



THE SHIELD



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SPRING 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A belated Happy Passover and Happy Easter to all who celebrate, but where did the Spring warmth go? It's darn chilly!

I hope that everyone feels okay. We have been fighting a real enemy with this Coronavirus (Covid-19) and we are aware that some of our members have family that have lost the fight or are currently fighting this illness. We send our deepest condolences/best wishes. This is a serious virus, so please stay safe and follow all guidelines.

This will be the first time in the history of the BRPBA that we have had no meetings for three months. Who knows what will happen in June (our typical summer party).

Now for the business part of this message:

- Most of you know about the most recent news regarding the pension lawsuit and if you do not, please visit this website: <http://baltimorepensionlitigation.com/Documents>. Many were left out of the settlement and we have received a lot of calls and emails letting us know how frustrated and upset you are. Please be aware that this decision by the judge is already under appeal by our lawyers. Don't give up on this. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder against the City during this fight, but remember one thing: No one was promised a pot of gold. The goal was to protect our pension and healthcare. The fight for healthcare is next on the agenda. NOTE: If you were awarded money by the judge, please DO NOT spend that money yet. It still could be years before this is completely settled.

Also remember one more important fact: One of those retirees who was awarded a large settlement was injured LOD and had to retire because of those injuries. He lives his life in a wheelchair and has received no raises since he was forced to retire in 2003.

In addition, go downtown to the Baltimore Shot Tower Park and read the list of names. Those officers, bless their souls, did not get a pension. Be thankful you are still with us.

If you have any questions about the lawsuit, please call the office of Saul Ewing and speak with Mr. Charles Monk (Dedicated line: 410-332-8672).

- We are all aware that changes are needed in Baltimore City. The BRPBA and the FOP3 held interviews with a few candidates running for office (the rest were not interested in meeting with us or were unable to meet with us). We are endorsing:

Mayor: No one

President of the City Council: No One

Comptroller: No One

City Council:

District 1: Paris Bienert

District 2: No one

District 3: Rain Pryor

District 4: Nicole E. Harris-Crest

District 5: Issac "Yitzy" Schleifer

District 6: Sharon Green Middleton

District 7: Rodney Hudson

District 8: No one

District 9: John T. Bullock

District 10: No one

District 11: Eric Costello

District 12: Robert Stokes, Sr.

District 13: No one

District 14: Stephanie Murdock

If you live and vote in Baltimore City, please

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consider voting for our recommendations.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter is printed and mailed, the stay at home order will be eased somewhat and we can start to resume our normal lives, but if not, again I pray that all will be safe from this serious enemy.

Daryl

PENSION LITIGATION: THE DANGER OF ASSUMPTIONS

The April 8, 2020 Daily Record article screamed, "Judge awards \$30.7 million to Baltimore police, fire retirees." Both the headline and the article could mislead some retirees into assuming that they had somehow struck it rich. Yet history is replete with instances of false assumptions. Until the 17th century, most people assumed that the earth was the center of the universe. In fact, when Galileo endorsed Copernicus' theory of heliocentrism, that the earth actually rotates on its own axis and revolves yearly around the sun, the Inquisition convicted him of heresy in 1633 for contradicting what the Church assumed was sacred dogma, confining him to house arrest until his death. Pope John Paul II finally apologized — in 1992.

The \$30.7 million figure apparently came from adding together all of the individual awards of fire and police retirees who decided to remain in the class action lawsuit against the City. The Daily Record article did not say that many retirees, under the City's mode of calculation that the Trial Court endorsed and ordered, would get absolutely nothing. In addition, there was only an oblique, passing reference to the possibility of appeal, something both parties vowed to pursue, an endeavor that could cause a different result and delay matters considerably. Now is therefore not the time to be counting those chickens because they simply have not hatched.

The website, www.baltimorepensionlitigation.com, contains a basic explanation of the class action litigation as well as many of the pertinent documents. The last two of them can now be read simply by clicking on their titles. The first, entitled Final Order Of Judgment sets forth the judgment in favor of the plaintiffs. It bears a date of April 6, 2020, and any notice of appeal to the Court of Special Appeals must have been filed, pursuant to Maryland Rule 8-202 (a), within 30 days of the date. Any notice of a cross -appeal must have been filed within 10 days, under Maryland Rule 8-202 (e), after the first notice of appeal was filed. Both sides have already filed on time, the Plaintiffs on April 7, and the City on April 14.

The second document on the website sets forth the amounts those who did not opt out will receive if the appeals both sides already filed do not change the result.

In this case, Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, may only hear the case pursuant to a Writ of Certiorari. The Court may issue the Writ on its own initiative pursuant to Maryland Rule 8-301 (a) (4) or by a Petition from one or both parties pursuant to Maryland Rule 8-302. The Petition may be filed either before or after the Court

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of Special Appeals has rendered a decision, but not later than the latter of 15 days after the Court of Special Appeals issues its mandate or 30 days after the filing of that court's opinion. Maryland Rule 8-302 (a). The other party may then file its own Petition within 15 days generally. Maryland Rule 8-302 (c).

Absent a crystal ball or a preternatural power of precognition, it is impossible to determine how long the process could take. Conceivably, even though Maryland has some of the most conscientious jurists in the country, the matter could drag out for several years, particularly if the parties litigate the case completely in the Court of Special Appeals, and then the Court of Appeals decides to grant certiorari, which it is not required to do in every case. Adding to the uncertainty is the possibility that an appellate court could, for any number of reasons, remand the case back to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City for additional proceedings.

Under the circumstances, absolutely no one who received a large award, admittedly a small percentage of the affected retirees, should spend the money or make any financial commitments on the assumption that the money will eventually come. The City Council passed, and the Mayor signed, the ordinance usurping retiree benefits in 2010, a decade ago. The parties remain in litigation while the City's population and tax base dwindle. The COVID 19 catastrophe additionally has economic consequences. Adding to the conundrum is the apparent reluctance of the City to engage in any meaningful negotiations designed to resolve the issues. Perhaps the City takes its cue from Robert Goodloe Harper, a Senator who had practiced law in Baltimore and who rejected a bribe demand from Talleyrand in 1798 during the XYZ Affair by stating at a toast, "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute."

The website also has, in its document designation, the Schedule of Individual Damages, which can now be accessed. It runs some 129 pages and sets forth the amount each police and fire retiree would obtain under the City's experts' calculation. In addition, the City filed a Motion to Stay Enforcement of Judgment Pending Appeal, which the fire and police plaintiffs did not oppose. The April 6, 2020 companion letter from Judge Rubin to the order granting the Motion said, "Notices of cross-appeal are expected," and that has already occurred, with the plaintiffs filing on April 7, 2020 and the City filing a week later, on April 14, 2020.

In an earlier conversation, Charlie Monk, Esq., our attorney, explained that because of varying individual circumstances, it was necessary to create 14 different spreadsheets. Initially, the plaintiffs indicated that they would do the calculations, and the City agreed. Then the City changed its mind and indicated that it would do the calculations, which encompassed discerning what each person would have made had the variable benefit been in existence and the amount of money owed to each member under the City's damage formula, which the Trial Court accepted when it rejected the retirees' proposal as to how the damages should have been calculated.

The numbers constituting the damage calculations differed for each individual because they are predicated upon such actuarial factors as age, dates of birth, life expectancy and, in the event of deaths, the life expectancy of the decedents' beneficiaries. In addition to that, it was necessary to take into account Qualified Domestic Relations Orders, QDROs, a methodology for splitting pensions for divorced persons without incurring adverse tax consequences.

From a practical standpoint, no one should expect to see any amount of money, or a final resolution of the case, any time soon. Meanwhile, the BRPBA board, and the author, pledge, on the honor with which we so proudly served, to continue the fight.

Michael P. May
April 15, 2020

"I can't give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time."

— **Herbert Bayard Swope**

Newsletter

April 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security (CARES) Act

The sweeping legislation that passed in the end of March contained so many provisions that even accountants' heads are spinning! But I will try to explain the things (as I understand them) that I think are most relevant to my clients.

