



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY NAACP

Supporting local economic empowerment for all

August 2021



Freedom Summer Bus Ride Draws Attention to Systemic Racism in Maryland

Carl O. Snowden

On Monday, July 19, a consortium of leaders hosted a 100-mile "Maryland Freedom Summer" bus ride across the state's Eastern Shore. Inspired by the Mississippi Freedom Summer rides, the group drew attention to systemic racism in the State of Maryland.

The group left Annapolis, Maryland on Monday, July 19, 2021 and headed to Ocean City, stopping in Easton (at the Talbot Boys Confederate Monument), Cambridge (the city

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that H. Brown visited), Salisbury (at the Lynching Memorial), Berlin, and Ocean City to meet with clergy and elected officials about the treatment of Black youth and people in this resort city.

Maryland has seen its share of historic and contemporary injustices - from a lynching in Somerset County to the death of Anton Black in Greensboro to recent police violence on the Ocean City boardwalk.

Our visit included a press conference and a meeting with local and state officials. The Maryland Freedom Riders weren't sightseeing, but rather seeking justice.



Carl O. Snowden is the Convener of the Caucus of African American Leaders (CAAL). Above: Maryland Freedom Summer bus riders protesting in multiple locations on Monday July 19, 2021.

Drake Smith Receives Malcolm X Spirit Award



Former Anne Arundel County NAACP Youth President Drake Smith received the prestigious Malcolm X Spirit Award from the Caucus of African American Leaders on June 8, 2021.

Caucus Convener Carl Snowden and Anne Arundel County NAACP President Jacqueline Boone Allsup presented the award.

The award was created by the Caucus and acknowledges individuals who emulate the ideals of Malcolm X to fight for equal justice for all people.

Drake Smith also previously served as a student board member on the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. He championed many causes for the community that were aligned with the agenda of the Anne Arundel County NAACP and its education committee.

Leaders Across Anne Arundel County and the Nation Celebrate Juneteenth

While President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation officially outlawed slavery in 1863, emancipation in Confederate states relied on enforcement by Union soldiers. On June 19, 1865, Texas became the final state to see the Proclamation enforced, an occasion marked by the Juneteenth holiday.

On June 2, 2021, Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman signed into law an Executive Order making Juneteenth a county holiday to be observed annually. County Executive Pittman was surrounded by community leaders, including Anne Arundel County NAACP President Jacqueline Allsup.

"Celebrating Juneteenth as an official County holiday demonstrates our county's true commitment to freedom and equality—

for all," Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman said. "The growing national push for observance of Juneteenth is an important step as we move forward toward justice for this community, in light of centuries of racism, discrimination, and inequity."

This was followed by President Joe Biden's proclamation announcing Juneteenth as a national holiday on June 18. Both houses of Congress passed legislation entitled the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. President Biden wrote:

"Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Day of Observance. I call upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans, and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity."



Anne Arundel County celebrated Juneteenth with a special VIP reception on Friday, June 18, 2021. This was followed by a Juneteenth parade in Annapolis on Saturday, June 19, 2021.



100th Anniversary of Tulsa Massacre Recognized Locally

On June 12, 2021, the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, which occurred May 31– June 1, 1921.

Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley and Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman were on hand for the event, which took place at “The People’s Park” across from the Arundel Center.

“The 100th anniversary of the Greenwood Massacre is a moment for all of us to recognize the collective trauma caused by our nation’s history of racial violence,” County Executive Stuart Pittman said.

“We must use this moment as a way to uplift the work of community healing and restorative justice, to address past trauma and build a more equitable future.”

“I look forward to working with community leaders and groups to create a path forward to address the local and national history of racial violence and institutional racism,” said Mayor Gavin Buckley.

“It is crucial that we show how restorative justice practices, like this event, not only raise awareness to national tragedies like the Tulsa Race Riot, but also provide a pathway forward.”



Leroy Perry Remembered, Memorial Plaque Planned

Leroy Perry was tragically gunned down by Anne Arundel County police on July 20, 1981 after a simple traffic stop on Ritchie Highway. Mr. Perry, an African American, was unarmed. His assailant, a white officer, was charged and acquitted by an all-white jury in western Maryland.

On July 20, 2021, Mr. Perry's life was remembered by his family, City of Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, the Caucus of African American Leaders, the United Black Clergy, the Anne Arundel County NAACP, and the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission at the People's Park. Other local officials were present, including County Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien, Annapolis City Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles, and Anne Arundel County School board members Dana Schalleheim and Joanna Tobin.

The county's Human Relations Commission voted unanimously to install a plaque in Mr. Perry's honor at the People's Park. The ceremony commemorated his death and the future installation of the memorial plaque.



We are PrettyGirl Academy, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit mentoring program for teenage girls.

We specialize in improving girls' cultural capital and social awareness through initiatives that focus on empowering, education, and exposure.

We are located in Annapolis and our hours of operation are M-F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PrettyGirl Academy, Incorporated
www.prettygirlacademy.org



In Memoriam: Candace C.W. Antwine

Anne Arundel County Public Schools Press Release

It was with overwhelming sadness that the Anne Arundel County Board of Education announced the death of Board Member Candace C.W. Antwine. She passed away on July 16, 2021.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Ms. Antwine was elected to a six-year term representing District 1 on the Board of Education in November 2018 and took her oath of office on December 3, 2018.

She was a committed voice for children in need and for military families throughout Anne Arundel County.



Candace C.W. Antwine

'She was both a cheerleader for the school system and a voice for the community, particularly those who needed a champion.'

Melissa Ellis, Anne Arundel County Board of Education President

She also concentrated her efforts on eradicating bullying and racial tension in schools and on bringing more specialized accommodations to students with disabilities.

“Having seen firsthand the education her son, Joey, a Meade graduate, received, Ms. Antwine was proud of the quality of our school system and was committed to ensuring every student receives the same opportunity,” Board President Melissa Ellis said. “She was passionate about equity and inclusion for all students. Not one to just point out issues that needed to be addressed, Ms. Antwine instead worked closely and energetically with members and staff to drive action that would lead to effective solutions. She was both a cheerleader for the school system and a voice for the community, particularly those who needed a champion.”

At the time of her death, Ms. Antwine was also a member of the Board’s Policy and Equity committees. She also served on several committees of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education during her tenure.

“I will remember Ms. Antwine as someone who sought at every turn to leave our school system in a better place than it was when she arrived,” Superintendent George Arlotto said. “She was devoted to doing that for the families in her district and throughout our school system.”

Ms. Antwine served our country in active duty, reserve, and civil servant capacities, including positions with the National Security Agency via the Naval Security Group, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security.

She held a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting from the Mississippi University for Women and a master's degree in Acquisition and Procurement from Webster University. She also completed graduate work in Communication, Leadership, and Organizational Change at Hawaii Pacific University.

Ms. Antwine is survived by her son, Joey, her father, Carlton, two brothers, DeVon and Joshua, and her sister, Brandace. She is also survived by her two dogs, Bo Blue and Zoey. The Board of Education and Anne Arundel County Public Schools are planning a public tribute to Antwine's life later this year.

A version of this release was published in the [Southern Maryland Chronicle](#).



Ms. T's Helping Hands is a private childcare business, we're all childcare is provided in the comfort of your home.

Ms. T's Helping Hands helps with placing full time and part time nanny's, baby sitters, and childcare for those unexpected sick days, school closings, evening care, date night, overnight, and we even travel.

Ms. T's Helping Hands provides childcare for all children events/ activities included but not limited to birthday parties, wedding receptions, and church activities.

Ms. T's Helping Hands is a 24/7 business and we will be happy to provide care if we have sitters available. All sitters are background checked, CPR & First aid certified and have numerous years in childcare experience.

Ms. T's Helping Hand is located out of Odenton, MD but we provide service in the entire DMV.

Ms. T's Helping Hands Childcare

**Ms. T's Helping Hands is owned by a local Annapolitan Terressa N. Brown
msthelphinghands@gmail.com**

A Message from the President

Dear Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP Membership,

These continue to be tumultuous times. After the vaccinations were given in large numbers, we initially saw a reduction in COVID-19 infections and deaths. However, with several variants now present in our community, the numbers are on the rise again.

I urge anyone who has not gotten a vaccination to get one as soon as possible. I also urge each NAACP member to talk to, at least, ten people that you know and encourage them to get vaccinated if they have not already done so. It takes a village to keep our community safe!



*Jacqueline Allsup, President
NAACP AACo Branch*

"Then, we must encourage them to vote in all elections that, as a registered voter, they are eligible to vote."

