

THE CAPITAL NEWS

Certified Business Enterprise

The Untold Stories

Todd Talks About His Love of Ward 4 and Politics

Washingtonians Demand Transparency from Federal Government Over Decision on Halfway House



By: James Wright/Malikia Johnson
Special to the Capital News

By Pierre Hines

If someone wanted to have a career in politics and public service, they could find no better example of that than D.C. Council member Brandon Todd (D-Ward 4). Todd has occupied his position for almost 4 years, and says that his priorities are the same as his first day in office. When asked about the most significant influences on his career Todd looks to his mother, grandmother, and Mayor Muriel Bowser as a reminder of his priorities. Among the most important is “to do what I say I’m going to do,” - a standard he holds for himself daily.

“In the last three months, we’ve made more progress for D.C. statehood than at any other time in the District’s history,” Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton said. And for the last few months, a battle over where the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will house hundreds of returning citizens released from prison is “Exhibit A” for why it is so critical for D.C. residents to control their own destiny.

Years ago, the District had four halfway houses to help men transition

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Community News



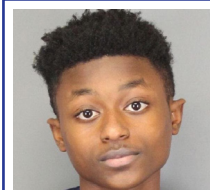
Raise Your Hand If You're A Woman in Business
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Bowser Says D.C. is Strong
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National News



Georgia Teen With No Prior Record Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison
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THE CAPITAL NEWS

THE UNTOLD STORIES

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If you would like to place a small job advertisement, housing advertisement or automobile advertisement in the paper please email the editor with the information and the paper will contact you about pricing for your ad.

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Todd worked seven years for Muriel Bowser, then the Democrat representing Ward 4 on the D.C. Council, as a staffer dealing with all types of issues but specializing in constituent services. When Bowser was elected mayor of the District of Columbia in 2014, he took his boss's position by winning a special election in 2015 and getting a full term in 2016.

Todd isn't the first staffer to win a seat on the D.C. Council, sharing the experience with D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) and D.C. Council members Charles Allen (D-Ward 6), David Grosso (I-At Large) and Anita Bonds (D-At Large). Still, his experience is his own and he shared his thoughts about Ward 4, D.C. politics and his priorities with the Capital News.

"I watched Bowser fight for resources for Ward 4," Todd said. "I helped her do that for seven years and as the council member for Ward 4, I am committed to doing the same."

Todd said he knew his passion for politics was real when he was a youngster.

"I was an outgoing child with lots of energy," he said in his first-floor office of the John A. Wilson Building on March 21. "I enjoyed being around people."

Todd said when he was in school his favorite subjects were English and Spelling, saying that "he loved to learn new words".

He said writing was also a favorite activity and enjoyed writing term and research papers for school.

"Just let me write a paper," he said, "and I would immerse myself in a subject. I wish I could write more papers now."

Todd holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Bowie State University and a MBA from the Trinity University.

The Capital News is speaking with Todd during the start of the District government's budget season. Bowser submitted her budget to the council on March 20 and Todd likes what he sees for the

most part.

"The mayor's budget makes proud investments across the city and focuses on affordable housing and that is good for Wards 4 and even Ward 8," he said. "She is focusing on the middle class and the middle class tends to be forgotten. It is tough to stay in the D.C. and that is why I support her proposal for workforce housing.

"I also like the investments in infrastructure that her budget calls for because there are a lot of potholes in the streets."

Todd said in Ward 4, he wants to utilize the mayor's budget to help seniors age in place, spur economic development and bring more resources to Ward 4 schools. Todd has the second largest number of seniors in the District in his ward and he has worked to see that they are taken care of. He noted that the financial status of seniors can be deceptive. The council member said even seniors who are married and both are retired can have some financial hardships because of rising property taxes and health care costs. "Double D.C. retirees can seem to be doing well with \$75,000 a year but their expenses are increasing," Todd said.

Todd said he will work to support more economic development along the Georgia Avenue, Kennedy Street and Riggs Road corridors. He said building more affordable housing units in Ward 4 and using the Walter Reed Development on Georgia Avenue as an example of how that need can be diversified.

"At Walter Reed, we will have many units dedicated to veterans, families and seniors," Todd said.

Regarding schools in the ward, Todd wants to expand education offerings and investment in school buildings' structures.

During his four-year tenure on the council, Todd said the legislation that he is most proud is offering dental services to seniors for free or at a low cost.

"Seniors say that their health care coverage didn't include dental services and I saw that was missing," he said. "I am happy that Mayor Bowser put

\$500,000 in her budget for that program.”

Todd is the chairman of the Committee on Government Operations that is charged with overseeing the executive, administrative and operations functions of the District government. His jurisdiction includes the Executive Office of the Mayor, the various offices that deal with racial and ethnic residents such as the Office of the African American Affairs and council entities such as the Secretary of the Council.

Todd said he enjoys being a council member and serving the residents of Ward 4. He understands that passing legislation in the 13-member council requires seven votes and said he has a good working relationship with his colleagues, even D.C. Council member Vincent Gray (D-Ward 7), whom he helped unseat as mayor in 2014 working in Bowser’s campaign.

“You cannot pass legislation by yourself,” Todd said. “All 12 of my colleagues are friends.”

Todd said he plans on running for re-election in 2020 but know what his present duty is.

