



# ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY NAACP

*Supporting local economic empowerment for all*

*May 2021*



*From left to right: Ralph Thomas, Congressman John Sarbanes, and Steve Waddy*

## **Votercade 2021 Honors Civil Rights Icon Rep. John Lewis**

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, Votercade 2021 was held in memory of the late Representative and civil rights icon John Lewis. Anne Arundel County NAACP was at forefront of Votercade 2021 with a voter registration table on Bladen Street in Annapolis, Maryland near state Capitol building. Joining Ralph Thomas, treasurer, was US Congressman John Sarbanes, a co-sponsor of H.R.1- For the People Act of 2021, a bill in the United States Congress to expand voting rights, change campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of money in politics, limit partisan gerrymandering, and create new ethics rules for federal officeholders.

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*Top:*

*The crowd listening attentively to speeches at the event held in memory of the late Representative and civil rights icon John Lewis. The Anne Arundel County NAACP was at the front of the motorcade and manned a voter registration table near the state Capitol building on Saturday, May 8, 2021.*

*Middle:*

*Congressman John Sarbanes (D) speaks at the Votercade event, held in memory of the late Representative and civil rights icon John Lewis.*



## A Message from the President

I am proud to say that, in the words of Congressman John Lewis, this week we made “GOOD TROUBLE!”

The Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP with partner organizations such as the Caucus of African American Leaders, the United Black Clergy, Moms Demand Action, March on Maryland, Connecting the Dots, Community Actively Seeking Transparency (CAST), Our Revolution, Pride, CARES, and others successfully rallied during pouring rain and sleet to show up against efforts to thwart voters rights across the country. Anne Arundel County’s “Voter-cade – Motorcade” for the John Lewis Voter Advancement Day of Action was a resounding success!



*Jacqueline Allsup, President NAACP  
AACo Branch*

Voter rights are being threatened, and as Congressman John Sarbanes, County Executive Steuart Pittman, Mayor Gavin Buckley, Senator Sarah Elfreth, Senator Pam Biedle, Delegate Shaneka Henson and County Council Chair Alice Pickard all pointed out, any threat to voter’s rights - no matter how small - is unacceptable and must be challenged. The For the People Act of 2021 is the clarion call to secure our right to vote. During a time when some are going so far as to call for civil war, the importance of one’s right to vote could be of no greater importance.

To quote local favorite Darius Stanton, “We are all pumped up and ready to go!” We know that now is the time to “stand our ground” with our local champions like Carl Snowden, Apostle Larry Thomas, Bishop Antonio Palmer, Reverend Marguerite Morris, and others. We are proud of the commitment that we have made and for the leadership of Daryl Jones of the Transformative Justice Coalition, who recently was awarded the 2021 Heman Marion Sweatt Award from the National Bar Association after traveling across this country to get the message out that we must organize and fight to advance voter rights.

Another important issue that we have been working on within the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP is the fight against COVID-19. We need to work together during this global pandemic to make certain that every community is protected and has the resources that they need to stay safe. Toward this end, and not without trepidation - we realize that our community has withstood a long history of medical abuses that has caused many of us to not trust the



*Jacqueline Allsup, President NAACP ACo Branch,  
at the Civil Rights Foot Soldiers Memorial in Annapolis*

science behind the vaccinations - we are asking you to take a leap of faith for your community. If we are not careful, what is happening in Brazil and India may happen here. The only thing that we have to stop the explosion of disease that these countries are experiencing is the vaccine. We must fight by using what we have, and for people of color, we must take a leap of faith and trust the science.

I simply ask that if you are not convinced about whether to take the vaccine or not, please have that conversation with your doctor. If you have underlying conditions, such as

diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, or have a compromised immune system, please have a conversation with your doctor. Alternatively, you might have this conversation with your clergy.

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***Getting the vaccine is fighting for our health and our survival. It's just like fighting for voter rights.***

*Jacqueline Boone Allsup*

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Do whatever you need to do, but take action and fight! Getting the vaccine is fighting for our health and our survival. It's just like fighting for voter rights. So get vaccinated and get in "good trouble" for your family, your community, and our world!

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Boone Allsup,  
President





*The mural of Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg in Annapolis.*

## Future History Now Utilizes Art for Activism

Joanne Bond

Future History Now is changing the world one mural at a time. Future History Now (FHN) is a non-profit organization that facilitates collaborative mural projects with youth facing adversity in underserved communities.

FHN believes in the transformative nature of art, and envisions a program that provides a safe space to nurture creative thinking and self-expression, promotes problem-solving and skill sharing through

the art-making process, and encourages thinking outside the box as a means to acquire habits and skills necessary in navigating life's challenges.

### The Founders

FHN was founded by Jeff Huntington and Julia Gibb, seasoned artists who met years ago as students at the Corcoran School of Art in DC. They have traveled internationally, creating murals in far-flung places, such as Hawaii, France, India and the Philippines — involving and teaching young people in each respective country. Jeff's work has been exhibited in

over ninety gallery and museum exhibitions throughout the world.



*Jeff Huntington and Julia Gibb, founders of Future History Now*

### **The Planning Stage**

Depending on where they are working, FHN artists may need to submit an application with Planning and Zoning, put up a public notice on the building to be painted, get approval from the Historic Preservation Commission, or run it past the Arts in Public Places Commission (in the case that we are seeking any funding). Other venues may take into consideration approval from the community and other neighborhood associations.

### **Teaching-Artists and their Students**

Mentors or teaching-artists come from a variety of places. Last year FHN had the privilege of working in the Banneker Douglass Museum on their Black Vote exhibition. They made connections with some very talented artists while working there, and several have become teaching-artists. Chanel Compton, Executive Director at Banneker-Douglass Museum, also contributes as a teaching-artist. FHN tries to engage youth from the

communities in which they are painting. They also often work with youth from other outreach programs. Teaching-artists interact with the youth in many ways.

Sometimes it's teaching the history behind the art they are making. They learn painting techniques, proper care of equipment, problem solving, and teamwork! Sometimes a mentor's role is as simple as setting a good example of hard work and cooperation. The youths also often have a chance to interact with local officials from the city, county, or state. Mayor Buckley often pays visit when they are working on murals in Annapolis!

Teaching-artists are key to engaging the local youth. The Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP was fortunate enough to interview one of FHN's Teaching-Artists, Oliver James, a DC graphic artist, muralist and street artist whose striking art pays homage to the oppressed communities around the world.



*Oliver James, an FHN Teaching Artist*



James worked on the now-famous Annapolis mural of Breonna Taylor, images of which were broadcast all over the world.

**Q: How did the Annapolis Thurgood Marshall/ Ruth Bader Ginsburg Mural come about?**

A: Jeff and Julia had been looking to get that space for the Thurgood Marshall mural for around five years. There were hoops to jump through and they had to get things aligned, but right before Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away, the mural space was approved. After she had passed, it was important to Jeff and Julia to have RBG on the mural as well, so they added her later on in the design and approval process. Everyone saw the importance and the impact the mural could have. It's location, right next to the courthouse, can be seen as you walk through security.

Mayor Gavin has always been a big supporter of the murals created in Annapolis. The biggest hurdle was that the mural location is in the historic district or adjacent to it, so there were committee and board meetings that had to happen, but the owner of the building wanted the mural there as well, which helped in getting the go-ahead. As time went on, those who were against it were won over.

**Q: What is the process involved in the making of a mural?**

A: First, an artist comes up with a design within the parameters that the governing body puts forth. If you, as an artist, are responding to a "call for artists," it usually means that the city or county got a grant from the government for public art spaces. The design is submitted, and if/once the artist is chosen for that project, you begin working with the other artists and youths from the community. The supplies are purchased, and the process that follows involves creating a grid on the artwork to be painted, and then enlarging that grid on the wall. The mural is done mostly using bucket paint and spray paint, employing a variety of methods and materials, and is worked square by square using the grid.

*Note: When they were working on the Breonna Taylor mural, it was so large (on the ground of a basketball court that could be viewed by satellites in space!) that local photographer Brian White had to take images from a drone hovering above the mural while the artists were working, allowing them to see what they were doing!*

**Q: What other murals has FHN done in Annapolis?**

A: I'm partial to the ones that I've worked on, like the John Lewis and Breonna Taylor murals, and of course, the Thurgood Marshall/Ruth Bader Ginsburg mural. They are great

murals to see around Annapolis, but the Breonna Taylor is hands down my favorite.

It means so much to me as a black woman first and foremost, but that was the first big project of my career. It propelled my career as an artist-activist, and allowed me to use my art on bigger platforms to speak out about racial injustice.

***"As a female, it allows me to amplify other black female voices so that we can speak more to existing in that intersectionality."***

*Oliver James*

Of course, I look at this type of art as a way to speak to one's ancestors. Many of us who come from violently oppressed communities would agree that we would have loved to use that energy to bring Breonna back to us for her family, but unfortunately, that's not how that works.

Instead, we as a community used the Breonna Taylor mural as an opportunity to send a message that we weren't going to be silent and we weren't/aren't going to forget or let go of what happened to her, and the injustice that she and her family received.

Breonna Taylor's murder awakened the activist in a lot of us and the image of the mural going viral was literally life-changing.