The next important subject to address is the ever-present reality that our right to vote is under direct attack. I, again, encourage each member to also ask the ten or more people that they reached out to regarding the COVID vaccination to also ask those same people if they are registered to vote and, if they are not registered, encourage them to get registered. Then, once it is determined that the person is registered, we must encourage them to vote in *all* elections that as a registered voter they are eligible to vote.

We can see the importance of voting when we look at how elected officials on a national level have handled the COVID-19 global pandemic. Blacks are more likely to die for COVID-19 than any other group. Yet, politicians failed to act judiciously, and people have continued to die or languish with long-term and debilitating manifestations of the COVID-19 illness.

Another example of where change is needed is the fact that the Black and Brown communities are still being assaulted by local police forces across this country. These attacks often occur during traffic stops.

We have seen this in Maryland and in Anne Arundel County, in particular. If you don't believe me, then ask the young man who has alleged that police brutalized him during a traffic stop using their knee against his neck, which left him battered and bruised.

We must stay alert and protect our civil rights! Always keep your phone cameras ready so that you can capture events as they evolve. That simple act may help protect our democracy, and it will most certainly increase our safety.

One might also look at the example of the young men who were attacked by police because they were vaping on the Board Walk in Ocean City, Maryland. At least one of them had a taser used against him.

Under no circumstance, in my mind, would that non-dangerous misdemeanor offense, such as vaping, require an officer to his taser.

This hideous and unnecessary violence by our police and the manipulation of public health policy raises the question:

“What can you do as a citizen of the United States of America to effect change and protect your community from manipulation of public health policy or abuse by local law enforcement?”

The recommended response is that **ONE MUST VOTE!**

Voting and consistent community action to address inequitable laws, policies and practices are the primary mechanisms that we have as citizens to effect change. It is critical that we vote in all the upcoming elections including federal, state, and local elections.

I cannot emphasize this enough regarding the importance of challenging the people in your world to get registered and, most importantly, to vote in every election that they are eligible to vote.

Have the courageous conversations that focus on the following mantra:

**TO EFFECT CHANGE,
REGISTER TO VOTE.
THEN, BE SURE TO VOTE!**

Your Devoted President,

Jacqueline Boone-Allsup

The Fight For Equity and Justice On Sands Road Lothian/Harwood, Maryland

Tracey O. Garrett and Fred Tutman

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines “environmental justice” as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

S.2236 Environmental Justice Act of 2019 passed by the 116th Congress requires Federal agencies to address and eliminate the disproportionate environmental and health impacts on populations of color, communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities.

Classified as a historic road, Sands Road Lothian/Harwood is home to 181 species of birds, two reclamation centers, a 140 acre wetland park, the Middle Patuxent Watershed, Sands Road Park, Al-Ray Rubble Landfill, a Mining Site (Riddle Mines), three mobile home parks, and more than three wastewater treatment plants. These diverse entities co-exist on Sands Road Lothian/Harwood Maryland, a road that is approximately 5 miles long.

In terms of demographics, 7% of households in Lothian/Harwood are on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is greater than the county average. According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), high poverty and concentrated neighborhood disadvantage increases the likelihood that a child will suffer abuse and neglect.



According to [Poverty Amidst Plenty VI: On the Road to Progress For All](#), “There are several small pockets of poverty in South County that lack access to jobs, health care, transportation, and affordable housing. Many families in these poor communities suffer from poor health, lack of access to healthy food, and chronic truancy. The large number of South County opioid overdoses and deaths, relative to population size, also characterize areas surrounding Deale and Lothian.”

For more than 50 years, Sands Road Lothian/Harwood has been the site for gravel and mining operations. The hauling or mining of mineral deposits has allowed operators to bring enormous volumes of dump trucks that compete with farm tractors, recreational cyclists, joggers, school buses, cars, and trucks. This interferes with the safety and peaceful enjoyment of our residences.

This has presented a danger to residents due to numerous factors that have grown out of a planning and regulatory scheme that has ignored the growing problem.

Key findings from a Health Impact Study conducted in 2015 by a group of University of Maryland students found that:

- Lothian has a higher percent minority, percent population of those with less than high school education, and percent population of those over age 64 compared to state, regional, and national percentiles.
- Environmental indicators show that Lothian has higher percent ozone and percent water discharge proximity compared to state, regional, and national percentiles.
- The health status of the Lothian community is lower than county level.
- Residents in the area of interest are overburdened with pollution from multiple sources and facilities that show noncompliance and federal and state violation histories.
- Residents in the area of interest are exposed to excess noise pollution from the assessed facilities.

APPLICATION EXTENDED

Get involved in land use and development planning in Anne Arundel County

Residents of Anne Arundel County interested in playing a key role in land use, and development planning apply for the Regions Plan, Stakeholders Advisory Committees (SAC). Applications will be accepted until midnight, Monday August 16th.

Find more information and apply [here](#).

These findings would probably be worse now than in 2015 due to the increase in the number of trucks coming to the reclamation sites, repeated pollution limitation violations, aggregate, dirt, concrete dumping, concrete or asphalt recycling, discharges to ground and surface water, and significant non-compliance by wastewater treatment plants on Sands Road Lothian/Harwood.

In Anne Arundel County, once a site has been exhausted for sand and gravel mining purposes, the operators are allowed to reclassify themselves as “mining reclamation or recycling sites” and then permitted to bring in “rubble” waste products and other inert material to fill in the excavation and land that was exhausted earlier for sand and gravel mining purposes.

For those of us on Sands Road Lothian/Harwood, Maryland, we have endured noise, oversized and speeding trucks, toxic waste being brought in, and other troublesome aspects of these operations for more than 30 years with little to no county or state regulatory oversight. The cumulative impacts have compromised our safety, health, well-being, and quality of life.

A Heavy Burden to Bear

The community residents of Sands Road Lothian/Harwood have partnered with the Patuxent River Keeper, Namati, Inc., and Chesapeake Legal Alliance to form a coalition to request assistance with identifying local health burdens. Residents believe that

industrial operations in Lothian present elevated cancer risks to the local residential community due to the plethora of toxic disposal ventures within in and surrounding the community. They have also had severe problems with dump trucks, tractor trailer-sized trucks, and commercial traffic serving the multitude of gravel pits and landfills.

"We have endured noise, oversized and speeding trucks, toxic waste being brought in, and other troublesome aspects...for more than 30 years with little to no county or state regulatory oversight. The cumulative impacts have compromised our safety, health, well-being, and quality of life."

Among the complaints by citizens are the speed, size, and how often these trucks pass through the area (sometimes more than 390 trips per day).

For more than three years, the community of Sands Road Lothian/Harwood has participated in the planning and rollout of a local traffic study (conducted by the county with specifications provided by the community), researched pollution, and land

use issues in the community (zoning and land use review for suitability and intensity of uses), and met with county officials to collect information and try to find solutions.

Through this community activism it has been discovered that the county has abandoned its regulatory responsibility. Inspections already have found violations, but the county is avoiding enforcement against the facilities.

The Way Forward

County and state elected officials owe those of us who live on Sands Roads the environmental justice that we have a right to. How can a healthy bay, clean streams, and resilient rivers be achieved if we continue to let these officials turn a blind eye to these environmental atrocities?

"County and state officials owe those of us...the environmental justice that we have a right to."

The political and practical pressure in an urbanizing county to find suitable and less populous places to mine gravel and dispose of waste has forced Lothian residents into an untenable situation.

Something must be changed in order to regulate the number of trucks, upgrade the roads, and end the permits or operations of the offending facilities.

We must also change the culture of the county that has normalized these conditions due to expediency, politics, and a long-time history of lax county oversight.

We should all be stewards for environmental justice and make this a personal mission. We cannot address climate change if we are not tackling environmental injustice.

Tracy O. Garrett is a lifelong resident of Sands Road in Lothian, community activist, and Chair of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee for the Anne Arundel County NAACP.

Fred Tutman is the only African American Waterkeeper in the nation. He serves as CEO and Founder of the Patuxent Riverkeeper and is a grassroots community activist and advocate.



www.beadlyspeakingjewelry.com

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Beadly Speaking Jewelry was founded by Dyon Davidson as a means of therapy for her mother after her mother suffered a brain aneurysm.

Dyon used jewelry-making to help her mother recover and today uses it to empower others.

As a result, we have created Beadly Speaking Kidz jewelry making program for girls.

In addition to teaching jewelry making, Dyon makes jewelry for sale. Her pieces are made of beads, wire, wood, paint, and recycled materials.

