

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 89, No. 7 February 18 — February 24, 2021 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Local Black World War I Veterans Remembered During Black History Month

Four Black Prince George's Residents Included on Peace Cross Memorial

By ANGEL WALDRON

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 9, 2021)—A 40-foot-tall monument standing at the intersections of Bladensburg Road, Baltimore Avenue, and Annapolis Road in Bladensburg, Maryland, serves as a reminder of the 49 residents who died in World War I. This monument, commonly referred to as the Peace Cross, is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County which has embarked on a mission to restore it.

In recognition of Black History Month, the Department is also paying homage to the four African Americans who were among the lives lost in World War I. Their names, etched like the others, are displayed on this structure that was dedicated in 1925 in the town of Bladensburg by Gold Star Mothers and The American Legion.

These four Black men fought in a war during a time when even in

their own country, equality didn't exist. They gave their lives in their call of duty to the United States and this historic monument stands in memory of their sacrifice as well as their fellow soldiers. The African Americans highlighted on the Peace Cross are:

- Clarence Butler, (4/14/1890–10/6/1918), a farmer with his father in Nottingham, Md.
- James Cooper, (3/1/1897–10/5/1918), a farmer in Aquasco, Md.
- John Seaburn, (10/27/1897–10/4/1918), grew up in what is now North Brentwood, Md.
- Benjamin Thompson, (1/11/1894–10/13/1918), was born in Waldorf, Md., and worked for himself as a farmer.

The Peace Cross is now in need of extensive restoration and refurbishment. Department Resource Development Officer, Tracy Wright, stated "Funds are needed to begin this vital endeavor. To address the need, the Department of



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

See BLACK HISTORY Page A6 John Seaburn

Bill Establishes Maryland Police Use of Force Requirements

By JACOB STEINBERG

Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Feb. 11, 2021)—A bill in the Maryland General Assembly would revise police use of force requirements in the state—part of a growing initiative surrounding police reform nationally.

Conversations surrounding police reform have intensified with the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, and the police-involved shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, among others, which sparked protests throughout the nation.

HB0139 and its cross-file, SB0626, sponsored by Del. Debra Davis, D-Charles, and Sen. Jill P. Carter, D-Baltimore, would set prohibitions and limitations on police officers' use of force.

"This basically codifies what citizens should expect during their interactions with police," Davis said at a Tuesday House Judiciary Committee hearing.

"It provides additional measures for the public to hold police who are bad actors accountable," Davis added.

It stipulates that a law enforcement officer would be prohibited from using lethal force against a person unless the lethal force protects the officer or another person from death or serious physical injury, according to a state legislative analysis.

The bill also details that a law enforcement officer is prohibited from using lethal force if there's a substantial risk of injury to a third person and all reasonable alternatives haven't been exhausted, according to a state legislative analysis.

"Between 2013 and 2020, 144 people were killed by police in Maryland in at least 16 different counties," Carter said at a Feb. 4 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee hearing.

"That data highlights that there is a problem despite our best efforts to enhance and encourage better training over many years, there is still a problem when it comes to police use of force," Carter said.

The bill also details limitations and prohibitions on general use of force.

Under current law, a police officer's

use of force is defined by objective reasonableness, which means that the officer's actions must be objectively reasonable keeping in mind the facts and circumstances of the situation.

However, under this bill law enforcement officers may only use force if it prevents imminent threat of physical injury to an individual or to effectuate an arrest, according to a state legislative analysis.

When an officer uses force, they must stop once they have gained control and the individual no longer poses an imminent threat.

Under the bill, by July 1, 2022, each local law enforcement agency must include funds in its annual budget for training, while also posting use of force data on its website and updating the information every six months by Dec. 31, 2021, according to a state legislative analysis.

This legislation is one several single-issue bills supported by the ACLU of Maryland, the NAACP Maryland State Conference and other advocacy groups lobbying for police reform within the state.

"There needs to be a foundation for use of force that establishes a piece of accountability," Neill Franklin, a board member of the Law Enforcement Partnership, told Capital News Service.

"I do want to add that over 90 organizations throughout the state have joined together to support this bill, even some police organizations, especially the minority police organizations," Davis said.

It also aligns with the vision of criminal justice reform outlined by Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh, D.

"Central to achieving meaningful police reform is ending the use of excessive force," Frosh said in a press release.

As police reform has become a more polarizing topic nationally, proponents of the bill noted that Maryland is one of a few states in the nation that doesn't codify the use of force in state law.

"According to the National Conference of State Legislators, we are one of only nine states remaining without a standard like this in law," Cary Hansel, chair of the Civil Rights Section of the Maryland Association for Justice said at a Tuesday

House Judiciary Committee hearing.

However, both the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association voiced their opposition to the bill, expressing agreement with the idea in principle, but also addressing some concerns.

"The position of the police chiefs and sheriffs is that perhaps a better avenue for this would be a statewide use of force policy that would be put through the training commission," Chief John Nesky, president of the Maryland Chiefs Association, said at the Senate hearing.

"It would include the entire state, present the uniformity of philosophy and policy that we're trying to get through the bill," Nesky added.

The Police Training and Standards Commission is an independent body within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Nesky said that implementing a statewide use of force policy through the police training commission would allow for increased flexibility and agility when evaluating police departments' best practices.

He added that these practices may need to be altered quickly over time as police undergo tactical changes, in addition to differences in case law and technological advances.

"Use of force is difficult to get a feel of, use of force encounters aren't linear," Nesky told Capital News Service.

However, as police chief in Bowie, Maryland, Nesky is cognizant of the concerns that many people have surrounding police officers' use of force—engaging in conversations with residents in an effort to maintain trust between the police and the community.

"Change is not easy, when you see change you want it to be reasonable and operational," Nesky told Capital News Service.

A vote hasn't yet been scheduled for either the House or Senate version of the bill.

