FREEDOM FUND CELEBRATION: A Huge Success

2021 Scholarship Winners

DESHAWN EJOGU – Walt Whitman High School Jack & Jill Scholarship, after graduation will attend Harvard.

TAYLOR WILKINSON – Thomas Edison High School Julian Norment Scholarship, after graduation will attend University of Pennsylvania and pursue her dreams of becoming a nurse.

KANAYO DURU – Montgomery Blair High School MECA and NAACP Scholarship Will attend Brown University as a biology major his goal to pursue a career in medicine so that he can serve as an advocate for equitable healthcare for all.

MORGAN DAISE – Richard Montgomery High School NAACP Scholarship She will attend Agnes Scott College and major in biology and early elementary education where she will carry out her goal and become a teacher.

AIDEN DOUGLAS – Seneca Valley High School NAACP Scholarship, will enter The Louisiana State University as he was inspired at an early age to become a physician.

MALACHI EVANS – Springbrook High School NAACP Scholarship, will attend The Louisiana State University where he will study kinesiology. He strives to obtain his Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

YVAN DJOUMESSI – Blair High School NAACP Scholarship A ‘Natural Leader’ 3.6 GPA aspires to be a Venture Capitalist. Will attend Montgomery College after High School Graduation.

TAYLOR BREADLOVE – Paint Branch High School NAACP Scholarship, will attend North Carolina A&T and major in nursing, her goal is to become a neonatal intensive care nurse.

KOBE JAMES GRIFFIS – Northwood High School NAACP Scholarship Plans to further his education as a computer science major at Howard University.

DAVID FLOWERS – Rockville High School NAACP Scholarship Earning a 4.67 GPA, he is a symbol of the epitome of excellence, he will begin his collegiate matriculation at Morehouse College.

ALEXANDER TOTO – Blair High School Shirley Brandman Has the love of theater and has taken all Honors or AP courses throughout his entire high school. He will enter Emerson College.

TANYA SEDAMI YAHOUDEOU – Watkins Mills High School Senator Nancy King Tanya decided to pursue a career as a psychiatrist. Will enter St. Mary’s College and pursue a degree in Neuroscience.

COMFORT OSHAGBEMI – Watkins Mills High School Senator Nancy King Her dreams of serving as a diplomat. Will attend The University of Maryland.

JONATHAN MONYEH – John F. Kennedy High School Senator Ben Kramer His passion of film and video production he will further his education at Stevenson University.

CASSIDY KENNINGTON – Northwest High School Delegate Julie Palakovich-Carr Will pursue her dream of becoming a math major at the University of Maryland.

JASJOT SAYAL – Northwest High School Delegate Lily Qi, will continue his academic studies at the University of Maryland as a biology/pre-medicine major.
ZOHNESEH FOPENAWOB – Spingbrook High School
Delegates Pamela Queen
Will continue her collegiate studies at the University of Maryland as a pre-law major.

RUTH BERHANU – Blair High School
Senator Will Smith
Will attend the University of Maryland to continue her studies in academic studies.

YOSEPH TEZERA – Blair High School
Senator Will Smith
An avid scholar, athlete, artist and community volunteer. Will pursue his studies in computer science at the University of Maryland.
Montgomery County Redistricting Commission

The process to map new Council districts for future Council elections

Why is a new map of Council districts needed?

Beginning in 2022, the number of Council districts will increase from 5 districts to 7 districts

The new districts must be drawn based on the current (2020) population

The Council Charter (the County’s Constitution) requires redistricting every 10 years...the last redistricting was approved in 2011

What is the Commission’s mission

Recommend to the Council the adoption of a map of 7 Council Districts from which voters in those district will have the opportunity to cast ballots for one District Councilmember and 4 at-large Councilmembers. The Commission must report to the Council by November 15, 2021.

The Districts must be substantially equal in population...approximately 150,000 residents in each

Districts should be compact and contiguous ... a district may not be composed of “islands” of land area.

Ethnic and racial groups must be identified to avoid diminishing their voting rights by either packing those populations in a single district or splitting those populations in a manner that dilutes their impact on elections

Commission “Ground Rules” for Mapping

Equal Population: Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment requires that the legislative districts across states be equal in population.

Compactness: Having the minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency (a circle, square or a hexagon is the most compact district).

Contiguity: All parts of a district being connected at some point

Minority Representation: Consideration of areas of population with majority of minorities.

Preservation of Counties and other Political Subdivisions: This refers to not crossing county, city, or town, boundaries when drawing districts.