*The Future History Now team working on the Thurgood Marshall/Ruth Bader Ginsburg mural*



## Maryland NAACP leader blasts Gov. Larry Hogan's posthumous pardons of lynching victims

Reprinted from CNN

The head of Maryland's NAACP on Sunday lambasted Gov. Larry Hogan's posthumous pardon of lynching victims as "political posturing," criticizing the Republican governor for issuing a blanket pardon of dozens of the state's Black victims even though many were never convicted of any crimes, but merely charged or accused of wrongdoing before they were killed.

The scathing criticism comes after Hogan on Saturday [issued the blanket pardons](#) for Howard Cooper, a 15-year-old Black child who was hanged from a sycamore tree after he was convicted of raping and assaulting a White woman, and 33 other victims of racial lynching in Maryland between 1854 and 1933.

According to a historical marker erected during [Saturday's news conference](#), Cooper faced an all-White jury, which reached a guilty verdict in under a minute despite the fact the victim did not testify she was raped. Cooper was killed before his attorneys had an opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The criticism also comes amid a racial reckoning stemming from recent deaths of Americans of color at the hands of police, reigniting a discussion around the country's racist past that included lynching, violent and horrific murders of Black people at the hands of White people.

Willie Flowers, president of the NAACP Maryland State Conference, questioned the authenticity of Hogan's posthumous pardons of lynching victims, including for many who were never convicted of crimes and were just charged or alleged to have committed crimes.

"This is just political posturing that nobody needs right now," Flowers told CNN on Sunday. "If the governor's going to do something, he should with his power as governor look at the many broken systems based on the same type of vitriol, contempt, hatred, that caused the murders of these gentlemen. Every system that has been broken, as the governor of Maryland, he alone can change all of it."

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***"If the governor's going to do something, he should with his power as governor look at the many broken systems based on the same type of vitriol, contempt, hatred, that caused the murders of these gentlemen. Every system that has been broken, as the governor of Maryland, he alone can change all of it."***

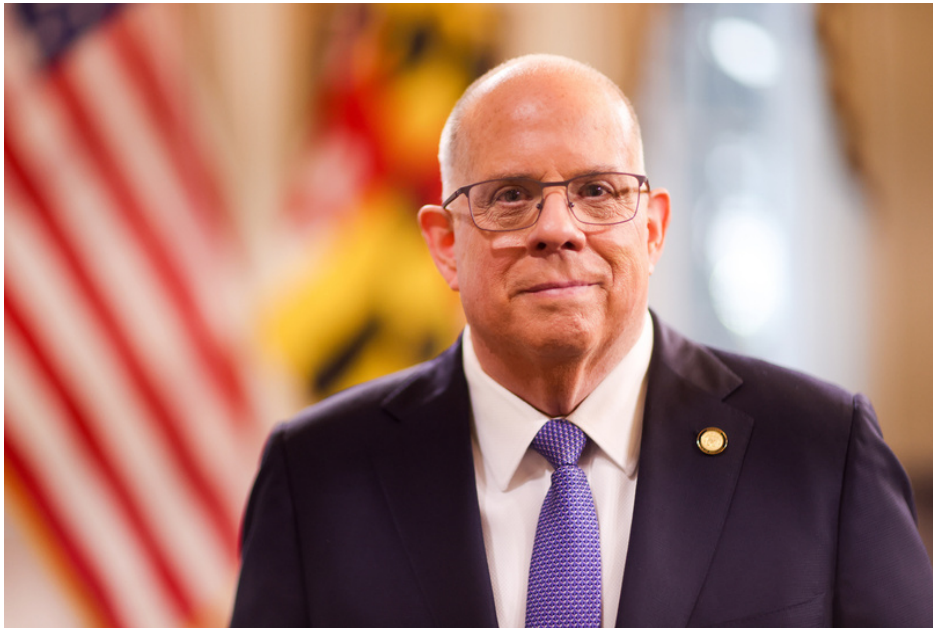
*Willie Flowers*

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He continued, "Celebrating himself by reminding people that lynchings happened is not the best thing you can do, it's actually the least that he could do."

Flowers also questioned the motives behind Hogan's announcement. Some have suggested the term-limited Maryland governor could emerge as a GOP leader on the political stage for national office. A spokesperson for Hogan did not respond to Flowers' claims.

The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project and students at Loch Raven Technical Academy in Towson requested a pardon for Cooper, and Hogan said Saturday after studying Cooper's case, it led him to review all the cases of lynchings in the state during that time.



*Governor Larry Hogan*

"The State of Maryland has long been on the forefront of civil rights, dating back to Justice Thurgood Marshall's legal battle to integrate the schools and our national reckoning on race," he said at an event dedicating a memorial to Cooper. "Today, we are once again leading the way, as together, we continue the work to build a more perfect union..."

My hope is that this action will at least in some way help to right these horrific wrongs and perhaps to bring a measure of peace to the memories of these individuals, and to their descendants and their loved ones."

Asked how other victims were selected for a pardon, the legal criteria for each case and the review process for the pardons, Michael Ricci, communications director for Hogan, told CNN each case "met the standard that it was an extrajudicial killing that violated rights to due process and equal protection of law."

"The Office of Legal Counsel reviewed the available documentation, including the information submitted by the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project," Ricci wrote in an email Sunday. CNN reached out to Stacey Johnson, principal of Loch Raven Technical Academy, for comment Sunday.

Others on social media also criticized the governor's actions, including Marlena Jareaux, a founder of the Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation group, who addressed the governor in a [tweet](#) on Saturday for using the name "Jacob Henson," an incorrect name of one of the lynching victims issued a posthumous pardon.



"Dear @GovLarryHogan (.) When doing a pardon, you might check with the people doing the history and work (us) for HoCo, so you pardon the CORRECT person! You pardoned Jacob's dad. It's "Jacob Henson, Jr." Descendant could have told you also, had someone asked," Jareaux wrote.

Research of reporting of the lynching at the time published by The Herald and Torch Light found by CNN, shows that Jacob Henson, Jr. was dragged by a mob from Ellicott City jail and hanged on May 28, 1895. He was convicted of killing his employer Daniel Shea, a White shopkeeper, after he reportedly confessed to doing so as an act of self-defense.

After Henson was convicted, his attorney told the court he planned to file an appeal for clemency to the governor stating Henson was not of sound mind, according to a biography in the Maryland State Archives. Prior to the governor's decision, a mob pulled Henson from jail and he was hanged.

According to research by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), many lynching victims were "murdered without being accused of any crime; they were killed for minor social transgressions or for demanding basic rights and fair treatment." EJI also notes that many Black Americans were also lynched not because they committed a crime or social infraction, or because of accusations of a crime, but "simply because they were Black and present when the preferred party could not be located."

Nearly 6,500 documented racial terror lynchings occurred in the US between 1865 and 1950, according to EJI.

Flowers said years ago families wanted to know that their relatives were innocent when they were chased down and murdered because it "released the shame of them being crooks, and they were probably crooks for other things," but added this was not the case with these posthumous pardons.

"These individuals, like most victims of lynching, were never crooks. They were just targets and victims of lynch mobs and that's what he (Hogan) can't articulate," Flowers said.

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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***State Senator Sarah Elfreth*

## State Senator Sarah Elfreth Reports Capital Projects Funding and Legislative Victories

The Maryland General Assembly's 441st Legislative Session adjourned at midnight on April 12th. From the moment the gavel fell in January and for every one of the 89 days that followed, State Senator Sarah Elfreth and her colleagues were hyper-focused on working together to solve the compounding crises facing Maryland and its communities.

The legislature's priority throughout the session remained responding urgently to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the public health and economic consequences it brought to bear. The Legislature worked to address longstanding disparities in health outcomes, employment and opportunity, and educational achievement that have been exacerbated dramatically over the last year. Immediate financial support was provided to our most vulnerable residents, vaccine

rollout improved, a generational police reform package was passed, funding was provided to reverse COVID-19 learning loss, historic investments were made in public green spaces and parks, and a budget was passed that will create good jobs and get Marylanders back to work.

The General Assembly also worked with the Governor to invest nearly \$4.5 billion in capital funds this year to get Marylanders back to work. The FY22 capital budget is projected to create nearly 30,000 jobs at a time when unemployment rates are still unacceptably high as we rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. That funding will provide a critical lifeline to our local institutions and invest State dollars in our community.

Over \$10 million in projects were funded throughout District 30, including:

- Stanton Community Center- \$500,000
- City Dock Stormwater & Flood Mitigation- \$1,400,000
- YWCA Domestic Violence Safe House- \$100,000
- Mayo American Legion Post 226- \$40,000
- Edgewater Community Garden- \$10,000
- Banneker-Douglass Museum- \$75,000
- Chesapeake Children's Museum- \$25,000
- Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating Center- \$325,000
- PAL Park Field- \$45,000
- Peerless Rens Club- \$70,000
- Brewer Hill Cemetery- \$100,000

- Shady Side Community Center- \$37,000
- Local Parks and Playgrounds- \$9,000,000 for Anne Arundel County and \$1,000,000 for the City of Annapolis
- Historic Annapolis- \$1,000,000
- St. Johns College Renovations- \$5,000,000
- Undergrounding of utilities- \$250,000
- Anne Arundel Medical Center- \$336,000

## Legislative Victories

Here are some of the most impactful bills that are now on the Governor's desk:

- **Digital Connectivity Act of 2021** (SB66/HB97: Creates the Office of Statewide Broadband (similar to 27 other states) and ensures that every Marylander has access to high-speed internet by 2026.