“I am singularly focused on representing the residents of Ward 4,” he said.

When asked about the future of DC Todd expressed hope that all Washingtonians are able to stay and experience re-development aside from the amount of diversity that enters the city. Mr. Todd left the interview commenting that the residents’ voices matter. Whether you contact him through email, stop him in the grocery store, or see him at a community meeting he welcomes all feedback about how he can do great work. ■



Hines continued from pg. 1

from prison to society. Due to rigid regulations imposed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), three of those facilities have closed shop. Hope Village, a halfway house in Ward 8, is the only remaining halfway house in the District. It has been in operation over 40 years, employs nearly 100 people, and is the largest reentry center in the country.

Back in 2015, the Federal BOP began preparations for a new contract to operate a halfway house in the DC metro area. One month later, a company called Core DC registered to do business in the District. Core DC is purportedly led by a retired prison warden who lives in Florida and is affiliated with Core Services Group, an organization located in New York City.

After 14 amendments to the competition requirements, the Federal BOP awarded Core DC a \$60 million contract in November 2018. Only after that contract was issued did many Washingtonians learn that the Federal BOP (led by a contracting officer in Arizona) and Core DC (led by execs in Florida and New York) agreed to open a halfway house in Ward 5.

The lack of transparency flies in the face of the contract requirements. They mandate that all competitors submit “documentation to evidence community support or acknowledgment for the location” of any proposed halfway house and notify local government officials. “As the Council member for Ward 5, I have received no such notification,” Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie wrote in a letter to the Federal BOP.

Initially, Core DC told local residents it did not have an obligation to do community outreach prior to winning the contract. But documents later revealed in litigation contradicted that assertion. As proof of community support, Core provided the BOP with eight letters: none of which are from organizations with ties to Ward 5; two are from organizations in Maryland; and three contain the same verbiage (suggesting that someone ghost wrote those letters). It turns out that Core cold-called various organizations listed on a DC Government website and, at the time of its proposal,

didn’t have any true support from the community it proposed to serve.

To make matters worse, the Federal BOP and Core DC intended the facility to house high-risk offenders, including violent sex offenders who have molested children, without ever consulting the Washingtonians who would be affected by this change in policy. Previously, halfway houses operating in the District were not obligated to accept violent sex offenders. Instead, those type of offenders have gone to a facility in Baltimore that has a sex offender treatment program and is monitored by a D.C. advisory council. In a letter to the Federal BOP, Congresswoman Norton called the change “unwarranted, unworkable, and unacceptable.” Further, Ward 5 residents pointed out that United States National Arboretum, a botanical garden research facility that receives 500,000 visitors annually (including my 18-month old daughter), sits across the street from Core’s proposed facility.

Regardless of how one feels about housing high-risk offenders, at a minimum, the Federal BOP and any contractor ought to be straight with Washingtonians. In a case filed by Hope Village with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) – an agency that resolves disputes about contract improprieties – both the BOP and Core DC asserted that Hope Village was ineligible to receive the contract because it would not agree to a mandatory requirement to accept violent sex offenders. Yet weeks later, at a February 25, 2019 community meeting, Core DC told local residents that it too would have discretion to reject violent offenders. In other words, what Core told the GAO contradicts what the company is now telling local residents.

When Washingtonians learned about plans to open the halfway house, they mobilized. Residents made hundreds of calls to local officials and a dozen of us filed a lawsuit challenging Core DC’s purported zoning approval to operate a halfway house. And the property owner of the proposed facility, Douglas Development, refused to lease its property to Core DC – in large part because of Core’s treatment of Washingtonians.

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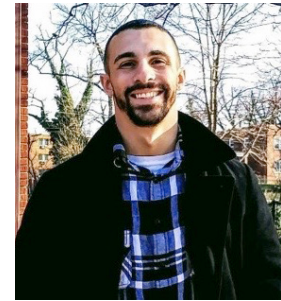
Then on February 21, 2019, the GAO issued a decision in which Hope Village prevailed in its legal challenge of the BOP contract award to Core. The GAO ruled that Core never provided sufficient proof of its right to lease the New York Avenue facility (in violation of BOP rules) and proposed various options for BOP to correct the competition process.

Shockingly, on March 1, the Federal BOP threw up a buzzer-beating shot by asking the GAO to reconsider its ruling. The BOP now claims it has a document – one that it never revealed during months of litigation – that shows that an unnamed third party could have qualified to win the contract. In essence, the BOP alleges that because Hope Village would have been at least third in line to win the contract, it lacked standing to challenge the improprieties of the BOP contract award to Core. Presently, the GAO is considering that motion.

Meanwhile, Core DC is making it rain in the District, sprinkling money around in an apparent effort to gather the community support it never bothered to seek in the past. Public finance records reveal that Core DC donated \$10,000 to Mayor Muriel Bowser's inaugural fund. Why would a company with no footprint in the District all of a sudden want to celebrate our Mayor's re-election? Your guess is as good as mine, but a reliable source told me that this donation is "just the tip of the iceberg." Core DC also has added a number of local consultants to its team, including a local lobbyist, a former DC official, and a community organizer. But eventually, the money will dry up. At the end of the day, Core is running a sprint, and Washingtonians are running a marathon. And those like myself who have voted for the Mayor will be here long after Core DC realizes it cannot buy its way into this community.