Preservation of Communities of Interest: Geographical areas, such as neighborhoods of a city or regions of a state, where the residents have common political interests that do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of a political subdivision, such as a city or county.

How can you help?

What communities should be located in a single district?

What communities should be in separate districts?

Are there boundaries between district that you would recommend?

Information on Commission:

The Redistricting Commission will meet September 23 and every Wednesday in October at 5:00pm.

Meetings are Livestreamed on the Council FaceBook page (you do not need a FaceBook account to view)

Redistricting Commission webpage for meeting notice, agenda and minutes can be found at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/BCC/redistricting/index.html

Demographic Changes Summary

Age:

- Over 65 Population is up and rising
- Under 5 Population is falling, as are birth rates
- The younger population is more diverse

Race/Ethnicity:

- Increasing diversity but geographic segregation along racial lines
- Income/Race are correlated and share a geographic pattern

What communities should be located in a single district?

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Are there boundaries between district that you would recommend?

Redistricting Commission webpage for meeting notice, agenda and minutes can be found at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/BCC/redistricting/index.html
Welcome our New Pastors:

Goshen United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

Rev. Dr. Jalene C. Chase is an Elder in Full Connection in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. She holds a BS from the University of Maryland; a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and is currently Adjunct Faculty in the Practice of Ministry and Mission Department (PMM). She is trained as a Personal Development Coach through the General Board of Global Ministries.

She was the pastor of Community UMC - DC, Douglas Memorial UMC – DC, and Emmanuel UMC – Beltsville before becoming pastor of Goshen UMC – Gaithersburg on July 1, 2021. In one of the communities where she served, she was co-recipient of three awards to address disparities in Urban Black Youth Healthcare and recognized by 104.1, as a “Community Leader.” She partnered with Courtney’s House, an organization for survivors of youth sex-trafficking. She continues to serve on the board of Hyacinth’s Place a shelter for homeless women with a mental health diagnosis. She is also a board member of Wesley Foundation-Howard University.

She is the Parliamentarian of the National Black Clergy Women of the United Methodist Church; immediate past chair of the Black Clergy Women, Baltimore-Washington Conference UMC.

She is the Director of the International Interfaith Team, member of the International Appeals Team and a Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She has designed workshops and held several elected offices to include President of her Undergraduate and Graduate chapters and Parliamentarian on International, Regional, State and Local levels of the sorority. She was recognized at The University of Maryland, College Park’s 100 Years of Greek Life and is in the first class of members induced into Zeta-State of Maryland’s Hall of Fame in 2018.

She is the author of 31 Days: Spirit Scriptures and Songs – A Devotional; co-author of The Spirit of Sisterhood – A Devotional.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Brian Odem Bellamy

Reverend Brian Odem Bellamy, a native of New Haven, Connecticut is the son of Mrs. Dorothy Smith Bellamy and the late Mr. Elbert Bellamy. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Morehouse College, Rev. Bellamy earned a Master of Divinity degree as a “Robert Seymour Scholar” from Yale University Divinity School and a Master of Sacred Theology from the same institution. He earned a Ph.D. in Religious Social Ethics from the University of Exeter (United Kingdom) in conjunction with Hartford Seminary. Rev. Bellamy also completed an extended unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) with the Yale-New Haven Hospital Religious Ministries Department.

Rev. Bellamy has served as the Youth Pastor of Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church of Hamden, Connecticut for three years and as the Senior Pastor of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Hamden, Connecticut for twelve years. Under Rev. Bellamy’s exceptional leadership at Friendship, the congregation grew spiritually and numerically in mission and ministries. During his tenure, Rev. Bellamy led the development of new programs for the church and the community as they became a debt free congregation. In addition to purchasing investment property, Rev. Bellamy made numerous other accomplishments.

Outside of his work in the church, Reverend Bellamy was a professor in the Division of Arts and Sciences for fourteen years at the University of New Haven. He has participated with numerous community-based programs and organizations and has served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Windmill Foundation.

Rev. Bellamy was called to serve as the Senior Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in February 2021. A gifted, humbled, exceptional, and visionary leader, Rev. Bellamy is the ninth pastor in the Church’s 119-year history of worshipping Christ. As God continues to use Pastor Bellamy in fulfilling the call to this branch of Zion, the congregation is blessed to have him as its spiritual leader.
Office of the Attorney General seeks applicants for an Assistant Attorney General position to represent the Maryland Stadium Authority ("MSA"). The successful candidate will provide legal advice and representation to MSA, which owns and operates the facilities at Camden Yards, where the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens play, and oversees economic development projects throughout the State, including the construction of schools, convention centers, sports arenas and the like. Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, representation of MSA before State and federal courts in Maryland, as well as providing advice in connection with laws that apply to MSA.

