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*Anne Arundel County student wins 2018 Maryland 'Poetry Out Loud' State Competition*



*Cayla Turner, a senior at Indian Creek School in Anne Arundel County is this year's Maryland State "Poetry Out Loud" Champion. Cayla was among nine finalists selected from more than 7,500 students in 13 counties competing in the statewide POL competitions. She will compete in the National Finals, April 23-25, 2018 at the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Cayla is (pictured) accepting her award at the Poetry Out Loud State Finals on March 10, 2018. (Story on page 7) Photo credit: Edwin Remsberg*



# Johns Hopkins study to examine role of fruit, vegetables in protecting kidneys

By Stacy M. Brown

Johns Hopkins University is collaborating with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities will try to determine if eating meals high in fruits, vegetables, nuts, beans and lean meats can protect the kidneys and reduce damage.

The study titled, “5+Nuts & Beans for Kidneys,” targets low-income residents in East Baltimore who have high blood pressure and early stage kidney damage.

The participants will receive free, healthy groceries from ShopRite and will meet on a regular basis to discuss how they can maintain a healthy diet. They will also meet with coaches and clinicians during the trial.

“While in the past research was focused on how best to treat chronic kidney disease, in recent years there has been greater interest in preventing chronic kidney disease in the first place, and the role that diet, and dietary pattern can play,” said Dr. Deidra Crews, an associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. “Interventions to improve the dietary quality of this high-risk group should consider these factors.”

The National Kidney Foundation discovered that because of high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, African-Americans have an increased risk of developing kidney failure.

Foundation officials say African-Americans need to be aware of these risk factors and visit their doctor or clinic regularly to check their blood sugar, blood pressure, urine protein and kidney function.

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*Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Dr. Deidra Crews will lead the “5+Nuts & Beans for Kidneys” study to determine if eating meals high in fruits, vegetables, nuts, beans and lean meats can protect the kidneys and reduce damage. Low-income residents in East Baltimore with high blood pressure and early stage kidney disease will participate in the study set to begin this year and continue for five years.*

Courtesy Photo

Tests reveal that African-Americans suffer from kidney failure at a significantly higher rate than whites— more than three times higher.

African-Americans constitute more than 35 percent of all patients in the U.S. receiving dialysis for kidney failure, but only represent 13.2 percent of the overall U.S. population.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure in African-Americans, who are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as whites. Approximately 4.9 million African-Americans over 20 years of

age are living with either diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes.

“The homes of urban African-Americans with risk factors for chronic kidney disease were often lacking either the foods or needed appliances for preparing [appropriate] meals,” Crews said, adding that she is looking at whether improving eating habits may help address the differences. “Disparities in kidney disease have not received the attention that they should. There are not very many people working in this area.”

Reportedly, people who eat diets rich

in meat, cheese, eggs and other animal-based foods tend to have a higher acid load in their bodies that some research has shown can injure the kidney. Fruits and vegetables have more alkaline qualities.

Beginning this year and continuing for five years, the study will test the effectiveness of dietary advice delivered by a study coach and assistance with weekly online ordering of \$30/week worth of potassium rich foods delivered by a local grocer to a community location for reducing urinary albumin excretion among African-Americans with hypertension and chronic kidney disease.

Participants will be recruited from primary care clinics in Baltimore City.

There are two phases of the study.

In Phase 1 (months 1-4), one study arm will consist of minimal guidance from the study team and a weekly allowance of \$30 dollars to purchase food and drinks of their choosing from a local grocer.

In Phase 2 (months 5-12) neither study arm will receive a food allowance, however the second arm will receive telephonic visits and dietary advice from the study coach.

Officials are hoping to find concrete solutions after the study is complete. Meanwhile, Crews says diet remains important.

“People who live in poverty have less healthy dietary patterns and their dietary patterns could influence the rate of kidney disease,” she said. “My hope is to examine this modifiable risk factor for poor health and determine if this method of delivering healthy foods improves outcomes for African-Americans with hypertension and kidney disease.”

For more information about the study, visit <http://fiveplus4kidneys.weebly.com/>.

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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## Protect American ideas through trade

By Brian Pomper

We take for granted that the "ordinary" things we use every day are in fact extraordinary inventions and breakthroughs that took years of investment, work, and commitment to bring to life.

Among these are the technologies that allow you to watch a movie on a streaming platform or read the new novel from your favorite author on your tablet, or the life-saving medicine that wasn't around 10 years ago, or even 10 months ago.

The United States stands alone as the global leader in innovation. For decades, we have recognized the tremendous value of innovation and creativity and established a strong intellectual property (IP) system that consistently rewards, protects, and pushes the boundaries of future possibilities. This system attracted investment from markets with weaker protections and gave birth to the core driver, and future, of the U.S. economy.

An unlevel playing field with our trading partners threatens this future by handicapping and hampering creative and innovative U.S. industries.

Trade enforcement and strong new trade deals are the keys to breaking this trend and putting U.S. innovators back on course. That's why the recording, telecom, tech, motion picture, publishing, and other IP-intensive industries launched the American Creative, Technology, and Innovative Organizations Network for Trade (ACTION for Trade). ACTION for Trade is dedicated to shaping U.S. trade policy to protect our competitive advantage as innovators. We call on America's trade negotiators to ensure our global trading partners properly reward and protect the innovation and creativity that drives our economic future and fosters development of tomorrow's inventions.

As the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations and other trade talks continue, it's critical to prioritize policies that support our global leadership.

IP-intensive industries drive our economy through job creation, high wages and increased exports. In 2016, U.S. innovative biopharmaceutical companies invested an estimated \$65.5 billion in the search for new treatments and cures, bringing the total invested since 2000 to more than \$600 billion. The industry supports almost 4.7 million U.S. jobs with average wages that are higher than most other industries and accounts for exports in 2016 that exceeded \$52 billion.

Unfortunately, some international trade partners are threatening this progress.