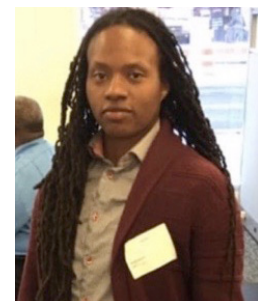
So what's next? Services are being provided by Hope Village with strong community support, yet, the community does not want Hope Village to accept predatory sex offenders. If and when the GAO rejects the Federal BOP's motion to reconsider, BOP will have a choice. Rather than redo the competition in secrecy, BOP should seek input from DC's elected officials, the Washingtonians who live near any proposed facility, and independent advocates for returning citizens. Further, it makes no sense to use a hammer when the situation calls for scalpel. The regulations governing how and where to house returning citizens should be tailored to the unique circumstances of the District. The 700,000 taxpaying citizens of the District – who lack official representation in Congress – deserve nothing less. ■

Word on the Street



I think Bus Boys and Poets coming to Anacostia is a good thing. With them being well known, it would bring D.C. notoriety with visitors coming from other states. Visitors would experience D.C. culture with different events.

Bryan Jones
Administrative Assistant
(Momma's Safe Haven - Nonprofit)



Bus Boys and Poets coming to the Ward 8 community is a great idea. This is a great venture for the community because of its selection in the variety of food and the loving warm place of the bookstore inside.

Ryan Irving
Laborer - (Blue Skye Construction)



I am so excited. This is one of my favorite restaurants. Thanks [Busboys and Poets] for supporting us, as Washingtonians, with more positive and uplifting things to do.

April Williams
Commercial Cleaner -
(Lego Cleaning Services)

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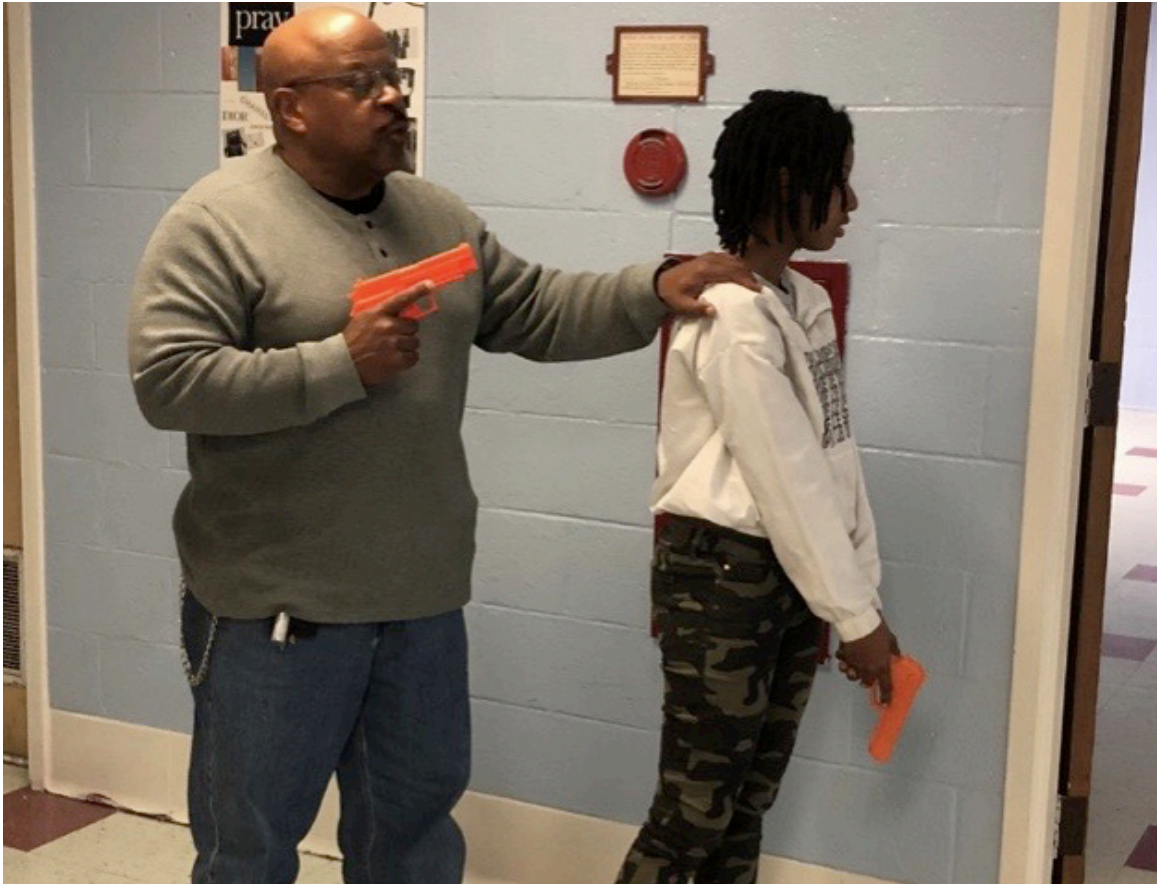
WASHINGTON, March, 2019 – CHCTDC’s 2019 CBE Entrepreneurship Boot Camp is a FREE and intensive entrepreneurship series that gladly provides nearly 20 hours of classroom education and training for executives of small, poised-for-growth companies that are potential job creators. Our women boot-campers are being equipped with the necessary small business training to help them elevate their story to investors and banks, large government and corporate buyers, plus consumers. These women are also assisted in opportunities for small business owners to work with experienced coaches and mentors, attend workshops, and develop connections with their peers, local leaders, and the financial community.” In the past 20 years, the growth rate for women-owned businesses has dwarfed the national average—increasing by a staggering 141% compared to 44% for all businesses,” reports Forbes.com. Research also suggests that women entrepreneurs are just as successful as their male counterparts. Betsy Dougert, director of communications for SCORE says: “Women entrepreneurs are succeeding despite many obstacles and odds that are stacked against them.” ■