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- **Public Health — Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund** (SB777/HB1349): Accessible, quality prenatal care ensures healthy moms, healthy pregnancies, and healthy babies. This legislation will secure millions of dollars for critical prenatal care for expecting mothers across the State.
- **Water Pollution — Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementations Plans - Review and Update** (SB227/HB295) : This legislation requires both immediate and regular updates to that data and to our Watershed Implementation Plans to ensure we are properly mitigating the effects of increased rain events and flooding.
- **Public Schools — Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirements** (SB427/HB205): Menstrual equity has always been an important issue — but it's been made more critical as we see two economies emerge from this pandemic. This legislation will address period poverty head-on by requiring and funding each public school provide, at no charge to students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the restrooms at the school.
- **Maryland 529 Program — Board Authority and State Contribution - Alterations** (SB779/HB1238: Addresses significant loopholes in Maryland's 529 plan by combatting significant waste, fraud, and abuse. The bill secures the program's integrity, ensures that Maryland's program is still the most generous in the nation, and will save the State \$3 million dollars annually.



- **Criminal Law — Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity** (SB43/HB411): Expands the law prohibiting law enforcement officers from having sexual activity with inmates to include any person in their custody, any person they interact with during the course of an investigation, or any one requesting assistance from the law enforcement officer.
- **Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act** (SB283/HB156): Makes it easier for both college students and active-duty military members to vote, with input from large residential institutions (such as colleges and retirement communities) when selecting voting sites; and, requiring colleges to develop a student vote plan to foster civic engagement.
- **Transfer with Success Act** (SB886/HB460): Ensures that our community college students are able to transfer as many credits as possible to an in-state university by requiring essential coordination amongst all our post-secondary institutions.
- **Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Grant Program** (SB323/HB310): Creates a competitive grant to support smaller arts and cultural organizations, such as Maryland Hall, to provide millions of dollars of critical capital funding.
- **Environment and Natural Resources — Complaints, Inspections, and Enforcement - Information Maintenance and Reporting** (SB324/HB204): Ensures that the Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources are transparent in the data they share with the public concerning violations of environmental and conservation laws. This will enable environmental advocates and Marylanders to better advocate for the health and safety of our communities.
- **Environment — Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform** (SB674/HB1207: The State's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities has the potential to serve as a data-driven and community-oriented group focused on delivering strong policy recommendations on environmental justice.
- **Board of Public Works Budget Reduction Clarification Act** (SB30/HB133: budget by 25% in any given year and requires the Board to publicize proposed cuts further in advance to ensure transparency.
- **Property Tax Credit — Business Entities - State of Emergency** (SB887/HB1137): The small businesses that make up the backbone of our communities are struggling in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation enables municipalities and counties to implement tax credits for small businesses during States of Emergency.



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- **Anne Arundel County – Hotel Tax Alterations – Distribution of Revenue** (SB529/HB901): Brings greater transparency and accountability to Visit Annapolis by requiring annual audits and greater oversight by the General Assembly, Anne Arundel County Council, and Annapolis City Council. The bill also directs hotel tax revenue to public art and affordable housing in Annapolis.
- **Health Occupations - State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners - Revisions** (SB745/HB1039): Modernizes State code by replacing out-of-date and stigmatizing language like "massage parlors" so that massage therapy establishments are recognized as 3 licensed, regulated health care and wellness businesses. This bill also ensures criminal background checks are completed in a transparent and regular manner and updates licensing certification requirements so that they are aligned across the state.
- **State Retirement and Pension System - COVID-19-Related Death Benefits** (SB642/HB922): Maryland's public employees have been on the frontlines of service during this pandemic. This legislation provides line-of-duty death benefits to State employees in the unfortunate scenario that they pass away from COVID-19 while in service to our State.
- **Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program - Alterations** (SB778/HB1279): Maryland's underutilized RISE Zone Program helps incentivize small businesses and start-ups in areas surrounding our Maryland's colleges and universities. This legislation ensures that the program is achieving its fullest potential and helping to jumpstart our innovation economy.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



*District 30A Delegate Shaneka Henson*

### Legal Education Success Collaborative Established

The Maryland General Assembly recently passed HB 1268, establishing the Legal Education Success Collaborative. The Collective is a partnership between Maryland Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Maryland law schools through which those law schools will provide scholarships, professional development, and mentorship to HBCU students primed for law school admission.

Sponsored by Delegate Shaneka Henson, some of the provisions of the law include:

- Requiring institutions to develop and administer programs and cooperatives related to the Collaborative
- Requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of \$125,000 to participating institutions and programs in the annual budget bill (beginning in fiscal year 2023)
- Requiring certain institutions to contribute matching funds

The Anne Arundel NAACP testified on behalf of the bill and looks forward to the changes this law sets forth to initiate.

## EDITORIAL

## What do these things have in common?

Vickie Gipson

What do these things have in common?

- Kanae Kijima, Japan's "black widow"
- George Floyd's murder
- Former Maryland Medical Examiner Dr. David Fowler
- Katherine Morris, a young woman found dead in her car in the spring of 2012 at the Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Maryland

On the surface, these people and events may seem unrelated, but they are linked in a surprising way.

On April 20, 2021, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty on three counts of murder for the killing of George Floyd. During the trial, witness after witness testified to the torture that Mr. Floyd suffered at the hands of Chauvin and the other police officers, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Keung, all of whom knelt on Floyd's neck, back and legs for over nine minutes until he was dead. Floyd cried out for his "Mama" just before he was killed by the police, while officer Tou Thao looked on in a menacing manner and threatened the crowd into submission.

Fearing a confrontation with the police, the crowd stayed on the sidewalk and bore witness to a horrible death scene. Several people in the crowd yelled out frantically to the police, urging them to get off of Floyd because he was not breathing. Even Judeah Reynolds, a 9 year old child, had the sense and compassion to yell, "Get off of him!"



*Vickie Gipson*

Another witness, Donald Williams, yelled at Chauvin that he was killing Floyd with the "blood choke hold" and called Chauvin and the other officers "punks" to get their attention.

During the trial the cell phone video of Floyd's death was played again and again. Each time, one could hear Floyd gasping for air and struggling to breathe. Listening to the testimony of the witnesses was heart wrenching. During one of the most emotional moments of the trial, witness Charles McMillian broke down and sobbed, expressing feelings of helplessness, desperation, and anguish.

In response to the prosecution's compelling case, Chauvin's legal team argued that the members of the jury should have a "reasonable doubt" as to Mr. Floyd's cause of death. They raised alternative explanations such as a drug overdose and a heart attack, all in an attempt to prove that something besides the positional asphyxia caused by



Derek Chauvin's knee on Mr. Floyd's neck caused his death.

To support this narrative, the defense presented the testimony of their "expert" witness: Dr. David Fowler, the former Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland.

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***To support this narrative, the defense presented the testimony of their "expert" witness: Dr. David Fowler, the former Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland.***

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Fowler testified at length on Chauvin's behalf, bizarrely proposing that Floyd died from the exhaust from a police car's tailpipe located next to where he lay on the ground. He continued to proffer other incredulous possibilities, even though everyone in the courtroom saw with their own eyes that Floyd died as he lay under Chauvin's knee.

Fowler's proposals were so obviously flawed that over four hundred doctors from across the country signed a petition highlighting the incompetence behind Fowler's "expert" medical testimony. This petition prompted Maryland's Attorney General Brian Frosh to issue a statement that all police "in-custody" deaths during Fowler's tenure would be re-examined.

What families like that of Katherine Morris knew for years (that perhaps the Attorney General did not know until now) is that Dr. Fowler's ineptitude and that of the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office, in general, was not limited to "in-custody" deaths. The Morris family and others (like Anton Black and Tyrone West families) believe that there is a connection between unsatisfactory, misleading autopsy reports and incidents of alleged police misconduct. The common incendiary factor is race.



In 2012, Katherine Morris was found dead in her car with two partially lit, disposable charcoal grills in the front passenger seat of her car. Kathy, as she was known to family and friends, was found lying across the car console in an unusual and contorted manner. The police at the death scene, not being familiar with how charcoal grills might play a part in Kathy's death, googled "charcoal grills and death," and found out that this form of suicide was popular in Asian countries. After learning this, and without a proper investigation, the police officers jumped to a determination that Kathy's death was a suicide.

*Katherine Morris (sitting), with her mother, the Reverend Marguerite Morris (standing)*

The Medical Examiner, following the lead of the police, rendered a similar determination that Kathy had committed suicide. In fact, this rush to judgment happened within hours of Kathy's body being transferred to the Medical Examiner's office. To add insult to injury, the Medical Examiner's office, which at that time was headed by Dr. David Fowler, only performed a partial autopsy, meaning that there is a real possibility that important evidence of an alternative cause of death may be forever lost.

Instead of investigating the totality of the circumstances surrounding Kathy's death, the police sought only to justify their determination that this was a suicide case. Key material witnesses were never questioned and crucial videotaped evidence was inexplicably lost.

Every legal action that the Morris family sought to question the handling of Kathy's death investigation was stymied by protests from government lawyers asserting that the family had not exhausted its administrative remedies because it had not completed an appeal under administrative law. However,

the office that was supposed to handle the appeal had ignored the family's request for an appeal multiple times. It was the intervention of Governor Hogan's office - eight years after Kathy's death - that eventually got the family their day in court.

For the Morris family, the appeal before an administrative law judge was a grueling exercise that required multiple expert witnesses to point out a plethora of errors in the medical examiner's autopsy report.