Stimulus Checks: Most taxpayers will be getting a stimulus check from the government. Here's how the amount is calculated:

- Single taxpayers earning less than \$75,000 will receive a lump sum of up to \$1,200; couples filing as married filing joint and earning less than \$150,000 will receive a lump sum of up to \$2,400.
- Low income people with little or no tax liability would get at least \$600 (or \$1,200 for joint returns).
- Families will receive an additional \$500 for each qualifying child (under the age of 17) claimed as a dependent.
- Reduced checks will be available for single adults who earn between \$75,000 and \$99,000.
- Reduced checks will be available for married couples who earn between \$150,000 and \$198,000.
- Those filing as a "head of household" will receive the full \$1,200 check if they earn up to \$112,500 a year, and reduced checks up to \$136,500 annually.
- Anyone who can be taken as a dependent by another filer (such as high-school children age 17 or older, college students, dependent siblings, and ailing parents) will not get a rebate.
- IRS will first look at your 2019 tax return for filing status, Adjusted Gross Income and number of children. If a return wasn't filed for 2019, then IRS will use the data on your 2018 tax return.
- The checks are expected to be directly deposited into your bank account by mid to late April for those who used direct deposit when they filed their tax returns. If not, checks will be mailed. Some reports suggest that mailed checks could take up to 4 months to get to recipients, but the government's intent is to get the checks out much sooner than that.
- The checks aren't taxable, and you don't have to repay the money to the government.
- IRS plans to mail a letter to each eligible person within 15 days of the payment. The address on your most recent tax return will be used. The notice will indicate the method and amount of payment, and give a phone number to call if you haven't received your money.



TAX NEWS:

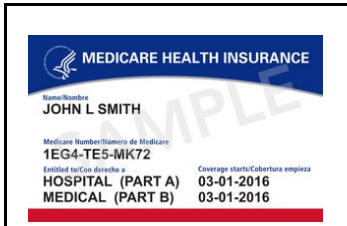
Filing Deadline: The tax deadline for federal tax returns, Maryland tax returns, and any tax payments that were due April 15th has been extended to July 15th. There is no need to file for an extension, and there are no penalties or interest charged on any payment that is sent in before July 15th. As of now, estimated tax payments that were due on June 15th are still

due on June 15th.

Required Minimum Distributions: Retirees normally must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year after age 70½ (or after age 72 if they turn 70½ in 2020 or later). However, this requirement is waived by the CARES Act for 2020, so retirees will not have to sell losing investments in order to make the required withdrawals.

Charitable Contributions: Under the CARES Act, taxpayers can now take a deduction in the 2020 tax year for up to \$300 in charitable donations even if they don't itemize. Taxpayers who wish to make larger deductions can still claim them if they itemize deductions on Schedule A. Even though RMDs are waived, you can still use your IRA to get a tax break on giving to charity. If you normally give to charity, you can do that with qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from your IRA. The funds must either be (1) transferred directly from your IRA to a charity, or (2) issued on a paper check made payable to the charity (NOT made payable to you!). You then can exclude that donation from your taxable income. Only IRA transfers qualify (the money can't come from your 401(k) or 403(b) plan) and taxpayers must be age 70½ or older. This 70½ age requirement did not change, even though the age for RMDs was increased to 72. If you don't do a QCD and you don't itemize, your only charitable deduction will be the new \$300 deduction mentioned above.

Medicare: If you are on Medicare, Medicare will cover your coronavirus (COVID-19) related expenses.



If your doctor orders a COVID-19 test for you, Medicare covers all of the costs. You should not have any co-pay, no matter which Medicare plan you're enrolled in. At this time, there is no vaccine for COVID-19. But whenever one does become available, Medicare will cover the cost of it.

Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers can deliver telehealth services. And Medicare beneficiaries can receive telehealth services in their home, as well as in any healthcare facility, a physician's office, hospital, nursing home, or rural health clinic. Telehealth services can include routine office visits, mental health counseling, and preventive health screenings for cancer and other illnesses.

During this emergency, Medicare will pay for telehealth services at the same rates as in-person services, giving doctors and other medical professionals the opportunity to reserve their offices to treat those who truly require in-person care.

Personal Note: As a tax preparer, I normally have face-to-face contact with many of my clients. "Social Distancing" is not always convenient. However, considering my age, my wife's age, and our medical conditions, I must insist that you mail, e-mail, or fax your tax information to me, or simply drop it off on my front porch (call me first, and I will be standing inside the door to get it). I will then mail your returns back to you. We can discuss any questions over the telephone. Rest assured that I have both your health and my family's health as a high priority. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

This quarterly newsletter provides business, financial planning, and tax information to clients and friends. None of this general information should be acted upon without first determining its application to your specific situation.

For additional copies of this newsletter or further details on any article, please contact me.

Who Should You Thank?