"I'm confident that we will get a use of force bill to the finish line this session," Davis said.

Maryland Department of Health Continues Direct Vaccine Outreach To Prince George's County Residents

State Setting Aside Priority Appointments For Residents From County's Priority List

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 11, 2021)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in partnership with Prince George's County leadership, continues to conduct direct outreach to sign up eligible county residents for the Six Flags America mass vaccination site as part of a multi-agency effort to boost vaccination rates in the county.

The state's call center is reaching out to a subset of the pre-registration list provided by Prince George's County officials. Calls to each contact are made at least three times and at different times of day. In addition, contacts received an email informing them that a representative will be in touch to schedule an appointment.

To date, this outreach to the county's priority list has led to booking appointments by phone for nearly 900 residents at the Six Flags mass vaccination site. In addition, thousands of county residents have signed up for appointments online. While the Six Flags site is open to all eligible Maryland residents, each week, the state will continue to set aside a tranche of appointments for

individuals on the county's priority list.

This is the most recent in a series of actions that the state has taken to support vaccination efforts in Prince George's County.

Last month, the Maryland National Guard deployed its first vaccination support team to the Prince George's County Health Department's clinic.

MDH has assigned 50 volunteers from the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps to the county.

The state prioritized Prince George's County for the retail pharmacy program to expand the availability of vaccines.

The state has launched a public outreach and equity campaign focused on promoting vaccine confidence and tackling vaccine hesitancy.

Governor Hogan has appointed Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead to head up the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force, which is also engaging directly with local jurisdictions.

Visit covidlink.maryland.gov for more information on Maryland's response to COVID-19. Vaccine and other coronavirus data are available at coronavirus.maryland.gov.

MPT to Air Documentary Tales of Belair at Bowie on February 20

Film presents a rare view of suburbia in early 1960s Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Public Television

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (Feb. 11, 2021)—Tales of Belair at Bowie will have its public TV premiere on Maryland Public Television (MPT) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 20. The one-hour documentary delivers a whimsical, nostalgic, and thought-provoking look at the 1960s Maryland suburb, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Belair at Bowie was built by developer William Levitt, widely credited as "The Father of Suburbia."

The film was produced and directed by Jeff Krulik, a Maryland filmmaker and Bowie native. A trailer is available at talesofbelairatbowie.com/.

Tales of Belair at Bowie will also be available for viewing on MPT's video player at video.mpt.tv/ starting February 21.

Belair at Bowie, in Prince George's County, was one of Maryland's first planned communities. It promised an idyllic suburban mid-

dle-class lifestyle. But was this community everything that was originally promised in its sales brochure?

Tales of Belair at Bowie presents firsthand memories and tours of homes from original community residents. It incorporates archival film footage and photos, including ironic commentary on 1960s American suburban life using clips from a West German documentary shot early in the community's development.

The film also takes a more serious look at the racial tensions that turned to protests of Levitt's discriminatory sales practices, as well as the challenges of building a flourishing community in a geographically secluded area.

Kruklik has worked as a documentary producer and director for more than 30 years. His films have been screened at the Museum of Modern Art, Lincoln Center, American Film Institute, and on PBS. In 2008, Kruklik produced the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Eatin' Crabs* Chesapeake Style for MPT's Chesapeake Bay Week.

EVENT RESCHEDULED

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Supports Community With New Initiative, Parks and Rec Cares

By ANGEL WALDRON

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 12, 2021)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation announces the launch of *Parks and Rec Cares*, a new initiative to provide support for residents of Prince George's County, with a drive-through donation drop-off on **Saturday, February 20, 2021**, from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m.

* Previously scheduled for February 13, the event was postponed one week due to inclement weather.

The Department will distribute donated items to the Prince George's Child Resource Center (PGCRC). The Resource Center helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children in Prince George's County by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. Each year, PGCRC provides family support services to thousands of families and training to thousands of childcare providers, parents, and human services workers.

INSIDE

- Bowie State Football Announces 2021 Signees
- Department of Public Works and Transportation Announces Participation in Nationwide "Health and Safety Commitments" Program
- Local Student Graduates From UW-Madison

Around the County, Page A2

ChildWatch:
Proud Shoutout to My Spelman College Sister Rosalind Gates Brewer
Speaking at Spelman's 2018 commencement, Spelman President Mary Schmidt Campbell said: "Those glass ceilings are real, but Roz Brewer has become an adept glasscutter."
Commentary, Page A4

Maryland May Ban Plastic Carryout Bags at Retail Shops

Local Chapter Holds Virtual Cooking and Fitness Event

Launch of Program to Support Aspiring Black Real Estate Agents Community, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Sharper's Florist closes after more than a century

How could it happen? Valentine's Day has come and gone without Sharper's! The family closed its doors after more than 100 years at the corner of Brinkley Road and St. Barnabas Road.

"To our valued customers" begins the announcement:

"Thank you for the privilege of your business for over 100 years.

"Your support and loyalty has allowed Sharper's to service many of you and your family members for a lifetime. We are truly grateful to have been able to convey your well wishes, congratulations, affection and sympathy through flowers.

The time has now come for our family to retire and embark on a new journey. We wish all of you health and happiness and thank you again for your patronage over the years."

Signed, "With love, the Sharper family."

One of the Sharper ads: "John Sharper Inc. Florist is a family-owned and operated business dating back to the early 1900s. We are a full-service florist so we can deliver next door to your home, the other side of the country and around the world."

The announcement had well more than 100 comments, such as:

Mary Ann: "When I lived in Fort Washington, Sharper's was the place to go. My husband and my family have shopped there for at least three generations."

Patrick: "I would drive by five florist shops to purchase from your establishment."

Sherri: "Probably the oldest continuously operating business in Oxon Hill."

Maria: "Where do we go now?"

And my personal comment: What will happen to the iconic Sharper's sign?