Need Business Assistance?

Congress Heights Community Training & Development Corporation (CHCTDC) Small Business Technical Assistance Center provides FREE Small Business Technical Assistance? CHCTDC provides a variety of services to small businesses to help them succeed. The training and counseling is for established business owners and also for start-ups or people who are thinking about starting a business. The assistance provided includes but is not limited: Business planning; Marketing planning; Finance planning; Entrepreneurial training; One-on-one business technical assistance; Referrals for tax preparation assistance, accounting assistance, and legal assistance. ■



Facilities Management Solutions Students Successfully Completes National Certifications



Students from The Facilities Management Solutions Program of Congress Heights Community Training and Development Corporation (CHCTDC) completed their OSHA 10 and flaggers certifications this week.

OSHA 10 is an outreach and voluntary training program provided by Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA), United States Department of Labor. It provides 10 hours of training to the workers and employees touching on appreciation, prevention, avoidance and reduction of safety and health hazards in the workplace. It also enriches the workers knowledge on their rights, employer responsibilities and procedures for complaints and suggestions. This course further enriches our students in the development of their professional skill set.

The ATSSA Flagger Certification is a basic course that prepares each worker to handle the responsibilities associated with highway flagger responsibilities; this certification is eligible for 3 years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also states that the median hourly income of flaggers and other construction laborers and helpers in 2010 was \$17.00 per hour, which translates into \$35,360 a year. The great thing about this certification is that gives our students the ability to employment immediately.

The following students completed these certifications: Dontae Skinner, D'Erika Robinson, Iesha Lee, Jahi, Lewis, James Landy, Anthony Ettison, Alhaji Sesay and Bertrand Essom. If you are interested in securing these valuable certifications along with other nationally recognized ones, please call 202-563-5200 for further information. ■

CHCTDC's Careers and Certifications, 2nd Cohort starting NOW!

Registration for the CHCTDC's Careers through Facilities Management, 2nd cohort recently started on Friday, March 15, 2019. The program options feature both Physical Security and Building Maintenance. This just may be the perfect opportunity that is right for you, so mark your calendars because orientation officially begins on Friday, April 5, 2019. If you are interested in securing these valuable certifications along with other nationally recognized ones, please call 202-563-5200 for further information. ■

CH Neighborhood Roadway Clean-Up: Calling ALL Volunteers

We're cleaning up the Congress Heights neighborhood & would love your help.

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Tent/Check Point Location:
Congress Heights Neighborhood
Congress Heights Plaza, 3119 Martin Luther
King Jr. Avenue SE 20032
Healthy refreshments will also be provided

For more information contact:
Baldin Needham, (202) 563-5200 –or- email
Baldin@chctdc.org

Bowser Says D.C. is Strong



By James Wright
Special to the Capital News

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser delivered her fifth “State of the District Address” at the University of the District of Columbia and was enthused about her hometown’s state of being.

“There’s no doubt about it: In 2019, the state of the District is strong,” she said to the cheers of the hundreds in the theater auditorium.

Bowser said the District is strong despite having Donald Trump in the White House and let the audience know that she has their back.

“I want you to know that I have tried in good faith to work with the current federal administration, and I will continue to do so,” the mayor said. “Sometimes it means sitting across from the president himself and telling him who we are, what we believe and where we are heading as a city. Like I said before: I will sit across from the president so you don’t have to.”

Bowser said the 2020 presidential candidates who want to replace Trump need to hear from District voters. As a result, she endorsed moving the 2020 presidential primary.

“And so tonight, I call on the council to help us get D.C. in the game by moving our 2020 primary up from June to April,” she said.

Throughout her speech, she mentioned candidates U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg as possibly advocating measures that could help the District such as Booker’s idea on Opportunity Zones in which

18 of the 25 in the city are located in Wards 7 and 8, Harris’s initiative to offer tax credits and cash payments to struggling middle class families and Warren’s support for anti-redlining regulations that hurt Black families and communities.

Bowser paid a lot of attention to the wards east of the Anacostia River. She noted the opening of the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Congress Heights and the new Busboys & Poets in Anacostia.

The mayor didn’t stop there.

“Last fall, I introduced the very first TIF (tax incremental financing) in Ward 8,” she said. “That means a \$60 million investment for the new home of a 200-person government agency, a hotel and other amenities—right on Martin Luther King Avenue. With each new investment: more jobs and new opportunities for residents of Ward 8 and beyond.

“And if we’re going to ensure residents in the East End have what residents enjoy in the West End, we need to realize every tool we can.”

