry eyes in the house when Mayor Scott announced the presence of Doctor Michael Zollicoffer, a patron saint of Park Heights, now affectionately known worldwide as "Dr. Z." His plight, and the community's response, shared locally and nationally on broadcast television and social media, serves as a symbol of Baltimore's courage, tenacity, and giving spirit. Dr. Z., a second-generation pediatrician known for his kind-hearted and selfless service to the city's uninsured children, is now being supported by thousands of

former patients and perfect strangers in his struggle to finance his cancer treatment.

When laying out his 10-year plan for Baltimore, the mayor acknowledged that many may view his approach as aggressive or ambitious but stated that nothing less would be acceptable.

The event ended on a positive note with the mayor's pledge to reduce property taxes, repair 1,000 potholes and clean every alley in our city. Finally, he offered a challenge for all to join him in this and the many other efforts required to continue Baltimore's Renaissance beginning with a citywide cleanup this weekend. To join in, call 311 to register.

For a full copy of the Mayor's State of the State Address: <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/sotc-2025>



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April Fools: How NOT to Be One! (Part Two)

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

In our last article, you learned the steps “bad actors” use to lure you into their traps to extract your valuable personal and account information. If you didn’t know before, you now know that phishing attacks aren’t random activities. They are carefully planned and executed to provide the maximum access to your personal and financial data.

Even beyond the immediate impact on you, your harvested information can be used to target people you know or others at your place of employment. The information can be used in many other ways, which can be mind-boggling. It literally can be the “headache that won’t go away!” Below are just a few examples:

1. Identity Theft: Opening new credit cards or bank accounts in your name; applying for loans or government benefits fraudulently; filing false tax returns to steal refunds.

2. Financial Theft: Draining your bank accounts and/or crypto wallets; making unauthorized purchases with saved credit card details; selling your credentials on the dark web for others to exploit.

3. Account Takeovers: Hijacking other linked accounts (e.g., email, streaming services, cloud storage, etc.) through password reuse or recovery mechanisms; locking you out of your accounts and changing your recovery options.

4. Social Engineering and Blackmail: Analyzing your private emails, messages, or documents for embarrassing, sensitive, or exploitable information, then using that information to target you and/or your friends for sextortion, scams, or blackmail.



*Karen Clay,
Clay Technology and Media
Courtesy, Karen Clay*

5. Synthetic Identity Creation: Combining your information with fake details to build an entirely new, fabricated identity, then using that identity to commit long-term fraud with the reduced risk of immediate detection.

With all of the ways a cybercriminal can use stolen information, staying vigilant is critical. It requires knowing how to spot potential phishing attempts so you can avoid them. Here are some tips to consider.

1. Do not click on any link: If you get an email from anyone with a simple subject line, for example, “Look at this!” even a warning email from your bank, credit card company, the IRS, UPS or any kind of message that immediately needs your attention, pick up the phone and, using a number known by you, call the sender and ask whether the email was sent by them. If your account is in danger or if you have a concern, someone can verify it over the phone.

2. Don’t enter passwords or personal information on a strange link or pop-up screen: Instead, open a new browser and type in the actual URL where you typically go to do your banking, pay your credit card, or check your retirement balance. Better yet, just make it a habit to manually go to a known site when handling financial tasks, even if you are certain the email you received is legitimate.

3. Always check the URL: Review the URL of the sending email and the website, if available in the signature, to ensure it matches what you know to be true. Phishing links will always use similar URLs, hoping you won’t notice the difference.

4. Look for generic greetings: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) notes that often, phishing emails that claim to be from a place where you do business, will start an email with a generic greeting like, “Dear Sir” or “Hi Dear,” even though you’ve had a long-term relationship with the company. This can be a clue that the message is not from the company it purports to be.

5. Use spam filters: A good spam filter can actually catch a number of phishing emails before they reach your inbox. Some email accounts, like Gmail, automatically include these. If you see an email that looks problematic, mark it as Junk. That way, future emails from the same source have a better chance of



*7 Ways Cybercriminals Can
Use Your Stolen Information
Graphic Design by Karen Clay*

being filtered out of your inbox again.

If you’ve followed all the above, and still think you may have been caught giving up your personal details, it may be worth a trip to the FTC’s Identity Theft site, (www.identitytheft.gov/) where you can run through a series of steps depending on what piece(s) of data you believe has been compromised. There, you can receive suggestions on how to handle issues around data from Social Security numbers to bank account information and hopefully get the last laugh.