Neighbors & other good people

Congressman Steny Hoyer graduated from Suitland High School in 1957. (I like to see local people make it big.) I appreciate seeing him on the floor of Congress these days. But, what I personally remember is that back in about 1980 he knocked on my door. He told me he was running for office and asked me to vote for him. And told me why. I've been here since 1958 and never had another candidate knock on my door.

Fr. Charles Lockett has transferred from St. Mary's Church in Upper Marl-

boro to Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Chaptico.

Donna Reed Duckett, of Clinton, died Jan. 31. She grew up in Morningside, one of the seven children of Albert and Jean Reed, of Larches Court. Her parents and brother Dwight Reed predeceased her. Survivors include daughter Kellie, son John, and two grandchildren.

Condolences to Angelo Meoli, a longtime resident of Auth Village, on the death of his brother Dominic Meoli, of Berwyn, Pa., on Dec. 17. Ange had just suffered the death of his wife Marlyn in September. It's been a hard time for him.

Changing landscape

Move FBI Headquarters to Maryland? That issue is back in the news. The current building was completed in 1975 and has, according to a Washington Post editorial, a "crumbling façade, inadequate security, antiquated infrastructure and inadequate square footage." One of three new locations under consideration is the site of the former (and once glorious!) Landover Mall. Stay tuned.

The Washington Post Magazine has a featured story, "Is D.C. Finally on the Brink of Statehood?" They think so: "Maybe, just maybe, it could actually happen."

Esperanza Chicken & Grill is hosting its Grand Opening in the Clinton shopping center.

Lent began Feb. 17. When I was a child I gave up candy. What am I going to give up now?

Is Valentine's Day over?

It may be too late, but you could call 301-372-6690, and see. Because for Valentine's Day, Ed's Plant World in Brandywine was advertising their Be Mine Bundle for \$27.95: 1 dozen roses, 1 box of chocolates, 1 balloon and 1 Valentine.

If it's too late now, you might consider the offer next February.

Coronavirus report

As of Feb. 9, 5 p.m., Maryland had had a total of 365,529 cases and 976 new cases the day before. There have been 7,413 deaths, with 41 yesterday.

I'm still here and have had no bad effects from my shot last week. On Feb. 25 I'll have the 2nd shot.

Maryland had administered 634,055 doses as of Feb. 6.

It looks like CVS and Walgreens in

Clinton may be taking reservations.

Bill Hartman, Crossland grad

William "Bill" Hartman, 67, who grew up in Morningside, died Feb. 4 at his home in Columbia. He was the son of John and Mayme (or Mary) Hartman who lived at 6206 Suitland Road, according to the 1952 Morningside Directory. They were among Morningside's earliest residents.

Bill was a 1971 graduate of Crossland HS where he played varsity baseball. In 1980 he married Joyce Zanelotti. He had a successful 26-year career in sales, many friends and hobbies. He spent countless days coaching on the field—especially for son Tim—or cheering in the stands.

After retiring, Bill and Joyce moved to Delaware to fulfill their dream of living at the beach.

Bill is predeceased by his parents and siblings John, Edward and Mary Hartman. He's survived by his wife of 40 years, Joyce, son and daughter-in-law Timothy and Bridgid, three grandchildren, and sister Janet Farina. Services were at Sacred Heart Church in Glyndon, Md.

Mary Parks, one of eleven

Mary Schoenbauer (Hite) Parks, 98, of Camp Springs, died Dec. 23. She was born in Washington, one of 11 children. She was the beloved wife of the late Francis Schoenbauer and of the late Warren Parks.

She spent her later years at Charlestown Senior Living in Catonsville and was an avid bridge player well into her 90s.

She was the mother of Ron (deceased), John, Tom and Debbie, stepmother of Bill and Tim (both deceased). Grandmother of many. Survived by brothers Aubrey, Richard and Jerry and sister Nancy.

A memorial service will be held for Mary in Summer 2021. Donations in her name may be made to Children's Hospital.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Melissa Harnes and Paul Borman, Feb. 20; Ray Short Jr., Feb. 21; Larry Miller, Feb. 24; Kevin Gray, Feb. 25; Angela Hutchinson and Thomas "TJ" Flaherty, Feb. 27.

Happy anniversary to Clifford and Nancy Lantz on Feb. 26. And Happy 20th birthday to Wikipedia. What would we do without it?

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

COUNTY'S BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Clerk of the Court Waverly Webb swore in Jackie T. Shabe of Greenbelt and Rev. Robert Owen Johnson, Sr. of Brandywine to the County's Board of Social Services. Upon the recommendation of County Executive William W. Gullett, Council approved the two nominees August 22, 1983. Mrs. Shabe, a County Police Department employ and member of nine, had just finished a term on the board when she was confirmed for a three-year term to end in 1975. Rev. Johnson, Sr., pastor of the Brandywine United Methodist Church had been chairman of the Advisory Committee on Assistance to Families of Dependent Children in the Welfare Services since its start in 1963. Rev. Johnson served a three-year term until 1975. Information from Magan Pathik, Director, Area Agency on Aging.

REMEMBERING MY FRIEND RUTH TURNER

Remembering my friend, on her birthday February 2. She was a special lady to her family, her church, and her community. Mrs. Turner possessed a kind, giving spirit that touched the lives of many people in a positive way. Submitted by Rudell Jones.

AMAZON SMILE DONATION

Amazon Smile Donation to Community Support Systems. Just a reminder to sign up for Amazon Smile. We are ordering more these days. With each order you place, Amazon will donate a percentage of your total to Community Systems. Please tell your friends and family. We can donate without it coming out of our pocket.

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. Log into your Amazon account and select Community Support Systems Inc in Brandywine, Maryland at check out and presto you have donated. Remember: Amazon is donating monies based on your purchase. CSS works diligently to improve the quality of life of our neighbors. We appreciate any contributions you can make to help us fulfill our Mission. Our HEART is in our work. Won't you help us to help others? Stay safe. Follow the Governor's orders. Ethel Shepard-Powell, Executive Director, Kim Burch, Senior Program Assistant.

HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

VCDMA & HBCUCON present 'A Different World: HBCU Geeks', February 24, 2021 at 6 p.m. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have served as unique ed-

ucational and social environments for scholars of color and their allies since the abolition of slavery in 1865. HBCUs opened their doors to all, especially people of the African diaspora and other marginalized groups, at a time when most other institutions had outrageously low quotas, if not refused admission altogether. In a post-Jim Crow society, why are HBCU's still relevant today? What is the HBCU (nerd) experience? Contact Tewodross Melchishua Williams for the link to join the event. Visit the HBCUCON Social media pages, Instagram page, Facebook page. Contact Tewodross Melchishua Williams, Email: tewodrossm@gmail.com, website: <http://www.hbcucon.org>.

BOLD INDIVIDUALITY

Ananias Miranda, Elementary Education with a minor in Theatre Arts, is a Junior at Bowie State University. She is involved in the Caribbean Dance Club, United and Expressions, which is a spoken word club featuring poetry, music, rap, singing.

What makes you Bold? Me being willing to put myself out there. Making everyone laugh, meeting new people, trying new things. I grew up in Portsmouth, Virginia, but now we live in California in the Bay Area. Moving from California to Maryland, and leaving my mom, my main support system is bold.

What inspired you to choose your major? I have always wanted to be a teacher and mold our younger ones because they are going to be the next generation that leads us. I want to help them become good adults and good citizens who can change our world.

What makes Bowie State special to you? I love seeing all the people from different backgrounds coming together here to get an education and to be better. I really fell in love with the campus once I came to student orientation. The professors, the classes. I had heard nothing but great things. And so far, everything about this place has lived up to its name.

What have you learned about yourself at Bowie State? I learned that I am not as shy as I thought I was. When I am on stage, I am completely comfortable. Now I am learning to make the world my stage. I have learned to love myself for who I am. No matter what you do, someone will have an opinion, so it is easier to just be yourself. Contact webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

Around the County

Bowie State Football Announces 2021 Signees

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 5, 2021)—The Bowie State University Bulldogs football team announced the 2021 class of signees on National Signing Day—Wednesday, February 3. With the class of 12, the Bulldogs addressed some needs and wants on both sides of the ball and on special teams.

"I'm excited about the student athletes that our staff was able bring into the family. The average GPA of this signing class is over a 3.0 and the students are coming from winning environments," said Head Coach Damon Wilson. "We were able add more talent from the DMV that will help us continue to push the program forward. Most of the young men weren't able to play their senior season because of the pandemic so they will be extremely excited to compete in the fall."

2021 Bowie State University Football Signing Class

Jadon Carter	Lackey HS	DB	5-11	170	Bryans Road, Md.
Isaiah Copeland	Baltimore City College HS	DE	6-3	230	Baltimore, Md.
Joseph Graves	Old Mill HS	RB	6-0	205	Annapolis, Md.
Miles Griswold	Calvert Hall College HS	OL	6-3	290	Baltimore, Md.
BJ Howard	Northwest HS	DB	5-10	170	Montgomery Village, Md.
Darius Johnson	Baltimore City College HS	DT	6-1	270	Baltimore, Md.
Nate Kloss	Arundel HS	OL	6-1	280	Gambrills, Md.
Cephus McKune	Charles H. Flowers HS	OL	6-2	260	Largo, Md.
James Pitt	Charles H. Flowers HS	DE	6-3	200	Seat Pleasant, Md.
Elisha Powell	Mergenthaler Vo-Tech HS	WR	5-10	165	Annapolis, Md.
Rashawn Sibley	North Point HS	OL	6-1	280	Waldorf, Md.
Elisha Williams	Arundel HS	CB	6-1	170	Severn, Md.

—Gregory C. Goings, Bowie State University

Department of Public Works and Transportation Announces Participation in Nationwide "Health and Safety Commitments" Program

Prince George's County Joins Over 100 Public Transit Agencies Across the Country in Pledge to Operate Safely as Nation Recovers from Pandemic.

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 10, 2021)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) has joined the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) "Health and Safety Commitments Program," the public transportation industry's pledge to passengers that public transit systems are taking the necessary measures to operate safely as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Although we are steadily working to increase vaccination capacity, we still have a long way to go towards eliminating the COVID-19 threat within our community," said County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks. "Our participation, with APTA, reinforces our commitment to adhering to cleaning and social distancing best practices for the safety of our bus operators and passengers."

The health and safety of passengers and operators is the most important priority for Prince George's County's TheBus and Call-A-Bus services. Since the start of the pandemic, Prince George's County employees and contractors have worked tirelessly to keep riders safe from infection from the coronavirus. Prince George's County's TheBus and Call-A-Bus systems and the public transit industry are actively working to protect the health and safety of passengers and instill rider confidence. The four key areas transit systems are working on to address rider confidence include:

- Following public health guidelines from official sources
- Cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles frequently and requiring face coverings and other protections
- Keeping passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest times and routes to ride
- Requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill

"The Department of Public Works and Transportation fully supports national initiatives that reinforce best practices to fight against COVID-19 and to restore and maintain confidence in our transportation services," said Terry L. Bellamy, Director, DPW&T.

Prince George's County is committed to continually addressing and implementing pillars of the Health and Safety Commitments Program. Current health and safety plans for TheBus and Call-A-Bus services include:

- Wearing face coverings or masks while on transit facilities and vehicles
- Enhanced daily bus cleaning with electrostatic spraying and wipe-downs
- Installation of protective shields on buses and providing free face masks to bus riders

"The program being launched today is the public transportation industry's pledge to promote sensible policies and practices designed to keep transit users and transit employees safe during the COVID-19 crisis," said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas.