Each piece is handcrafted and hand painted with love.

COVID-19 Updates, Resources, and Calls to Action



If you believe you or a loved one has the Coronavirus (COVID-19), call 211 #2. Additional sources of information:

- **Anne Arundel County:** For general information and resources in the county, email covid19info@aacounty.org or call (410) 222-7256.
- **City of Annapolis:** Call the Annapolis Call Center for non-emergency calls at (410) 260-2211.
- **Food Resources in District 30A:** [Follow this link](#) for more information.

There are several active programs supporting COVID-19 vaccinations in Maryland:

- All Marylanders 12 and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. The Navy Marine Corp Stadium Mass Vaccination Site accepts walk-ups between 9:00am - 11:00am Wednesday - Sunday. [Schedule an appointment online](#) or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).
- The State of Maryland has prepared [GoVAX Rewards](#), an easy-to-use online tool showcasing businesses' vaccine-related discounts or incentives. [Follow this link](#) to learn more and to become a GoVAX Rewards Partner today.

- Starting July 12th, 2021 vaccinated 12 to 17 year olds qualify for a chance to win a \$50,000 scholarship, covering full tuition and fees to a public in-state institution. Two drawings a week will extend through Labor Day. Find more details [here](#).
- [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are offering free rides to and from vaccination sites. [Kinder-Care](#), [Learning Care](#), and [YMCAs](#) are offering free child care to help parents and caregivers get vaccinated.
- Grant funding up to \$50,000-\$250,000 to support vaccine education, outreach and community vaccination clinics from Maryland Department of Health for the Community's COVID-19 Vaccination Project is available for community groups. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Anne Arundel County residents can get tested at no cost; no symptoms or doctor's note required. Appointments are preferred. For an appointment, call the COVID-19 Health Line at 410-222-7256.

The following locations offer rapid COVID-19 testing services (for a full schedule of testing in Anne Arundel County next week, click [here](#)):

- Annapolis (Calvert & Bladen Street): Monday and Tuesday from 8:00am-12:00pm and Thursday from 12:00pm-4:00pm.
- Glen Burnie (6701 Bay Meadow Drive): Tuesday and Friday from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Lab Testing is offered on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00am-11:00am. An appointment is required.

Testing is free and safe for all ages. Here are some other important reminders:

- There is no doctor's referral or insurance required at our sites
- Anyone can be tested, even if you do not have any symptoms
- If you do develop symptoms, it is recommended to get tested within 48 hours
- Even if you have been tested before, you can get tested again
- Test results are available through the online portal (you will still be called)
- Test kits are limited; testing is first come, first serve

Pandemic Assistance Programs:

- [Childcare Assistance](#)
- [Court-Ordered Eviction](#) assistance (or call 1-800-332-6347)
- Emergency Shelter: Call (410) 417-7260 Monday-Friday, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week call or call the County Warm Line at 410-768-5522.
- Federal Student Loans: Payments have been suspended through September 30, 2021. Learn more [here](#).
- Foreclosure Prevention: For free, confidential counseling call 410-222-7600 or follow this [link](#).
- Rental Assistance call 410-222-7600 or click [here](#).
- Taxi Voucher Program serving older adults and individuals with disabilities: ACo residents, call 410-222-4CAB (4222) or click [here](#). Annapolis residents, call 410-263-7964 or click [here](#) for more information.

- Energy assistance:
 - Find all Fuel Fund of Maryland [relief programs here](#).
 - The Community Action Agency's 24/7 hotline: 833-888-0401
 - The Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) helps eligible customers pay for a portion of their current electric bill.
 - The Arrearage Retirement Assistance (ARA) program helps customers with large, past due electric and gas bills receive forgiveness of up to \$2,000 toward their past due bill.
- Temporary Cash Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP)/Food Stamps: Follow this [link](#) or call 1-800-332-6347.



Special thanks to Delegate Shaneka Henson for gathering and distributing this vital information. NAACP encourages all citizens to get the COVID vaccine. Above: NAACP ACo Treasurer Ralph Thomas gets his second vaccine shot.

now hiring.



Anne Arundel Food Bank is seeking a Fund Development Coordinator and a Bilingual Administrative Specialist. Learn more and [apply here](#).

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is hiring Bus Drivers, Bus Attendants, and Bus Driver Substitutes. Learn more and [apply here](#).

City of Annapolis is recruiting entry-level and lateral police officers. Learn more and [apply here](#).

AACo NAACP Submits Testimony on County Council Resolutions and Bills



During the spring legislative session, the Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP participated in budget town halls and submitted testimony on several bills and resolutions.

Budget

The budget season begins when the school board reviews its budget and submits it to the County. During budget season, the NAACP listened to members discuss how the County can address the coronavirus, transportation and diversity in the county's K-12 teaching faculty, and many other items.

The district town halls were attended by members of the public library, the animal shelter, local Homeowners' Associations, and union officials for public occupations like the police and the fire department.

The NAACP Education committee also discussed some budget priorities with three members of the school board, including Dana Schallheim, Chair of the School Board Budget Committee.

The Political Action Committee worked to publicize some of the initial budget requests during budget town halls for each district. An email sent on January 25 from the Political Action Chair, Steven Waddy, provided the list of dates and times for each town hall and a description of some countywide issues facing the Black community that needed to be prioritized, including:

- the status of funding for body cameras and dash cams for police
- funding for the County Executive's proposed housing trust
- funding for the Human Relations Commission to investigate complaints of discrimination
- plans for each county department to hire more Black people

The County agreed to continue funding the body camera program, but did not include funds for dash cameras. The County's body camera program will be buttressed by a new state law passed during the 2021 session that requires counties to equip police forces with body cameras.

Unfortunately, during the state legislative session, the Housing Trust bill that passed both chambers of the legislature was vetoed by the Governor. This bill would have authorized the County Council to create a housing trust solely dedicated to building affordable housing and funded by a fee on the sales of non-affordable housing properties sold for over \$1 million.

During the May NAACP general body meeting, the NAACP heard from the interim chair of the Human Relations Commission, Eugene Peterson. He stated that the Human Relations Commission needs funding for more staff members, and stated that the Commission should at least be on par with the Ethics Commission. The NAACP included this request in our budget submissions as well.

Finally, prior to the completion of the budget, the County Council allocated funds for a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Director to be placed in the County Executive's cabinet. The County Executive completed the search and hired Mr. Pete Hill, a Glen Burnie resident who has decades of experience on affirmative action issues within the federal government and its various agencies.

The Political Action committee is currently reviewing the county budget to assess which recommendations were included in the 2022 – 2023 budget.

Testimonies Submitted

The NAACP submitted testimony opposing several bills and resolutions introduced by Republican members of the County Council, namely Nathan Volke and Amanda Fiedler, which would have removed or weakened power from the County Executive to implement emergency measures to protect the health and safety of residents and workers in Anne Arundel County.

The NAACP opposed the rescission of the emergency orders for several reasons:

The pandemic has most affected Black and Latino communities in the county. Most of the coronavirus cases in the County were seen in West and North County, which have the largest populations of Black and Latino people.

According to the Associated Black Charities study of Black labor in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region, the majority of Black low-wage workers in Anne Arundel County are employed in the warehouse and service sectors.

"Most of the coronavirus cases in the County were seen in West and North County, which have the largest populations of Black and Latino people."

During the pandemic it was seen that many of these sectors did not have an option for workers to work from home. The emergency orders and quarantine procedures required employers to engage in actions that would protect workers by mandating the availability of personal protective equipment, lowering the capacity of people allowed in a business so people could socially distance, and creating regulations for outdoor spaces for restaurants to allow socially distanced eating.

The county's mask requirement also helped to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Residents who were unable to go to work and filed for unemployment or found other methods of pay, needed protection from eviction or foreclosure from mortgage default.

Many of these residents were staying home to ensure their children attended school and to assist any senior family members with their care if they were living in a multigenerational household.

The emergency orders that were issued from the federal, state, and local governments worked to protect these families from losing their homes and kept creditors at bay from cutting off the residents' electricity, cable, or water.

The Political Action Committee also submitted testimony in support of:

- The Climate Resilience Commission that would address sea level rise in the County
- Resolutions which called for the online live streaming of Officer Daniel Reynolds' police trial board hearing. Our testimony called for the County Council to go beyond just a resolution and to make the online live streaming of police trial board hearings mandatory in the code in the name of transparency and open government.
- A resolution apologizing for the targeting of political opponents by former County Executive John Leopold. This testimony also called for the recommendations on County Policing to be codified by the County Council and not be left up to the discretion of a police chief.