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Governor Wes Moore Draws Buzz as Democrats Look Ahead

By Stacy M. Brown
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As the Democratic Party continues to search for a new identity and fresh leadership, attention is turning to Maryland Governor Wes Moore, who is rapidly emerging as a rising national figure — and a potential presidential contender. Moore, who gained national acclaim alongside Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott for their steady leadership following the deadly Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, has received praise for his charisma, military service, executive leadership, and ability to unite a fractured party.

Hollywood heavyweight George Clooney, a vocal critic of President Joe Biden’s now-abandoned reelection bid, told CNN this week that Moore was “levitating” above the rest of the Democratic field. “There’s one person in particular I think is spectacular,” Clooney said in an interview, where he was also promoting his Broadway portrayal of legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow. “I think [Moore] is a guy that has handled this tragedy in Baltimore beautifully. He does two tours of duty in Afghanistan — active duty. He speaks beautifully. He’s smart. He ran a hedge fund — the Robin Hood Foundation. He’s a proper leader.”

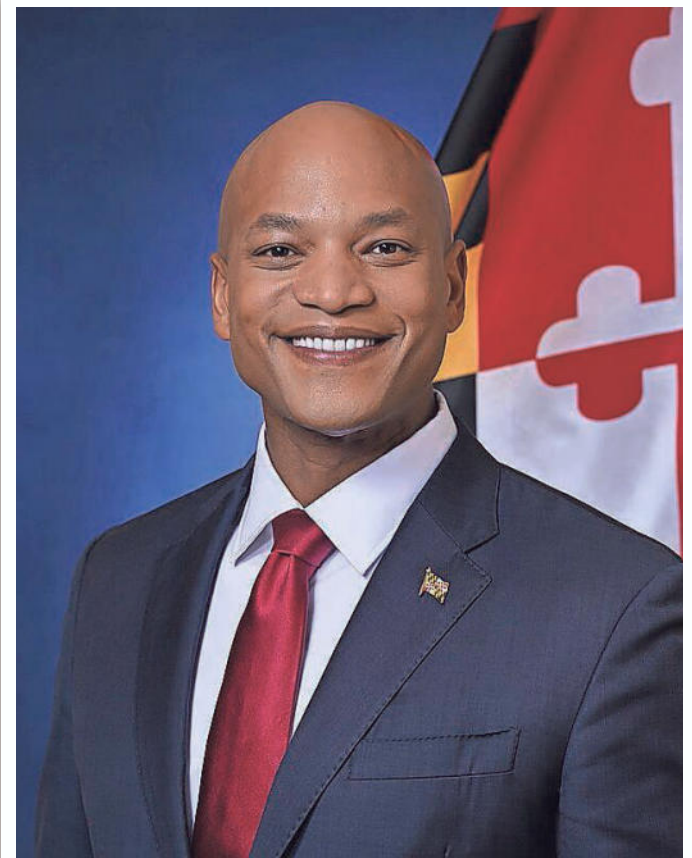
The Academy Award winner, whose July 2024 op-ed helped accelerate Biden’s decision to exit the race, praised other Democratic governors like Andy Beshear of Kentucky and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan. But his focus remained squarely on Moore. “We say Democrats fall in love and Republicans fall in line,” Clooney added. “I think he could be someone we could all join in behind. We have to

find somebody rather soon.”

Moore, 46, became Maryland’s first Black governor in 2023. While speculation about his national ambitions grows, he insists he remains focused on his state. “I am not focused on anything, except for making sure this is Maryland’s decade,” Moore said in a televised interview this week. He highlighted a new state tax cut and added, “I’m really proud of what Maryland is doing, and I’m focused on making sure we keep that progress going.”

Still, admiration for Moore comes from across the country — and within his party. “The governor has been incredible and I’m proud to be working with him,” Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott told the *Washington Informer* at this week’s African American Mayors Conference in D.C.

Najaa Rice, who traveled from Atlanta for the event, echoed that sentiment. “Wes Moore — President Wes Moore,” she said. “It’s not just because he’s Black. Senator Tim Scott is Black and I wouldn’t dream of



Governor Wes Moore

Photo: Wikimedia Commons/

Photo by Maryland State Government

supporting him. Gov. Moore is what we all hoped a politician, a governor, and a civil servant would be. He’s the definition of ‘man of the people,’ and he’s not only the biggest hope Democrats have, but he’s the real hope this country has to right the ship.”