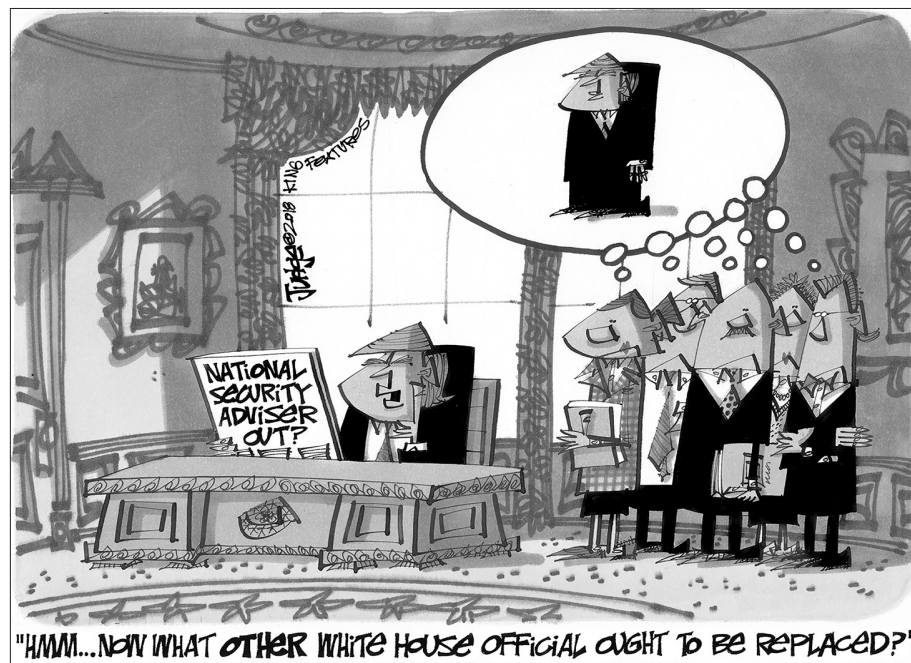
Take price controls. When trade partners arbitrarily set prices of innovative medicines, or peg innovative products to older products, incentives for future innovation falter. Canada is one of the worst actors, with its Patented Medicine Prices Review Board, or "PMPRB", grossly undervaluing innovative U.S. medicines. Not only does this raise numerous concerns under existing trade rules but it is also an area that a reinvigorated NAFTA must address.

Or, take the failure to protect creative works on the Internet. Too many of our trading partners employ overbroad safe harbor provisions that deny copyright holders the ability to protect their work from infringing activities online. Strong trade deals and enforcement of trade rules can tackle this threat.

Other nations are aware of America's intellectual property leadership. They are prepared to deploy every tool to undermine it and bolster their own positions and industries. They undervalue and steal U.S. inventions and ideas. Weak and unenforced IP and market access trade rules encourage this behavior. Let's put a stop to this and protect our innovative advantage. We can start with a strong NAFTA.

The IP-intensive industries that are a part of ACTION for Trade stand ready to work with the Administration and Congress to preserve and protect our creative and innovative industries and the nearly 60 million American jobs they support.

*Brian Pomper is the executive director of ACTION for Trade.*



"HMM...NOW WHAT OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL OUGHT TO BE REPLACED?"

## Letters to the Editor:

**Editor:**

**Re: Trump The Terrible**

President Trump's character flaws are overwhelming his administration and placing our country in jeopardy. Former CIA Director John Brennan referred to Trump as "unstable, inept, inexperienced and also unethical."

I add divisive, chaotic and terrible judgement.

In the past 15 months the following White House personnel have left: Stephen Bannon, Chief Strategist; Mike Dubke, Communications Director; Michael Flynn, National Security Adviser; Sebastian Gorka, White House Adviser; Hope Hicks, Communications Director; K.T. McFarland, Deputy National Security Adviser; Omarosa Manigault Newman, Director of Communications for Public Liaison; Rob Porter, Staff Secretary; Dina Powell, Deputy National Security Adviser; Reince Priebus, Chief of Staff; Anthony Scaramucci, Communications Director; Keith Schiller, Director Oval Office Operations; Sean Spicer, Press Secretary; Katie Walsh, Deputy Chief of Staff; Ezra Cohen-Watnick, Senior Director Intelligence; Tera Dahl, Deputy Chief of Staff; Derek Harvey, Middle

East Adviser; Rich Higgins, Director Strategic Planning Office; Josh Raffel, Senior Communications Official; Michael Short, Senior Assistant Press Secretary; and Gary Cohn, Economic Adviser.

FBI Director Comey; Deputy FBI Director McCabe; and Secretary of State Tillerson were fired.

This turmoil is occurring during an investigation into Russian meddling in our election; Putin threatening us with nuclear weapons; China expanding its influence in the world; North Korea developing long range nuclear missile systems; Iran fomenting war in the Middle East; Muslim terrorists attacking the Western world; and domestic shooters killing Americans with assault weapons.

Trump The Terrible!

**Donald Moskowitz**  
Londonderry, NH

*P.S. I am registered undeclared in New Hampshire and I have been an Independent for decades.*



## President Trump, GOP can't afford to ignore black blue-collar workers

By Raynard Jackson  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

President Trump was voted into the White House in 2016 on the backs of the so-called, blue-collar workers, who live in the industrial Midwest of the country and a few southern battleground states. These folks reside in states like Wisconsin (Trump +.7), Michigan (Trump +.3), Ohio (Trump +8.1), Florida (Trump +1.2), and Pennsylvania (Trump +.7), etc.

Just like when discussing illegal immigration, most people think of people from Mexico; similarly, when you say blue-collar worker, most people think of white factory workers.

The Trump political operation and the Republican National Committee (RNC) are both making a flawed strategic calculation by not recognizing that blacks are also a part of this blue-collar pool of voters that are open to Trump's plans and the Republican message of economic nationalism.

Just like with whites, blacks in the above states were devastated with the

closing of the steel mills and the automation of the auto industry in the 80s and 90s. Many were high school graduates who didn't go to college, but were good with their hands and were able to make a middle-class living the old fashioned American way—through hard work.

What Republicans fail to realize is that many Blacks are against amnesty for

I would go a step further. Can you imagine Trump giving a series of speeches with black blue-collar workers alongside black entrepreneurs?

Just picture a couple hundred blacks in a room; a black carpenter in overalls sitting next to the tie and jacket wearing CEO of a black IT firm; or a black electrician sitting next to the managing partner of a black CPA firm; or the black

their impact on the black business community.