Kathy's mother, Reverend Marguerite Morris, led this charge to action and presented expert after expert and argument after argument to demonstrate the ineptitude of the medical examiner's report. Dr. Lee Ann Grossberg, a Forensic Pathologist and expert witness wrote two letters to Dr. Fowler on behalf of the Morris family, asking for the suicide designation to be changed. Dr. Fowler refused to consider these requests. Dr. Grossberg was one of seven expert witnesses in the Morris case and on the stand became quite passionate about the need for the change as the report did not address important issues that would support a determination other than suicide.

Hands down and without equivocation, the court threw out the Medical Examiner's ruling of suicide. However, it should come as no surprise that this win for the family is being appealed by the government—again! Why is it so important to the government to continue to fight this case? Why do they care if Kathy's death is ruled a suicide or not?

This raises several important questions, albeit complicated: Have the lawyers for the



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government, who are often salaried employees of the government, failed to protect citizens' rights? Does this aggressive litigation constitute a waste of government resources? Should the government be so rigid that it fails to help grieving parents, sisters, and brothers to get the answers that they need to heal? Why is it that the government is pitting itself against grieving families?

So to answer the question posed at the beginning, the connection between Japan's black widow, George Floyd's murder, Dr. David Fowler, and a young woman named Katherine Morris is "bigots with badges:" law enforcement officers who let their bias lead their investigations, rather than fairly and objectively ferreting out the truth.

If there were no "bigots with badges" in the Morris case, for example, and if all those involved valued the life of a young Black woman the same way that they might value the life of a young white woman, then this injustice might never have happened. Had Kathy and her family been treated with respect equal to their white counterparts, they might have had more confidence in the outcome of the investigation and more willing to work with the police and the Medical Examiner's Office.

The same correlations can be made in the George Floyd case. Had they treated Floyd humanely, he might be alive today but that is not our reality.

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*Retired U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg, president of Congress Against Racism & Corruption in Law Enforcement and a seasoned law enforcement officer.*

The truth is a hard pill to swallow. The truth is that it is difficult to prove discrimination and racial animus in a world where the discriminators set the rules. Matthew Fogg, president of Congress Against Racism & Corruption in Law Enforcement (CARCLE), a seasoned law enforcement officer, won a landmark \$4 million employment discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Marshal Service and he still believes that he is being discriminated against by the US Marshall Service that he dedicated his career.

However, perhaps families like Kathy's, Anton's and Tyrone's can have solace that as they work to defeat "bigots with badges" on the outside, there are dedicated law enforcement professionals who are attacking racism within law enforcement on the inside and who are working to eradicate

racism within law enforcement, once and for all.

Thank you to the families who fight on the behalf of their loved ones to seek the truth because, "But for God, there go I." Also, thank you to members of law enforcement like retired U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg, who put their lives on the line to break down deeply embedded barriers to justice in America for people of color.

As most people know, change comes from pressure. In government, pressure comes from constituents. As constituents, I urge you to encourage your county and state government representatives to start a fund for families like the Morrises: families who have exhausted their financial resources to seek justice when their loved ones' deaths have been grossly mishandled.

This fund should include an administrative process to apply for reimbursement outside of the court system to ensure that the families do not incur any additional legal expenses.

Maybe one day, the government will remember that it is here to serve and protect its citizens; not to create a living hell for families, who only seek the truth about how their loved ones died. Maybe one day, inalienable human rights will be acknowledged at every level of government, especially in law enforcement. We can only pray and believe that one day this will be our new reality because we made it so!



## Police Reform in Maryland: Legislative Session Update

Steve Waddy

The murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd by current and former white male police officers were the straw that broke the camel's back. The murders sparked a movement across the world and lit a fire under the young people in Anne Arundel County who wanted to ensure that what happened in Minnesota could never happen here. Marches were held across the county from, staunchly Republican Pasadena to decidedly liberal Russett and all places in between. This mass movement was not only frustrated and angry at the incidents but also the laws that allowed law enforcement and the judicial system to permit the brazen murder of Black people on tape, in the middle of the street, in broad daylight.

### School Resource Officers (SROs)

The issue of school resource officers became a part of the police reform package supported by the Maryland Coalition on Justice and Police Accountability. Anne Arundel County is particularly sensitive to this issue because the county had the highest number of "in-school arrests" in the State during the 2018-2019 school year, the last full in-person school year before the pandemic.


***Black students made up 54% of school-based arrests even though they're only 21% of the student population.***

Black students comprised 54% of school based arrests even though they're only 21% of the student population. Students with Individualized Education Plans made up 28% of the arrests even though they're only 11% of the student population. In 2019, the Capital Gazette published a front page article on the high number of arrests at majority Black schools in the Anne Arundel County School system. This was followed by a campaign by the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP to address the racial disparities in discipline within Anne Arundel County Schools.

Since the State provides \$10 million in funding to local jurisdictions for school resource officers (SROs), the 2021 Session was an opportunity to address the issue of school resource officers head-on. Four bills were introduced in this legislative session to address the issues of police in schools. The most notable were the following:

- HB 496 – Counselors Not Cops Act
- HB 522 – School Resource Officers and School Safety Employees
- HB 1089 – Police Free Schools Act

The issue of having police in schools is very sensitive to certain communities. There are



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many parents, administrators, teachers, and students who have had positive experiences with police in schools and want to continue to ensure that there is an authority figure in the school that can quell any potential violence. The NAACP State Conference President, Willie Flowers and the Political Action Committee Chair, Rev. Kobi Little, both recognized the need for local branches to have autonomy on this issue and left it up to the branch to determine whether they support SROs in schools or not.

During the legislative session, the Anne Arundel Branch Education Committee organized a special meeting to discuss the



issue then met with Delegate Dana Jones who is the only Anne Arundel County Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, which heard the bills. In addition, the Branch organized a panel on Police in Schools featuring the Branch's Youth and College President Harold Lloyd, former Branch Vice President, Raleigh Turnage, Anne Arundel County Deputy Public Defender, Ellen Goodman Duffy, and Monisha Cheriya from the Public Justice Center.

Ultimately, none of the bills made it through the Senate, despite HB 522 being passed by the House.

### **Anton's Law**

On September 15, 2018, Anton Black, an unarmed 19 year old Black man died in the Caroline County town of Greensboro while being physically detained by three police officers from the Greensboro Police Department. One of the officers who killed Anton had over 30 use of force complaints in Delaware before joining the Greensboro Department. This officer's complaint record was shielded from Anton Black's family because it was classified under the Maryland Public Information Act to be a personnel record, which a custodian must deny unless otherwise provided by law. This lack of transparency allows officers to move from one jurisdiction to the next working police officers despite creating havoc for the communities they police.

In response, Senator Jill Carter and Delegate Gabriel Acevero introduced Anton's Law, SB 178 and HB 120, both of which passed with no major amendments and were entered into law after the legislature overrode Governor Hogan's veto. This law alters the Maryland Public Information Act to allow **"a record relating to a formal complaint of job-related misconduct made against a police officer"** to be seen by the public subject with some limitations as outlined in the law.

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***This law alters the Maryland Public Information Act to allow "a record relating to a formal complaint of job-related misconduct made against a police officer" to be seen by the public, subject to some limitations as outlined in the law.***

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Also, included in this legislation is a limitation on no-knock warrants to between 8am and 7pm during the day. For some context, the State of Virginia banned no-knock warrants this year, and they are already banned in Florida and Oregon, while Utah prohibits no-knock warrants for cases of drug possession. Delegate Acevero offered an amendment to the legislation during debate, which would have banned no-knock warrants but it was defeated.

Changed legal circumstances for the no knock warrant – Stanford Fraser OPD

## HB 670/SB 71 – Use of Force and Accountability

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 was passed by both chambers and withstood a veto override vote following the Governor’s veto. The changes created by this new law are substantial and faced many challenges during the session. In response to the massive street demonstrations of 2020 and the vociferous racism from Trump supporters that have taken over the political right, Speaker Adrienne Jones showed tremendous leadership within the House of Delegates by introducing a package of civil rights and economic justice bills before the start of session.

One of the core demands from the community since the death of Freddie Grey in 2016 has been to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR), which grants special privileges to Law Enforcement Officers who are involved in deaths in custody and police involved shootings. There could not be a repeal without a replacement and there was a great deal of debate around the following issues: civilian oversight of the police, independent investigation of civilian complaints, police officer’s rights subject to a complaint and termination proceeding, expungement of complaints, implicit bias training, and many other accountability provisions.

The Use of Force section of the new law addresses several areas of concern. The law mandates every law enforcement agency to require the use of Body-worn cameras by January 1, 2025. The law requires that beginning July 1, 2022, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services must publish a report on its website with biannual data on the reason for the activation and deployment of SWAT teams, the number of arrests made, whether a weapon was discharged, and whether a person or domestic animal was injured or killed by a SWAT team member, amongst other provisions. The SWAT provision is a reenactment of a law that was originally passed in 2009 but “sunsetting” in 2014 and had not been renewed.

In an effort to protect officers from retaliation if they report waste, fraud, and abuse, officers are banned from being discharged,



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disciplined, denied promotion, or otherwise having their employment threatened.