United Negro College Fund President Michael Lomax also weighed in. “When our elected leaders not only talk the talk but also walk the walk, progress follows. Maryland Governor Wes Moore is doing just that,” Lomax said.

Baltimore Native, HBCU Grad Forms Nonprofit to Empower Youth Through STEM

By Demetrius Dillard

Balancing the books and athletics was a motivating force behind Wayne Martin's launch of The Academic Athlete Foundation, a nonprofit organization that primarily aims to empower local youth by providing educational support and opportunities in the fields of STEM and STEAM.

Martin, an electrical engineer by profession, grew up in East Baltimore and spent some of his childhood in the Essex and Parkville areas. Having endured the hardships of an upbringing in an impoverished urban environment, his life journey is a testament to dedication, ambition and self-belief.

As a young man, he was a dedicated athlete. In the process of time, Martin came to realize that a steady focus on academics, particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, offers a sustainable and meaningful path to long-term career success.

"We want to encourage the kids and the youth to use those skills that they are learning while playing the sports that they love and showing them how they can utilize those same skills in a professional manner," Martin added.

"If you are very good at your craft in sports, go ahead and get that scholarship, go ahead and utilize that for the good to further give you longevity in your career – something that's sustainable for your life, and pick a career path in a STEM-related, or STEAM-related, or even trades-related career path that can be very lucrative for you as you move forward."

Many young people today, especially those from inner-city environments, fall victim to the common notion that a professional sports career is the only

or most promising path to success in life. Martin, along with countless other Black industry leaders, noticed young athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds tend to acquiesce to this idea blindly.

Social media has played a significant role in overglamorizing sports and entertainment as the most desirable career paths. To reverse this trend and distorted reality, The Academic Athlete seeks to redefine what achievement means for these communities.

The likelihood of becoming a professional athlete is pretty slim – essentially negligible – when compared to the probability of a worthwhile career in a high-demand STEM field or even a trades profession.

"Sports are very short-term. Whether you make it or not is neither here nor there. But guess what? If you apply yourself and exercise your mind, you can be successful," Martin said.

"Everyone thinks that in becoming a professional athlete, you will be entitled to millions of dollars. That's not the reality, but at the end of the day, if you choose a sustainable, high-demand career path and put in the same amount of energy that you do on the court or field, you will make enough money to be in a comfortable situation and get out of poverty. That's the goal."

The Academic Athlete doesn't intend to discourage youth from pursuing athletic careers, but simply aims to broaden their perspective.

Since launching in November 2024, The Academic Athlete has:

- Expanded its board of directors and partners
- Launched a scholarship program
- Announced plans to launch a chess club as an initiative to "provide

students with a fun and engaging way to develop strategic thinking, problem-solving skills, and sportsmanship—all while fostering a strong sense of community."

Martin is also the co-founder, president and CEO of MDS Engineering, a York, Pennsylvania-based company specializing in mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineering and design services.

He attended Eastern Technical High School, a highly esteemed magnet school in Essex, which is one of the highest-performing public schools in the state. At Eastern Tech, he was an all-state football player. Martin went on to earn his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Morgan State University.

Spotlighting opportunities available through STEM-related careers, The Academic Athlete endeavors to empower young minds to consider how their athletic experiences can be paired with the impact they can make as engineers, scientists and innovators.

Through various educational initiatives, mentorship programs and strategic partnerships, the organization's objective is to help the next generation recognize that the path to success is diverse and multifaceted.

"I felt that I had to convey a message to inform people that I [didn't have to be] a professional athlete to live the lifestyle I envisioned, that I deserve, that I worked hard for. I did



Baltimore native Wayne Martin is the founder of The Academic Athlete, a nonprofit that aims to empower local youth by providing educational support and opportunities in the fields of STEM and STEAM.

Photo: The Academic Athlete Foundation Credit

it using my mind," Martin said of what prompted him to establish The Academic Athlete.

"That inspired me to pursue The Academic Athlete, drawing ties between sports, academics and STEM to bridge that gap and explain who I am."

The nonprofit's initial focus is on live speaking engagements in schools and similarly missioned organizations throughout the Greater Baltimore and York, Pa., region.

More information about The Academic Athlete and its mission, initiatives, programs, and how schools and community organizations can partner is available at www.theacademicathlete.org.