—Paulette Jones, Public Information Officer
Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

Local Student Graduates From UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis. (Feb. 11, 2021)—Nearly 3,000 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a virtual commencement ceremony on Dec. 13, 2020.

The ceremony, forced online because of the Coronavirus pandemic, was for doctoral, bachelor's, master's and law graduates.

John Felder, Sunday's alumni speaker, recounted how he and many of his fellow students advocated for change on campus five decades ago during the 1969 Black Student Strike. The strike led to the creation of the Afro-American Studies Department, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary on campus this academic year.

"It has fostered deeper understanding of our intertwined cultures," Felder said of the department. "It continues to speak of our rich diversity. We are very proud of the role we played in this achievement."

An estimated 2,932 degrees were conferred (2,117 undergraduate, 526 master's and 289 doctoral).

For more information about UW-Madison, visit <http://www.wisc.edu>. View the ceremony at <https://www.wisc.edu/commencement/>

Degree recipient from Prince George's County:
New Carrollton, MD: **Chukwudi Ihedinmah**, College of Engineering, Master of Science-Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

To provide the vital health care services you deserve, we need to **changeUP** how we care for you.

UP



To our friends and neighbors throughout Prince George's County and the region,

We understand that everyone wants a healthier future ... for themselves, their family, their community. And, we'd like to assure you that we're taking every step possible to changeUP how we care for you ... today and tomorrow.

As part of University of Maryland Medical System, we are driven to be the health and wellness partners you deserve. The ones who fight stronger and harder to provide the quality services you need throughout the entirety of Prince George's County. The ones who listen and respond. The ones who connect you to the most powerful advances, including academic medicine.

For years, we've been behind the scenes laying the groundwork. We've been building up our technology and resources, including a new primary and specialty care center in National Harbor ... a new, state-of-the-art hospital in Largo, opening this June ... and, in the coming years, an expansive, new outpatient center and health and wellness campus in Laurel - all to complement our other locations throughout the county.

We've also been teaming up with the finest doctors who represent our diverse community. Stepping up our capabilities in heart, surgery and women's health. And ensuring our community outreach program is available to anyone in our region who needs improved access to care.

We're changing up everything ... so you no longer need to travel outside the region for the quality care you deserve. Because here, we believe amazing health care can do so much more than make you feel better. It can bring our community together. And a healthier tomorrow for all of us starts today.

To your good health,

Nat Richardson, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
University of Maryland Capital Region Health



COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Proud Shoutout to My Spelman College Sister Rosalind Gates Brewer

On March 15 Rosalind Brewer, often seen on Forbes and Fortune magazines' lists of the world's 100 most powerful women, will become CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. making her the only Black woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company. As a proud Spelman College alumna and Chair of Spelman's Board of Trustees her success is another example of the extraordinary role historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played in instilling excellence in their graduates and preparing them to lead at the highest level in every field.

HBCUs have produced many business leaders, doctors, lawyers, faith leaders, educators and public servants well prepared to serve our communities

and help transform our nation including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who graduated from Spelman's brother school Morehouse College, and Mattiwilda Dobbs, a member of the Metropolitan Opera. The United Negro College Fund reported in 2015 that HBCUs made up only 3% of America's colleges and universities but produced almost 20% of all African American graduates and 25% of African American graduates in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Today alumnae like Spelman's Rosalind Brewer and Howard University graduate Vice President Kamala Harris are setting examples for children of color at the highest level and Black History Month is a fitting time to celebrate them and other trailblazers.

Brewer grew up in Detroit surrounded by a strong family and community. Her parents were employed at General Motors. She said: "At four years old, I would be home alone for a couple of hours between when my mom had to report to work and my older siblings came home from school. My mom would prop me up in the window, and the neighbors would all look to make sure my head was still there. Sometimes, as they walked by, the neighbors would yell, 'Don't you get off that couch!' You wouldn't leave your 4-year-old like that now, but it took a village to raise all of us." She was a first-generation college student who helps support others through Spelman's Rosalind Gates Brewer Scholarship: "They are what I call purposeful students. They are on a mission. But as first-generation students they face several challenges...When they think the odds are against them, I think they're in their favor because they are fighters. Nine times out of ten these students are breaking the mold when they come to Spelman College."

Rosalind Brewer knows a lot about breaking molds. She graduated from Spelman with a degree in chemistry and launched her professional career at Kimberly-Clark Corporation as a scientist. Over the next 22 years she climbed the management ladder and led one of the company's global divisions. She then joined Walmart and became president and CEO of Sam's Club and the first Black and first woman leader of a Walmart division. After Walmart she became the first woman and

first Black chief operating officer of the Starbucks Corporation and the second Black woman on Amazon's board. Speaking at Spelman's 2018 commencement, Spelman President Mary Schmidt Campbell said: "Those glass ceilings are real, but Roz Brewer has become an adept glasscutter."

Brewer told Spelman graduates, "When you're a Black woman, you get mistaken a lot. You get mistaken as someone who could actually not have the top job. Sometimes you're mistaken for kitchen help. Sometimes people assume you're in the wrong place. And all I can think in the back of my head is, 'No, you're in the wrong place.' The wrong place that 'sunken place' is everywhere, deep inside our culture. If there's a place where bias doesn't exist, I haven't found it." Her perseverance is an example, despite a culture still too resistant to recognize women and people of color as leaders in every sphere, I hope every little girl can learn about and emulate.

She joins Walgreens at a critical time as they engage in the massive effort to provide COVID-19 vaccines and make special efforts to target rural and underserved communities. The work to educate communities of color and assure them access to the life-saving vaccine is urgent and crucial.

It's extraordinarily hard to be what you can't see, and I am so grateful that Rosalind Brewer has become a very visible standard of corporate leadership and excellence for all women and children everywhere, especially those of color.