Founded by Kristal Hansley in 2020, WeSolar Inc is the first black woman owned community solar organization in the country.

WeSolar is on a mission to provide community solar access to every neighborhood across the United States paying particular attention to the most underserved and underrepresented communities in the solar industry.

Through WeSolar, electricity consumers can purchase shared solar from a local project without having to install any equipment in their homes which saves them hundreds on their electricity bills.

**2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 700
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**Hours of operation:
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm**



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NAACP.

As Texas moves to adopt even harsher voting restrictions, a group of state legislators are headed to Washington, D.C. in an effort to block the vote and protect access to the ballot box for millions of Texans. In response, Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to have them arrested.

NAACP is pledging to bail these lawmakers out of jail, if necessary.

WE ARE FULLY INVESTED IN GOOD TROUBLE.

A line has been drawn. War has been declared on democracy, and the NAACP will support anyone who stands up to defend our rights. We are fully invested in making good trouble.

The Texas legislature's efforts to silence the voices of its own constituents is an assault on our most fundamental values.

We will not stand idly by as partisan politicians dismantle our system, oppress our voices and suppress our votes. People have fought and died for the sacred right to vote. This is a time of crisis. Our constitution is being tested, and we need all hands on deck.

We're all in on this. Are you?

DONATE

Racist Rhetoric in Maryland's Capital

Neydin Milián, ACLU of Maryland

Free speech is one of the most important of our State and federal constitutional rights, which is why the ACLU of Maryland is dedicated to protecting this freedom for all Marylanders. It is vital to prevent the government from stifling dissent and to ensure that people can raise their concerns.

Unfortunately, many abuse this freedom and use it for nefarious and often racist purposes. While we do not seek to silence racist rhetoric, we must shine a spotlight when elected officials use it to harm to Black and Brown people and their ability to exercise their own free speech rights to seek change from the government.

Some moments in Annapolis this spring session were chilling. Like when a legislator who was a former police officer said, in protest to increased pre-recording time for police body cameras, that he would ride around in his car with his gun in his lap.

Often, there are instances of conduct that is downright degrading to Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color (BILPOC). Like when some legislators refused to call Speaker Adrienne Jones, the first House Speaker in Maryland who is a Black woman, by her title and instead referred to her by her first name.

But there are also many undertones of white supremacy in our legislators' language during the Maryland General Assembly's legislative sessions.

This hidden racism must be brought to light, because normalizing it – whether the racism is unconscious or not – just allows it to fester and, through dangerous policy decisions, wreak havoc on the lives of BILPOC Marylanders.

In Annapolis, we've advocated for a strong package of five police reform bills. In partnership with the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability, we repealed the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights; reformed the Public Information Act to allow disclosure of all complaints in police misconduct; established a statewide use of force statute that will prevent officers from using force unless it is necessary; worked to remove school resource officers from our children's schools; and created a pathway to restore local control of the Baltimore City Police Department to Baltimore City residents.

"This hidden racism must be brought to light, because normalizing it...allows it to fester and wreak havoc on the lives of BILPOC Marylanders."

But sadly, during our policing bill hearings, legislators sometimes used dehumanizing language when discussing Black people and the issues that affect Black people.

One legislator argued that chokeholds should NOT be banned because the victim could be



bigger than the officer. This argument dehumanizes the victim and devalues their lives because chokeholds can and do kill. The primary purpose of the police should be to defuse the situation and, if necessary, arrest a person without causing unnecessary harm.

Chokeholds are unnecessary and dangerous. In fact, in Montgomery County, chokeholds are banned. There are other ways to arrest a person safely.

Some legislators even insinuated that Baltimore City is different than the rest of the state, even going as far as painting the people of Baltimore as more susceptible to committing crimes and more violent than

people in the rest of the state. In a city with primarily Black residents, this belief stems from anti-Black racism. It also does nothing to help reform the police and save Black lives. Instead, this racist logic attempts to justify police brutality and police killings of Black and Brown people.

While in Annapolis, opponents to our immigration bills attempted to justify detention and cruelty towards immigrants. We worked with allies to try to pass the Trust Act, which would prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE and assisting with federal immigration enforcement.

This law would help restore trust in the police

and prevent local police from questioning immigrants' immigration status, especially when they need help. Dignity Not Detention is another bill that we worked on that prevents Maryland counties from working with ICE to detain immigrants in their local jails.

The Trust Act did not pass, but some of its provisions were added to the Dignity Not Detention bill, which did pass. However, sadly, it was vetoed by the Governor. We will work hard to override this veto next session.

"In a city with primarily Black residents, this belief stems from anti-Black racism. It also does nothing to help reform the police and save Black lives."

During our immigration bills' hearings, the opposition kept calling immigrants "illegal aliens" and "dangerous criminals." Not only does this paint immigrants with a broad brush, but we know which immigrants they are referring to. They are not referring to the many immigrants from Europe who overstay their visas. They are referring to immigrants with darker skin from countries that government officials from the U.S. have historically demonized.

Some legislators tried to strip immigrants of their dignity and humanity by constantly referring to them as lesser than U.S. citizens. They explicitly tried to link all immigrants

with hijackers, child molesters, rapists, and the worst kinds of behavior with no regard for the individuality of each immigrant and no regard for their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. Their whole argument is based on division, hate, and the dehumanization of immigrants.

This type of hateful and racist rhetoric also seeps into other bills, such as our education bills. This year, we put a lot of our attention on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future 2.0, a bill that would improve students' lives by increasing funding for their schools so that they can receive an equitable and adequate education.

During hearings for this bill, legislators seemed more concerned about students who cause disruptions than about funding an adequate education for all students so they can thrive. There were racial undertones to this argument with legislators trying to define who chronically disruptive students were – a very racist view – and seemed preoccupied with how Black and Brown parents in Baltimore discipline their children.

There is a historical impulse based in white supremacy to control Black people and to ignorantly think that Black people cannot control themselves or take care of their children. One of the most prominent justifications for slavery was that Black people needed slave masters to control their lives for the better.

This rationale is the origin of the racist logic that is still playing out in our state today.

Also, there is a reluctance to talk about race explicitly during these education equity conversations. We talk about needing more resources for students and families with low income, but legislators tend not to discuss the underlying racial issues of education equity. Instead, they frame these conversations around deficiencies.

We shouldn't define children's needs by what they lack but by what they need to engage their interests and build on their strengths. The question for legislators should be how best to support the growth, development, and excellence of all students, including Black and Brown students, whose education has remained underfunded by the state for generations.

These instances of racism from our state leaders and fellow Marylanders who oppose our bills during testimony at bill hearings is chilling and disheartening. Racism should no longer be tolerated in everyday language, especially while creating modern-day laws. And there needs to be a greater awareness of the hidden racism that too often drives policy.

We strive to create a better Maryland where Black, Indigenous, and People of Color can live freely and have their rights respected. This is why we will keep advocating strongly for your rights in Annapolis and keep pushing back against this rhetoric that is deeply rooted in white supremacy.

Neydin Milián is the Communications Coordinator for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland.

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Find more information [HERE](#).

Anne Arundel Delegation Report Card: How they Voted

Prior to the 2021 legislative session, the Political Action Committee of the Anne Arundel County NAACP released its list of legislative policy priorities.

Issue areas of particular importance to the organization included:

- Criminal justice reform and public safety
- Education
- Healthcare
- Housing and redevelopment
- Labor
- Transportation

This past May, in partnership with the Political Action Committee, the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ 3A) created the **Delegation Report Card**, a summary of how each State Delegate and State Senator representing Anne Arundel County voted on key pieces of legislation.

Also included in the Delegation Report Card is a list of priority legislation that did not get a vote.

To view the 2021 Anne Arundel County Delegation Report Card, [click here](#).

Special thanks to Jen Roman from SURJ 3A for compiling and sharing this information.

