



# THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SPRING 2025

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PAGE 2: PRESIDENTS MESSAGE. Please read, Important Info.
- PAGE 3: Article from Executive Secretary Kathy Conrad.
- PAGE 4: "Chasing Out The Police", by Joel E. Gordon
- PAGE 5: Cryptocurrency Investigations  
By: Keven Hendricks
- PAGE 6: Beneficiary Form.
- PAGE 7: Continuation of "Cryptocurrency" article. MEMBERS  
MISSING BENEFICIARY FORMS.
- PAGE 8: Welcome New Members. BRPBA Contact Information.  
Ad.
- PAGE 9: Distress Fund News. Tag information. Would you like a  
tag on your vehicle? It's easy!
- PAGE 10: Final Roll Call. In Memoriam.
- PAGE 11: Rescue Meds Advertisement.

BALTIMORE RETIRED  
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Baltimore, MD 21206

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**REMINDER:** Don't forget the \$50.00 bounty to any member  
who signs up a new member.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Daryl Buhrman*

This article is being written for me as I have had a rough few months. In April, I was on my way to a routine blood draw at my local hospital when I felt pain in my chest. How lucky was that? I had a heart attack in the parking lot of a hospital. I stayed in the ER for a few days because of no beds and then was transferred to a bed in time to do surgery to place stents. My doctor told me that one of those stents was a real lifesaver. However, because of that, they had to move my cancer surgery to July. If it ain't one thing, it's another. Thank you to everyone for reaching out to me with phone calls, cards, flowers, and well-wishes on Facebook and Gmail. As many of you know, when you go through something like this you feel utterly alone, and you all have made me feel not quite so alone and very loved. I appreciate you.

- The BRPBA Board met in April in my absence and voted on two issues very dear to my heart. First, we helped a widow in PA who was in serious financial trouble. She was behind in her rent and her gas and electric due to trouble with Baltimore City getting the pension straightened out. Now we have learned that the landlord for her apartment has decided to tell everyone to move out while he does a major upgrade to the property. With the help of our dear friend, Chaplain Don Helms, we can, hopefully, find her a new place to live. As it was, she was still going to have a hard time of it because the pension was very small, and her son, who came to her house to help her with something, fell and injured his head. He is now disabled. She has a lot on her shoulders.

The second issue the Board voted on was to help our member, Kenny Driscoll. As you know, Kenny runs the Baltimore Police Historical website and pays for it himself with occasional donations. The Board voted to pay his website cost for the remainder of this year. I am so proud of them for agreeing to help Kenny. He has enough to deal with without having to worry about putting out money for the website.

- As we have spoken about in the past, and it has fallen

on deaf ears for some of you, we are still trying to get some members to fill out a beneficiary form. Again, we had an issue just this month with a member who did not complete the form and his grieving widow could have used that \$1500.00 for his final expenses. Why?? Why does this have to happen? Why can't you just fill out the form? It's so easy. The rest of the list (from SL to Z) is printed in this issue, along with a form you can cut out. For heavens sake, cut the darn thing out and mail it in. It only costs a stamp. OR you can email it in to [BRPBAoffice@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAoffice@gmail.com). Please!!

- So, along the same lines as the paragraph above, the Board has been meeting to discuss something, and we even brought it up before the general meeting in April. We are contemplating creating an Estate Planner for our members. This planner would have a list of things you should fill out to ease your family members minds after your passing, plus it will have a list of the people they should call in the event of your death. Does this sound like something you would be interested in?
- For the time being (until I'm back on my feet), if you would like to purchase a BRPBA tag for your vehicle, please contact Kathy Conrad at [brpbasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:brpbasecretary@gmail.com). Phone: 410-303-0184. Additionally, if you are having any issues that you need help with/ advice on (including Distress Fund needs), please contact our 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Mike Wilhelm at [dashthirtty@gmail.com](mailto:dashthirtty@gmail.com).
- We will be inviting Delegate Andrew Johnson to our June meeting. Delegate Johnson is the representative for Harford County District 34A. He provided support during the recent legislative session regarding getting SB585 passed. He will discuss this. And don't forget, our June meeting is the twice yearly celebration of our members with pit beef and shrimp.

Take care everyone.


**Are you aware that when a member's spouse dies, the member is due a benefit from the BRPBA? Please let us know when your family has experienced such a loss. Every little bit helps when paying for final expenses.**



**NICHOLAS CONSTANTINE**  
Commercial Accounts Manager

[nickconstantine@sheehy.com](mailto:nickconstantine@sheehy.com)

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*Two Great Agencies to serve your needs*

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. It is nice to be done with the cold winter. Long days and nice temperatures are so much better than the long dark cold days of winter.

I will be keeping this article short but wanted to mention a few things. Our organization recently handled a distress case involving a widow whose husband had passed away back in February. We became aware of this lady's dire condition when she reached out to Darryl to find out how to get her husband's pension benefits switched to her. It was learned that this woman had not received pension benefits since January 2025. It was further learned that this lady was going to Church food banks to get food, and her cash reserves were low to non-existent.

Darryl immediately sprang into action and authorized \$500 from our distress fund to be used to help get her some food. Additionally, the BRPBA Board voted unanimously to pay this widow's electric bill to keep from having her electricity shut off. We also paid her landlord back rent. She was in danger of being evicted from her apartment.

At our April general membership meeting, a total of \$1,386 in cash was raised to help this widow. Additionally, over \$2,700 in checks were received from members to help.

I would like to thank each one of you that donated this much needed relief for this widow. I would also like to thank Don Helms. Don coordinated getting the rent paid directly to the landlord. Dan also received a lot of food donations which he delivered to this lady.

I would like to stress the following as it pertains to this distress case. Make sure that you go over all your benefits, money sources, etc.... with your significant other. Make sure they know who to contact in the event of an unforeseen medical emergency or death.

I hope you all have a safe and fun summer. Remember our June meeting is on 18 June 2025 at 6PM. This is our annual Shrimp and Bull roast. Hope to see you there.

Last but not least, keep Daryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he battles his cancer.

Kathy Conrad

**MOVING????? PLEASE LET THE BRPBA KNOW AT  
BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 410-803-2293. ALSO, DON'T FORGET  
TO LET THE FOP KNOW, AND THE F&P. EVEN THE CITY NEEDS TO KNOW.  
DON'T LET EVERYONE LOSE CONTACT WITH YOU!!**

**THE ADS YOU SEE ON THESE PAGES ARE MEMBER'S BUSINESSES. PLEASE CONSIDER USING THEM FOR  
YOUR NEEDS!!**

## Chasing Out the Police, By: Joel E. Gordon

In 2021, in response to the death of George Floyd, the Maryland Legislature repealed its Police Bill of Rights. The sweeping police reform bill stipulates force can be used only to prevent “an imminent threat of physical injury” to a person or to “effectuate a legitimate law enforcement objective.” It also upgraded the standard for using force from “reasonable” to “necessary and proportional.”

For every thoughtful state, in conformance to established case precedent and law, the standard for police use of force is reasonableness. What would a reasonable police officer do under like circumstances where threats of harm are perceived based upon professional first-hand analysis?

Washington, D.C.’s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) cited recent changes in Maryland’s use-of-force policy as to why multiple law enforcement agencies were reported as being unable to assist with security for the 2025 presidential inauguration ceremonies.

Just days before the inauguration, seven Maryland-based police departments declared that they would not be working with MPD, despite having assisted with security in the nation’s capital in previous years. At least one department, the Montgomery County Police Department, revealed it was due to issues with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the departments. Some of these departments, including those in Anne Arundel County and Prince George’s County, as well as Maryland State Police, said they would be assisting the United States Capitol Police instead.

In a statement from D.C.’s Metropolitan Police Department it was said that “Due to differences in the interpretation of Maryland’s recent legislation on Use of Force compared to the District of Columbia’s Use of Force policies, some Maryland agencies are unable to assist MPD directly for the inauguration.”

“Necessary and proportional” allows Monday Morning Quarterback types to review officer’s actions in the most narrow and punitive light including legislators, politicians and even some police executives who are overtly biased when it comes to issues of officer safety versus the intent of offenders to cause harm.

And if that wasn’t enough to prevent Maryland cops from doing their jobs, Maryland law states that officers who violate the use-of-force standard and cause serious injury or death can face up to ten-years in prison. Former Republican Governor Larry Hogan vetoed the legislation but was overridden by the Maryland General Assembly on April 10, 2021.

So Maryland police who are found to have violated that use-of-force standard as determined by police-hating bureaucrats and prosecutors can face spending a decade in prison. Understanding that lawfully doing their jobs could result in this; officers have shifted to avoidance of this personal liability.

These leftover policies resulting from the past anti-police defund the police, and overly restrictive consent decree craze of the recently waning era remain as inhibitors of the full return to law and order.

We must work to overcome past lunacy and allow “cops to be cops” in an environment of respect, protection, and appreciation for professionalism.

*Joel E. Gordon, BLUE Magazine’s Editor-in-Chief, is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department and is a past Chief of Police for the city of Kingwood, West Virginia. He has also served as vice-chair of a multi-jurisdictional regional narcotics task force. An award winning journalist, he is author of the book Still Seeking Justice: One Officer’s Story and founded the Facebook group Police Authors Seeking Justice. Look him up at [stillseekingjustice.com](http://stillseekingjustice.com)*

## CRYPTOCURRENCY INVESTIGATIONS

*By: Keven Hendricks*

It is undeniable that cryptocurrency is a polarizing topic, especially for us in law enforcement. Since the first transaction was posted on the Bitcoin blockchain in 2009, cryptocurrency has risen from a cumbersome fiefdom of the internet to a Crypto ATM being installed at your local convenience store. While many in law enforcement have become familiar with cryptocurrencies by partaking in the investment furor, attracted by the extreme market volatility, I have ascertained that knowledge of how cryptocurrencies work remains overwhelmingly scarce among the law enforcement fanfare. To be succinct: There are many who want to make money off cryptocurrencies, but few who

understand the coins they are so quick to throw money at actually function. Terms like “*lettuce hands*,” “*diamond hands*” and “*hodl*” have become entrenched as internet colloquialisms surrounding the crypto zeitgeist, but for as many rags to riches stories we all have read, the harrowing truth is that law enforcement across the country is being inundated with complaints of cryptocurrency-facilitated crimes. From sextortion to fraud/“pig butchering,” I challenge you to find me a department that hasn’t handled a case that had a nexus to cryptocurrencies in some way. And that question I ask: What is being done to help adequately address this epidemic? Are departments nationwide prioritizing training and dedicating personnel to handle cybercrime cases? Sadly, the answer is no. There needs to be a paradigm shift in the way cryptocurrency cases are handled, and this is no easy task for a profession that has been historically resistant to change. State and local police departments CAN investigate cryptocurrency cases, and these CAN lead to significant financial seizures as well as prosecutions. If you find yourself asking “*How?*” my hope is that this article will give you the knowledge and confidence you need to finally address the mountain of cryptocurrency fraud cases your department was previously writing off as “unsolvable”.

The first thing that I want you to understand that *investing* in cryptocurrency is divorced from *investigating* cryptocurrency. You do not need to understand why Bitcoin’s value ebbs and flows daily in order to successfully investigate any crypto case. The definition of cryptocurrency says it’s a digital currency with a public ledger maintained by decentralized authority. Whether or not you like cryptocurrencies, you yourself use a digitized form of currency each day when you transact with your debit/credit card or virtual wallet service (i.e. CashApp, Venmo). The difference? Your digital currency is regulated by your financial institution or credit card provider that approves or declines the usage. Cryptocurrency, however, needs the blockchain/public ledger to authenticate and confirm every transaction, which is maintained by a decentralized collective that maintain the blockchain. The term “untraceable” or “anonymous” usually accompanies talks of crimes facilitated by cryptocurrency, and that certainly needs to be purged from our minds. Because Bitcoin is unequivocally the most popular, valuable, and desired of the 2.4 million traded cryptos, a majority of cases police departments are seeing connect to Bitcoin. This is certainly something I equate as being *good news*, since Bitcoin’s blockchain is very transparent and auditable. Every single transaction since 2009, no matter how small, has been and continues to be posted to the blockchain.

It is unfortunately all too common that police departments across the US would rather refer victims to utilize IC3.gov instead of fielding the reports themselves. I vehemently disagree with this mindset, as this often makes victims of cryptocurrency-facilitated crimes feel helpless and that law enforcement cannot do anything for them. On the contrary, police departments fielding the initial report from the victim and entering the information into IC3.gov on the behest of the victim would be a much better practice. There is A LOT that you can do from an investigative approach just by getting a transactional hash or a wallet address. While this article specifically highlights Bitcoin, the fundamentals transcend to other cryptocurrencies as well, included the Smart Contract blockchains like Ethereum and Tron. Victims sometimes are not aware how auditable and viewable these blockchains are, nor would they know that providing wallet information or transaction hashes could help further their case, whether receiving reimbursement for their losses or future identification/prosecution of suspects. While some exchanges can be domiciled outside the United States, many comply with requests from United States law enforcement with varying caveats. Such major exchanges as Coinbase, Binance, OKX, and Kraken are complaint to requests from law enforcement. IC3.gov reporting data accounts for over \$12.5 billion in losses for 2023, the highest year to date with 2024 projected to be even higher. I challenge you to find a comparable area of criminality that affects the global economy as much. Furthermore, the most common medium in which the reported stolen funds are often being moved is cryptocurrency.