Taskforce Will Study College Students' Mental Healthcare Access

By CALLAN TANSILL-SUDDATH
Capital News Service

(Feb. 12, 2021)—College students nationwide are reporting increased instances of depression, anxiety, and related symptoms, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

A bill in the Maryland Legislature would create a task force to study the barriers this population faces when seeking mental healthcare.

College students are, under normal circumstances, at high risk of developing new and struggling with existing mental illness, according to the American Psychological Association.

"Late adolescence is a stage in life where a lot of mental illness presents; one in five youth have a diagnosable mental health disorder and suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10- to 24-year-olds," said Dr. Sarah Edwards, director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and medical director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services at the University of Maryland.

Preliminary research out of Texas A&M University shows the myriad emotions students are experiencing 11 months into the pandemic—fears about getting sick; isolation from family and friends; stress about the future—are only making mental health matters worse.

"Mental health issues are the leading impediment to academic success," the researchers wrote, and stress over the virus has exacerbated an already-increasing trend in students seeking treatment for anxiety.

Pandemic-induced social isolation is responsible for much of students' psychological turmoil, Edwards said. The primary developmental task of college-age students is to create and maintain close, intimate relationships, and the pandemic has all but prevented this.

"Having to be at home doing online learning really prevents that from happening," Edwards said. "The pandemic is certainly taking its toll because of the chronic stress and isolation and disruption of routines."

Del. Geraldine Valentino-Smith, D-Prince George's, who is sponsoring the cross-filed HB 244, also observes these trends and thinks it is clear the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing issues.

The findings of a 2019 Joint Chairman's Report on Mental Health, which Valentino-Smith said significantly influenced the bill's creation, indicated many of the issues surrounding access on campuses are longstanding.

The report, which looked at data from the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland, revealed the greatest challenges colleges and universities cite

in the effort to provide mental healthcare are a lack of staffing and resources, and the inability to meet student needs and expectations.

Retaining qualified staff is a challenge in and of itself, the report said, due in part to heavy workloads. The report said the University of Maryland, College Park—the largest university next to University of Maryland Global Campus—employed 25.2 full-time mental health and counseling professionals to serve more than 40,000 students, a 1 to 1,587 student-to-staff ratio.

Sen. Adelaide Eckardt, R-Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico, the lead sponsor of SB 161, previously worked in psychiatric nursing.

Her concern is both for students who are dealing with mental health issues for the first time as a result of COVID-19 and for those who have an underlying mental illness or substance abuse issue and struggle to obtain treatment.

"What we want to do is to get a good pulse on what our private and public schools of higher ed are already offering students, and then trying to see if that's adequate, or if we need to do more," Eckardt said.

The task force, which would go into effect June 1 and last for two years, will explore the ways in which the state's community colleges, private and public institutions of higher education approach mental healthcare and what barriers to access present most often.

But, Valentino-Smith said, fulfilling these needs looks different on every campus, and the task force will be able to look for solutions for each institution.

Once completed, the mental health task force would offer suggestions for areas of improvement, including how to eliminate financial barriers, how to implement tools like telemedicine, and whether specialized forms of therapy should be offered to students.

The task force will cost \$60,545 in its first year to assist the Maryland Higher Education Commission in hiring a full-time employee to staff the panel, according to a state legislative analysis.

Emma Content, a 2019 graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, testified Jan. 20 on behalf of the bill and said it is a crucial step toward supporting students.

Content was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and panic disorder as a college student, and she attributed her withdrawal from the rural campus for a year to inaccessible mental healthcare.

For years, she told lawmakers, students at St. Mary's have been clear that they need more mental health staff and resources, though she does recognize this issue is not unique to her alma mater.

Content said she hopes the task force examines all of these issues but thinks services for LGBTQ+ students, students of color, and first-generation students should receive extra focus, as these students may need more specialized care.

"If we fail to pass the task force we really miss the opportunity to start the robust discussion with a diverse group of experts that can help make recommendations for our future approach to these students," Valentino-Smith said.

Juvenile Reform Bill to Prohibit Life Without Parole For Many

By TORI BERGEL
Capital News Service

Sentencing juveniles to life without parole could essentially end in Maryland if legislation going through the General Assembly becomes law.

"No child should ever be told that they have no hope for the future but to die in prison. We are all of us more than the worst mistake we made as a teenager," Del. Jazz Lewis, D-Prince George's, the bill's sponsor, told Capital News Service in an email last month.

The bill, HB0409, also known as the Juvenile Restoration Act, would do two main things:

- Allow courts to deviate from sentence minimums required by the law when dealing with children younger than 18, and no longer allow the sentencing of juveniles to life without the possibility of parole or release.
- Allow someone who has already served at least 20 years for a crime committed as a minor to apply for a sentence reduction. In such cases, the sentencing court will conduct a hearing and the individual could receive a shortened sentence or even be released.

Jayna Peterson, an intern for the Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition, emphasized that the bill "isn't a 'get out of jail free' card."

"It will give people who have been rehabilitated the chance to have a life," she said.

She added that those who are still risks will stay in prison and serve out their sentences.

Advocates for the bill also argue that it is needed to help address the large racial disparity present in Maryland's penal system.

"Over 400 people would be immediately eligible for this review, meaning they have already served more than 20 years for a crime they committed when they were under 18," Lewis said in the email. "Of this population, 87% are Black, which is the worst racial disparity in the nation. The Juvenile Restoration Act is therefore needed to begin to correct a gross racial injustice."

A 2019 study done by the Justice Policy Institute, a national justice reform nonprofit, found that proportionally, Maryland incarcerates more Black citizens than any other state, with Black inmates comprising 71.3% of Maryland's total prison population—"and more than double the national average" of 32%.