Bowser said that she will see that every third, sixth and ninth grader has a new laptop or tablet in her proposed budget and Randle Highlands Elementary School in Ward 7 will be re-opened for the fall, as a goal. She said the Early Learning Tax Credit, which provides families with a credit of \$1,000 per child enrolled in a licensed D.C. child care center, will be permanent.

In a surprise move, Bowser said the D.C. Circulator, the city-funded bus system that has been free for February and March, will be free from now on. That statement was followed by great applause.

The District has an affordable housing crisis and Bowser will fight it by cutting the property taxes for seniors and offering tax credits to renters and low-income home owners.

The mayor said she wants to increase the Housing Production Trust Fund to \$130 million and create

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a \$20 million Workforce Housing Fund for teachers, police officers, firefighters, janitors, social workers “and everyone else who has a good job but also needs to be able to find an affordable home.”

Bowser said she will work with D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) to have the RFK Stadium site that is federally owned transferred to the District government.”To be clear, there is no deal to bring a professional sports team to that site,” she said. “Whether a stadium or sports arena is included in the re-imagined RFK Campus is a debate for a future date, which we as a city must decide for ourselves.”

Bowser closed her address with a pitch for D.C. statehood.

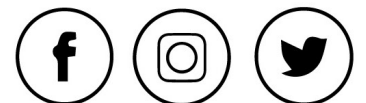
“Momentum for DC statehood is at an all-time high,” she said. “Our congresswoman has secured over 200 co-sponsors for our statehood bill and this month, Congress endorsed D.C. statehood for the first time ever.”

She thanked District residents for the chance to lead them. “Together, we will press on, and because we will stick together, the state of the District will remain strong,” she said. ■




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Community College Preparatory Academy Public Charter School

Request for Proposals

The Community College Preparatory Academy Public Charter School solicits expressions of interest in the form of proposals with references from qualified vendors for the following:

Consulting Services:

The Community College Preparatory Academy Adult Charter School (CC Prep) is seeking the services of an organizational development or management consultant to assist the organization's board and executive leadership with the development and execution of integrated governance, strategic, and operational policies, procedures, practices and planning processes that increases the organization's accountability, quality, and presence. The intended work is to foster the organization's growth, exceed customer expectations, and create impact within a city undergoing a significant economic and demographic transformation.

To request a copy of the RFP please email rfp@ccprep-academy.org with the subject line Request for Consulting Services.

Deadline for submissions is 10:00 pm Wednesday, March 27, 2019. No phone calls please.

Proposals should be sent to:

Monica Jones

Director of Operations

Community College Preparatory Academy

rfp@ccprep-academy.org

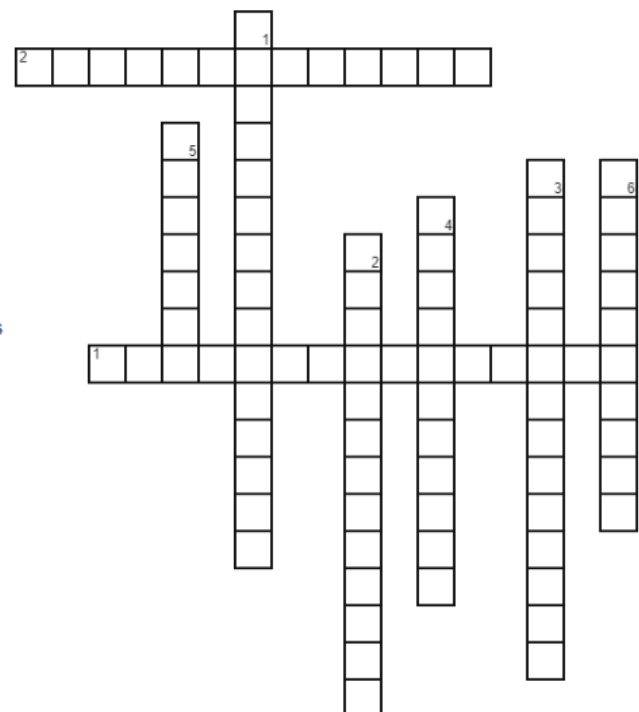
Capital News Crossword April 2019

Across

1. A restaurant that sells DC Tap Water
2. Home of the Gogo(Hint _____ City)

Down

1. Father of Black history
2. "Theatre of the People"
3. First Black woman to serve in Congress
4. Ward 4 Councilmember
5. Ballou High School Mascot
6. Best sauce to go on wings



The Knowledge Garden



By Eric Johnson

Gardens are usually planned spaces designed for cultivation and growth. Moreover, gardens in one way or another bring enjoyment and often meditation. In this life nothing is guaranteed and as a result we have to live with and on purpose. Our time in this life is both uncertain and too short. Capital News has dedicated an ongoing section intended to encourage us all to meet a better version of ourselves as often as possible. This life we live has a tendency to hit valleys and take turns to places that are both unexpected and unwelcomed. In those moments we are often faced with only two choices. We either learn the lessons this life offers or we spiral into a set of events that seem only to hasten our demise. The space dedicated to “The Knowledge Garden” serves to invite us to consider ideas, principles, and possibilities that move each of us forward on our unique journey. There are no recipes, road maps, or specific behaviors that any of us can pass on to another. Each of us travels a distinct journey where the evaluation of progress is often the eye of the beholder and because of that complex but beautiful reality we offer “The

Knowledge Garden” as a metaphorical waterhole where we can be replenished intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally for a journey that at times can seem to be unforgiving.