Delegation Report Card 2021

AACo NAACP Priority Legislation that made it to a house or senate vote: <i>criminal justice, healthcare, education, housing</i>	SB178 MPIA Anton's Law	HB0670* LEOBOR Repeal	SB0071* Use of Force	SB0786* Return of City Police Dept	HB0028 Implicit Bias Training	HB0078 Health Equity Act	HB0309 Data, Race and Ethnicity Info	HB0393 MD Office Inspector General of Health	HB0522** SRO Prohibited Conduct	HB0011*/CH0041 Funding for HCBUs	HB1300*/CH 036 Blueprint for Education	HB0933 Housing Trust	HB0018 Right to Counsel	HB0050** Tenant Protection Act	HB0052** Eviction Diversion Program	HB0090 Fair Housing	
Political Party – State Delegate Name (District)																	
D - Ben Barnes (21)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
D - Joseline Pena-Melnyk (21)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
D - Mary Lehman (21)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	absent	yea	yea	absent	yea	yea	yea	yea	absent
D - Dana Jones (30A)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
D - Shaneka Henson (30A)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
R - Seth Howard (30B)	absent	absent	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	yea
D - Ned Carey (31A)	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
R - Nicholas Kipke (31B)	nay	yea	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay
R - Brian Chisholm (31B)	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	yea	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay
D - Mark Chang (32)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
D - Sandy Bartlett (32)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
D - Mike Rogers (32)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
R - Sid Saab (33)	nay	nay	absent	nay	nay	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	yea
R - Michael Malone (33)	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	yea	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	nay	yea
D - Heather Bagnall (33)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea
State Senators (district)																	
D - Jim Rosepepe (21)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	n/a	yea	yea	yea	yea	n/a	n/a	n/a	yea
D - Sarah Elfreth (30)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	n/a	yea	yea	yea	yea	n/a	n/a	n/a	yea
R - Bryan Simonaire (31)	nay	nay	nay	yea	nay	nay	yea	yea	n/a	yea	nay	nay	nay	n/a	n/a	n/a	yea
D - Pamela Beidle (32)	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	yea	n/a	yea	yea	yea	absent	n/a	n/a	n/a	absent
R - Edward Reilly (33)	nay	yea	nay	yea	nay	nay	yea	yea	n/a	yea	nay	nay	nay	n/a	n/a	n/a	yea

*NAACP supported bills
 **Bill passed the house but did not get a vote in the senate
Key:
 yea = Voted with the NAACP
 nay = Voted against NAACP priorities
 absent = Didn't vote
 n/a = Bill was not brought to a vote

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2

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Editorial: Corruption and Racism Within Local Law Enforcement

David J. Grogan and Randy Williams

Our country has been through a lot over the last year. There have been thousands of protests across the country - and internationally - calling out racism in law enforcement because of cases involving victims of color such as Sandra Bland, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. Frankly, the list goes on and on but there are far too many victims, which is why many of the protesters were shouting, "Enough is Enough!"

Now people around the world know the name George Floyd because of the conviction of a Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, who killed Floyd after pressing his knee to Floyd's neck for approximately 9 minutes.

Despite the many cases of abuse of process by police, the problem remains that the issue of racism is often not acknowledged on the local level.

In other words, there are those in our community, especially government representatives, who walk around with blinders on and truly believe that racism either does not exist in Anne Arundel County, or that if it does, it is harmless and does not rise to the level of the concerns raised by nationally recognized cases. Or they recognize that racism exists but minimize the impact on the community.

To dispel the myth that racism is not perpetuated by local law enforcement, one need only ask victims like Daniel Jarrells, who lives in Anne Arundel County, and who found himself under Anne Arundel County Police Officer Daniel Reynolds' knee on a cold day in February of 2019. The other two police officers present during this incident were Joshua Shapiro and Brian Ranck.

It is important to note that this case started with a traffic stop that Jarrells alleges did not have probable cause. He might also assert that it quickly escalated to a felony stop when Officer Reynolds brandished his gun at Jarrells' head. During this incident, Reynolds also threatened Jarrells with a taser.

What should not be missed is that by peeling back the layers of alleged corruption or dishonesty within Anne Arundel County law enforcement, one can quickly see how the "system" bends over backward to support police officers even when they reportedly violate the law and/or departmental policy and procedure resulting in the dehumanization of the Black and Brown members of our community.

The corruption can be seen by the existence of two reports of this incident. One report was completed contemporaneous to the incident and then another one was generated two months later with further rationalizations of why the police officers behaved so egregiously.

The second report surfaced after the video taken by a bystander was released and that

many believe clearly demonstrated that the police officers were not telling the truth — in other words, they were dishonest. The State's Attorney's Office dropped all the charges against Jarrells.

The video of this incident helped community advocates argue for support of body cameras, which is in the process of being implemented across the county police department.

Officer Reynolds opted for a police trial board to decide his fate rather than accept his termination. The problem is the lack of transparency in the trial board process. Police Chief Amad Awad decided not to livestream the trial board; those interested in watching the trial board had to attend in person at the Millersville Police Headquarters.

"There are those in our community, especially government representatives, who walk around with blinders on and truly believe that racism does not exist in Anne Arundel County..."

The authors of this opinion editorial have over 50 years of combined experience in law enforcement and believe that the Jarrells case raises many unanswered questions:

Why have the other two police officers, Shapiro and Ranck, not been recommended for termination? Why did police command sanction two police reports for the same incident? This is counter to accepted police practice and raises Brady/Giglio integrity violations because of the untruths in these reports. Why hasn't the supervisory staff been disciplined for allowing and approving what appear to be untruthful police reports?

Enough is enough!

David J. Grogan is a retired U.S. marshal. Randy Williams is a retired Baltimore County Police sergeant. Both are members of the Caucus of African-Americans' Public Safety Committee.

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Reparations Are In Order for Survivors of the Tulsa Massacre and Their Descendants

Claudia Barber



The United States declared war against Japan after the Pearl Harbor bombing on December 7, 1941. Years of brutal internment for Japanese Americans followed. Afterwards, Japanese Americans received \$20,000 each, in acknowledgment of the injustices perpetrated against them.

The Rosewood Massacre took place in 1923 - decades earlier. According to History.com editors, "The Rosewood Massacre" was an attack on the predominantly African American town of Rosewood, Florida by large groups of white aggressors. The town was entirely destroyed by the end of the violence, and the residents were driven out permanently. The story was mostly forgotten until the 1980s.

The living survivors of the massacre, at that point all in their 80s and 90s, came forward, led by Rosewood descendant Arnett Doctor, and demanded restitution from Florida. The action led to the passing of a bill awarding them \$2 million and created an educational fund for descendants. The bill also called for an investigation into the matter.

So why not pay reparations to those impacted by the Tulsa Massacre?

On September 1, 2020, a group of Oklahomans filed a reparations lawsuit seeking reparations for the Tulsa Massacre. It's easy for me to understand the legitimacy of this lawsuit, especially when we consider this country's history of racial violence.

Professor Emeritus Rhoda Howard Hassman of Wilfrid Laurier University uses the social movement theory to explain why Japanese Americans and survivors of the Rosewood Massacre received reparations (and why African Americans in Tulsa did not).

- The number of victims is relatively small.
- The victims are easily identifiable.
- Many of the direct victims are still alive.
- The injustice took place during a relatively short time period.
- The perpetrator is known.
- The injustice is easily identifiable.
- The injustice offends values of equality, personal safety and/or the right to own property.
- There is a symbolic victim around whom advocates for reparations can rally.
- The amount of requested reparations is not so large that the public will find it unreasonable.

In the case of Japanese Americans, the number of victims was relatively small - about 120,000. They were also easily identifiable as people of ethnic Japanese descent, citizens or not. The injustice took place between 1942, when the Japanese were first interned, and 1945, when the war ended.

The perpetrator, the U.S. government, was easily identifiable. The internment of Japanese-Americans violated the values of ethnic equality and ownership of property, since their property was confiscated.

Mostly all of the considerations are applicable when assessing the Tulsa Massacre:

- The number of victims is defined in the lawsuit (far less than the 120,000 Japanese Americans mentioned previously).
- Some victims are still alive.
- The injustice took place during a relatively short time period of May 31 through June 1, 1921.
- The perpetrator was the municipal government, who sanctioned the violence with use of planes with bombs with the intended purpose of destroying a specific community and participated in terrorism against African Americans.
- The injustice greatly offends values of equality, personal safety and their property rights.

Therefore, reparations are entirely warranted.

I sharply disagree with Professor Hassman's consideration that the amount of reparations asked for should be based on whether or not the public finds it unreasonable. That question should not be subject to debate.

Injustice is injustice. And if all men are created equal and if reparations were given to Japanese Americans, African American Tulsans and their descendants are owed compensation for the tragic violence perpetrated against them in 1921.

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An Interview with Larry Stafford, Executive Director of Progressive Maryland

Joanne Bond



Larry Stafford became Executive Director of Progressive Maryland in 2015. Since then, he has helped grow the organization's budget by 700%, led the organization's electoral efforts (which have reached over 500,000 Maryland voters), and elected scores of progressive candidates including 8 who defeated established incumbents.