Pikes Theatre Returns with Rebrand: Film Pioneer to Showcase Films, Include Independent Filmmakers

By Andrea Blackstone

Minstrel shows were a form of entertainment in the United States during the 19th century, but Black cinema's role evolved into a movement full of classic films.

"These performances generally featured white actors in blackface who depicted Black people as lazy, ignorant, hypersexual, and buffoonish. The minstrel show format typically included music, dancing, and comedic skits that mocked Black culture, language, and behavior," according to World History Edu.

Golden Globes (<https://goldenglobes.com/articles/forgotten-hollywood-black-films-silent-era/>) noted that a 12-minute film marked the first time a Black character appeared in silent films. Additionally, the 1903 picture, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," depicted a white actor in blackface makeup.

When Black actors were cast, their stereotypical roles reflected limited opportunity. Oscar Micheaux, the first major Black filmmaker who was also a novelist and homesteader, made independent films for Black audiences while challenging stereotypes in the early and mid-1900s hundreds.

As the social aspect of moviegoing evolved, Black cinema pioneers faced financial hurdles.

"Unfortunately, many of the Black independent film companies did not survive the Great Depression nor the invention of expensive sound technology. In the 1930s and '40s, few films made for Black audiences were made by Black filmmakers. Many of the production companies were now owned by white businessmen with white technicians behind the cameras," according to Black Cinema Connection.

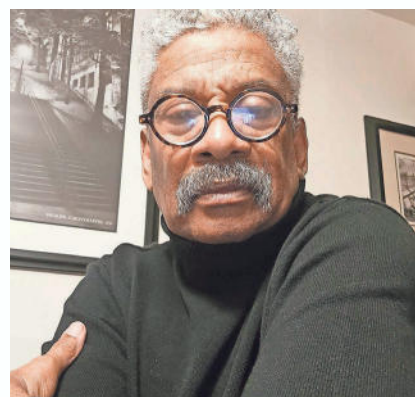
Nevertheless, films such as "Superfly;" "The Wiz 1978;" "Shaft;" "A Raisin in The Sun;" "The Imitation of Life;" and other classics that have become a part of Black film cultural archives. Younger generations may have missed seeing them. Older generations may enjoy having a chance to indulge in nostalgia on a big screen before streaming services, YouTube channels or DVDs were even conceived.

Michael Eugene Johnson is on a mission to revive Pikes Theatre and provide a place where classic films can be viewed as they were in the past. PIKES STUDIO, which is the rebranded theater's name, is located at 921 Reisterstown Road, located in Pikesville, Maryland, Johnson "breathed new life into three previously shuttered movie houses" in Baltimore City and Eastern Baltimore County, creating a vibrant community in the 1990s and early 2000s, according to a press release.

"I closed the last one as the industry was going through major distribution changes that were difficult to manage for single or dual screens," said Johnson.

Johnson, an award-winning radio broadcaster who also hosted the 2024 CW television talk show "Straight No Chaser," is the current owner and exhibitor of PIKES STUDIO. His new approach to reopening involves transforming the space into a multi-purpose hub. Independent films, classic films, podcast studios and children's special event space will be available at the venue.

"Screening classic films allows newer generations to experience cinema history in its intended format, understanding the evolution of filmmaking and appreciating the



Michael Eugene Johnson

Photos: Michael Eugene Johnson

cultural significance of these works. It combats the potential loss of this heritage that might occur if viewing is solely relegated to personal devices," said Johnson.

Johnson shared that many classic films shown at PIKES STUDIO will feature breakfast or lunch for patrons who want to partake in the full morning or afternoon experience.

PIKES STUDIO will launch on Saturday, May 3, 2025, with a special breakfast at 10 a.m. and a free film screening of Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" at 11:30 a.m. The event will celebrate what would have been the activist, Malcolm X's 100th birthday on May 19, 2025. Black Men Unifying Black Men will sponsor the film screening. Limited tickets are available. Additionally, a Happy Mother's Day Brunch & A Classic featuring "Imitation of Life" or "Soul Food" will be held on Sunday, May 11, 2025. Advance tickets are required.

Call the box office to inquire about movie tickets and other forthcoming classic films that will be shown by calling 1-667-273-4808. Food and beverages will be delivered directly to patrons' seats.