The struggle to live with and on purpose does not mean the absence of challenges or even failure. The Knowledge Garden offers no easy answers or oversimplified analyses. There are times when disagreement is both appropriate and healthy. Every relationship worth having presents us with opportunities to grow and those opportunities are almost always uncomfortable, painful, or unwelcomed. The most important growth opportunities are often all three. Consequently, “The Knowledge Garden” seeks to push us when necessary, inspire growth consistently, and feed our souls every month. This thing we call life is not for the faint of heart it can take us to some dark places but we must be steadfast in the belief that “Joy cometh in the morning” without fail. It is with great excitement and anticipation of the possibilities that Capital News unveils a new monthly column that severs to identify our struggle and point us to the light. The Knowledge Garden is a place to discuss the issues of the day in the way that matters to us and to highlight in our surroundings, the stories that make us better. We ask that you join us every month and invite a friend. The Knowledge Garden invites each and every one of us to wake everyday with intention to tend our own garden with the work necessary to bring out the best version of ourselves. Until next month....

Eric L. Johnson, Ph.D. ■

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Congress Heights Arts and Culture Center

Juneteenth Fundraiser and Dinner

June 21, 2019 | 6 pm

Democracy Prep Congress Heights Pcs

3100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.

SE

Across

1. busboysandpoets
2. chocolategity

Down

1. carterg.woodson
2. howardtheatre
3. shirleychisolm
4. brandontodd
5. knights
6. mumbosauce

Message from CIC Executive Director



By: Donald Isaac, Sr

The past month has been full of meetings, reports, and interactions with our federal, district, and community partners. I heard a presentation from the leadership of CORE, and held meetings with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Rethink Reentry, and other individuals and organizations from the advocacy community. A high point of the past month was my participation in an inspection of the CTF and CDF in response to the concern regarding lack of outdoor recreation. This experience marked my entry into this aspect of CIC operations, and I was pleased with both the cooperation of the DOC and the professionalism and competence of the CIC team.

Within the past thirty days, I have prepared testimony for the Judiciary Committee of the Council of District of Columbia for a Performance Hearing for the agency, and for support of Bill 23-0127, the "Second Look Amendment Act of 2019." Also, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs (MORCA) hosted a meeting with the CIC and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). This meeting was held at the MLK office of MORCA and was an important initial step toward greater coordination between these offices. We were also pleased to witness the opening of the DOC Reentry Center, and to start in the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DOC.

Last month, we were glad to welcome Kareem McCraney as the newest addition to our team, and this month we are saying goodbye to our most tenured staff member, Laura de las Casas. Laura has certainly distinguished herself as a capable, competent member of the reentry community, and her absence will be felt on many levels. We wish her the best in her new endeavors.

In the coming months we are looking forward to a new office, new staff, and new aspects of our operations. I want to thank all of the individuals, organizations, community advocates, and government entities for their acceptance of me in my new role, and for the willingness that each of you has shown to work together for the betterment of the men, women, youth, and families impacted by incarceration in America.

The President of the United States has designated April 2019 as "Second Chance Month." I close with words from his letter:

"For the millions of American citizens with criminal records, the keys to successful re-entry are becoming employable and securing employment. Beyond the income earned from a steady paycheck, gainful employment teaches responsibility and commitment and affirms human dignity. As a Nation, we are stronger when more individuals have stable jobs that allow them to provide for both themselves and their loved ones."

As the Executive Director of the CIC I go on record as stating that we are committed to seeing this goal manifested in our policies, programs, and operations both in and outside of the institutions. ■



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WARD 8 AND ALL DC RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Overview of the South Capitol Improvements Project

The former South Capitol Street Shopping Center is being redeveloped by City Interests, LLC and The Michaels Organization. This mixed-use project is comprised of a 195-unit affordable multifamily building and 5,500 sq. ft. of community/office space that includes a neighborhood grocer space, community room, and office space for ANC 8D. The multifamily building also has several resident amenities, which include a business center, lounge areas, fitness center, and private courtyards.

The Congress Heights Community Training and Development Corporation CHCTDC is currently leading the workforce development initiative that includes facilitating local small, minority and women disadvantage businesses participation and local hiring on the project as agreed upon in the Community Benefits Agreement CBA.

The South Capitol Improvements project is subject to DC First Source Agreement, Small Business Enterprise (SBEs), Certified Business Enterprise (CBE), and Section 3 requirements which are being monitored by the neighborhood CDC.

If you are a D.C. Certified subcontractor (see below) or D.C. resident and you would like to work on the South Capitol Improvements project please contact us ASAP.

Current Subcontracting Opportunities

- Fencing
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- Wire Shelving
- Signage
- Wire Mesh Partitions
- Toilet Partitions

Please contact our office at 202-563-5200

Georgia Teen With No Prior Record Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison for Stealing a Pair of Sneakers When He Was 15



By: Breanna Edwards

An 18-year-old Columbus, Ga., teen will spend the next five years in prison, plus 10 years on probation, after stealing a pair of Nike sneakers when he was 15.