Although advocates such as the NAACP sought genuine independent civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies, the legislature created a new disciplinary process that includes civilian participation, not independent civilian control. Here is a description of the new process:

When an individual's rights are violated by a police officer then the individual must file a complaint with a Police Accountability Board or the law enforcement agency that employs the police officer. The complaint is sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency within three (3) days of receipt by the board. And –

- Use of Force must be necessary and proportional;
- Officers should cease force as soon as a person is under control and no longer an imminent threat;
- 1st state to address whether force should have stopped;
- Bill also covers duty to intervene, adds criminal penalties for violating use of force standard;
- Legitimate law enforcement objective – must be violation of law, harm that will be achieved through force vs. benefit to stopping force, can't be retaliatory, exercising their right to free speech should not be met with force; and,
- Effective dates are different for statute – June 1st .

Qualified Immunity was not passed this session.

#### Next Steps:

- Addressing No Knock Warrants
- Investigation of police complaints
- Coalition town hall on May 25th, 6-8pm

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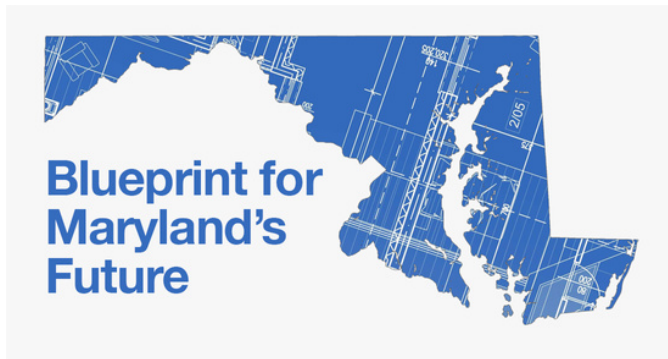
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Thornell Jones

The Maryland legislature has passed landmark legislation to enhance education funding and support, over the Governor's veto. It will have a great and lasting impact on the lives of African Americans and people of color. The stated goal of the Blueprint is for "all students in the state to be College and Career ready by the end of the 10th grade," and to enable them to pursue their career choice or start taking college courses during their junior and senior years.

Students will graduate already on their path to employment or further study. This will enable Maryland to meet the standards of the best performing school systems in the world. This new law, when implemented as it is written, will meet many of the needs advanced by the NAACP and improve quality of life for all Marylanders.

When schools were segregated, the highest honor in the black community was to be a teacher. Teachers were the professionals we looked up to. With integration and the unionization of teachers, the idea of becoming a teacher has lost some of its perceived value. With

this, the entire education enterprise lost some of its luster, and we have all suffered for it.

The Blueprint boosts the status of teachers by professionalizing the field again. It also creates a path into the profession for all races while also deliberately meeting the needs of all children. The Bill calls for pay increases for teachers and education administrators at all levels, purposefully promoting more early childhood teaching opportunities so that our best students can become teachers and earn a decent living.

Through the Blueprint, schools will be funded according to the needs of the students (the opposite of the current practice). Teachers will be paid according to their professional accomplishments on a new career ladder and all involved entities' outcomes will be monitored by a new independent state authority named the *Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB)*.

For many reasons, it has been difficult for many parents to help their children prepare for kindergarten and get the most out of school from kindergarten through graduation. The Blueprint addresses this in several ways.

- Wraparound services for parents in communities with the greatest need who have children aged 0-3 years old.
- Increased funding to add Judy Centers, Family Support Centers, Head Start and other supports for healthcare and school preparation.

- All 3 and 4 year-old children of families earning less than 300% of the poverty line will go to prekindergarten for free so that they are prepared for kindergarten (often not the case today), giving them the best chance to not fall behind in their schooling.
- In- school tutoring will be offered, when needed, to ensure students aren't left behind. The Bill requires time that is not currently scheduled for teachers to collaborate so they can help students who need it.

Meanwhile, workforce development agencies will interface with industry and the schools to ensure that all high school students have what they need before they graduate. Development of industry standard courses will be created to prepare students to enter the workforce right after graduation. Career information will be provided at each grade level from K-12, especially as middle schoolers move into high school. 10th graders will make career choices to begin their studies in 11th grade.

Most people will have many careers during their lifetime. That is why being college and career ready at the end of tenth grade is so important. The first career that one has is not likely to be the last, but lifelong learning will make it easier to accomplish other professional goals going forward.

Our role as members of the NAACP is to make sure the Blueprint is successful and that those implementing it are held accountable to the children who need this

plan the most. We must build awareness of the coming changes among parents. We need to ensure our communities work with the schools as they transform from the broken system today into the modern system the Blueprint envisions.

Our state, through our tax dollars, is investing a huge amount of money into schools over the next ten years to improve our future. We must let our legislators know we appreciate their commitment and let our school board know we expect the improvements to begin now.

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## George Fox Vote Raises Red Flags

India Ochs

At its May 5, 2021 meeting, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education voted 7-1 to change George Fox Middle School (GFMS) to Northeast Middle School. On the surface there shouldn't be concern with the final decision in renaming the school. Northeast Middle School was the name recommended by families of the Northeast cluster and staff at GFMS (per renaming policy). While others in the public, including members of our NAACP chapter, spoke in support of renaming the school after Sarah V. Jones, this is a democracy and the Board can vote on any name it decides. Yet actions leading up to the final vote raise red flags regarding the treatment of Board members of color, along with on-going systemic racism.

As quick background, 104 suggested names were submitted by the public. None got more than 50% of the initial vote from the Northeast cluster, so the top 11 were put on a ballot for a second round of votes. Northeast Middle School received 51% of the vote in the second round. Of note, Jones' name was on the initial list

but only got two votes in the first round of voting.

GFMS's principal presented the vote results at the May 5 meeting and Superintendent Arlotto formerly recommended Northeast Middle School as the new name. Board member Frank, who represents GFMS' district, made a motion to support Arlotto's recommendation. During the discussion, Board member Smith moved to amend the motion to rename the school after Sarah V. Jones. The following is what this commentator sees as tone policing and acts of bias.

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### ***The following is what this commentator sees as tone policing and acts of bias.***

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As soon as Smith's amendment was seconded, Board members Corkadel and Ellis turned to Board counsel, claiming the amendment was invalid under Robert's Rules of Order. Smith stated he had talked to Board counsel beforehand, who cleared the amendment. Members continued to dispute the amendment, seeking advice from a different lawyer acting as counsel at the meeting. Statements were also made that, if Smith changed his amendment to a new motion, it would be against procedure to have two motions on the floor at once. The Board went into recess to further consult with counsel, and upon return, Smith withdrew his amendment.



This commentator believes Board counsel was in error to not allow Mr. Smith's amendment. A Google search quickly finds this very scenario as an example under Robert's Rules. Board members were also hypocritical to state the motion for Northeast had to be voted on first because two motions couldn't be on the floor at once. On November 4, 2020, Ellis and former member Hummer each introduced an option to vote on for hybrid learning. On January 20, 2021, two motions were introduced at the same time to vote on the 2021-22 school calendar. It is speculation if the failure to note such past precedent was mere ignorance or an attempt to avoid going on record as voting against Jones. However, it is this commentator's view that while every member praised Jones and her legacy (often saying she deserved more than just being on a school), there was no legitimate reason to stop Jones from being an option in the same vote. Of note, as both Board members Smith and Antwine stated, the renaming policy requests that the school's PTA provide a *recommendation* for a new name: the Board is required to approve that recommendation.

After the Board voted to name the school, it voted 8-0 to form a committee to examine how to recognize Jones and her legacy. Board member Antwine then moved to have Jones included in all future school naming votes. Corkadel raised objection that the motion violated Robert's Rules. Counsel correctly stated Antwine's motion was valid but not before other members provided commentary suggesting they wouldn't vote in favor of it. Antwine withdrew the motion due to a lack of votes, but it puts a spotlight on a pattern of Board members from marginalized groups having motions/amendments silenced before discussions or a vote. Additionally, Smith had been interrupted and told to limit his response during the renaming discussion, which happens often to Board members Smith, Antwine, and Schallheim.

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***...it puts a spotlight on a pattern of Board members from marginalized groups having motions/amendments silenced before discussions or a vote.***

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In closing, this commentator would like to share a few more observations.

During the renaming discussion, Board members Schallheim and Tobin stated that removing the name George Fox is the anti-racist act in this situation. Words matter. If they had said removing the name was "an" anti-racist act, it wouldn't be worthy of mention. But by saying "the" anti-racist act, it implies that was the only thing needed to address anti-racism in this situation. Although essential, removing a racist from public sight is not the only action to address anti-racism efforts, especially with GFMS's community having the most racist incidents in the county.

Frank directly attacked the effort to rename the school after Jones when stating that the unity that came from the community vote “could potentially be destroyed tonight by an extremely small minority”, mostly from outside her district, who might have more influence than those who voted.