Michael Eugene Johnson is reviving Pikes Theatre which is now known as PIKES STUDIO. Classic films will be shown, in addition to independent films at 921 Reisterstown Road, located in Pikesville, Maryland.

After a 20-year hiatus, Johnson organized a GoFundMe for his effort to revive Pikes Theater to mark a triumphant return to film exhibition. Securing new equipment is a priority. He wants to keep movie equipment up-to-date and repaired to present high-quality classic film screenings, and address equipment challenges that could hinder the presentation of films for independent filmmakers.

"Micro-cinemas and community screenings provide an alternative platform for independent and experimental filmmakers to showcase their work. Supporting these artists contributes to a more diverse and vibrant film landscape, fostering creativity over commercial viability," said Johnson.

Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-revive-pikes-cinema-magic> for more information about Johnson's fundraiser.

Donate Life Maryland, MDOT MVA Raise Awareness About Marylanders in Need of Life-Saving Transplants

April is National Donate Life Month

By Andrea Blackstone

Will you say “yes” this month to registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor if you have not yet signed up to give the gift of life? National Donate Life Month honors donors and it raises awareness to encourage everyone to realize the lifesaving power of donation and transplantation each April.

National Donate Life Blue & Green Day, held on April 11, 2025, was a part of Donate Life America’s National Donate Life Month. Donate Life Maryland (DLM) is a state-authorized nonprofit organization that manages organ, eye, and tissue donor registration in Maryland.

In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, all Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) staff were encouraged to wear blue and green. Through a partnership, DLM and MDOT MVA urge the community to respond to the call of action to increase the registration as organ, eye and tissue donors.

During April, the Donate Life Maryland flag can be spotted flying at all Maryland MVA branch locations to raise awareness of the need for life-saving transplants.

“Seventeen people die each day waiting for an organ transplant,” said Chrissy Nizer, Administrator of the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and Governor’s Highway Safety Representative.

She added, “It’s not just a designation on a license. It really is about saving lives.”

Many people around the state benefit every day from those in Maryland who

have chosen to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. Nizer further noted that, as part of an essential partnership between MDOT MVA and Donate Life Maryland, flags will fly at each location throughout the whole month of April.

“Donate Life’s colors are blue and green, and so at the MVA, we are uniting with them to show how important we think organ donation is. And if you think about highway safety and saving lives, the mission of Donate Life is very much aligned with that in terms of the ability to save someone’s life through organ donation,” Nizer stated.

Each organ, eye and tissue donor has the potential to save up to eight lives through organ donation and up to 75 lives through tissue donation, according to Donate Life Maryland.

“So, you think about that kind of impact, it’s really profound. We probably all know somebody who’s benefited through organ and tissue donation,” said Nizer.

She noted that MDOT MVA tries to make signing up to become an organ, eye and tissue donor easy and convenient. Customers can sign up online for the organ donor program <https://mva.maryland.gov/Pages/programs/organ-donors.aspx> or they can take the opportunity to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor when they visit the MVA to complete various tasks, such as renewing their license. First-time drivers who are minors getting a learner’s permit



Partners from the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and Donate Life Maryland (DLM) celebrate Donate Life Blue & Green Day to encourage organ, eye, and tissue donation across the state. (L-r, front): Lisa Spicknall, Executive Director of Donate Life Maryland; Vashti Brown, MVA; Barbara May, MVA (center); Trina Miller, MVA; Shirley Grant, MVA; and Chrissy Nizer, Administrator of the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration and Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. Back row: Shawn Eum, MVA; Nikki Charlson, MVA; Helen Daniels and Bernice Mbulu, DLM; and John Lazarou, MVA.

Courtesy photo of Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration

can sign up to become an organ donor if their parents or guardians co-sign and give their consent.

Nizer further addressed a common myth about organ donation. She stated that if someone is in a serious crash, being an organ donor will not impact the efforts of lifesaving medical measures being taken.

“That should not stop you from becoming an organ and tissue donor. It really is something that can save somebody’s life when you might not be here any longer, but you live on through helping other people be happy and healthy. And so, I think that’s the message that we want to send to everybody. We try to make the process

as simple as possible, but I know it’s an important decision for somebody to make,” Nizer stated. Since 2009, MDOT MVA has partnered with DLM to celebrate Donate Life Awareness Month in various ways. Keep in mind that the MVA is appointment-based for most services.