Individuals who reported their race as Black alone make up only 13.4% of the U.S. population and 31.1% of Maryland's population as of July 1, 2019, according to the United States Census Bureau. Additionally, 82% of youths sentenced to life without parole in Maryland are Black, the highest proportion of any state, according to the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, a national organization focused on ending the extreme sentencing of children, based on records received from the Maryland Department of Corrections.

Preston Shipp, the senior policy counsel for the campaign, said the bill is "a step towards correcting just a terrible racial injustice."

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia have already abolished juvenile life without parole. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Graham v. Florida* that juvenile life without parole was unconstitutional in nonhomicide-related offenses.

In 2012, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miller v. Alabama* that juvenile life without the possibility of parole was unconstitutional in all but the most extreme cases.

The court found children to be constitutionally different from adults, therefore sentencing a child to life without parole would go against the Eighth Amendment, barring cruel and unusual punishment.

"Even though the court in that case (*Miller v. Alabama*) was dealing explicitly and specifically with mandatory life without parole for kids, what they went on to say is that it would be unconstitutional except in the rarest of cases, because it leaves no room for second chances," Shipp said.

In the 2016 case *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, the Supreme Court ruled that the Miller decision held retroactively for all cases that had been sentenced prior.

The states and jurisdictions that abolished juvenile life without parole based their decisions "largely on these (Supreme Court cases') holdings," Lewis wrote in the email.

"States as diverse as Texas and Massachusetts, Oregon and Arkansas, California and West Virginia, North Dakota and Nevada have all concluded that no child should ever be told that they have no hope for the future but to die in prison," he added.

Peterson said that Maryland is essentially using a loophole to sentence minors to life without parole.

Shipp clarified by adding that "that's what makes that 20-year judicial review in the Juvenile Restoration Act so terribly important," because the Maryland judicial system has ways of giving "de facto life without parole sentences."

"Somebody who's 15 who gets a 70-year sentence or a 90-year sentence...they're never gonna live to see the end of that sentence," Shipp said.

A recent study from Montclair State University found that juvenile lifers "can be considered low-impact releases."

The study analyzed juvenile lifers in Philadelphia, and, as of December 2019, of the 174 released during the time of the study, only six were rearrested—3.45%—and only two of those six were reconvicted—a recidivism rate of 1.14%.

The study compared its findings with the national rearrest rate of homicide offenders, of which "an estimated 30% are rearrested within two years of release."

The bill has received widespread public support on social media by celebrities including actors Alyssa Milano and Jon Cryer,

former Baltimore Raven Torrey Smith, and Meena Harris, a lawyer and niece to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Supporters used the hashtag #SupportTheJRA on Twitter.

Joseph Riley, the state's attorney for Caroline County and legislative chair of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association, testified in opposition during a Jan. 21 hearing, on behalf of the association.

Riley made clear that his opposition focused on the sentence-reduction aspect of the bill, saying that "it's not a second chance." Adults convicted of a crime—or juveniles convicted of adult crimes—have more than a dozen ways and opportunities to

See JUVENILE REFORM Page A6

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2021, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing -
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

COMMUNITY

Maryland May Ban Plastic Carryout Bags at Retail Shops

By MADISON HUNT
Capital News Service

SILVER SPRING, Md. (Feb. 9, 2021)—A Maryland House committee on Friday voted to approve a bill prohibiting all retail establishments from distributing a plastic carryout bag at the point of sale.

HB314, the Plastic Bag Reduction Act, cross-filled with SB223 in the state Senate, would tackle the plastic pollution problem in the state, advocates said.

Advocates for the bill said reusable bags create less waste, reduce the state's carbon footprint and will better the environment long term.

"Every step that we can take to reduce our society's reliance on single-use plastics is a nod to our children's future," said Del. Brooke Lierman, D-Baltimore. "We want them to be able to go to the beach where their only concern is jellyfish, not plastic bags."

There isn't a facility that can properly recycle plastic bags in Maryland because they damage the machines, Lierman added.

"In some of our county departments of waste they have to pay people to pull plastic bags out of the recycling machines, and if they don't end up in our recycling they end up in our water supply," Lierman told Capital News Service.

Mr. Trash Wheel, a solar-powered vessel, has collected more than 700,000 plastic trash bags from the Inner Harbor since 2014,

according to the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore.

However, the machine's technology can't separate plastics from the rest of the trash, so they are incinerated to create electricity, Mr. Trash Wheel's website states.

Kate Breimann, state director of Environment Maryland, said this ban is the first step in changing behaviors around single-use plastic.

"We need to change from single use to reuse," Breimann said.

Montgomery, Howard and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City charge a 5 cent tax on plastic bags.

A Maryland Sierra Club survey states these fees have cut down single plastic use by more than half in some local grocery chains.

In 11 Maryland counties, 85% to 99% of customers brought their own bag or no bag at all when the store did not provide plastic carryout bags and charged for paper and reusable bags, the survey found.

Beginning July 1, 2022, all retail establishments would be prohibited from distributing any bag less than four mils thick to any customer unless the bag contains: prescription drugs or live fish, multiple plastic bags, fruits or vegetables provided by a farm or orchard, among other authorized uses, the bill states.

The change would cost about \$82,000 in the first fiscal year to hire an attorney in the Maryland

Department of Labor to help implement the law, according to a state fiscal analysis.

At the local level, funding is expected to increase to enforce the bill, but small businesses will be impacted the most, the bill states.

Small businesses have until the effective date to switch to non-plastic use.

Last month, the bill had hearings before the Senate Finance and the House Environment and Transportation committees.

Zachary Taylor from the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance testified in opposition to the bill during the House hearing, citing the added burden it would put on small businesses that are already struggling due to the pandemic.

"For small businesses who are hurting it's going to take them a long time to recover," Taylor said. "Banning plastic bags are going to have them acquire alternative, more expensive products with costs that they cannot afford."

This bill was passed through the House and a Senate committee in the previous session, but ultimately failed after the Legislature ended early due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The bill now advances to the House of Delegates for a vote of the full chamber.