Progressive Maryland is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization promoting racial, social, economic, and environmental justice, with over 120,000 individual members, supporters, and organizational affiliates statewide.

JB: How did you originally get involved in trying to make change through community organizing?

LS: I originally got involved in organizing as a student in high school in 2005. This was when the then-County Executive of Prince George's County was shutting down community housing because they felt that those communities were hot spots for crime.

When I heard of this, I wanted to challenge the county government and save the crucial affordable housing that people needed, so I went out on my own knocking on doors and talking with my local friends and family members.

During the course of that work, I discovered a group called ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, and went to one of their meetings on this issue.

I was introduced to a Prince George's County Organizer and she introduced me to what organizing was. ACORN taught me one of the first lessons of making change through community organizing as we went door to door talking to people who lived in these apartment complexes asking them to get involved.

The lesson was to involve the people most impacted in the fight for their justice.

JB: Who or what was your inspiration when you started, and if different, who or what inspires you now?

LS: During my first experiences with activism and organizing in my teenage years, I was inspired by leaders of the early movement for Black liberation, which includes figures such as Marcus Garvey and Fred Hampton. Where I grew up, myself and members of my community often felt powerless, and these figures provided me with the inspiration I needed to fight for political power and a voice for the Black community.

Currently, I'm inspired by my many mentors like David Hatch, Caroline Murray, and Stephen Roberson, names that often aren't championed by big media or widely known across the country; however, they are great names in terms of community organizing.

The lesson was to involve the people most impacted in the fight for their justice.

My mentors have built powerful organizations that won numerous victories in their times. I'm also inspired by leaders like Alicia Garza of the Black Lives Matter Movement, and Charlene Carruthers, a political strategist with The Movement for Black Lives who I met as a young organizer.

And of course, I'm inspired by my wife, Shayla Adams-Stafford, a school union leader now elected to the Board of Education at Prince George's County Public Schools, who ensures that students get the best and most equitable education possible.

JB: What are the causes that made you become more active in making change?

LS: First and foremost is police accountability. I have both witnessed and experienced racist police harassment and brutality in my own community, not to mention the rates of incarceration within my own family, all of which were some of the initial causes that drove me to seek change.

I'm also very concerned about climate change and its impacts on frontline communities plus the geopolitical impacts on democracy and society as a whole.

JB: What are your personal goals as a leader?

LS: As a leader, I want to be someone who empowers others to take an active role in advocating for justice, equity and a transformation of these systems of oppression that exist in our society.

JB: What are the goals of Progressive Maryland as an organization?

LS: Progressive Maryland is working to build a bold, large-scale working-class movement through organizing and winning elections with the interest of working-class people in mind that's capable of changing policies and shifting systems across the state.

JB: How does Progressive Maryland address the needs of the Black community?

LS: We are organizing to uplift and build power behind many Black leaders who fight

for re-entry support services, police accountability, and criminal justice reform. We are working to end systemic racism by tackling economic issues that impact Black lives disproportionately throughout the state.



JB: What Black candidates has Progressive Maryland previously endorsed?

LS: We've endorsed many Black candidates in the past. Most recently, just a few of the winning Black candidates we endorsed in the 2020 election were Brandon Scott, April Ademiliuyi, Gladys Weatherspoon, and Antoine White. We've also endorsed the former NAACP President Ben Jealous in the 2018 gubernatorial election.

JB: What are the goals of the New Era Political Action Committee (PAC)?

LS: Our goal is to launch the most progressive slate in the state and transform Maryland politics by laying the foundation for a new generation of political leadership that works collectively to change our political and economic systems to benefit working class people across the state.

We want to win elections in every corner from the local level to the state level and change the narrative around progressive candidates that are underfunded having no chance of defeating big money. We are providing a platform for these candidates to see success.

JB: What are some of the achievements of Progressive Maryland during your tenure as Executive Director?

LS: Some of my achievements include winning the \$15 minimum wage at the local and state level; passing policies to reform our pre-trial system; winning small dollar campaign matching funds in Montgomery County, Howard County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Prince George's County; passing paid sick leave at the local and state level; helping to pass Medicare For All resolutions at the local level; getting funding at the local level for re-entry services; leading efforts to pass landmark police accountability legislation; and electing hundreds of progressive leaders into office around the state.

JB: You've made so many advances in your tenure as Executive Director. What's next on the agenda for Progressive Maryland?

LS: Definitely more for fair elections. We're especially focused on passing a small dollar matching program in Anne Arundel County to ensure that candidates of color have a better chance of being competitive in fundraising with other candidates.

We also aim to win a great majority of our races with the New Era Project, including electing a progressive Governor in 2022.

Federal Eviction Prevention Measures Available to Anne Arundel County Tenants



The Governor of Maryland's Executive Order prohibiting residential evictions for non-payment of rent will expire on August 15, 2021.

However, tenants in fourteen Maryland counties (including Anne Arundel County) are covered under the latest federal eviction prevention measures, which target areas where COVID-19 transmission is "substantial" or "high."

Once Maryland's eviction moratorium expires, the federal protections will be the only option available to tenants who experienced a dramatic loss of income due to the pandemic.

Legal experts are urging tenants who have received an eviction notice to document proof of their inability to pay and any communication they've had with their landlords about their situation.

According to [Maryland Legal Aid](#), tenants with legal representation who show up to court have a high chance of success. Says [Mid-shore Pro Bono](#) representative Meredith Girard, "Go to court, go to court, go to court - if there's one

thing to take away here, it is that no one can hear your side if you're not there."

Tenants who are currently behind on their rent may qualify for rental assistance and may be able to obtain legal help once a failure to pay rent action is filed. The Office of the Attorney General is providing this list of resources for tenants in need of assistance. Tenants should seek help as soon as possible.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

- **Maryland Emergency Rental Assistance Call Center:** 877-546-5595 or [online](#) (this site also has links to local/county rental assistance programs)
- **2-1-1 Maryland:** Call 2-1-1 and they will connect you with rental assistance (also available online at [search.211md.org](#))
- Contact your local or county government to ask if it has a rental assistance program.


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LEGAL HELP

- **Maryland Legal Aid** (free and low-cost legal help): mdlab.org.
- **Disability Rights Maryland** (free and low-cost legal help): 410-727-6352 or disabilityrightsmd.org
- **The People's Law Library of Maryland** (free and low-cost legal directory): peoples-law.org/directory.
- **Community Legal Services of Prince George's County**: 240-391-6370 or clspgc.org
- **Mid-Shore Pro Bono**: 410-690-8128 or midshoreprobono.org
- (Baltimore City) **Public Justice Center** (free and low-cost legal help): 410-625-9409 or publicjustice.org
- (Baltimore City) **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland** (advice and same-day representation in rent court): 443-703-3053 or probonomd.org

More legal assistance resources may be found on The Maryland Legal Services Corporation [website](#).

For help in resolving other landlord-tenant issues:

- Please see our guide at <https://bit.ly/3zkwshZ>
- En español: <https://bit.ly/3xpbpgW>
- Contact our Consumer Protection Division
 - Via email: consumer@oag.state.md.us
 - Via phone: 410-528-8662.

Temporary Federal Pandemic Unemployment Benefit Programs EXTENDED

The following temporary federal Pandemic Unemployment Benefits (UI) programs have been extended to September 4, 2021: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC).

After Sunday, August 1, 2021 Bank of America issued debit cards will deactivate. Claimants must plan to use, withdraw or transfer funds accordingly. For more information, click [here](#).

Beginning the week of July 4, the Dept. of Labor reinstated the standard requirement for all regular state unemployment insurance claimants to actively search for work by engaging in **three reemployment activities each week**. If claimants do not complete these activities each week, they may be determined ineligible to receive regular state unemployment insurance benefits.

Special thanks to Delegate Shaneka Henson for distributing this valuable information.

FHA Announces Additional COVID-19 Recovery Options for Homeowners



The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) on Friday announced streamlined COVID-19 Recovery options to help homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic bring their mortgage current and remain in their homes.

The simplified COVID-19 Recovery waterfall allows mortgage servicers to offer eligible homeowners who cannot resume making their mortgage payments a reduction in the principal and interest portion of their monthly payments. The changes will provide those most in danger of losing their homes a path to deep and sustained recovery, including lower-income individuals, families of color, and young, first-time homeowners who have disproportionately suffered economic hardships due to the pandemic.

For homeowners who can resume making their existing monthly mortgage payments, FHA has established a revised COVID-19 Recovery Standalone Partial Claim.