Finally, George Fox and the Mills v Board of Ed case has come up in discussions and news articles for decades, yet the request to remove Fox’s name from the school only occurred last summer. As wonderful as the committee was reviewing the history, why was a committee formed to make the recommendation to remove his name? The evidence was there, no one disagreed that Fox was racist, so why didn’t the Board vote on the spot to remove Fox’s name and start the renaming process then. A meme circulating social media last year sarcastically referenced how administrators avoid addressing bias issues, including how forming committees is an easy shield from directly addressing issues like racism. It was easy for the Board to vote 8-0 to form a new committee to honor Jones: the question becomes how long will Jones’ legacy last once recommendations are made.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE CEO

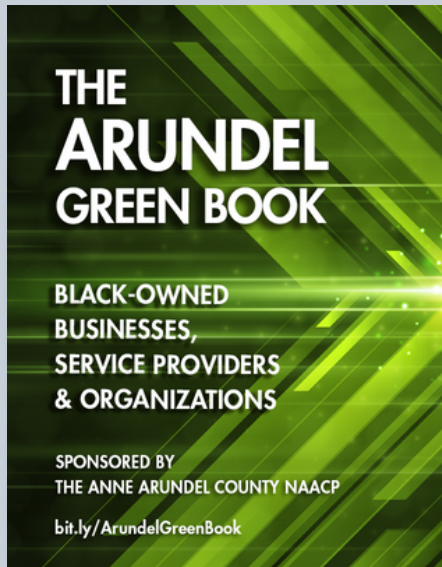
**Mr. Kamose Muhammad** is the primary founder, chairman and chief executive officer of **Freedom Paper Company LLC**, a Black-owned manufacturer of bathroom tissue, and a master distributor of personal paper, Jan San, light chemical, food service, and stationary products, having corporate offices in DE and MD. Mr. Muhammad is charged with the chief responsibility for management of the company’s administration, policy, finance, and personnel matters.

Mr. Muhammad was elected in August 2016 and currently serves as the First Assistant President General of the UNIA-ACL, the grassroots, Black power, Black Nationalist organization founded by the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey and formerly served as the Student National Facilitator/Chairman of the Committee for the Development of the National Ministry of Trade and Commerce of the Nation of Islam. In both positions Mr. Muhammad is involved in the organizing of Black People and Black Business People and entities; furthering the marshaling of interest for the betterment of economic conditions, increased economic growth and vibrancy in Black communities.



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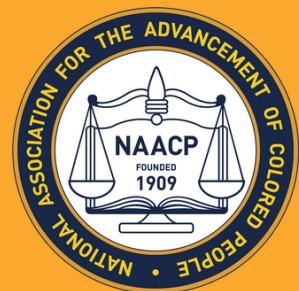
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If any non-whites or white people of goodwill in your network/organization plan on applying, please inform the NAACP by emailing [pac@annearundelcountynaacp.org](mailto:pac@annearundelcountynaacp.org).

- Ethics Commission
  - 2 vacancies
  - Must be Republican or Independent
- Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board
  - 3 vacancies
- Adult Public Guardianship Review Board
  - 1 vacancy
  - Must be a Forestry Representative
- Amusement License Commission
  - 1 vacancy

- Commission on Disability Issues
  - 1 vacancy
- Electrical Examiners
  - 1 vacancy
- Maritime Industry Advisory Board
  - 1 vacancy
  - Must be a Riverkeeper Representative
- Plumbing Commission
  - 1 vacancy
- Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee
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- Animal Welfare Council
  - 3 vacancies

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### *“Ask Farmer Pat”-Gardening Program*



**Alkebulan Shule**, the “Mother of Mankind” **Rites of Passage Program** is pleased to announce the latest program addition for enrolled families. The “Ask Farmer Pat” Program is a resource that is available to respond to your questions about gardening and farming.

Our “Ask Farmer Pat” program is run by Patricia Eleazer and is part of the Physical Circle. Farmer Pat is an itinerant free-lance farmer and graduate of Howard University. She originally hails from New York and is from a family of farmers. A veteran and educator, Farmer Pat participated in the TALMAR farming program in Baltimore and has been involved in building community gardens in

marginalized and food desert communities throughout Maryland while also serving as a member of the City of Annapolis Outreach team during the pandemic. In addition, she is a volunteer for a youth gardening program at the Boys and Girls club and is a volunteer gardener on the Spudnik Project, a Master Gardener program. The very busy Farmer Pat enjoys learning about the uses of herbs and foraging for native edibles. She is a foodie, forager, waterkeeper and world traveler working to close gaps in education among black families through more culturally conscious and historically correct instruction.

The *Ask Farmer Pat* program was developed in order to provide individualized responses to questions about gardening. No space is too small for plants and Farmer Pat encourages your questions about anything related to gardening and/or farming.

Visit [www.AlkebulanShule.org](http://www.AlkebulanShule.org) for more information  
 email: [alkebulanshule2020@gmail.com](mailto:alkebulanshule2020@gmail.com)

# ELECTION NEWS

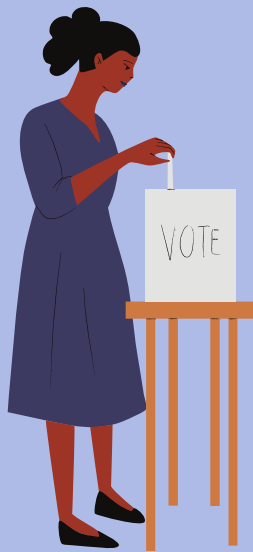
Annapolis has Mayor and Alderpersons elections this year.

**Primary Election:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021

**General Election:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021

**Voting hours:** 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Polling Places to be posted **June 16, 2021**



## UPCOMING 2022 ELECTIONS

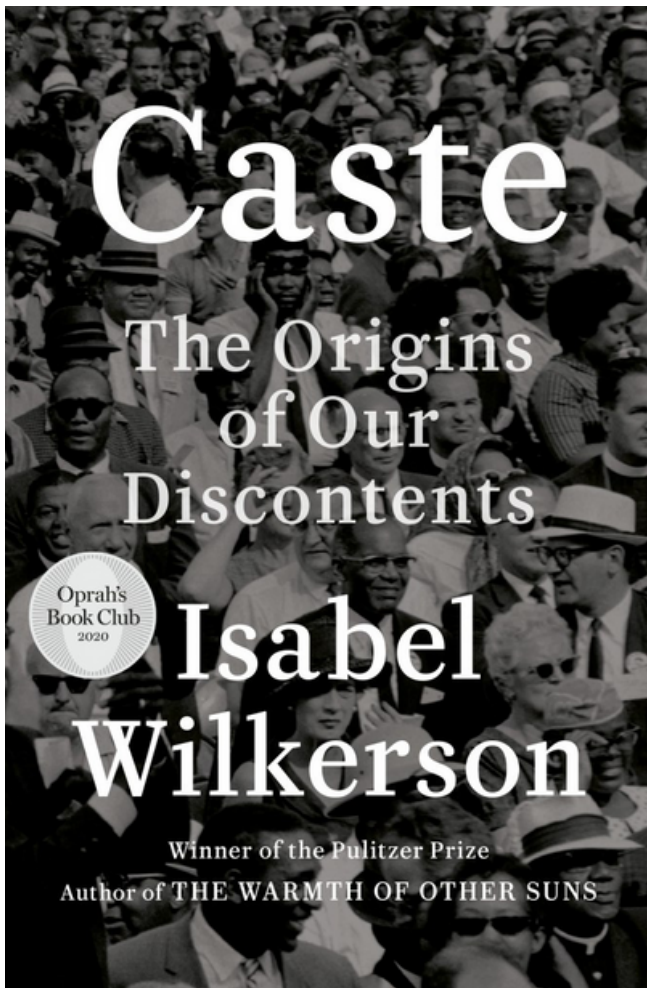
### **Gubernatorial Elections:**

Primary, June 28, 2022

General, November 8, 2022

*The AACo branch of the NAACP will set up a Voter Registration Table for the entirety of the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2021 at Bates Athletic Complex, 935 Spa Road, Annapolis.*





## AACo NAACP Book Club Recap: Caste

The May meeting of the Anne Arundel County NAACP's book club included a discussion of the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.

According to the author, "Caste is the granting or withholding of respect, status, honor, attention, privileges, resources, and human kindness to someone on the basis of their perceived rank or standing in the hierarchy."

### Caste & Systemic Racism

In a caste system of social hierarchy, people experience varying degrees of superiority. Subsequently, some individuals will

experience subjugation purely based on the caste to which they belong. As a result, caste has perpetuated generational wealth among the wealthy, increased generational poverty among the poor, and allowed systemic racism to become particularly resistant to change.

While Wilkerson is careful to draw a distinction between caste and racism, she reiterates how the U.S. caste system, in particular, was built around ideas of racial superiority and inferiority. In doing so, she demonstrated the ways in which African Americans were placed in the lowest caste and have fought to be free from this caste system for centuries to little avail. She also shows how the "dominant" caste of white Americans currently benefits from the structure of society, and details the ways in which they seek to avoid change as a result.

While America's caste system is undoubtedly younger than that of a country like India's, its existence is indisputable and has been since its founding. Wilkerson classifies this systemic challenge to an old house with structural problems. The "builders" of our nation may have caused the initial "cracks" in our society, but they've been allowed to compound over time.

That said, we still have a responsibility to identify them and remove them from the foundations. Otherwise, the problems will continue to get worse.

### Foundational Pillars of Casteism

The caste system is based on the following eight "pillars," which seek to justify and

enforce the perpetual stratification of society:

1. Divine will and the laws of nature: The caste system is informed by and detailed within religious texts and teachings.
2. Heritability: One is born within a specific caste.
3. Endogamy and the control of marriage and mating: People should only marry within their caste.
4. Purity versus pollution: Lower caste individuals are considered to be “polluters,” dirty, or sources of disease; a risk to people in a higher caste.
5. Occupational hierarchy: Lower caste individuals are believed to be “a better fit” for menial jobs that no one wants to complete.
6. Dehumanization and stigma: The persistent dehumanization of a group of people desensitizes people to violence against them and seeks to override our general understanding that we are all human beings - none inherently better or worse than the next.
7. Terror and cruelty: Terror is used as an enforcement mechanism and cruelty as a means of control. Both are conducted publicly to discourage any unwanted action by a lower caste individual or group.
8. Inherent superiority versus inherent inferiority: There are unspoken norms and expectations within a society that relate to and reify caste. For instance, in India, the Dalit are expected to wear poorly kept clothing to reflect their perceived inferiority.