Dayonn Davis took the shoes from the unsuspecting owner who tried to sell them on Facebook. But despite the fact that he has no prior criminal record, Judge Bobby Peters handed down the stiff sentence, according to the Ledger-Enquirer.

“I don’t get that,” Peters said while sentencing the teen for robbery this week. “Must be some valuable shoes.”

Those “valuable shoes” were a pair of Nike Oreos that sometimes come with a price tag of more than \$100.

Davis made contact with the owner after seeing them for sale on Facebook and arranged to meet on Jan. 17, 2016, according to prosecutor Sadhana Dailey.

Another young man came with Davis to the meeting, where Davis asked to try on the shoes. After finding out that they fit, Davis apparently told the owner, “These shoes is took.”

That’s when things further escalated, with Davis’ companion pulling a pistol out. Everyone ran. However, Columbus police tracked down the then-young teen and found the stolen shoes in his closet.

Davis originally refused to name the person he was with, but eventually he did. The victim, however, could not identify that suspect when shown a photo lineup.

Defense attorney Susan Henderson attempted to plead on Davis’ behalf, saying that the teen wanted to put the matter behind him and move on.

“He’s been extremely remorseful,” she said. “He’s got his life on track now.”

Henderson noted that Davis was charged as an adult in the crime but also had no previous juvenile record. She also noted that her client had been an A and B student at Kendrick High School before his grades dropped after his arrest, and she maintained that he had no idea the guy with him would pull a gun.

“I was young at the time, so I wasn’t in my right mind,” Davis told the judge.

Peters was not buying the excuses.

“Maybe he’s the wrong person,” the judge said of Davis, emphasizing that whether or not Davis intended for anyone to pull a gun, he had obviously intended to take the shoes, since he had been the one who set up the meeting. “He’s the one with the shoes in his closet.” ■






Kingdom Care Senior Village Celebrates its Members

Kingdom Care Senior Village (KCSV) for adults 60 and over. KCSV showed much love to the members in February during a Red Feast Celebration! A celebration it was with a newly joined member reading on the life of Mahalia Jackson in honor of Black History month, a delicious buffet, music, games and lots of fun.

Through KCSV members are able to shop at the Kingdom Care Pantry two times a month. They receive frozen meats and staples and sometimes can goods. Prepared meals are delivered every Wednesday to those seniors who are homebound. Kingdom Care Senior Village tries to meet the need(s) of its members with love, phone check-ins, visits, referrals, activities, workshops and sometimes transportation. Members receive transportation to and from events and activities by volunteers and at times receiving Uber gift cards. KCSV recently took two vans of members grocery shopping and then out to celebrate those members whose birthdays were in February.

KCSV remains diligent in seeking ways to develop new ideas, resources, workshops and unique events to enhance the life of Village members. KCSV is located at 814 Alabama Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20032. You can also find additional information about KCSV and complete a membership application on our website: www.KingdomCareVillage.org.

*Where the Village
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 202.561.5594 main | 202.561.5591 fax

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Liz Sara, Chairwoman, National Women's Business Council

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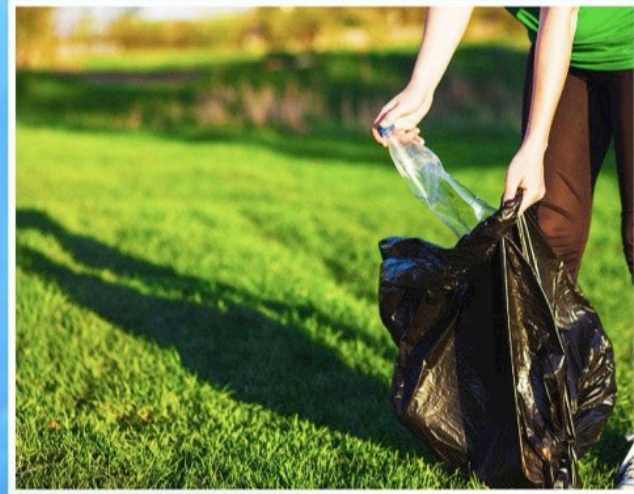
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Volunteer With Us!

Congress Heights Neighborhood Roadway Clean-Up



Saturday April 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sign-up using the following link:

www.facebook.com/destination_CH (upcoming events)

Check Point Location:

Congress Heights Neighborhood

Congress Heights Plaza, 3119 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE 20032

**Refreshments provided at the Destination Congress Heights tent,
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For more information contact:

Baldin Needham, 202-563-5200 or email Baldin@chctdc.org



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If you would like to be included in the distribution please contact thecapitalnewsteam@gmail.com