Additionally, FHA is reinforcing that President Biden's American Rescue Plan Homeowner Assistance Funds (HAF), administered to the

States by the Department of Treasury, may be used in connection with FHA-insured mortgages or subordinate mortgages as permitted by the jurisdiction's HAF program and other requirements.

"Immediately upon taking office, President Biden prioritized the nation's public health and economic crises by passing the American Rescue Plan," said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "As Americans get back to work and our economy continues to recover, we are taking targeted steps to make sure homeowners impacted financially by COVID-19 have the support they need to remain in their homes. Housing affordability is at its worst and losing your home now would devastate households. These options for FHA borrowers will ensure equitable relief and recovery to people who need it most."

"Housing affordability is at its worst and losing your home now would devastate households."

HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge

The new FHA COVID-19 Recovery waterfall streamlines and revises FHA's previous options for struggling homeowners, reduces required documentation, and allows mortgage servicers to provide greater payment reduction for eligible homeowners with FHA-insured Single Family Title II forward mortgages.

The options for properties that are occupied as the homeowner's primary residence are:

- **COVID-19 Recovery Standalone Partial Claim:** For homeowners who can resume making their current mortgage payments, the COVID-19 Recovery Standalone Partial Claim allows mortgage payment arrearages to be placed in a zero-interest subordinate lien against the property that is repaid when the mortgage terminates, usually when the homeowner refinances or sells the home.
- **COVID-19 Recovery Modification:** for homeowners who cannot resume making their current monthly mortgage payments, the COVID-19 Recovery Modification extends the term of the mortgage to 360 months at a fixed rate and targets reducing the borrower's monthly principal and interest portion of their monthly mortgage payment. The COVID-19 Recovery Modification must include a Partial Claim if the homeowner has Partial Claim funds available.

For properties that are not occupied by the owner, mortgage servicers must offer eligible homeowners FHA's COVID-19 Recovery Non-Occupant Loan Modification, which extends the term of the mortgage to 360 months (or less if requested by the homeowner) at a fixed interest rate.

"This next step in the evolution of FHA's COVID-19 response is a significant and meaningful way to help those homeowners who will be at a critical point in their recovery in the coming months and transitioning out of

forbearance to permanent sustainable payments," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHA and the Office of Housing Lopa Kolluri.

"We can help more homeowners who, through no fault of their own, continue to feel the financial impacts of the pandemic and are unable to make their previous mortgage payment amount. Deeper payment reduction is greatly needed for many of these homeowners to stay in their homes.

Servicers may begin offering the new COVID-19 Recovery waterfall as soon as operationally feasible but must begin using the new waterfall for eligible homeowners within 90 days.

In addition, servicers must re-review homeowners for the new COVID-19 Recovery options in circumstances where an existing home retention option has not been completed, where the homeowner was previously ineligible for a COVID-19 home retention option, or if the homeowner has re-defaulted after a COVID-19 home retention option.

"FHA and mortgage servicers have a shared goal of helping as many homeowners as possible to return to sustainable homeownership, and the FHA team will continue to monitor closely the performance of our loss mitigation options to ensure that our policies successfully meet the needs of homeowners impacted by COVID-19," said FHA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Single Family Housing Julienne Joseph.

The changes work in tandem with the pre-waterfall FHA COVID-19 Advance Loan Modification (COVID-19 ALM) announced on June 25, 2021. The COVID-19 ALM requires mortgage servicers to review their FHA mortgage servicing portfolio and offer the COVID-19 ALM to eligible homeowners.

Homeowners who choose to accept the COVID-19 ALM need to only review, sign, and return the mortgage modification documents sent to them by their mortgage servicer.

FHA urges those who are behind on their mortgage payments or are having difficulty complying with the terms of their reverse mortgage or Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), and have not yet contacted their mortgage servicer, to do so immediately.

By contacting their servicer, homeowners can obtain a mortgage payment forbearance or a HECM extension. For FHA forward mortgages, FHA also urges homeowners to engage with their mortgage servicer when their mortgage servicer contacts them about the new COVID-19 ALM or how to bring their mortgage current. Homeowners who are seeking more information on the options available to them should also consider contacting a [HUD-approved housing counseling agency](#).



Pro Bono Call to Action Issued



Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) President M. Natalie McSherry, and the Maryland Access to Justice Commission (A2JC) to issue an urgent pro bono call to action to Maryland's legal community.

Before the pandemic, nearly 80% of Marylanders with civil legal problems were unable to obtain legal assistance and were forced to navigate the complex civil justice system on their own. As Maryland emerges from the pandemic, many Marylanders continue to face extraordinary challenges that only the civil justice system can resolve – like landlord/tenant or debtor/creditor issues, public benefits, and family law.

Attorney General Frosh partnered with the Maryland Judiciary, MSBA, and the Maryland Access to Justice Commission to urge every attorney to take at least one pro bono case or provide a designated number of pro bono service hours in the coming year to assist Marylanders in need of legal aid.

“The privilege of our professional, legal expertise comes with responsibility – a responsibility to give back to the community and a responsibility to make justice and the legal system accessible to all,” said Attorney General Frosh. “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused hardships unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes. The need for legal assistance is urgent. I am proud to partner with Chief Judge Barbera, leaders in Maryland’s legal community, and Maryland’s pro bono organizations to urge attorneys across the state to assist Marylanders in need.”

Before the pandemic, nearly 80% of Marylanders with civil legal problems were unable to obtain legal assistance and were forced to navigate the complex civil justice system on their own.

“I am proud to be part of this call for action for pro bono service – action that is sorely needed during these unprecedented times,” said Chief Judge Barbera. “I hope Maryland attorneys will answer the call.”

“The Maryland State Bar Association takes immense pride in the pro bono representation provided by its members in the past, and has great confidence in their ability and willingness to take those efforts to an even higher level, to help ensure that the residents

of Maryland can have access to legal advice when needed, in any type of civil proceeding,” said MSBA President M. Natalie McSherry. “It is our ultimate responsibility as lawyers, and I know we will rise to meet that responsibility.”

“COVID-19 created an overwhelming civil justice crisis, which requires us to employ every tool in our access to justice toolbox to abate,” said Maryland Access to Justice Commission Executive Director Reena K. Shah. “Pro bono service is one of those tried and proven tools that gets results. Right now, many people are losing their David and Goliath battles against a hospital or with the agency that administers Medicaid because they are trying to navigate complex federal, state, and local laws and regulations on their own, without legal help. An attorney by your side is proven to be the most critical factor in the success of a case. If every attorney commits to doing pro bono service this year, that would help over 40,000 Marylanders. That's huge and will have an impact, especially when coupled with A2JC's other efforts to increase funding for civil legal aid and make access to counsel a reality.”

In June 2020, Attorney General Frosh partnered with the MSBA-backed Maryland Access to Justice Commission to create the COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force. The task force focused its efforts on the key short-term and long-term civil legal issues created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force’s final report included significant legislative and policy recommendations to help Marylanders recover from the impact of COVID-19. One of

its key recommendations was to have a “coordinated call to action to increase pro bono services to respond to the spike in civil legal needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

All pro bono providers in Maryland are taking part in the call to action. The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) will match attorneys with pro bono organizations across the state to connect attorneys with remote or in-person opportunities. Attorneys interested in participating can visit www.msba.org/pro-bono-call-to-action.

“As the pro bono arm of the MSBA, PBRC has an over 30-year history of connecting volunteers with pro bono programs across the state,” said Sharon E. Goldsmith, executive director, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland. “We’ve witnessed the devastation of the past 16 months firsthand in our own courtroom and community clinics, particularly in district court where, four days a week, we help prevent unlawful evictions of tenants as well as in consumer cases where we typically negotiate settlements and avoid wage garnishments or overwhelming financial debt. We are pleased to be facilitating the deployment of lawyers to help those currently facing these and other crises as we anticipate a dramatic spike in the number of Marylanders needing volunteer legal services.”

“COVID-19 has had a devastating impact for so many Marylanders, particularly for communities of color,” said Susan Francis, executive director, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. “As COVID becomes less of a health risk, the risk of financial devastation

looms large for many families who have suffered job loss, other revenue loss, and increased expenses due to the pandemic.

Without pro bono assistance, far too many of these families are at risk of housing and economic destabilization. The Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services, and other legal services programs, stand ready to help our neighbors get back on their feet. We hope Maryland attorneys will join us.”

"If every attorney commits to doing pro bono service this year, that would help over 40,000 Marylanders."