Experience: The ideal candidate will have at least six years of civil litigation experience, Maryland Bar membership, and strong analytical and writing skills. Experience providing legal advice and representation in connection with State procurement law, public works contracts, and the State’s open government laws is preferred.

Submission: Interested persons should submit a résumé with cover letter explaining the candidate’s interest in the position, list of three references, and writing sample to: Cynthia M. Hahn at chahn@oag.state.md.us or 200 St. Paul Place, 20th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202 by close of business on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

The Office of the Attorney General is an equal opportunity employer that encourages all interested persons to apply regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, pregnancy, or genetic information. The Office is committed to recruiting, retaining, and promoting individuals who have historically been underrepresented in the practice of law.
A larger-than-life marble statue of civil rights pioneer Mary McLeod Bethune is replacing one of a Confederate general in the US Capitol's Statuary Hall.

Bethune will make history when she becomes the first African American to have a state-commissioned statue in Statuary Hall, according to a press release from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The daughter of former slaves, Bethune became an influential Black educator and civil and women's rights leader. She opened a boarding school for Black children in 1904, which later became Bethune-Cookman University.

"Dr. Bethune embodies the very best of the Sunshine State -- Floridians and all Americans can take great pride in being represented by the great educator and civil rights icon,"

DOZENS OF NEW STATE LAWS NOW ON THE BOOKS

Dozens of new laws that passed during the 2021 Maryland legislative session took effect on Friday. The bills cover a variety of topics ranging from police reform — which was at center stage this year — to racial equity and gun sales.

Overall, 771 bills were passed this year in the Maryland General Assembly. A list provided by the Maryland Department of Legislative Services shows some of the most “popular” topics this legislative calendar.

Business

SB 689: Establishes a mentoring program within large and established minority businesses for startup and small minority businesses. It studies a one-on-one assistance program for minority businesses to submit bids and proposals for procurement contracts.

Consumer protection

SB 327: Lets financially exploited older or susceptible people file a civil complaint against their exploiter, in addition to the current criminal penalties. It survives the death of the individual.

HB 1000: Prohibits a nonfamily guardian of a minor or disabled person from distributing or disbursing property without court authorization. It also matches the penalty for the guardian to that of a trustee.

Crime

SB 494: Authorizes courts to sentence a minor convicted as an adult to less prison time than a convicted adult would receive. Courts are also prohibited from imposing a life sentence without the possibility of parole or release. Minors are guaranteed the right to solicit the court to reduce their sentence.

Employment

HB 290: Extends the time to file employment discrimination complaints with the Commission on Civil Rights from six months to 300 days.

HB 581: Requires essential employers during a declared state of emergency to provide essential employees safe working conditions, including available safety equipment and free disease testing, a right to refuse to perform an assigned task; to provide federal or state-funded public health emergency leave and to report test results to the Maryland Department of Health.

SB 473: Requires employers with 15 or more employees to allow workers to use any earned pay leave for bereavement leave for an immediate family member.

Environment

HB 391: Expands restrictions on intentionally releasing balloons into the atmosphere. The following groups are prohibited from intentionally releasing a balloon into the atmosphere: a person 13 or older, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a nonprofit agency, the state, or any unit of a political subdivision. It also requires certain local governments with enforcement authority to report the violation.

HB 298: Requires the Power Plant Research Program to include an evaluation of the impact of electric power plants on climate change as part of its ongoing research.

HB 1207: Requires members of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to reflect the state’s facial, gender, ethnic and geographic diversity. It also requires the commission to meet at least six times per year and hold at least four community listening sessions.

Guns

HB 4: Requires people to complete sales, rentals or transfers of rifles and shotguns through a licensed dealer. The dealer must conduct background checks through the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems.

Police reform

SB 178: Allows certain people to review disciplinary records of law enforcement agents for misconduct, internal affairs investigations, hearings and disciplinary decisions for review under the Maryland Public Information Act. It also requires “no-knock” search warrants to first be approved in writing by a police supervisor and the state’s attorney, and executed only between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., absent critical circumstances.

SB 600: Requires law enforcement to report any “potential police-involved death” of a civilian to a new independent investigative unit in the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland.

Other

HB 1261: Allows wills, powers of attorney and advance directives to be authorized electronically and witnessed remotely.

HB 130: Establishes the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives.