



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Welcome to this Edition of *Fair Housing News* Produced by the GBCHRB as a Public Service! To join the mailing list:

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MARYLAND NEWS

[New NAACP Report](#) Urges Crackdown on Discriminatory and Predatory Lending Practices in Baltimore. The study of poverty, inequality, racial isolation, and housing rehabilitation, among others, in Baltimore - which included a Baltimore Town Hall for citizen input - found that the unemployment rate for Blacks in Baltimore was 13.1%, almost four times the 3.4% white rate; the City's median income for whites is \$35,000 more

than Blacks; the Black poverty rate is twice that of whites; and only 22% of Blacks own a business compared to 70% of whites. The NAACP proposes an Economic Inclusion Plan for Baltimore "to alleviate systematic, government-sanctioned racial discrimination through beneficial economic policy and programmatic solutions." Recommendations include comprehensive plans for addressing concentrated poverty and racial isolation, supporting the transfer of vacant land ownership to community land trusts; training residents about the financial aspects of vacant home renovations, and a government backed crackdown on the discriminatory and predatory lending practices lessening minority home ownership levels. The study also included separate analyses of Charlotte, North Carolina, and St. Louis, Missouri, which also have a history of recent police brutality and social unrest. [Read the February 6, 2018 NAACP press release.](#) [Read the February 6, 2018 Baltimore Sun article.](#)

The [Cash Campaign of Maryland's](#) 2018 Prosperity Now's Annual Nationwide Scorecard Finds Maryland dropped to 22nd in the US in the Level of Financial Security of Its Residents. The [Scorecard](#) of Financial Health and Policy Recommendations is an annual report on assets and opportunities

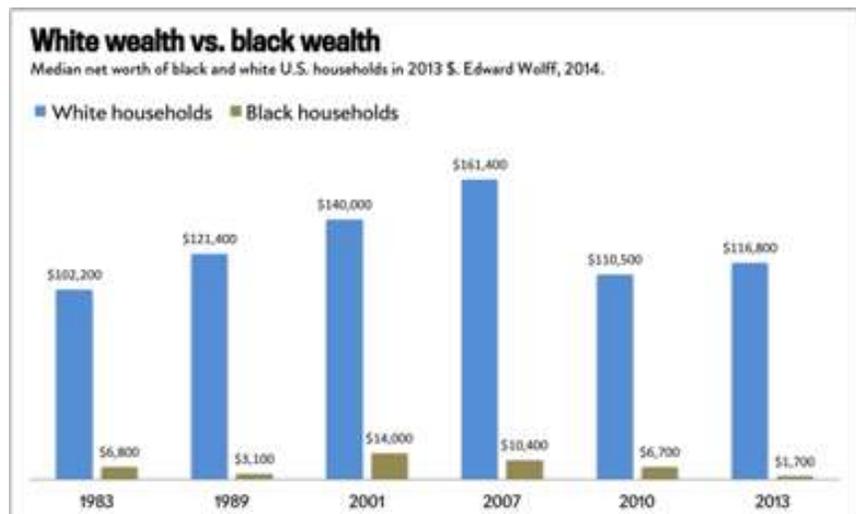


PROSPERITY NOW SCORECARD

from the nonprofit [Prosperity Now](#) (formerly the Corporation for Enterprise Development). It found that Maryland overall ranks 22nd in financial health and policy measures, dropping from 17th in the organization's 2017 report. The state still has a significant racial wealth gap. People of color are 2.1 times more likely to be unemployed than the national average, 2.7 times more likely to lack health insurance, and the poverty rate for households of color is 1.8 times higher than white households. Regarding housing, the study found that white Marylanders are 1.5 times more likely to own a home than Marylanders of color and half of renters struggle to afford housing. Homeownership is 1.5 times higher for white households (US average: 1.6 times), the Maryland foreclosure rate is 1.63% (US average is 1.29%), 1.56% of mortgage loans are delinquent (US average: 1.20%), and 48.9% of renters are cost burdened (US average: 49.7%). The study underlines that affordable housing programs and policies are critical in fighting foreclosure, supporting wealth through homeownership, and closing Maryland's racial wealth gap.

The Campaign specifically recommends: (1) expanding Maryland's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include younger workers without dependents, with the 2018 General Assembly now considering SB647 & HB856, which expand Maryland's EITC for younger workers not claiming dependents ([Sign on here to join the Cash Campaign in this effort](#));

(2) immediate implementation of Earned Sick Leave legislation ([Click here to join the Working Matter coalition](#)); (3) continuing to enact strong consumer protection policies to protect the over half of Marylanders who access subprime lending; and (4) passing targeted legislation to address racial and gender inequality, including bills to remove discriminatory rate setting for auto insurance and expensive for-profit schools. [Go to the Cash Campaign's home page.](#)



NATIONAL NEWS

HUD Postpones an Important Fair Housing Rule on Local Assessments of Fair Housing. Undermining another Obama-era initiative, the current national administration plans to delay enforcement of a federal housing rule that requires communities to address patterns of racial residential segregation. The [January 5, 2018 notice](#) by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) in the Federal Register says it will suspend until 2020 the requirement that communities analyze/assess their housing segregation and submit plans to reverse it, as a condition of receiving federal block grants and housing aid. Comments on the Notice are due by March 6, 2018, and can be submitted at Regulations.gov: [submit a Formal Comment](#). The notice also tells cities that the detailed plans required by the rule do not have to be submitted, and HUD will stop reviewing already-submitted plans. The notice does not repeal the 2015 rule. HUD says that this is a response to cities that have struggled with the rule's requirements, delaying it for awhile so that HUD provides funds for the tools communities use to assess their housing. The rule was passed to correct deficiencies in the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which forbids discrimination in the housing

market based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. The law required communities to “affirmatively further” fair housing. In response, Fair Housing advocates argue that the notice effectively severely limits the federal government’s first major effort in decades to lessen racial inequality in housing, instead calling for yet more analysis and preparation. The notice does reiterate that communities still have a legal obligation to further fair housing, and to pledge that they are doing so. Myron Orfield, a law professor at the University of Minnesota, commented that the 2015 rule was not perfect but it was the federal government’s first major effort to strengthen civil rights in housing since 1968. “Residential segregation is at the heart of racial inequality in the country,” he said. “All of the disparities in the U.S. - in education, in income, wealth, employment, health - between the races are all fundamentally linked to residential segregation. There’s no real way to deal with disparities between black and white people without dealing with this.” [Read the January 4, 2018 New York Times article.](#) [Read the January 5, 2018 HUD Notice in the Federal Register.](#)



New National Study Finds 79% of Hosts on Airbnb Discriminate Against People with Disabilities. The pre-approval rate for rental requests for those without disabilities is 75%, for people with a sight impairment 50%, 43% for those with cerebral palsy, and 25% for those with spinal cord injuries requiring a wheelchair. Rejection or no response rates were 16.8% for guests without a disability, 34.4% for those with a visual impairment, 40.7% for those with cerebral palsy, and 59.8% of those with a spinal cord injury. Overall, only

3.5% of those with a spinal cord injury in a wheelchair found accommodation and 30% of those who are blind. Airbnb does have rules not permitting discrimination against people with disabilities and an Open Doors policy. In November, 2017, it announced that it had bought [Accomable](#), which provides listings with step-free access in 60 countries. The purchase was in response to mounting criticism and findings, such as the 2015 Harvard Business School researchers' working paper that found those with names like Lakisha or Rasheed were about 16% less likely to be accepted than identical Airbnb guests with names like Brent or Kristen. [Read the January 2, 2018 ValueWalk study article.](#) [Read the November 16, 2017 Airbnb press release.](#) [Read the June 3, 2016 VRM intel article.](#)



Deutsche Bank, Ocwen Financial, and Altisource Accused of Racial Discrimination in 30 U.S. Metro Areas. The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and 19 fair housing organizations filed a housing discrimination lawsuit in federal district court in Chicago, Illinois against [Deutsche Bank](#); Deutsche Bank National Trust; Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas; [Ocwen Financial Corp.](#); and [Altisource Portfolio Solutions, Inc.](#) Ocwen and Altisource are the servicer and property management company responsible for maintaining and marketing many of Deutsche

Bank’s properties. NFHA filed this lawsuit in Black History Month to highlight how deteriorated bank-owned homes hurt African American communities. The lawsuit alleges that Deutsche Bank deliberately did not maintain its foreclosed bank-owned homes (AKA real estate owned or “REO” properties) in middle- and working- class African American and Latino neighborhoods in 30 metropolitan areas, while it consistently maintained like bank-owned homes in white neighborhoods.

The lawsuit's backup data, supported by 30,000 photographs, shows a clear pattern of discriminatory conduct by the Bank / Ocwen / Altisource in the maintenance of foreclosed homes. Poor maintenance of homes in communities of color led to these homes having very overgrown grass and weeds, unlocked doors and windows, broken doors and windows, dead animals decaying, and trash and debris in yards. Deutsche Bank/Ocwen/Altisource are paid and under contract to provide routine maintenance and marketing to service these bank-owned homes, including regular lawn mowing, securing windows and doors, covering dryer vent holes and other holes to keep animals and insects from nesting, keeping the property free of debris and trash, and complying with local nuisance abatement ordinances. NFHA conducted repeat visits to several Deutsche Bank-owned homes during the investigation but found little or no improvement in maintenance and frequently found even worse conditions. NFHA alleges that Deutsche Bank, etc.'s intentional failure to correct their discriminatory treatment in African American and Latino neighborhoods—the same communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis—can only be seen as "systemic racism." [Read the February 1, 2018 National Fair Housing article.](#)



[The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Joins Olmstead Litigation Against Segregation in State Psychiatric Hospitals in South Carolina.](#) Bazelon has joined attorneys from South Carolina Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities (P&A) and the law firm of [Womble Bond Dickenson](#) in a class action lawsuit against the [South Carolina Department of Mental Health](#), alleging that adults with mental disabilities are being unnecessarily and illegally segregated in one of the state psychiatric hospitals. According to the complaint, these individuals are being institutionalized in the hospital because of the state has not developed enough community-based mental

health services, a practice that is "unjustified isolation" and "discrimination based on disability" in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Supreme Court's decision in Olmstead. The lawsuit is captioned AW v. Magill, No. 2:17-1346-RMG, and is pending before Judge Richard Gergel in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. It was originally filed in May, 2017. [Read the May 24, 2017 P&A press release.](#)

[Wake County, North Carolina, Settles Complaint Alleging Disability Discrimination in Housing Program.](#) In

December, [Legal Aid of North Carolina](#) announced that it had settled a federal discrimination complaint filed against Wake County Human Services on behalf of a disabled woman who received rental assistance through the county's Rental Assistance Housing Program. Under the terms of the settlement, the county will provide additional protections to program participants who are disabled and those who have limited English proficiency. The County's Rental Assistance Housing Program targets individuals with serious psychiatric disabilities who are homeless and in need of ongoing mental health and supportive services to be able to live independently in the community. The complaint alleged that the county had violated the federal Fair Housing Act by ending the client's rental assistance because of her disability, failing to provide her with an interpreter despite knowing that she had limited proficiency in English, and depriving her of fair procedure in terminating her assistance. Under the settlement, the county agreed to: (1) implement a new appeals procedure with added protections for disabled program participants who are at risk of voucher termination; (2) make a written policy informing participants of their right to request certain



accommodations from their landlord, such as allowing an individual who has difficulty climbing stairs to move to a ground floor apartment; (3) provide an interpreter to participants with limited English proficiency who are appealing their assistance termination; and (4) pay an undisclosed sum of money to compensate the client. [Read the December 6, 2017 Fair Housing Project article.](#)

Dr. Charles Steele Jr., Gets Inducted Into the [International Civil Rights Walk of Fame](#). CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Mr. Steele is a civil rights leader. This recognition was designed to honor men and women who have contributed significantly toward fostering the cause of equal justice. His footprints will be permanently embedded in the sidewalk surrounding the [National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum](#) in Atlanta, Georgia. Steele has contributed much to his hometown, Tuscaloosa, Alabama in the civil rights and political life. This honor is also held by many celebrity humanitarians including Lena Horne, Sidney Poitier, President Jimmy Carter, and Ambassador Andrew Young. [Read the January 18, 2018 SCLC press release.](#)



MORTGAGE LENDING NEWS

Bicameral Call for Accountability for Recent Anti-Consumer Actions taken by the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Acting Director](#). Led by Congresswoman Maxine Waters of California and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, two other [Congressional Black Caucus](#) Members, Congressmen Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Al Green (D-Texas) joined Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) as signatories. The group wants to know what prompted his actions and what are his ties to the payday lending industry. The January 31, 2018 letter questions these actions that have occurred in 2018: (1) Halting implementation of the agency's final rule preventing abusive payday lending (the 'Payday Rule'); (2) Announcement of the Bureau's intention to initiate a rulemaking process that appears designed to weaken the Payday Rule; (3) Withdrawing a Bureau lawsuit against four online payday lenders who allegedly misled customers on interest rates that spanned a low of 440% to as high as 950%; and (4) Ending an investigation of [World Acceptance Corporation](#), a high-cost installment lender, that began in 2014 after consumers complained of unaffordable loans and aggressive collection practices. [Read the February 1, 2018 Black Voice News article.](#)

The [National Fair Housing Alliance](#) (NFHA) Condemns the Trump Administration's Decision to Strip Fair Lending Enforcement Powers from the CFPB's Office of Fair Lending.

The NFHA said "The decision to strip away the CFPB Office of Fair Lending's enforcement powers clearly prioritizes the wishes of Wall Street and loan sharks over the rights of Americans to access quality credit and financial products free from discrimination. The CFPB, by design, is the only independent regulator explicitly charged with protecting the financial well-being of the American people and it seems that every action taken by this Administration and opponents of the Bureau have been to undermine the critical public service that the Bureau provides. The Office of Fair Lending and its mission were intended to address and eliminate widespread discrimination in the financial marketplace that destabilized entire communities of color in the lead up to the 2008 financial crisis. (Acting CFPB Director) Mulvaney's decision falls squarely in line with the approach that the Trump Administration has taken regarding civil rights – undermine



critical civil rights safeguards and those in government responsible for enforcing them under the guise of ‘efficiency’ and ‘accountability.’ But by taking away the Office of Fair Lending’s enforcement authority, the Trump Administration has sent a signal to the financial services industry that they can operate without fear of repercussions for discriminatory policies, practices, and products. Consumers have not forgotten the devastation caused by unchecked lending discrimination and predatory lending abuses in the lead up to the foreclosure crisis. They also have not forgotten that the CFPB was created to focus protection on consumers – not lenders who would engage in discriminatory practices...” [Read the February 2, 2018 NFHA press release.](#)



HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

HUD Reaches Fair Housing Agreement With Richmond Housing Authority (California), Settling Disability Discrimination Complaint. The conciliation agreement with the Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) in Richmond, California (just north of Oakland), settles allegations that it discriminated against a resident with disabilities. [Read the conciliation agreement.](#) The agreement is the result of a complaint that was filed by a

resident with a disability alleging that the Authority did not renew his Housing Choice Voucher before it expired. According to the complaint, the resident submitted a request to have their voucher renewed before it expired, but the authority thought that he did not want the voucher renewed. [Bay Area Legal Aid](#) sent several letters and emails to the authority requesting that it reinstate the voucher as a reasonable accommodation, since any miscommunication may have been due to the resident's disability, but was refused. As a result, the resident was forced to place his belongings in storage and live in homeless shelters and with relatives. Under the terms of the agreement, the Authority will pay the resident \$5,833 to reimburse him for the storage fees, and provide a new Housing Choice Voucher. The agreement also requires RHA staff to obtain fair housing training. [Read the January 19, 2018 HUD press release.](#)

Hickory, North Carolina, Apartment Complex Settles Complaint Alleging Disability Discrimination. The owner and former and current managers of an apartment complex allegedly had discriminated against a resident with a disability. Under the settlement, the owner and managers, who denied doing discrimination, will adopt new fair housing policies for people with disabilities, attend training in fair housing law, and pay \$15,000 in damages and costs to the tenant who brought the complaint. The case involved the tenant’s request to have a parking space near her unit to accommodate her mobility limitations, some caused by multiple sclerosis (MS). She made her initial written request for a reserved parking space in 2014. After her request was denied, she filed her fair housing complaint with HUD. The complaint was referred by HUD to the [North Carolina Human Relations Commission](#) for investigation. The complex eventually granted the tenant’s request for a reserved parking space. The Commission found “reasonable cause” to believe that the complex had done an unlawful housing practice by refusing to approve her request. Legal Aid of North Carolina’s Fair Housing Project represented the tenant in settlement negotiations. [Read the February 5, 2018 Fair Housing Project article.](#)





Jackson, Mississippi Real Estate Firm Settles Housing Discrimination Complaint. The investigation began after HUD received many complaints about the firm. According to the complaints, the real estate team neglected African-American homebuyers and steered white homebuyers away from neighborhoods that were predominately African-American. After being contacted by HUD, the [National Fair Housing Alliance](#) (NFHA) investigated the complaints by conducting in-person and phone tests with nine people of different races. The results of the study were that they found that the firm had worked hard to find the white test subjects housing and steered them away from neighborhoods predominately African-American. The African-American testers were typically ignored when they made inquiries. As a result of the settlement, the firm can continue legally selling homes. Along with paying the fine, the members of the team have to take a six-hour Fair Housing Act course. It also has to keep records that prove it promotes fair housing. HUD will monitor the group for a year and will ensure that it does everything by the books. If it commits any additional violations, the penalty will likely be much steeper. [Read the January 27, 2018 Vertical Rent article.](#)

Virginia Man Convicted of Anti-Gay Hate Crime. A federal jury convicted him of committing a hate crime for assaulting a co-worker at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Chester in 2015. The 36 year-old man was found guilty of violating the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Evidence showed that the man assaulted the co-worker because of the co-worker's perceived sexual orientation. The man admitted to an Amazon manager and a Chesterfield County Police Officer that he dislikes people who are gay, and further stated that people who are gay should expect to be assaulted because of their sexual orientation. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison when sentenced at a later date. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, as the sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the court based on the advisory Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. This case was investigated by the FBI with assistance from the Chesterfield County Police Department. [Read the January 24, 2018 USDOJ press release.](#)



The US Department of Justice (USDOJ) Reaches Agreement with Denver to Improve Accessibility. The USDOJ announced an agreement with Denver, Colorado, to improve access to civic life for people with disabilities. The agreement was reached under [Project Civic Access](#) (PCA), USDOJ's initiative to ensure that cities, towns, and counties throughout the country comply with the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). Under the agreement, Denver will ensure that its services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. Based on surveys conducted by the US as part of its investigation, the agreement requires Denver to remedy inaccessible features at courthouses, emergency shelters, libraries, parking lots, polling places, and parks to make these facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, to improve communication with people with hearing disabilities, The city will contract with sign language interpreters and use [Relay Colorado 711](#) and text-to-911 on calls; ensure that its emergency operations plan is accessible; provide training to its employees on the ADA; and survey certain facilities that were not already surveyed by the USDOJ. This agreement was reached under Title II of the ADA, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by state and local governments. [Read the January 8, 2018 USDOJ press release.](#)





CALENDAR

The Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) 2018 Housing Day will be February 15, 2018. "Let's show our legislators that the Rental Housing Works (RHW) Program is bringing jobs and affordable housing to Maryland and urge them to fund it at \$25 million and provide full funding for other key rental housing programs in 2019. Affordable housing provides Maryland residents with a safe place to live and raise their families, and it creates jobs for Marylanders. Join us in Annapolis for Housing Day to learn about important legislative initiatives, network with other housing professionals, and show our legislators that rental housing matters!" The Housing Day Agenda is: from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. breakfast will be served and networking opportunities will be available, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. is the Program, and at 11:00 a.m. Legislative Visits begin. [Read about the event on MAHC's website.](#)

On April 3-5, 2018, There Will Be an "Act Now: Unite to End Racism" Rally on the National Mall. Connected events will be at various sites in Washington, DC, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall. The [National Council of Churches](#), [Conference of National Black Churches](#), the [African American Clergy Network](#), [Sojourners](#), the [Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism](#), the [Mennonite Central Committee](#), and the [Franciscan Action Network](#) are among the event's co-sponsors. The objective of ACT Now is to



"Unite to End Racism in the areas of church life and practices, criminal, economic and social justice, civil and human rights, environmental justice, immigration, media, and education." Events will begin on the evening of April 3rd with an ecumenical service in the Orthodox tradition at [St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral](#) in Washington, DC. There will be an interfaith service on the National Mall on April 4th, with the main rally from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on April 4th. April 5th will be a "Day of Action in the Nation's Capital." Religious denominations are bringing buses from Rhode Island, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, and elsewhere. For more info, contact Jim Winkler, President of the National Council of Churches. For more info, bus tickets, and to register: the [Rally's website.](#)



There will be a Gala Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 on Saturday, April 28, 2018. It will be held from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the [Reginald F. Lewis Museum on African American History & Culture](#), 830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore, Maryland 21202. "2018 marks two important milestones for fair housing - the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as well as over 90

years of the [Maryland Commission on Civil Rights \(MCCR\)](#) serving our great state! On Saturday, April 28, 2018, MCCR will host a celebration to commemorate all of the progress that we have made since 1968, while exploring the challenges that remain all of these decades later. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more exciting updates on the evening's program, speakers, and ticket information!" Ticket Information will be given at a later date. [Go to the Celebration's webpage.](#)

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#) You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair



Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related. Our radio shows:
<http://www.gbchr.org/2radio.htm>.



The GBCHR Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides.

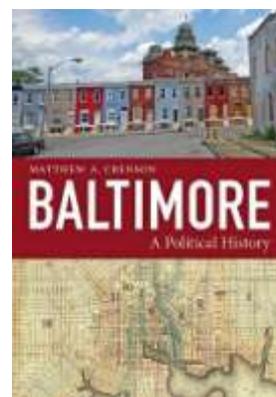
We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also distribute brochures and guides about housing and insurance. 410.929.7640 or <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.

What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We appreciate constructive

criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.

HAVE YOU READ?

***Baltimore: A Political History* by Matthew A. Crenson.** Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017. 632 pages.\$44.95, hardcover. A very informative examination by a Johns Hopkins University professor emeritus of various important historical-based factors affecting modern Baltimore. Crenson stresses the negative consequences of the [General Assembly](#)'s long history of denying Baltimore fair representation or sufficient power to tax or police itself. Local political inertia has not helped, such as Baltimore becoming the last major American city to install a sanitary sewer system, and this only happened after the Great Fire of 1904. Crenson observes that the City has suffered from a lack of a strong political force or machine to centralize power and overwhelm opposition to positive, significant change. Before the Civil War, Baltimore had the largest number of free Blacks of any US city despite Jim Crow being pervasive. It was less violent, and Baltimore's subsequent racial politics have been less nasty than in other cities. The author says the election of Kurt Schmoke as the first Black mayor without being a race-based campaign did not happen in other cities. Well worth reading.



REST IN PEACE

Simeon Booker, Crusading Civil Rights Journalist, 99. Booker was the Washington bureau chief of *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines for five decades, and reported on many incidents during the Civil Rights era. He was the first full-time black reporter for the *Washington Post* before joining the Johnson Publishing Co. to write for the weekly *Jet* and *Ebony*, a monthly, in 1954. His

detailed article with its accompanying photograph of the 1955 racially-motivated murder of Emmett Till's body helped draw public attention to the Civil Rights Movement. As a Black journalist in the South, Booker faced persistent personal danger and sometimes disguised himself as a preacher or a sharecropper to be safer. When he covered a Freedom Ride from Washington to New Orleans (which tested compliance with the outlawing of segregated interstate transit), an Alabama mob firebombed one of the buses and beat the protesters. It was only the intervention of the U.S. Attorney General that got the protesters to safety via a plane flight. At this time due to prejudice and discrimination, Booker was one of the few Black journalists in Washington. When he introduced himself as "Simeon Booker from the *Washington Post*," he was laughed at. "If I went out to a holdup, they thought I was one of



the damn holdup men,” he told the *Post*. “I couldn’t get any cooperation.” At a January 31, 2018 memorial service at [Washington National Cathedral](#), Rep. John Lewis (D-Georgia) said that “If not for Simeon, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings.” Booker’s books included *Black Man’s America* (1964), the children’s volume *Susie King Taylor: Civil War Nurse* (1969) and *Shocking the Conscience: A Reporter's Account of the Civil Rights Movement* (2013), a memoir. [Read the December 10, 2017 Washington Post article.](#) [Read the January 30, 2018 Washington Post article.](#)

Wyatt Tee Walker, Civil Rights Strategist and Leader, 88. Walker was chief of staff to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a key strategist behind civil rights protests against racial injustice in the 1960s Jim Crow South. He preached against intolerance and racial inequality for six decades across the South, in New York City and in five continents. For 37 years, Walker was the pastor at [Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem](#), and from 1965 to 1975 he was a special assistant on urban affairs to New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. He helped supervise South Africa’s first fully representative elections in 1994, which Nelson Mandela won and eventually ended the apartheid regime. Walker joined the newborn [Southern Christian Leadership Conference](#) (SCLC) in 1961 and served until 1964 as its executive director and, unofficially, as Dr. King’s right-hand assistant. At the SCLC, he developed a successful fund-raising strategy and organized many protests, including a series of anti-segregation boycotts and demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama. Known as Project C - with the C standing for “confrontation” - the project was a model for the movement’s work in the South. Walker helped circulate Dr. King’s “[Letter From Birmingham Jail](#),” a critically important document of the movement, which called for civil disobedience as a legitimate response to racial segregation. He also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, ending with Dr. King’s “[I Have a Dream](#)” speech. Later, Walker was the first board chairman of the [National Action Network](#), a civil rights organization founded by the Rev. Al Sharpton which now has over 105 chapters across the nation. [Read the January 23, 2018 New York Times obituary.](#)



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