### Breaking Down the Pillars

Here are the recommendations that Wilkerson highlights for people seeking to break down



Book chat teacher Marilyn Annette Barber

the pillars of caste:

1. Make people aware of the presence of a caste system within the US.
2. Support people who have managed to break free from their subordinate castes.
3. See people as individuals with ideas in common rather than part of a homogeneous group. This should help prevent dehumanization.
4. Vote with an awareness of how the caste system is currently dominating politics.

*The AACo NAACP Book Club meets every second Saturday. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 12. Anyone may register at [alkebulanshule.org](http://alkebulanshule.org).*



**Crusaders for Change, LLC**

We empower and equip individuals with the tools they need to become financially free through financial counseling, coaching, and classes. We help people get out of debt, improve credit, save & much more.

Odenton, MD - Services provided virtually  
Visit C4C Hours of Operation at  
[www.crusaders4change.org](http://www.crusaders4change.org)

## Extension of PPP Loans for Small Businesses and Sole Proprietors

### PPP Loan Forgiveness

Paycheck Protection Program loans may be forgiven in full depending on eligibility and how those funds were used. The loan may be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities during the covered period following the funding of the loan. At least 60% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll.

### Loan Forgiveness Update

On June 17, 2020, SBA released a revised, borrower-friendly Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application implementing the PPP Flexibility Act of 2020. In addition to revising the full forgiveness application, SBA also published a new EZ version of the application, [Loan Forgiveness Application \(SBA Form 3508EZ\)](#), that applies to borrowers who:

- Are self-employed and have no employees; OR
- Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%, and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; OR
- Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19, and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%.

The EZ application requires fewer calculations and less documentation for



eligible borrowers. We encourage you to review this form and the specific guidelines outlined by SBA.

In October of 2020, SBA also released Loan Forgiveness Application (SBA Form 3508S), a simpler application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. Borrowers should review this form and the specific guidelines outlined by SBA. This action supports SBA's continued effort for additional legislation to simplify the forgiveness process.



**Grant Management Consulting, LLC**

Grant Management Consulting, LLC is a women-owned, minority-owned business in Maryland. We offer business development and corporate compliance services for health care providers.

Our expertise is in **behavioral health administration.**

We provide a range of services, including organizational risk assessments, staff training, and technical assistance. In 2021, we are working to bring you eCourses on ethics topics relevant to social work and related professions.

In addition, we are located in Randallstown, Maryland (Baltimore County) and hours of operation are 9am - 5pm, Monday through Friday.

**gmc.enterprises**  
**410-384-6100**



# The Change Starter, LLC

Founder/Racial Conversationalist:  
Allie Simmons



The Change Starter, LLC is a social change entrepreneurial business that provides services and products geared towards the dismantlement of racism. The products and services use historical academic based information to facilitate inter-cultural dialogue while simultaneously bringing awareness to the formation and evolution of racism in the United States. The services and products provided by The Change Starter address the origins and evolution of racism in the United States in conjunction with the "State of the Union" (US) presently. Products and Services provided include:

1. **Curriculum/Lesson Plan Manual:** Academic supplementary tool to be used in conjunction with classroom textbook(s). It gives educators access to information and resources not provided by school systems on the topic of historical racism.
2. **Workshops on Racism:** This is a platform created to expose participants to the multi-layers and complexities of racism in the United States one topic at a time. Workshops encourage self-reflection and academic investigative skills for individuals after they participate in "Conversational Workshops" in order encourage independent learning and racial understanding empowerment.
3. **Racial Conversations:** The Change Starter provides a space for individuals of diverse ethnic groups to sit and discuss racism in the US and its effects.
4. **Racial Consultant and Advisor:** Assist organization/businesses and their staff on the journey to becoming an anti-racist organization, while simultaneously continuing to work on providing a diverse and inclusive environment.
5. **Racial Coaching** – Personal one on one and/or small group coaching for individuals that want to examine and explore the concept on race and how it relates to them, their way of life and the world in which we live in. These services are held in a safe, private and confidential setting.

## The Change Starter, LLC

[www.allietconvostarter.com](http://www.allietconvostarter.com)



## Denny's Today and the Consent Decree

Rev. Marguerite Morris

Perhaps the answer to the relevance of the Denny's consent decree is echoed in the sage words of the Reverend Jesse Jackson. He said, "They lie, and they are not credible." Mr. Jackson went on to tell reporters, "They say they have a plan to end discrimination, yet every day a new incident occurs. It's in California. It's in Maryland. It's coast to coast."

It seems like it was not long ago when our own Reverend Jesse Jackson was joined by about fifty protesters at a Denny's restaurant in Annapolis, Maryland. On June 5, 1993, protesters joined him to demand an end to the patterns of discrimination that Denny's frequently wielded against Blacks.

Today, in 2021, it has come to light that Denny's is *still* aware of discriminatory acts and yet does nothing. We know that these discriminatory acts are happening because the electronic log that tracks complaints specific to each store was recently released to the public.

It's also now known that Denny's has received numerous complaints over the course of several years from Black customers being subjected to abusive practices by one of its franchise's general managers. This manager repeatedly summoned police via 911 to intimidate Black customers who complained about substandard service. In one such log entry, a customer said they asked for a glass of water several times, and when it did not arrive, they went to the cashier's stand and asked for the manager. The manager never showed up, but the police did.

Another entry from March 2019 reads that during a Black customer's visit, he left his name for the hostess, as there was a wait. While waiting, one of the white servers looked at the waitlist, looked at his family, and informed the hostess, "I cannot take them!" She proceeded to seat a caucasian family who had just walked in after the Black family. The Black customer said, "We then sat for an additional 15 minutes. We were finally seated and waited an additional fifteen minutes. This was a horrible experience and the worst I have been treated at a Denny's."

Denny's has a well-known history of discriminatory practices against African Americans that has spanned decades. Department of Justice filings state that, "On March 24, 1993, Plaintiff (Class) initiated a complaint against TW Services, Inc., TW Holdings, Inc. (now Flagstar Companies, Inc.) and Denny's, Inc. and Denny's Holdings, Inc."

Three days later, in a Federal Court, the Plaintiff (the United States) initiated a complaint simultaneously with a Consent Decree against Flagstar Corporation and Denny's, Inc.

The complaints allege that Denny's, a subsidiary of Flagstar Corporation, has engaged in a pattern or practice of denying equal service/treatment to African-American persons. "More specifically, the United States and the Plaintiff Class allege that Denny's: (1) implemented terms and conditions for service to African-American persons and their companions that are less favorable than the terms and conditions for service to white persons; (2) treats African-American customers and their companions less favorably than white customers; and (3) discourages African-American persons from visiting its restaurants."

On July 2, 1993, the court consolidated both of the actions. Both plaintiffs (the United States and Plaintiff Class) alleged violations of Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the California Business and Professions Code, and the California Civil Code. The consent decree calls for the equal treatment of African Americans and the end to discrimination based on race or color. The decree:

- Ensured all future customers of Denny's Restaurants and franchises would be afforded equal treatment and service regardless of their race.
- Provided "injunctive relief in furtherance of the public interest, and injunctive and monetary relief to all class members by means of the goals, timetables, and other procedures set forth in this Decree."
- Sought to avoid "further protracted, expensive, and disruptive litigation."

After the execution of the original decree on April 1, 1993, numerous complaints of racial discrimination were submitted to the Plaintiff Class and the U.S. Upon investigation of those complaints, the U.S. determined that it was necessary to amend the original decree, further impressing upon the defendant the need to prevent discrimination in the future.

Yet here we are, in May of 2021, reviewing a log of complaints that Denny's was fully aware of, but took no action to address. No action has been taken to prevent Blacks from being subjected to the abusive and discriminatory behaviors of one of its own franchise general managers. He's still employed, and Denny's may have gone as far as to endorse his behavior publicly.

So has much changed with Denny's history of discrimination? The answer is no! I can say from personal experience that **Denny's is still discriminating against its Black customers**. I myself was subjected to the false 911 calls - twice. The second time, it resulted in a nine-car police response; I was escorted out of the restaurant and told that I was under arrest. The manager was bold enough to then call my cell phone, yell at me, and call me a "crazy b##\*\*!"

Guess what? This Denny's general manager still has his job. This local franchise, with a documented track record of discriminatory treatment of Black customers, is still in business.

This is a clarion call to demand a response from Denny's and, perhaps by protest, remind them that treating Black Americans as if they are less than human will not be tolerated. No matter how much money you throw at Black-owned and operated organizations just for the sake of name dropping - it will not be tolerated!



# WOMEN IN THE NAACP OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Women in the NAACP (WIN) resumes again! Calling all NAACP Ladies for a ZOOM meeting on **June 14, 2021 at 5 pm.**

WIN needs committed women LIKE YOU to help us realize our vision to empower women for equity, justice and freedom to achieve.