The adage “*Necessity is the mother of Invention*” is true today more than ever. Similar to the formation of the National Center For Missing And Exploited Children in 1984 after the highly publicized abduction and murder of Adam Walsh in 1981 as well as the subsequent advocacy by John & Reve Walsh; we in law enforcement often don’t see plausible solutions to persistent problems until they are necessary. Being a prosecutor with one of the most proactive local cyber task forces within the Santa Clara District Attorney’s Office, Erin West stood on the front lines of a war against cyber fraudsters and realized that law enforcement is on the losing side. Her formation of the Operation Shamrock <https://operationshamrock.org/> nonprofit is intended to create a unilateral front of both law enforcement/public sector, and private sector to raise awareness, adequately educate and empower those who seek to help stomp out the fastest-growing area of criminality in the world. These types of cases are not “unsolvable” as we in law enforcement are so quick to categorize them. The current lackadaisical approach only emboldens the criminals. The amount of resources offered to law enforcement to assist with cryptocurrency, whether via a service like RISS.net, or educational webinars I have personally conducted with NW3C, are more available now than they ever have been. The belief that there must be some sort of astronomical budget to subsidize software procurement is just as big of a myth as cryptocurrency being “untraceable” and “anonymous”. We all collectively need to prioritize cybercrime cases, and by proxy cryptocurrency cases, with the urgency and due diligence they deserve.

Cont. Page 7



## BENEFICIARY FORM

*Please type or clearly print all information below.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODAY'S DATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ upon my death, desire all benefits entitled to me as a member of Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association, Inc., be paid to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### **BENEFICIARY'S NAME**

#### **Beneficiary Information:**

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contingency Beneficiary ('s) Name/Relationship/Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Member Information:**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BRPBA, P.O. Box 6217, Baltimore, MD 21206



Continued from Page 5

In closing, I would like to part with a question that I feel we already know the answer to: Are we doing enough to help those who have been victimized by cryptocurrency facilitated crimes?

For more specific information and possible assistance with blockchain investigations contact the author @ [keven@ubivisproject.org](mailto:keven@ubivisproject.org)

*Keven Hendricks is a 18-year law enforcement veteran previously serving on FBI and DEA task forces combating cybercrime. His expertise has been quoted in The Washington Post, NPR, Wired, & The Economist. He is a published author with the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin and is currently working as an instructor for various training companies, teaching classes for law enforcement on the dark web and cybercrimes. He is recognized as a subject-matter expert in the field of dark web investigations by the Department of Defense and the founder of the Ubivis Project (ubivisproject.org).*

*They Walk Among Us...*








































*My sister has one of those emergency seatbelt cutters in her car—designed to save her life if she ever gets trapped.  
She keeps it in the trunk.*

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## THESE PEOPLE STILL NEED TO COMPLETE A BENEFICIARY FORM

                                	Terrence Smith Barbara Smith-Hamilton Jeffrey Soule Ronald Spencer Karen Standfield Ken Stanley Jeffrey Stelmach Andre Street Alexander Swinson John Szuba, Jr. Penny Teal Ellwood Uhl James Vaughan William Wagner, III Charles Walker, Jr. Lorie Wallace Michael Wallace	Isabella Washington Jerry Weaver Samuel Whisky William Whitehead, Jr. Andrew Williams Gary Williams L.M. Williams Scott Williams Richard Wills Deborah Wilson Michael Wilson, Jr. Alvin Winkler Robert Wise Edward Wolf Tony Wolfe Natasha Worrell Frank Zapushek	           
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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*As of 4/29/25*

**Danielle Epperson**

**Miguel Martinez**

**John Peer**

**Dena Roney**

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please remember, monthly meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather when:

- Baltimore County Schools are closed because of snow or inclement weather; or,
- There is a snowfall after schools are dismissed and the Baltimore County snow emergency plan is placed in operation.