Reena K. Shah, Executive Director, Maryland Access to Justice Commission

“Having had the privilege of serving on the Maryland Attorney General’s COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force and chairing its Pro Bono and Reduced Fee Legal Services Committee, I’ve had a front-row view of the tsunami of need affecting our state’s civil legal services infrastructure resulting from the pandemic,” said Guy Flynn, partner-in-charge, DLA Piper.

"The call to action has never been more urgent for lawyers in our state from all backgrounds – private firms, in-house counsel, public sector lawyers, law schools, even retired practitioners – to come together, collaborate, and devote more time, resources, and energy than ever for the benefit of our fellow Marylanders in need. Maryland lawyers already do a lot in the pro bono space, but we

must now do even more.”

“Maryland Legal Aid is fortunate to have a deep bench of legal advocates to serve Maryland’s most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities,” said Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Executive Director, Maryland Legal Aid.

“We are in dire need of attorneys here on the Eastern Shore. Covering such a large geographic area and several counties poses additional challenges to ensure our clients have legal assistance,” said Mid-Shore Pro Bono Executive Director Sandy Brown.

Additionally, as Governor Hogan’s Executive Order prohibiting residential evictions is set to expire on August 15, Attorney General Frosh issued a Consumer Alert providing Marylanders with available resources and assistance to ensure they stay in their homes.

The Maryland Judiciary Forms Subcommittee also revised its Consumer Debt form, adopting several of the recommendations from the Maryland Attorney General’s COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force Debt Subcommittee.

The updated form provides guidance to debtors about the options available to debtors before a judgment is issued against them, and provides information about the free legal help available at the Maryland Court Help Center by phone at 410-260-1392 or online at www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter.



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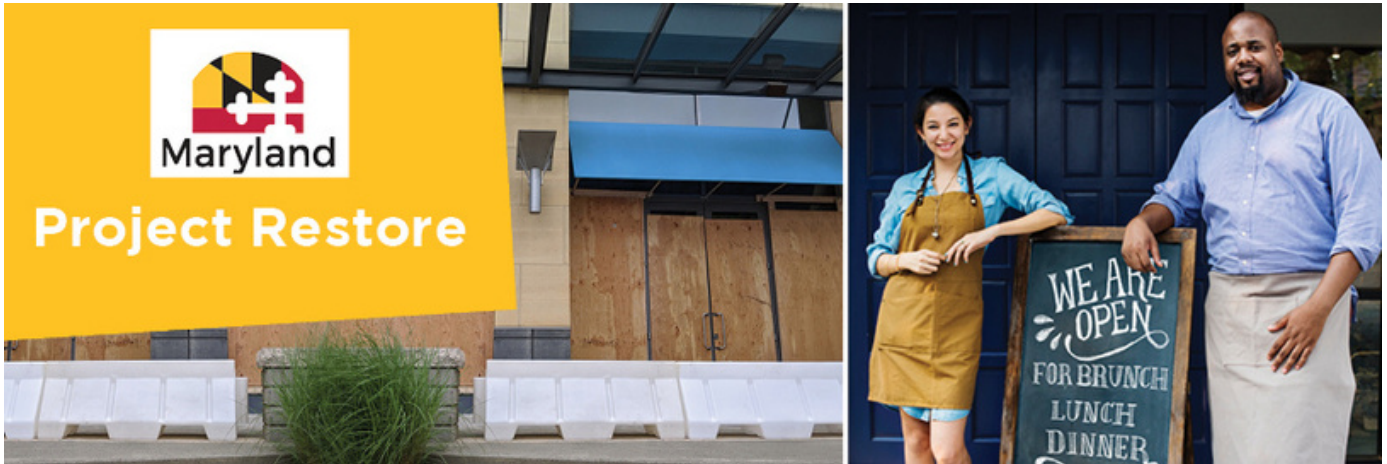
Birthday Fundraiser



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Introducing Project Restore



Project Restore will provide financial support to Maryland's small businesses and commercial developers re-occupying or investing in vacant commercial and retail space.

Through Project Restore, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will offer rental grants and sales tax relief rebates to help offset startup costs and incentivize commercial investment in vacant spaces.

Businesses that begin new or expanded operations in spaces that have not been generating sales tax receipts for the past six months or more will be eligible for the program. Small businesses of 50 or fewer employees will be eligible for additional benefits.

AVAILABLE INCENTIVES

Businesses will be eligible for sales tax relief rebates equal to the business' sales tax receipts for the 12 month period, with a maximum of \$250,000 per year. Eligibility will be based on the same tiering criteria as the [More Jobs for Marylanders](#) program:

- Businesses in Tier 1 counties—which includes Baltimore City and any Opportunity Zone in Maryland—will be eligible to receive the rebate for two years of operation.
- Businesses in Tier 2 counties will be eligible to receive the rebate for the first full year of operation.

Additionally, small business applicants will be eligible for rental subsidies of \$2,500 per month for 12 months—up to \$30,000—to help offset start-up costs during the first year.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

To qualify for Project Restore, eligible entities must begin new or expanded operations in space that has not been generating sales tax receipts for the past six months or more. All applicants commit to occupying the space for a minimum of 12 months following receipt of the grant.

A Notice of Funding Availability with additional details, application information and eligibility guidelines will be posted to [this page](#) in August 2021. Questions? Contact dhcd.projectrestore@maryland.gov.

Duke of York: Father of America's Slave Society

Edward Doten



Many people do not realize that slavery after 1660 in the English colonies, including the American colonies, was even more inhumane than was slavery in other cultures (Dutch, Spanish, French, and pre-1660 Virginia and Maryland).

This brief discussion introduces some of the changes that occurred beginning in 1660 when the Duke of York and King Charles II, his brother, came to power with the Restoration of the monarchy in England following the fall from power of Oliver Cromwell's government.

The Duke, as Admiral of the English Navy, defeated the Dutch in New Amsterdam and in Africa. The name of New Amsterdam was changed to New York in his honor (which remains so named today). By defeating the Dutch in Africa, the Duke gained control of slave prisons and forts and of relationships with slave traders.

The Duke also became the CEO of an English government slave-trading monopoly named the Royal African Company. In that role, the Duke imported more than 100,000 slaves to the New World (and many tens of thousands of others likely died in the process). He branded his slaves with his initials "DY."

To support their slave-trading company, and also to gain more taxes on slave-produced commodities in the colonies, the Duke, King, and their agents and colleagues made land grants to colonists who purchased slaves directly from Africa.

The land grants were 50 acres per slave in Virginia, and in Carolina, 20 acres for male slaves and 10 for female slaves. In New Jersey (which had been part of New York), the land grants are reported to have been 60 to 75 acres per slave. They also rewarded those slave-purchasing colonists with lower property taxes on their slaves and with the benefits of lower customs import fees.

Beginning in the 1660s, the Duke, King, and their agents and colleagues also began to make systematic changes in law to encourage slavery and to make slavery much more horrific for the slaves themselves.

All of this is discussed in a new book I have published online, *Duke of York: Father of America's Slave Society* at www.DukeYork.org. The book is available without charge.

Watch the upcoming movie, as well: [American Slavery: The Unspoken Barbarity](#).



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Waldo Gallery was founded in 1992 by R. Waldo Wilson, a member of the Maryland State Arts Council and Board Member of the Prince George's County Arts & Humanities Council. Promoting the arts, cultivating its clients, and preserving history through art are our gallery's foundational goals.

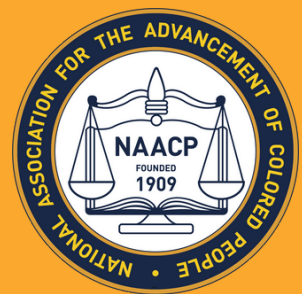
We operate an online gallery at www.waldogallery.com and are available 24/7 for online inquiries. All inquiries will be responded to in 48 hours or less.

Our core business is:

- Selling fine art and rare collectibles
- Fine Art Appraisals
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NEVER MISS A MEETING



The Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP holds monthly member meetings via Zoom. Email president@annearundelcountynaacp.org to find out more.

Not a member yet? [Join us today!](#)

Contact:

Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP
 P.O. Box 6210 Annapolis, MD 21401
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 443.883.5151

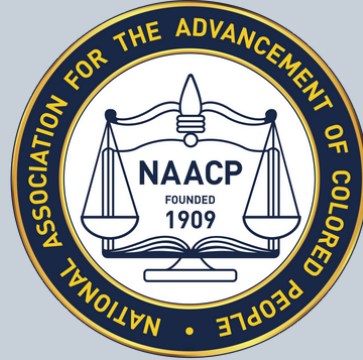
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