Customers are encouraged to schedule an appointment online to visit a branch. Learn more about organ, eye or tissue donation, or register as a donor, by visiting www.donatelifemaryland.org. More information about DLM’s partnership with the Maryland MVA is available via <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org/mva-partnership>.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Brunch & A Classic

Cinema #1
Imitation of Life (124 mins)

Cinema #2
Soul Food (115 mins)

Sunday May 11, 2025
11:am-2:pm & 2:30pm-5:30pm
Pikes Studio Cinema
921 Resistertown Rd Pikesville Md
\$30 Includes Buffet & Film
Reservation is Highly Recomendaded Sell out Expected
443-353-9272



IT'S
MORE
THAN A
RACE.

EVENT LINEUP

**George "Spider" Anderson
Music and Arts Festival**
May 10 / Park Heights

**Magic of Maryland Music
Celebration**
May 14 / Pier 6 Pavilion

Maryland Horse Farm Tour
May 11 / Select Farms Across MD

**Government House Festival
Fundraiser**
May 15 / Government House,
Annapolis

**Governor's Open Golf
Tournament**
May 12 / Baltimore Country Club

For more info visit preaknessfestival.com



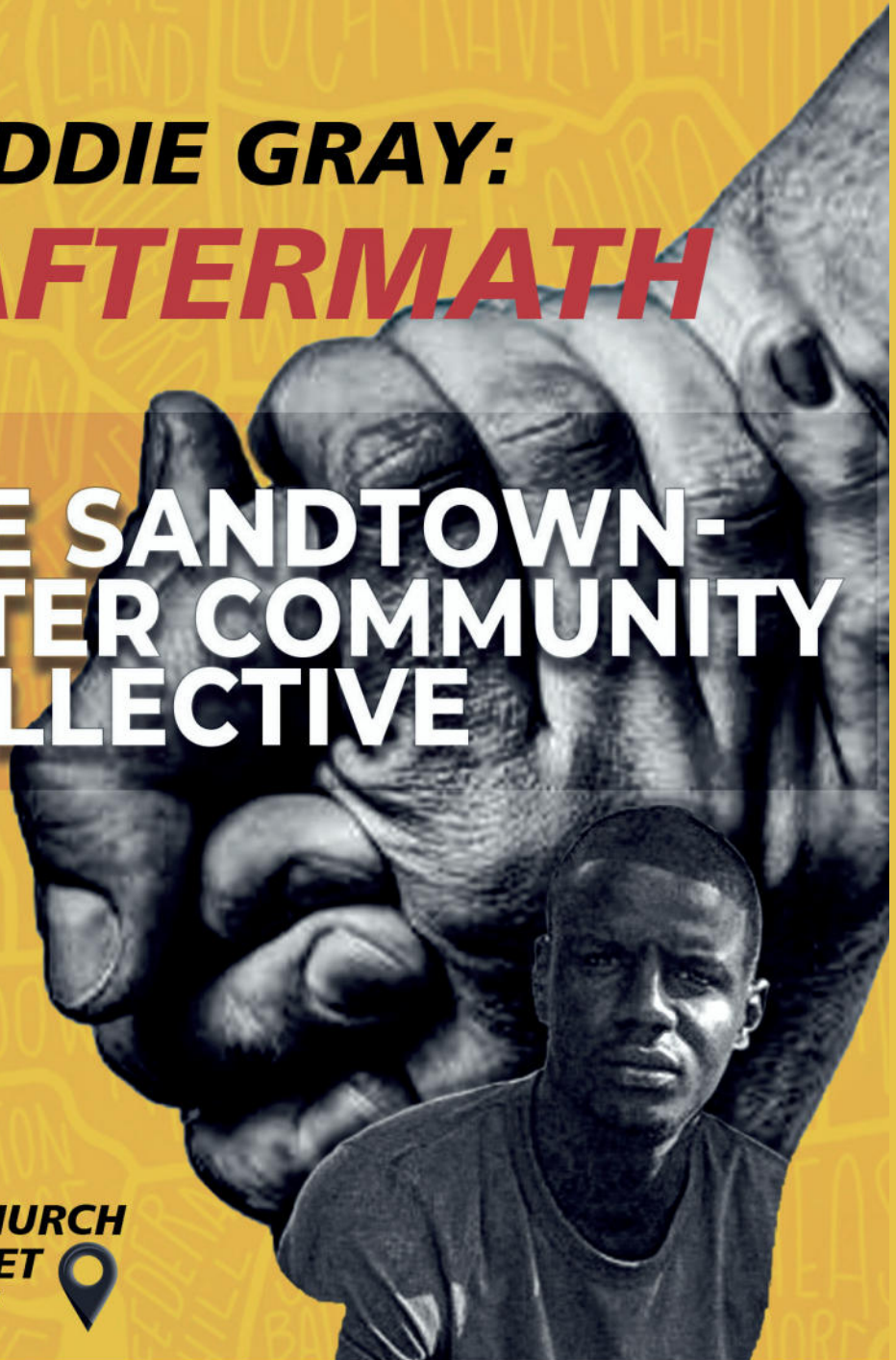
FREDDIE GRAY: **THE AFTERMATH**

**HOSTED BY THE SANDTOWN-
WINCHESTER COMMUNITY
COLLECTIVE**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 27, 2025**

3:00- 5:00 PM

**SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH
1375 N. STRICKER STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21217**



Ravens Options Beyond First Round

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens will need to continue adding talent if they want to keep pace with some of the AFC's standout teams, like the Kansas City Chiefs and Buffalo Bills. The Ravens even have a significant threat within the division with Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals keeping top playmakers Tee Higgins and Ja'marr Chase on the fold.

Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta has added some solid players in the later days of the draft. Players like tight end Mark Andrews came by way of a third-round selection. Running back Justice Hill came in the fourth.

There's a lot to be gained from building a roster with later picks. The contracts aren't too big and become huge values when the players become contributors. Here are four options Baltimore should consider on Day 2 and Day 3 of the draft with analysis from NFL.com:

Isaac TeSlaa - WR - Arkansas - 6'4" 214 pounds

TeSlaa is a big slot receiver whose stock might be on the rise after his performances during Senior Bowl week. He can mismatch smaller cornerbacks with his frame and play strength and is a reliable pass catcher when contested. He builds up speed as a vertical slot but isn't sudden enough to simply uncover as a possession slot against a tight man. TeSlaa's ball skills and ability to work down the field from the slot should carry backup value for teams in the market for help at receiver.

JT Tuimoloau - OLB - Ohio St - 6'4" 265 pounds