### Distress Fund Chairman:

Daryl J. Buhrman  
410-803-2293

Patches \$2.00 each. Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to: [BRPBAOffice@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAOffice@gmail.com)

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Daryl Buhrman ..... 410-803-2293  
1st VP: Michael Wilhelm ..... 410-671-7411  
Website ..... [www.brpbba.com](http://www.brpbba.com)  
Email Address: [brpbbaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:brpbbaoffice@gmail.com)

*F&P Retirement System 410-497-7929*  
*FOP 410-243-9141*  
*Balto. City Life Insurance 410-396-5830*  
*Health Care Benefits 410-396-5830*  
*Department of Human Resources (DHR) (410) 396-3851*  
*Securian Financial 1-888-658-0193*  
*Municipal Employees Credit Union 410-752-8313*  
*Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit 410-396-2546*

Lapel pins \$5.00 each (includes shipping and handling). Can pick up at a meeting or email a request to: [BRPBAOFFICE@gmail.com](mailto:BRPBAOFFICE@gmail.com)





## DISTRESS FUND NEWS

The BRPBA 2025 raffle is being prepared and will be mailed out the first week of September. We have done extensive checking of our roster and removed members who have never purchased a ticket. Whether it is by choice or by belief, we respect your decision not to buy. Removing those that do not buy saves us hundreds of dollars in paper/ticket costs, stamps, and time. If you find you would like to be added back into the purchasing roster, please let us know. If you would prefer to just make a donation, we gratefully accept any donations we receive. They can be mailed to BRPBA Distress Fund, P.O. Box 935, Bel Air, MD 21014.

As you have no doubt read a couple times in this newsletter, your donations recently went towards helping a widow in need, and helped a member with some bills. Those members deeply appreciate you, just as we do.

Thank you.

The 2025 prizes will be as follows:

4 \$50.00 winners	19 \$100.00 winners	4 \$200.00 winners,
3 \$300.00 winners	1 \$400.00 winner	4 \$500.00 winners.

As always, we wish you lots of luck.

Daryl

### They Walk Among Us...

One day, I was strolling along the beach with some friends when one of them gasped dramatically, pointed ahead, and yelled:

"Look! A dead bird!"

Another friend immediately looked up at the sky and asked, "Where?"

I just... I had no words. 🤔

## BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of April 2025, we have 743 sets of professional looking tags in Maryland. Many members continue to display their pride of being a police officer, even in this current climate. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00 to the Distress Fund.



Contact Kathy Conrad at 410-303-0184 for more info.





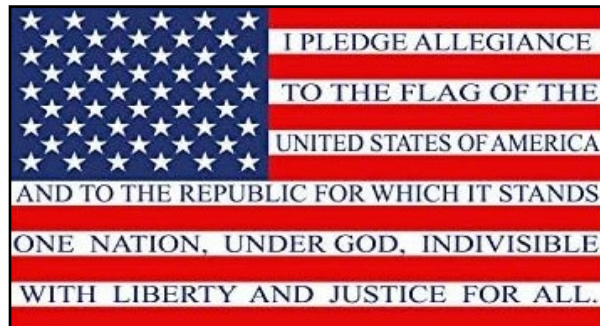
Joyce Cunningham (03/30/2025)  
 Susanna Guerin (3/17/2025)  
 Teressa Molesky (04/21/2025) Wife of  
 member Anthony Molesky  
 James Ryan (02/24/2025)  
 Margaret Wise (02/27/2025), wife of  
 deceased member Wesley Wise

## BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

As of 4/29/2025

Charles Ausby (03/14/2025)  
 Robert Bittinger (02/19/2025)  
 Ronald Colligan (04/24/2025)  
 William Cromer (03/23/2025)  
 Patrick Ewing (4/26/2025)  
 Edward Koluch (03/13/2025)  
 John Kowalczyk (03/23/2025)  
 Calvin McRae (03/14/2025)  
 Herbert Swinson (04/25/2025)  
 Charles Thrush (03/27/2025)  
 William Willis (03/18/2025)

“Our legacy is really the lives we touch, the inspiration we give, altering someone’s plan – if even for a moment – and getting them to think, cry, laugh, argue. More than anything, we are remembered for our smiles; the ones we share with our closest and dearest, and the ones we bestow on a total stranger, who needed it right then, and God put you there to deliver.” – Carrie Hamilton



“We painfully grieve because we deeply love”



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Association  
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Return Service  
Requested

***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and  
General Meetings on the third Wednesday (except no General Meeting in  
July and August) at Knights of Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman  
Avenue, Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***