The Senate Finance committee has not yet scheduled a vote on its bill.

Local Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Holds Virtual Cooking and Fitness Event on Heart Health

By AVERI ALEXANDER
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

PRINCE GEORGES, COUNTY, Md. (Feb. 9, 2021)—Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. virtually held its annual 'Pink Goes Red' community impact day event. The theme, "Serious Matters of the Heart" was held on Feb. 5, 2021. The event aimed to educate African American girls and women on heart health and heart disease prevention. Nearly 300 participants logged on for the virtual activity, which included a panel discussion, fitness sessions, and a cooking demonstration.

According to Black Women's Health Imperative, only 36% of African American women are aware of the fact that heart disease is their biggest health risk.

"We want to remind everyone to take steps now for you and your family to promote a heart-healthy lifestyle," said Benita Swindell, president of Psi Epsilon Omega.

The panel discussion titled "From the Heart: Black Women Talk Heart Health," consisted of four panelists Kimberly Broadie, Danielle Lewis-Jones, Pamela Johnson, and Mamie Willis. Each woman shared her experiences with heart-related illnesses, giving advice on early warning signs, tips, and prevention strategies. "Making sure that you manage your stress level is very important," Danielle Lewis-Jones said. Mamie Willis encouraged participants to "Just enjoy your life; if you want to do something do it today. Tomorrow is not promised."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Chef Raquel Shortt offers a virtual heart-healthy cooking demonstration.

Following the panel discussion, Tarita Roots, a fitness instructor of FLMD Fitness led a brief high-intensity workout. Dr. Tammy Williams of Authentically You Yoga studio conducted a session to help participants cool down and relax.

Leading into the final segment of the event, Telene Shipley held a brief ice breaker to educate participants on heart-healthy food pairings. To close the event, Chef Raquel Shortt, provided a plant-based cooking demonstration and shared how to make sauteed vegetables over quinoa with herbed creme sauce.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt Maryland.

HomeLight and the National Association Of Real Estate Brokers Launch the Black Real Estate Agent Program to Support Aspiring Black Agents

Program is the first of its kind, providing financial, educational, and career support for aspiring Black real estate agents to help them achieve high-production success

By PRESS OFFICERS
NAREB / HomeLight

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (Feb. 9, 2021)—HomeLight, the real estate technology platform that empowers people to achieve better outcomes when buying or selling their home, announced today the launch of the Black Real Estate Agent Program in partnership with the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the largest and oldest minority professional real estate trade association in the United States. The HomeLight-NAREB Black Real Estate Agent Program—the first program of its kind in the United States—will provide financial, educational, and career support for aspiring Black real estate agents across the country, helping them achieve high-production success.

According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data, Black Americans represent less than 6 percent of all real estate professionals. The HomeLight-NAREB Black Real Estate Agent Program will seek to increase the number of top-producing Black agents in real estate, with the ultimate goal of helping improve the rate of homeownership for Black Americans across the country.

As part of the program, HomeLight and NAREB will help cover many of the onboarding costs for new agents up to \$5,000, including pre-licensing classes, agent exams, and select marketing and technology needs. Each program participant will be paired with an experienced NAREB Realtist who will serve as a mentor and advisor. Participants will also receive ongoing training and education above and beyond that which brokers typically provide.

"Our goal is to drive sustainable, structural change by increasing access to job opportunities as well as education around how systematic racism

has impacted the real estate industry," said Sumant Sridharan, Chief Operating Officer at HomeLight. "We're excited to partner with NAREB to offer this program to aspiring Black real estate professionals. Together, we believe we can fundamentally shift diversity and equality in our industry by increasing access to training, education, and support for Black real estate agents."

"NAREB applauds and welcomes the partnership with HomeLight. Our association's goal to achieve Democracy in Housing cannot be reached without the increase in the ranks of Black real estate professionals. Agents are the frontline and introduce homeownership to prospective clients. We are confident that this new program will not only equip Black American program participants with the knowledge and practical experience to become top producers in their communities but also significantly expand Black homeownership in their communities," said Lydia Pope, President-Elect at NAREB.

Applications are open immediately. HomeLight and NAREB are actively seeking aspiring Black real estate professionals who are:

- Between the ages of 18 and 35
- Interested in a career in real estate, but not currently established as an agent
- Willing to work with a NAREB broker during at least their first year in real estate
- Committed to spending five to ten hours per week working with mentors or on continuing education
- Located anywhere in the United States

"In the aftermath of the racially stoked unrest in 2020, NAREB and HomeLight formed a working partnership to increase the number of Black Americans in the real estate pro-

fession. This initiative works to close the income and racial wealth gap in the industry. As important, our efforts are designed to increase Black homeownership. Together, we're holding open the door that would otherwise remain closed to Black professionals and consumers," said Antoine Thompson, National Executive Director for NAREB.

For more information and to sign up, visit the Black Real Estate Agent Program.

HomeLight is a real estate technology platform powering the best real estate agents in the United States, building the future of how people buy and sell homes. HomeLight provides a variety of software and services to home buyers, sellers, and real estate agents at every step throughout the real estate journey, from finding a top real estate agent to accessing a network of cash buyers through HomeLight Simple Sale™ and providing innovative financing solutions through HomeLight Trade-In™. Each year, HomeLight facilitates billions of dollars of real estate on its platform. HomeLight is headquartered in San Francisco and has offices in Manhattan, Scottsdale, and Seattle. Visit www.homelight.com.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) was formed in 1947 to secure the right to equal housing opportunities, regardless of race, creed, or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. At the same time, NAREB advocates for and promotes access to a business opportunity for Black real estate professionals in all the real estate disciplines. NAREB annually publishes the State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report. For more information, visit www.nareb.com.



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Chief Attorney
Metropolitan Maryland Office
based in
Prince George's County

For more information visit:
www.mdlab.org/careers