Rugged edge defender with the size, length and toughness to play up or down in hybrid fronts. Tuimoloau plays to his size. His game revolves



JT Tuimoloau

Photo: USA TODAY Network via Imagn Images

around power and force. He uses well-timed strikes and good length to stay separated and shed the block cleanly. He plays hard but has average pursuit quickness outside the box and struggles to hold his ground against in-line drive blockers. Tuimoloau's power rush helped him tear through the expanded College Football Playoff, with 6.5 sacks over four games. However, his rush plan and handwork need refinement to maintain the momentum he built as a rusher during the 2024 season. He's unlikely to become a star but his traits and demeanor fit the profile of a good NFL starter.

Miles Frazier - OG - LSU - 6'6" 317 pounds

Four-year starter who classifies as a physical short-area guard with satisfactory height, weight and length. Frazier has knock-back pop and is capable of mauling in tight spaces. His short pulls and lead blocks around the end are solid. Difficulties with reach blocks and second-level cut-offs on stretch plays could cause zone teams to scratch him. He possesses

adequate range and foot quickness in protection and is fairly clear-eyed at recognizing gaming fronts. His hand placement is average and he's tight in his knees, which could be a concern for his anchor. Frazier has things to clean up but carries pro measurables and a play demeanor that gives him a shot to become a starter.

Eugene Asante - ILB - Auburn - 6' 223 pounds

Reactive off-ball linebacker possessing average measurables but premium explosiveness as an athlete. Asante plays with an average diagnosis and will need to rely on speed over instincts for his production. He has instant acceleration and the range to find the action but needs to become more consistent at coming to balance as a tackler to avoid a high miss total. Teams will need to weigh his spotty coverage and mental mistakes with his impressive upside as a blitzer. The play is uneven, but he's fast and tough, making him worthy of a Day 3 investment for further development and special teams value.

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25013, URGENT NEED CONTRACT, CITY-WIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MAY 21st, 2025**, at 11:00 A.M. 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 **APRIL 25th, 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)**, 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 prequalified 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 **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$3,000,000.00 to \$4,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MAY 2nd, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 9,540 Tons; Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk 5,000 LF; Sidewalk 32,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **21%**; The WBE Goal is **8%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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