Our goals are:

- Enhance the leadership of roles of women
- Serve as advocacy vehicle for issue affecting women and children
- Advocate for the positive development of children

Our ability to impact Anne Arundel County, the lives of women, and the development of children in our community starts with WIN WOMEN like you. Our call to action is to have dynamic, committed women willing to extend themselves and work for the betterment of women in our neighborhood.

*Please join us on June 14, 2021 at 5 pm on Zoom. See you there!*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2981217443?>

[pwd=M1BDRlFPNE42dVBXL05xbnNhUGdFdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2981217443?pwd=M1BDRlFPNE42dVBXL05xbnNhUGdFdz09)

## Data Analysis Reveals Biased-Based Policing in Annapolis. How Will the City Address These Findings?

*An open letter to Mayor Buckley and Annapolis City Council Members*

Dear Mayor Buckley and City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Annapolis City Council. As some of you are aware, I have worked with this administration and with a previous administration on issues involving the Annapolis Police Department. As a retired law enforcement official, I have volunteered my services to the City in the past, and I continue to do so today.

Previously, I completed a fifty-page analytical analysis regarding bias-based policing in Annapolis Police Department (APD). The previous Annapolis City Manager, Teresa Sunderland, completed a twenty-two-page response. Copies of the aforementioned reports can be obtained from APD. The analysis revealed disparate treatment against minorities in field interview reports and traffic stops. Departmental policy was also critiqued for adherence to city ordinance, state law, and federal law. Several concerns were discovered.

APD employs an analyst. The analyst has the ability and access to information to study policing data by "Wards" in Annapolis based on race, gender, and age of the populace.

The following is an example:

*Maryland Transportation Article 25-113 law states that traffic stop data should be collected and forwarded for analysis by ward. These data points can include the number of traffic stops made in each ward, the race and gender of the individual(s) involved in the stop, the reason, time and location of the stop, whether a search*

*was completed or not, the reason for the search, if an arrest was made, and the reason for the arrest.*

The same holds true for stop-and-frisks and field interview reports completed on pedestrians. Monthly, semi-annual, or annual bias-based police analyses should be forwarded to the City Council and Mayor's Office.

I believe that the Annapolis Police Department should create a dashboard system, in the spirit of transparency and accountability, that contains the following information (examined by race, gender, and age):

- All arrests (to include felonies and misdemeanors)
- All traffic stops
- All stop-and-frisks
- All field interview reports (a first cousin of stop-and-frisk)
- The number of citizen complaints
- The number of police involved shootings
- The number of police vehicle pursuits
- The number of use-of-force reports completed
- The number of officers on a disclosure list
- The number of officer resignations and terminations
- The number of internal officer complaints
- The number of police complaints handled by Human Resources

The above list is not all inclusive, but each of the data points listed are critical to building an accountable department.

Annapolis police officers utilize E-TIX and Delta Plus, systems that generate GPS coordinates for traffic stops. GPS functionality gives departments the ability to utilize *(cont. on next page)*

geographic information systems (GIS) to capture, store, check, and display data related to positions on Earth's surface. GIS can help individuals and organizations better understand spatial patterns and relationships regarding bias-based policing. Mapping can provide information that spreadsheets cannot.

The police department possesses the ability to analyze every traffic stop an officer performs and can provide administrative rights to E-TIX and Delta Plus to all supervisors and managers. If given the administrative rights, the leaders can perform biased-based policing checks on their respective squads and shifts.

I conclude my letter with two questions:

- When will the advisory panel resume?
- What is the timeline for the advisory panel to convert into a “Civilian Review Board?”

Stay healthy, blessed, and safe. I look forward to your timely response.

Randy Williams

### *Current Officers:*

Jacqueline Allsup, *President*  
 Claudia Barber, *1st Vice President*  
 Rev. Rickey Nelson Jones, *2nd Vice President*  
 Mary Dadone, *Secretary*  
 Monique Brown, *Asst. Secretary*  
 Ralph Thomas, *Treasurer*  
 Harold Mo Lloyd, *Youth & College Division President*

### *Contact:*

Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP  
 P.O. Box 6210 Annapolis, MD 21401  
 president@annearundelcountynaacp.org  
 443.883.5151

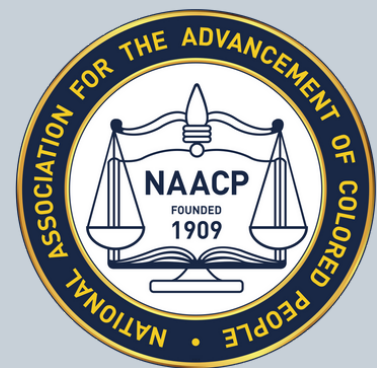
### *Newsletter Team:*

Claudia Barber, Joanne Bond, Achsah Callahan, Vickie Gipson, & Laura Scruggs

## **BECOME A MEMBER TODAY**

Join the Anne Arundel County branch of the NAACP! With the support of NAACP members, we are forging a better future each and every day for our men, women, and children.

**[DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION](#)**





## AACo NAACP “Tickle My Money Bone” a Success!

In honor of Financial Literacy Month, the AAcO NAACP Branch stepped outside of the box to put some funny, into talk about money. The Economic Empowerment committee teamed up with Crusaders for Change (C4C), LLC, to sponsor “Tickle My Money Bone” on April 29th. The evening comedy and financial literacy event presented & hosted by C4C was a hit. There were 9 sponsors in addition to the NAACP, 123 registered and up to 80 people in attendance! Behind the scenes magic was real, with Serenity Coates and Kimberly Moorehead facilitating the virtual lounges and Jenny Roman and CJ Meushaw working backstage administration. DJ Rizzo got the crowd revved up for the main event with a 30-minute dance set just before the star line up.

The Committee wishes to give a huge shout out to local financial experts (and comedians); who knew one could be funny AND good with money? The financial experts included Financial Advisor Dawn Edgerton-Cameron, Lynn Carter of The Carter Law Firm, Jerry Slocum of Severn Bank, Austin Lewis of Transamerica, and our very own committee member, Mrs. Shay Cook, MS, Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC)<sup>®</sup>, Financial Fitness Coach (FFC)<sup>®</sup>, CEO & Founder of C4C. The all-star line-up prepared for the event by receiving coaching from professional comedian Maher Matta; and, they graciously shared some of their most embarrassing money stories with all of us while on the main stage. We can't share the stories in this article because what happens in “Tickle My Money Bone”, stays there; and y'all will just have to attend the next one (cue the laugh track)!

The hard work and prep leading up to the event paid off with lots of laughter and hilarious comments in the chat window throughout. Some attendees even shared a few of their own money mishaps with the crowd. DJ Rizzo brought it home with an energizing set that lasted through 9:30 pm. The evening was relaxed, fun, funny, and healing (plus, a work out for the folks feelin' the DJ). We are so proud of everyone who participated and consider the event a success. Look for the next funny money comedy event later this year! Want to get involved? Contact the Economic Empowerment Committee by emailing us at [econ@annearundelcountynaacp.org](mailto:econ@annearundelcountynaacp.org).

**Servant Chair:** CJ Meushaw

**Members:** Vanessa Brown-Bright, Shay Cook, Antonio Downing, Steven Waddy, Thomas Pickett, Lynn Carter, Miriam Kahn, Jennifer Sell, Jennifer Roman, Rebecca Fishburne

**Monthly Meeting Schedule:** 1st Thursdays 7-8pm

**Mission:** The Committee on Economic Development shall implement local efforts and support national programs to preserve and expand economic empowerment among African-Americans and other communities of color by:

1. Researching and establishing relationships with private and public entities;
2. Supporting the work of the National Office in monitoring the progress and activity of private and public entities designated by national programs;
3. Implementing local efforts to promote the growth of business ownership;
4. Increasing employment and job creation; and,
5. Encouraging business development and home ownership.

# Tickle My Money Bone! Comedy and Financial Literacy Event

Presented by:



*Thank you to everyone  
who participated!!!*



## Special Thanks to...

### Our Host and Organizer:

**Shay Cook**

Crusaders for Change, LLC



*...for seeing her  
vision through to  
completion.*

### Our Comedic Experts:



**Dawn Edgerton-Cameron**

Financial Advisor



**Austin Lewis**

Transamerica



**Jerray Slocum**

Severn Bank



**Lynn Carter**

The Carter Law Firm

### DJ Rizzo



Municipal  
Media Services

### Lounge Facilitators:

Serenity Coats & Kimberly Moorehead

### Backstage & Admin Staff:

CJ Meushaw & Jen Roman

### Our Sponsors...





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*Chuck Brown Band*

June 19, 2021/**Free**

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Presented by the Annapolis Juneteenth Board and the City of Annapolis



*You are cordially invited*



*Vip Reception & Awards Ceremony*  
*Celebrate Freedom*

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3 PARK PL, ANNAPOLIS MD, 21401 | JUNE 18, 2021 | 6-9PM

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[WWW.ANNAPOLISJUNETEENTH.ORG](http://WWW.ANNAPOLISJUNETEENTH.ORG)

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Please click here to make a donation by Debit or Credit Card

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Fresh Start Church is a registered 501c3 organization registered with the State of Maryland. Fresh Start Church will acknowledge your gift with a receipt for tax purposes.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Phyllis "Tee" Adams, at 410-353-9271 or at [FundAnnapolisJuneteenth@Gmail.com](mailto:FundAnnapolisJuneteenth@Gmail.com)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_