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5425 5th Street NW

Hattie Holmes Senior Center
324 Kennedy St. NW

Andrene's Caribbean/Soul Food
308 Kennedy St. NW

Senbeb Natural Foods
6234 3rd Street NW

BP Gas Station
7000 Blair Rd. NW

Petworth Action Committee @
Raymond Recreation Center
3725 10th Street NW

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4000 Georgia Ave, NW

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WARD 5

American Quality
Home Care Services Inc
2312 Rhode Island Ave, NE

Salon Shear Madness
2014 Rhode Island Ave NE

Department of Veteran Affairs
1500 Franklin St. NE

Fish King
403 Rhode Island Ave NE

Good Old Reliable Liquor Store
1513 Rhode Island Ave NE

Sammy Carryout
2801 Franklin St NE

Barbershop
3506 12th St NE

Murry's & Paul's
3515 12th St NE

A Cut Above the Top Barbershop
2377 Rhode Island Ave. NE

Neighborhood Market
1611 Rhode Island Ave. NE

Department of Human Services
920-A Rhode Island Ave. NE

5th St. Laundromat
415A Rhode Island Ave. NE

Woodbridge Public Library
1800 Rhode Island NE

M&S Barber Services
2900 12th NE

Jet Set Hair
3530 12th St. NE

Newton Food Mart
3600 12th St. NE

Israel Baptist Church
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE

Lucky 7 Liquor
2317 Rhode Island Ave. NE

WARD 7

Deanwood Recreation Center
1350 49th St. NE

Safeway
2845 Alabama Ave. SE

Hillcrest Community Center
3100 Denver St. SE

New 7 Market
1406 Good Hope Rd. SE

Benning Road Library
3935 Benning Rd. SE

Anacostia Library
1800 Good Hope Rd. SE

Ft. Davis Community Center
1400 41st St. SE

Francis Gregory Library
2100 36th Pl SE

Washington Seniors Wellness
3001 Alabama Ave SE,

Hillcrest Recreation Center
3200 Camden St SE

Francis A. Gregory
Neighborhood Library

3660 Alabama Ave SE

Capitol View Neighborhood Library
5001 Central Ave SE

WARD 8

Hope Village
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Secrets of Nature
5923 South Capitol St. SW

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April Horoscopes

ARIES

Aries, April 2019 brings you the opportunity to develop your talents in many different ways. You can employ great mediation skills in the first place. In other words, Aries will be able to talk about everything what others can't do easily; or be able to find a compromise of the opposing parties.

TAURUS

Taurus, in April you should focus on proper everyday lunch. The horoscope suggests that your rhythm of life is not a bed of roses and you need to set some steady points. Let others enjoy the "beauty" of a heart attack or stomach ulcers. Taurus needs regularity.

GEMINI

The April horoscope portrays Gemini as an inconspicuous but daring beetle. Yes, beetle! The common beetle is, by its very nature, not very communicative, suspicious and often undesirable creature. But that is an excellent expression of the situation that will April prepare for

CANCER

Cancer, it's time to buy new underwear. It shouldn't sound sexist. Neither we suggest that you do not care about yourself enough. The horoscope simply shows that the seductive potential of Cancer reaches its peak in April, and then it may "rest" for a few months. This is the ideal time to propose your love or look for new acquaintances. In April Cancer should be less shy than before.

LEO

Leo is not a cheap rag doll. Neither are you a sweet strawberry jam that others could easily take for breakfast. April horoscope gives the evidence that Leo is a very bold and convincing sign of the zodiac. You excel more than others. Stars have given you the ability to bring people into line. Especially in case when someone do not follow the rules. The fourth month of 2019 will support Leo's creative talent and his / her true power, that is, the



ability to enforce the will, even against the will of others. In other words, you may show that you are a real and complex personality.

VIRGO

Virgo, money is definitely not everything, but as you know, they can make life incredibly pleasant! April is the month when Virgo will have to overcome fear and concern. In some cases you can't manage things without the help of others.

LIBRA

In April, according to horoscope, Libra will be more eloquent than ever. And if someone tells you that you talk too much, forget such trifling incident. There are more important things to do. In April the horoscope reveals your ability to find the key direction. Libra will set out on a path decisive for the rest of the year.

SCORPIO

Scorpio, do not let yourself be captivate by a Horoscope heralds a period when Scorpio starts to think more deeply about how can you better deal with things and people. But also in the mirror way – how others treat you. You will probably realize that many people consider you for only a "crunchy pizza that one must

eat still warm". However, the horoscope urges Scorpio to ask yourself whether you too do not behave recklessly, at least some-times.

SAGITTARIUS

April horoscope warns against cold. Sagittarius, however, the body is only a tool of the soul, thus take care of your health, but focus on your spirituality as well. Sagittarius, communication will be the most excellent skill of your sign. You may easily attract the attention of eager listeners. A bunch of funny words can be like a croissant crumbled in a park – a flock of sparrows will immediately cover this delicacy.

CAPRICORN

In April Capricorn should not think of rescuing the whole world. If you think and live ecologically (saving energy, sorting trash etc.), it can easily happen that you forget about your own closest surroundings – the whole planet may overshadow all people around you. April horoscope says: Capricorn, focus on children, parents and marriage or partnership and look for hidden reserves here.

AQUARIUS

April will become a hammer by which Aquarius may crush bad habits into dust. Be careful, however, to strike precisely. Getting rid of bad habits and thus protecting health and money is certainly praiseworthy. But to break the relationship that is a bit boring may be like removing one of the pillars (the bridge and the relationship may crash without such support).

PISCES

In April a warm and soft bed can give a feeling of bliss to all Pisces (just imagine the picture of fluffy clouds of heaven). If you do miss such excitement of staying in the Garden of Eden, then you may write the phrase "Slum Philippines" on YouTube search and see that you probably live on the best place on the globe.

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