Here is a message to the Republican Party: Blacks are not opposed to the Trump administration's agenda; simply put, no one is speaking to them in a language they understand and in a manner that is relevant to them.

Black blue-collar workers and black entrepreneurs both have been and are being devastated by workers who are in the country illegally. Why hire a blue-collar American worker at \$25 per hour when you can hire an illegal worker for a lot less?

Entrepreneurs are being undercut on government contracts, because big companies are hiring engineers from India through the insidious H-1B program, while small business owners have to pay American engineers a lot more in order to compete.

Liberals have tried to equate Trump's America First promise with America alone. America is the only country on earth that is putting others before its own national interest.

If this White House were to speak directly to black blue-collar workers and black entrepreneurs simultaneously, I can guarantee you that this effort would be quantifiable at the ballot box in this year's congressional elections, as well as the presidential election in 2020.

*Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit [www.bafbf.org](http://www.bafbf.org). You can follow him on Twitter @Raynard1223.*

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***“Black blue-collar workers and black entrepreneurs both have been and are being devastated by workers who are in the country illegally. Why hire a blue-collar American worker at \$25 per hour when you can hire an illegal worker for a lot less?”***

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those in the country illegally and would also like to limit legal immigration.

The mainstream media-appointed, radical liberals of the civil “entitlement” industry have been bought and paid for by the Democratic unions. In my opinion, groups like the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Congress, etc., do not reflect the views of the black community—those groups merely reflect the views of their members.

When you look at the margin of victory by Trump in the five above states, you can plainly see that targeting black voters could increase his margin of victory.

If Trump were to give a series of speeches in front of black blue-collar workers in these five states, there is no doubt that they could insulate him from the typical liberal attack lines that he is a racist and only cares about his wealthy friends—as though there is something wrong with being wealthy.

owner of a landscaping company sitting next to the owner of a black construction company.

Wow! What a visual.

What do all these blacks have in common? They all have been negatively impacted by illegal immigration and would be devastated by giving amnesty, i.e. citizenship, to those in the country illegally.

Can you imagine if President Trump were to ask someone like Harry Alford to organize such an event? Alford is the President and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

Alford's Black Chamber of Commerce is by far, the most preeminent black chamber in the U.S. If you want to get the pulse of the black business community, one need only reach out to them. They have some of the most insightful data on the state of the black business community; they give the most insightful analysis on major policy issues and

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# Former Ravens cheerleader creates hats for Preakness, special occasions

By Stacy M. Brown

Ashley Clark is a former Baltimore Ravens cheerleader who once dreamed of ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange and making hats with the word “Soigné” inscribed.

That dream— at least the one about the hats— has become a reality for the former University of Maryland student who has a vast collection ready for sale for upcoming high-society events like the Preakness Stakes and the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Both events are scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018.

“I’ve attended Preakness and other horse races for years and had trouble finding a hat I wanted to wear so I would make my hat. Then one night during graduate school I had a very vivid dream that woke me up out of a sound sleep,” Clark said. “In this dream I saw the name Soigné, myself creating hats on a grand scale and I was ringing the bell at the New York stock exchange. I woke up in a cold sweat and knew I’d just seen my life flash before my eyes. The next day, I went and postponed my graduate degree and devoted my life to learning the art of millinery and created the company.”

The result is the 2016 launch of Soigné Hats, which she followed up with a successful appearance at Boston Fashion Week and the confidence to make a hard push to the upcoming Preakness, the Royal Wedding and the duration of horse racing season.

Clark says she is excited to be part of the Preakness frenzy, and have Soigné be the go-to brand for women looking for high-end hats to complement their outfits.

“I can remember being five years old in ballet and tap having dreams of being in the spotlight, that light didn’t dim as I got older, it only became brighter; making the Ravens was a dream come true for me,” Clark said, reminiscing about her first practice on the field and how there’s nothing like standing on the sidelines at M&T Bank Stadium where she performed as a Ravens cheerleader for three years before applying to law school.



Today, Clark’s company has hats for all tastes. There is the “scandalous nobility” collection; the “sophisticated aristocracy,” and “daring dames.” From those are styles like “The Royal Orchid,” “The Angelic Queen,” and “The Countess.”

“My favorite style is a homburg, because it’s a mash-up of a pork pie and fedora,” Clark said. “I try to create a variety of styles that will be unique and innovative. Every day I see something that gives me an idea for a piece. I always carry a notebook and pencil, so I can sketch out a rough draft of something right away. Once I get the idea on paper I then create an official drawing and write down all the material I want to use next to the drawing. I order the supplies I need or grab them from my studio – it’s always overflowing with fabric and sequence, feathers and beads – then I sit down and start to build the piece.” Clark, whose family members are Italian immigrants says, she draws inspiration from her mother and grandmother.

“They both were single mothers who raised their children and gave us everything they had while still being the most stylish women I’ve ever met. It impresses me just to think about it,” she said.

Outside of her family, Clark says her fashion icon is Iris Apfel because “she is incredibly fearless and brilliant with her fashion sense.”

Coco Chanel also counts as a fashion



**Former Baltimore Ravens cheerleader Ashley Clark is the founder and creator of Soigné Hats, a high-end couture hat line that appeals to women in search of elegant headwear for special events. (Above) Models are pictured wearing hats from her collection, which are perfect for the Preakness or perhaps even Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s upcoming Royal Wedding. Clark’s collection is available at: <http://soigne-hats.com>**

**Courtesy Photos/Soigne Hats**

favorite because Clark says a little-known fact about the icon is that she started out by making hats and Clark’s goal ultimately is to take Soigné public and build a legacy and fashion empire.

Her response to what advice she would offer to aspiring women entrepreneurs, “Always ask for help when you need it. I am never afraid of constructive criticism, it makes my product better,” Clark said. “Also, be sure to spend fifteen to

twenty minutes meditating and recognizing the blessings in your life— thanking the universe out loud by naming the great things that have gone on and are currently going on. It keeps you grounded and focused. The positive energy makes every day more productive for me.”

To preview Clark’s collection, visit <http://soigne-hats.com>.



# Anne Arundel County student wins 2018 Maryland 'Poetry Out Loud' State Competition

Baltimore— The 13th Poetry Out Loud (POL) Maryland State Finals was held on March 10, 2018 in the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Auditorium at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

This year's Maryland State Champion is Cayla Turner, a senior at Indian Creek School in Anne Arundel County was among nine finalists selected from more than 7,500 students in 13 counties competing in the statewide POL competitions.

This poetry recitation contest is co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and The Poetry Foundation, and administered by U.S. state arts agencies across the country. Maryland student participation has reached the total of 124,000 since its inception over 13 years ago. The Maryland Poetry Out Loud competition is produced by the Maryland State Arts Council.

"Poetry Out Loud is such a great opportunity for kids because finding and reciting a poem they can relate to is so freeing!" said the 2018 State Champion Cayla Turner. "Teenagers are able to more easily express themselves and show everyone how they feel and who they are in a unique way."

In the competition Cayla recited "Life in a Love" by Robert Browning, "The Song of the Feet" by Nikki Giovanni and "Discrimination" by Kenneth Rexroth.

"We are so proud of Cayla here at Indian Creek School," said Matt McCormick, Indian Creek Associate Head of the Upper School and Dean of Students. "I've heard and watched her recitation of Nikki Giovanni's 'The Song of the Feet' dozens of times, but there was something magical about her recitation at the state competition. Her performance embodied everything Poetry Out Loud is about and what it can achieve through young people reciting poetry. Cayla is a fabulous young woman who is going to do amazing things!"

Participation in POL offers students the opportunity to learn about their literary heritage, build self-confidence and improve their public speaking skills. The process begins in the fall when participating students select three eligible poems from the POL website ([www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)), analyze and memorize them, and present the poems at their school competitions. In February each school winner moves on to regionals and in



*Finalists (l-r) Jeanette Banko, Colonel Richardon High, Carroll County; Kaylor Stroot, Brookewood School, Montgomery County; Kate Maerten, Gerstell Academy, Carroll County; Wansi "Ivy" Huang, Thomas S. Wootton High, Montgomery County; Allison Latham, The King's Christian Academy, St. Mary's County; Faith Rogers, Tuscarora High, Frederick County; Aevin Mayman, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, Washington County (third place); Amy Nguyen, Sts. Peter and Paul High, Talbot County (second place); and Cayla Turner, Indian Creek School, Anne Arundel County (state champion).*  
Photo credit: Edwin Remsberg

March, at the State Finals competition, the participants are evaluated on physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, and overall performance.

As state champion, Cayla received \$1200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with

an adult chaperone to compete in the National Finals, April 23-25, 2018, at the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Her school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry materials.

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# Three ways stress takes a toll on your body

News & Experts— Did the latest challenge at work bring on a tightening in your stomach? Does constant worry about a loved one's health, make you physically ill yourself?

Everyone at some point feels the effects of stress. Not everyone deals with stress in the best way, though.

"Often stressed-out people seek relief through alcohol, tobacco or drugs, but that just makes matters worse," says Richard Purvis, a health and wellness practitioner and author of *Recalibrate: Six Secrets to Resetting Your Age* ([www.richardpurvisauthor.com](http://www.richardpurvisauthor.com)). "Instead of relieving stress, those toxic substances tend to keep the body in a stressed state, causing even more physical problems."

April is Stress Awareness Month, a good time to reflect on how the demands and anxieties of daily life put a strain not just on our minds, but on our bodies as well.

Stress, of course, is not always a bad thing. It does serve a positive purpose.

"It can keep us alert and prepares us to avoid danger," Purvis said "But stress becomes a negative factor when a person faces continuous challenges without any time mixed in for relief or relaxation."

As a result, he says, people become overworked, and stress-related anxiety and illness can occur. The strain leads them to suffer from such ailments as headaches, upset stomach, elevated blood pressure, chest pain and problems sleeping.

Purvis gives three examples of how stress can play havoc on our bodies include:

•**Musculoskeletal system.** When we experience stress, it's natural for our muscles to tense up. "It's the body's way of guarding against injury and pain," Purvis says. Usually, the muscles relax once the stressful event passes. But chronic stress keeps the muscles in a constant state of guardedness. "When muscles are taut and tense for long peri-



ods of time other reactions in the body are triggered," he says. Chronic muscle tension in the shoulders, neck and head can lead to tension-type headaches and migraines.

•**Respiratory system.** Stress causes people to breathe harder. "That's not a problem for most people," Purvis says. "But if you suffer from asthma or a lung disease such as emphysema, getting essential oxygen can be difficult."

He says some studies show that acute stress events— such as the death of a loved one— can trigger asthma attacks in which the airway between the nose and the lungs constrict. Also, rapid breathing associated with stress or hyperventilation can result in a panic attack in some people.

•**Gastrointestinal system.** Sometimes people who are stressed will eat much more than usual. Sometimes they will eat much less. Neither is healthy. "You can get heartburn or acid reflux if you eat more food or different types of food, or if you increase how much alcohol you

stomach can react with "butterflies," nausea or pain. "Severe stress can cause vomiting, diarrhea or constipation," he says. "If your stress becomes chronic, you might develop ulcers or severe stomach pain."

So what's to be done? Purvis points out that stress is a natural occurrence in life and happens to everyone.

"Since you can't avoid your job, bills, or other life experiences, the best thing to do is learn to manage stress," he says. "You won't avoid stress entirely, but it is possible to minimize the effects by eating healthy, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, and taking care of yourself in general."

*Richard Purvis, author of Recalibrate: Six Secrets to Resetting Your Age, is a health and wellness practitioner with more than 30 years of dedicated experience in nutrition, exercise, anti-aging and overall wellness. For more information, visit: [www.richard-purvisauthor.com](http://www.richard-purvisauthor.com).*

drink or tobacco you use," Purvis says. When you're stressed, the brain sends alert sensations to the stomach. Your

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## Videos created by youth speak about violence in city

By Ken Morgan

A ray of hope prevailed in Baltimore City as the Kennedy Krieger Institute: Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress brought together students, trauma experts, and community groups to screen two mini-documentaries March 22, 2018 at the Parkway Theatre. About 50 persons attended.

The students from the Trauma Stress Center created the videos with the help of New Lens, "a youth-driven social justice organization that makes art and media about issues where a youth perspective can inspire change."

Break the Chain; the first video screened through the Kennedy Krieger program come together to face violence and abuse.

The video begins with the middle school film creators explaining the mission of the video. "There are a lot of events throughout this video. They might make you emotional or angry. This video shows how we come together in group therapy to face violence and abuse," they said.

The second film, "B'more Loving" expresses the sentiments of high school students living with gun violence.

"Everyday I look at the news and because of guns.... he barely missed me," said one of the youth about facing gun violence in her neighborhood.

Another young person said, "I lost a cousin to gun violence and it still affects me." "Life can be taken away in a snap," said another youth. "It upsets me, and I try to forget about it. Then, it's like "I am used to it," another youth said.

Crevontaye Lee, one of the high school student producers of B'more Loving, said, "We created the film to show that guns are not the answer."

After the video screenings, the creators of "B'more Loving" served on the first panel. Erricka Bridgeford of Baltimore Cease Fire; and James Timpson, of Safe Streets spoke of their organizations' efforts to stem violence on the second panel.



*Erricka Bridgeford of Baltimore Cease Fire and James Timpson of Safe Streets spoke of their organizations' efforts to stem violence in Baltimore City on the second panel at the event.*

Safe Streets is a City of Baltimore program that puts savvy street mediators in marginalized unsafe communities to prevent violence and to avoid police intervention. Erricka Bridgeford, director of the nonprofit Community Mediation program, created Baltimore Cease Fire to appeal for the end of gun violence murders over a 72-hour weekend. The program runs periodically.

Both panelists used colorful, audience-appealing language to describe their missions. Timmons talked of "thug recovery" and Bridgeford, described the "Huxtables of the ghetto" using Bill Cosby's television family sit-com.

Sarah Davis, a Kennedy Krieger Institute trauma therapist, who helped the youth pull together the video, defined violence as "an intentional act to cause harm to other people."

Dr. Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Vice President, and Director of the Kennedy Krieger Institute: Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress underlined the mission and her passion for the work.

"We desire to provide high-quality treatment to underserved, and under-resourced youth to facilitate better-coping strategies," Dr. Thompson said. "Traumatic stress is a significant event that happens to a child that overwhelms their psychological or physical ability to cope."

Youth and parents in need of the Center's services, should contact the intake coordinator at 443-923-5980 or email: [Diggs@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:Diggs@KennedyKrieger.org).



# Female entrepreneur reflects on success in male-dominated tech industry

By Stacy M. Brown

Women's History Month has allowed Tonya Buckner time to reflect on her successful business, the role of her parents including her father who raised five children alone, and her faith.

Buckner owns and operates Buckner Management & Technology, Inc., (BucknerMT), a Bowie-based management and technology consultant firm that provides cybersecurity, information technology infrastructure, information technology integrated management, and supply chain management solutions to public and private sector businesses.

"Often times opportunity is created by a crisis, thus the reason for the BucknerMT formation," Buckner said, in explaining how she started her business.

"My husband, Michael, was an employee of a federal contractor supporting a Department of Defense contract which was up for re-compete.

"Due to the uncertainty of what the future held, employees were leaving at a mass rate and, in order to retain him and his expertise, the contractor offered him more money and an opportunity to become a 1099 employee," Buckner said.

Previously, she enjoyed a 25-year career with the U.S. Army, ExxonMobile Corp., Booz Allen Hamilton and the federal government as a subject matter expert in information technology and supply chain management.

Now, in her role as CEO, Buckner is responsible for enriching shareholders by providing the vision, leadership and strategy needed to grow her business. She also leads her firm's cyber business segment, which consists of security governance and supply chain risk management.

Buckner attributes much of her success to her parents and to God.

"My mother provided the foundation to succeed, however, her passing did not allow me the opportunity to receive the lessons, guidance and unconditional love that mothers provide," Buckner said. "But God said, this is not where my story would end. God blessed me with many incredible women to fill my mother's shoes."

Buckner said she would be remiss if



**Tonya Buckner owns and operates Buckner Management & Technology, Inc., (BucknerMT), a Bowie-based management and technology consultant firm that provides cybersecurity, information technology infrastructure, information technology integrated management, and supply chain management solutions to public and private sector businesses. Courtesy Photo**

she didn't acknowledge her father, who "had the strength and courage to raise five kids alone after my mom's passing."

Since 2007, BucknerMT has supported the DOD's Defense Information Systems Agency by providing engineering, integration and sustainable solutions to protect its critical military infrastructure, platforms and data.

"The breadth of my experience in governance and risk management, and program management, combined with my solid grasp of complex information technology and supply chain management issues, positions me to successfully support my clients," Buckner said. "I have deep domain knowledge and experience in the areas of government contracting, financial management, marketing, sales and customer service, communication and negotiation, leadership, project management and planning, delegation and time management, problem solving, and networking all which are critical to running a business."

While she has done well, Buckner says

women remain scarce in the IT sector.

"While the technology industry is growing at an exponential rate, women and minorities continue to be underrepresented," said Buckner who also is a participant in the Women President Education Organization Sage Advice Program. "Clearly progress has been made, but we still have a long way to go to achieve gender and racial parity in technology."

With additional knowledge and skills from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program, BucknerMT recently expanded its support to commercial organizations and the company is experiencing rapid growth in revenue and contracts.

"It was the business and leadership skills learned through the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program that lead to our ability to expand our business to the commercial sector," she said. "Our growth opportunity involved expanding the Cybersecurity, IT Infrastructure, IT Integrated Management,

and Supply Chain Management solutions we were providing to the DoD to other federal agencies, state and local government, as well as commercial organizations. We accomplished this goal prior to graduating from the program."

BucknerMT offers mentoring programs, personal development and workforce diversity.

"As a woman in technology, I find that it is still a male dominated industry. Often, I am one of the few women in the room and innovation is led by my male counterparts," she said. "It is important remember that there is competitive strength through diversity. It enhances capacity for innovation. We need to continue to encourage women participation, urge leadership support, improve managerial relationships, and implement programs that hold companies accountable."

Buckner also volunteers by serving on the Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center Infectious Disease Advisory Board.



# Money Power Day Scheduled for April 7

By Stacy M. Brown

The region's biggest free financial fitness fair, "Money Power Day," returns Saturday, April 7 at Poly-Western High School.

More than 1,000 adults, teens and children are expected to attend the event sponsored by the nonprofit CASH Campaign of Maryland and its partners.

The event aims to boost the financial well-being of residents with activities designed to inspire and inform individuals of all ages and income levels, officials said.

Free workshops, exhibitors, credit counseling, financial planning and children's activities will be available at the event which kicks off at 9 a.m.

"Money Power Day is all about hope and building a prosperous financial future regardless of where you are in that journey," said Courtney Bettle, the director of Financial Capability for the Cash Campaign.

"It's your one-stop shop for getting the support you need to achieve your financial dreams whether that's starting or growing your business, home ownership, or paying for college," said Bettle, a graduate of Goucher College and Johns Hopkins University.

As a whole, the African-American community has systematically been locked out of wealth building opportunities since being brought to this country and the CASH Campaign, along with its partners, are working to change that by reducing the barriers to accessing the resources and information Baltimoreans need to grow their savings and build wealth, Bettle said.

She said the tenacity and resilience of CASH Campaign clients inspires her each day. "It's incredibly motivating to see our clients exceed their personal financial goals and gain peace of mind when they take control of their financial lives," she said.

Originally from West Philadelphia, Bettle once worked for Baltimore City Public Schools in its Engagement Office where she supported the planning and implementation of district-wide community engagement initiatives like the com-



*Courtney Bettle, director of Financial Capability for the Cash Campaign.*  
Courtesy Photo

munity design process of the 21st Century Building initiative.

Prior to that, she was also involved in efforts to reduce hunger and poverty in Maryland and around the country.

"I was drawn to CASH because of the underling mission to build financial security for the most vulnerable families and support families in growing their personal wealth, particularly for people of color and women," Bettle said, noting that she's been at CASH since 2014.

"Money Power Day is so special because it's an opportunity for individuals and families to receive support and encouragement in all areas of their financial life without the fear of being taken advantage of," Bettle said.

"All the partners that make Money Power Day possible; the nonprofits, government agencies, financial institutions. They're committed to helping Baltimore residents achieve their financial goals and to make it fun at the same time," she said.

Congressman Elijah Cummings, Mayor Catherine Pugh and Bettle plan to engage attendees at the event while Pastor Franklin Lance of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church will give the Invocation. Fox 45's Chardelle Moore will serve as master of ceremonies.

Bettle said the CASH Campaign of Maryland was awarded the Neighborhood Builder Award by Bank of America. In addition to a generous grant to the organization, Bettle represents CASH as the organization's Emerging Leader in Bank of America's national leadership program with Neighborhood Builder Awardees from the other markets across the country.

"It's an amazing opportunity to learn and develop my skills as a leader," she said.

For more information about Money Power Day, visit [www.moneypowerday.org](http://www.moneypowerday.org)

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# Baltimore native among super hero line-up in *Marvel Universe LIVE!*

By Ursula V. Battle

As the blockbuster hit movie Black Panther continues to set box-office records, Marvel Universe LIVE! Age of Heroes soars into arenas across the country. Feld Entertainment's newest production smashes into Royal Farms Arena on Thursday, April 5 and runs through April 8, 2018.

The iconic Marvel Super Heroes Spider-Man and The Avengers are joined by the Guardians of the Galaxy, including Star-Lord, Gamora, Groot, Rocket and Drax, in a legendary battle to defend the universe from evil.

Baltimore native Anthony Briggs, Jr. portrays "Drax." The 29-year-old Towson University graduate grew up in the Yale Heights area of Baltimore City.

"I am basically the muscle," said Briggs. "Drax is of the warrior class. He is always ready to go in any situation and jump in the heat of the battle. Playing Drax is a blast. I have a lot of fun. Drax is a muscle-bound dude who fights anything. The character also gives me the opportunity to highlight my field in Martial Arts."

Briggs says he received his Martial Arts training at the U.S. Ninpo Academy under Sensei Robert Stevens.

"Growing up, Martial Arts was always a part of my life," said Briggs who is 2nd Degree Black Belt. I also did some acting and stunt gigs."

Briggs joined Feld Entertainment in 2017. He talked about how he "landed" the role of Drax.

"A friend sent me audition information on Facebook," recalled Briggs. "I went to Washington, D.C. to audition, and



(Left) Anthony Briggs, Jr. grew up in the Yale Heights area of Baltimore City. The 29-year-old Towson University graduate plays "Drax." in the production. (Right) *Marvel Universe LIVE! Age of Heroes* opens at Royal Farms Arena Thursday, April 5, 2018 and runs through April 8, 2018. The character "Drax" is pictured (far right). Courtesy Photos/Marvel

received a call a year later for the show. Being a black male from Baltimore, I feel good about the work I am doing and being a positive role model. It helps to bring a positive light to the city, because now, we need it more than ever."

Called on by Doctor Strange, the Guardians of the Galaxy join *Marvel Universe LIVE! Age of Heroes* on a momentous crusade against the scheming Nebula who teams up with the conniving and loathsome villains Loki and Green Goblin. The incredible superhuman forces of Iron Man, Thor, Black Panther, Hulk and Black Widow unite in clashes that pit student against mentor,

sister against sister and brother against brother.

"This show is entertaining for everyone," said Briggs. "It's geared towards kids, but there are many things in the show that adults would appreciate such as the choreography and circus-style themes."

The show boasts immersive video projection, cutting-edge special effects, dynamic aerial stunts, and daring motorcycle skills in the ultimate race against time to save mankind.

Briggs said he is looking forward to his return back to Royal Farms Arena in another capacity.

"I used to work at Royal Farms Arena when it was 1st Mariner Arena," he said. "I was a transporter responsible for putting food on a pallet. To come back and perform is amazing. I had no clue that this was a possibility. It is really a blessing."

He added, "It takes me back. I remember seeing the circus come through, but had no idea I would be performing in this arena. I am still star-struck even after doing more than 200 shows. I am looking forward to coming back home and performing for everyone."

For tickets to see Briggs and the other *Marvel Universe LIVE!* performers, visit [www.marveluniverselive.com](http://www.marveluniverselive.com).

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**PROJECT # 1287- PROCUREMENT OF  
CONSULTANT SERVICES**

**CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN  
FOR ALL WATER AND WASTEWATER  
OPERATIONS**

The City of Baltimore Department of Public Works is advertising for interested firms that specializes in creating Continuity of Operations Plans for water and wastewater operations.

The scope of the work for the project includes:

### 1. Process

1.1 Identification of all essential functions, and prioritization to determine mission essential functions (MEF), essential supporting activities (ESA), and reconstitution activities;

1.2 Performance of a business impact analysis (BIA) to identify the effects of failing to perform essential functions, to include an outline of gaps or vulnerabilities and strategies to reconcile gaps and minimize risk;

1.3 A leadership briefing with the bureau head, and division and section chiefs;

1.4 Performance of business process analyses (BPA) to map the functional processes, workflows, activities, personnel, expertise, systems, data, interdependencies, and facilities inherent in the execution of MEFs;

1.5 Data collection through planning workshops and interviews with staff of each division that carries out any component of an essential function, and engagement with external partners, as needed;

1.6 Writing the COOP plan and division-specific implementation plans;

1.7 Employee training, including the development and facilitation of tabletop exercises;

1.8 Fostering employee awareness and

## Legal Notices

desired results;

1.9 Addressing each of the plan components described below; and

1.10 Finalizing the plans.

### 2 Meetings & Workshops

2.1 The winning Proponent shall have in-person project development meetings and workshops with the appropriate DPW staff, as necessary. All costs of participating in project development meetings shall be borne by the Proponent.

2.2 Fact finding, research, and data collection conducted by the Proponent for each essential function must include direct contact and dialogue with staff in all respective divisions and sections.

### 3 Components

The COOP plan shall include, but not be limited to:

#### 3.1 Essential Functions

3.1.1 Facilitate the identification of essential functions and all Bureau of Water and Wastewater divisions and sections involved in carrying out those functions; prioritize to determine mission essential functions (MEF), essential supporting activities (ESA), and reconstitution activities.

#### 3.1.2 Identify resources to include:

3.1.2.1 Staffing requirements to carry out each essential function, including rosters of personnel with the necessary expertise and authority;

3.1.2.2 Mission critical data and data systems; and

3.1.2.3 Support activities to ensure essential functions can be performed as efficiently as possible during emergency situations.

3.1.3 Create a detailed implementation plan for each division and section to attain operational capability within 12 hours following an event, to include job aids such as operational checklists for each division and section, and other materials, as appropriate.

3.1.4 Identify and establish processes and procedures for Bureau of Water and Wastewater divisions and sections to acquire resources necessary to continue essential

## Legal Notices

functions and sustain operations for up to 30 days.

3.2 Lines of Succession and Delegations of Authority

3.2.1 Identify lines of succession for leadership and essential positions for each Bureau of Water and Wastewater division and section. Lines of authority should be at least three positions deep, where possible.

3.2.2 Establish rules and procedures for implementing orders of succession and delegating authority, to include initiating conditions, notification methods, limitations, and terminating conditions. Pre-drafted delegations of authority should be included in the COOP plan.

3.2.3 Develop a plan for executive decision making and the authority necessary for COOP activation, execution, and relocation.

### 3.3 Alternate Facilities

3.3.1 Determine and recommend requirements for alternate sites for the divisions and sections that are able to be relocated, to include space, equipment, pre-positioned resources, contingency contracts, sources of logistical support, services, infrastructure systems, and physical security.

3.3.2 Plan should account for sustained operations at alternate facilities for up to 30 days.

### 3.4 Interoperable Communications

3.4.1 Create an interoperable communications plan, including redundancies, to service the needs of all identified essential internal and external entities, including essential staff; critical customers; the public; local governments; and emergency operations at the local, regional, and possibly state and federal levels.

3.4.2 Develop procedures and plans for access to data and systems necessary to conduct essential activities and functions.

### 3.5 Essential Records

3.5.1 Create a system whereby essential records and documents are identified and protected, and can be made available during an event. This includes, but is not limited to emergency operations plans, lines of succession, delegations of authority, staffing assignments, policy or procedural records, and

## Legal Notices

references for performing essential functions.

3.5.2 Develop provisions for sensitive data; data backup and restoration; and placement and accessibility of vital records.

### 3.6 Testing, Training, and Exercises

3.6.1 Outline a testing, training, and exercise program for the COOP plan and related implementation plans.

3.6.2 Develop and facilitate tabletop exercises for agency staff to test the plan(s); engage external partners as appropriate.

### 3.7 Personnel Management

3.7.1 Ensure that DPW human resources, policies, and procedures support the COOP.

3.7.2 Develop a plan for employee welfare and productivity through the duration of an event, to include succession, notification, cross-training, accountability, and means of keeping staff informed during emergencies.

3.7.3 Investigate the feasibility of implementing a teleworking policy for use during continuity events.

### 3.8 Devolution

3.8.1 Consideration must be given to situations that render DPW leadership and staff unavailable or incapable of performing the agency's mission essential functions, either from its primary or alternative facilities.

3.8.2 Address provisions for the transfer of responsibility for essential functions from Bureau of Water and Wastewater to another office, agency, or entity; include plans for necessary personnel and facilities.

### 3.9 Reconstitution

3.9.1 Outline a process by which Bureau of Water and Wastewater personnel may resume full operations—either from the original facility or a replacement primary operating facility.

3.9.2 Provisions must be included to manage the deactivation of any alternate sites utilized.

**Legal Notice — Project #1287  
continued on page 16**



## Legal Notices

**Legal Notice — Project #1287**  
**continued from page 15**

### 4. Deliverables

4.1 Three (3) hard copies of the plan, meeting the following requirements:

4.1.1 Hard copies should be bound in a 3 ring binder, with labeled tabs for each division and section implementation plan.

4.1.2 The first two hard copies should contain the complete plan, in its entirety, and be labeled “For Official Use Only.”

4.1.3 The third copy should not contain sensitive information.

4.2 Four (4) electronic copies of the plan (on CD, DVD, or other portable storage medium), meeting the following requirements:

4.2.1 Electronic files for the versions of the plan described in 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 above; files should be included for each in both Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Word format.

4.2.2 All electronic documents should contain links from the table of contents to the respective sections.

4.3 All versions of the plan must include:

4.3.1 A preface that guides users in the utilization of the document—including instructions on turning to specific sections of the document, based on specific circumstances, and instructions on searching for a keyword or topic (when using electronic versions).

4.3.2 A table of contents.

4.3.3 An overview of the plan, or executive summary.

4.3.4 A glossary.

4.3.5 An index.

DPW reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

The city intends to select the services of 1 firm for a 1-year period at a fee not exceeding \$250,000.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Aaron Little at [aaron.little@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:aaron.little@baltimorecity.gov)

## Legal Notices

Firms interested in submitting a proposal as a prime consultant for this project should submit a “Letter of Interest” to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 S. Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: [OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov)). Since these letters are utilized to assist small, minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, the letters should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project’s advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a “Letter of Interest” will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Each prime consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on **April 30, 2018**. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

### Prequalification Requirement

All architectural, engineering, and surveying firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project must be pre-qualified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410-396-6883.

### Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability and workers’ compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

### MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City’s contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women’s Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 2%  
The WBE goal is 2%

Both the proposed Minority and Women’s

## Legal Notices

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 Minority and Women’s Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occurs daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

### Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5 subtitle 28-41).

### Regulation of Board of Estimates Meetings and Protests

The Regulation of Board of Estimates Meetings and Protests effective as of February 5, 2014 is incorporated herein by reference and is available at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com)

### Local law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the “Local Hiring Law”) and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law’s effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every

## Legal Notices

agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oedworks.com](http://www.oedworks.com) for detailed on the requirements of the law.

### Additional Requirements

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; revision 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 will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organizational chart, etc. Applications should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

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

Aaron Little, Project Manager  
Office of Strategy & Performance



## Legal Notices

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 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 **FAP NO. SRTS-3(338)E; SHA NO. AX933B52; BALTIMORE CITY NO. TR16008; SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT YEAR 'F'** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **May 2, 2018**. 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 Contract Documents may be examined, without charge at the Department of Public Works Service Center located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **March 29, 2018** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$75.00**. **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 Contractor's 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 **A02601 Portland Cement Concrete Paving and D02620 Curbs, Gutters, Sidewalks**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$200,000.00 to \$350,000.00**. Baltimore City hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement; Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color or national origin in consideration for an award. Also, the Bidder's attention is called to the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246) which is a part of the Contract proposal. All of these activities shall be done in accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **10:00 A.M.** on **April 13, 2018** at 417 E. Fayette Street, Charles L. Benton Building, Hooper Conference Room, 7th

## Legal Notices

Floor. Principal Items of work for this project are 5 in. Concrete Sidewalk – 6,300 SF, Detectable Warning Surface for Curb Ramps - 690 SF and 16 in LED Countdown Pedestrian Signal Head, 16 in x 18 in – 58 EA. The DBE goal is **8%**. APPROVED: Bernice H. Taylor, Clerk Board of Estimates

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

#### 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 **Storm Drain Contract No. 7788-Seamon Avenue Storm Drain and Step Pool Conveyance** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, April 25, 2018**. 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 Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, March 23, 2018** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$150.00**. **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 **B02552-Sewer Construction, B02554-Drainage Structure and F02200-Earthwork and Site Preparation**.

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **300 Abel Wolman Municipal Building Large Conference Room on April 4, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Principal Item of work include, but are not limited to:**

- Grading in an out fall forebay
- Grading in a Step Pool Storm

## Legal Notices

Conveyance System, downstream of the outfall forebay.

- Relocating sanitary sewer pipe with 230 LF of new 8" diameter pipe with sanitary manholes.
- Construction of sidewalks, curb and gutter, and asphalt and paving associated with the storm drain and structure construction
- Return site to its original condition. General planting and landscaping.

The MBE goal is **18%**  
The WBE goal is **16%**

#### STORM DRAIN CONTRACT NO. 7788

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation in an effort to educate the community about the Hanover Street Corridor Study will hold a Community Open House for:  
**Hanover Street Corridor Study**  
**Tuesday April 10, 2018**  
**from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Medstar Harbor Hospital**  
**in the Baum Auditorium**  
**3001 S. Hanover Street,**  
**Baltimore MD 21225**

If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations, please contact:

Mrs. Nikia Mack  
Liaison Coordinator  
443-984-4095

Or email [Nikia.mack@batltimorecity.gov](mailto:Nikia.mack@batltimorecity.gov)  
Receive regular updates via Facebook  
At Baltimore City,  
Department of Transportation  
Or on Twitter at Baltimore City,  
Department of Transportation

Michelle Pourciau, DIRECTOR  
Published

**To place Legal Notices in  
The Baltimore Times,  
contact the Legals Department  
Phone: 410-366-3900  
email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)**

## Landmark legislation will help parents earn and children learn

Baltimore — The Maryland General Assembly has enacted the most significant victory for early care and education in more than a decade. After years of neglect, and with Maryland under increasing scrutiny from the federal government, "Education – Child Care Subsidies – Mandatory Funding Levels" (SB 379 / HB 430) will dramatically raise the State's abysmally low childcare subsidy rates. Low-income working parents across Maryland will gain significant help in finding and paying for safe, quality childcare.

Working families participating in the program (whose income eligibility is capped at \$29,990 for a family of three) have been forced to choose among the cheapest 10 percent of childcare options in their communities. Thanks to the subsidy rate increases required by this legislation, these families will soon gain access to up to 60 percent of childcare programs near where they live or work. The rates will rise gradually in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to reach that level. While Maryland's Child Care Subsidy Program has ranked at or very near the bottom of all 50 states, this landmark legislation will bring Maryland closer to achieving the "equal access" to care for families required by federal law. The last time childcare subsidy rates were significantly increased in Maryland was in 2007.

Advocates in Annapolis have worked tirelessly on this issue so that children can receive higher quality care while their parents pursue their own employment and education goals. The legislation also provides an incentive for more childcare providers— mostly small business owners— to serve subsidy-eligible families, and it gives a particular boost to those programs providing care in Maryland's lowest-income communities.

*Maryland Family Network works to ensure young children and their families have the resources to learn and succeed by partnering with Family Support Centers and/or Child Care Resource Centers across the state.*



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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director  
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