As all of us live through this Coronavirus 19, we are thankful of the people that are working during this pandemic. As retired police, we understand the difficulty in working in certain situations - where health issues of people that we dealt with were at times dangerous to others and to ourselves. Therefore, we thank the active police and the fire department personnel for their service.

We thank the doctors and nurses that are doing their best to treat and save the lives of the patients that contract this vicious virus. In some cases, due to patients that are terminally ill from this virus, families cannot be with their loved ones as they pass away. At times, the nurses are the ones holding their hands and trying to comfort the dying. This creates an enormous psychological strain on these angels of medicine.

These people are to be commended and are special to all of us. What about the others?

In the health field there are "Tec's, (Technicians) who are the ones that come into your hospital room and take your temperature and blood pressure. Due to having spent more time than I want to ever relive in hospitals, I can tell you that the Tec's are worthy of our gratitude.

We all, during this lockdown, have been to the grocery store. We think nothing of shopping and then paying the clerk and walking out. However, these folks that work there should also be thanked. Without them all of us would really be in a bad way. This gratitude should extend to everyone from these clerks to the people that stock the shelves.

We also need to be thankful to the people that work in the food industry, but those carryout's and restaurants are hurting. If you can, put a little in that tip jar on the counter as a way of showing your gratitude.

While this list could go on to include other vocations, I believe that anyone who is working to serve the public should be shown some gratitude. It costs nothing to be nice.

This next group is not by any means last on my list of who to thank. In fact, they are first to me.

Thank your family. They, the ones that live with you, they have had to put up with you for the last two months. We all know how cops can get when they cannot go do things outside of chores. Let's face it. We can be difficult to be with on good days. Being locked away from the normal routines of your life, fishing, hunting, playing cards, etc., is frustrating. The bright side of this is when the world opens up again your family will be very happy for you to leave the house, a lot!

The downside of this is not being able to see your children and or grandchildren. Not being able to hug them is not a good feeling at all. We stay away as none of us want to unknowingly be carriers and infect our loved ones.

Both of our children are adults now. Our daughter has a son, Noah, who is three years old. He is our first grandchild. We are awfully close to him. He told a librarian, when asked, who his best friend was. He said "Pappy". I am "Pappy". He keeps this up and he will get the monster truck of his choice when he turns 16.

Due to the lockdown, we have been using the Skype setting on our computer. For those that do not know, Skype is the ability to see and talk to another person or several people at one time by using a home computer. A few days ago, we had been talking to both our son and daughter at their respective homes. Of course, Noah was front and center in the conversation. After a nice talk we all went to say goodbye. Noah looked at us and said that he loved us and missed us.

Then about ten minutes later our daughter sent me a text message. She said this. "Noah looked at her after we all ended the call and said that he would talk to God to stop this sickness."

I told our daughter that I do believe he will have that conversation with God.

So, to my family I thank you. I thank you for the love and trying to keep in contact with us in this surreal time.

Patrick Youells

THANK YOU!

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right – for you'll be criticized anyway." — Eleanor Roosevelt



Calling all Retired Former BPD Helicopter Unit (Foxtrot) Flight Officers, Observers, Supervisors, etc. I think a Reunion is overdue! If anyone is interested in a future event, please contact me via email or phone and let me know your thoughts. I volunteer to get the ball rolling. I can also set up a Facebook Page once it's agreed to go forward. Thanks and be well! Carmine Baratta; carmine_baratta@yahoo.com; 443.756.2128



BORROWED TIME

“You're living on borrowed time, son.”
 I look at the old man strangely.
 Thinking him crazy, I shrug off the ominous words.
 My first day on the job, I wanted to prove myself.
 I was full of pride and boastful of my worth.
 But pride leaves quickly when you stare
 down the barrel of a gun
 and see the coldness of death in a man's eyes.
 You cringe in fear as you listen to the shouts of
 others to take your life.
 Heartbeat frozen in my chest,
 I glance at their faces quickly.
 Raised fists, angry looks, hurtful words.
 It didn't matter that I was there to protect them.
 They forgot I was the one they called for help.
 It didn't matter I'd fight to keep them alive.
 I was now the enemy. Because I'm a cop.
 I am here to serve. I am here to protect.
 I am here to be a friend. I am here to render first aid.
 I am here to bring a new life into the world.
 I am here to hold a fragile hand as their life ends.
 But it matters not to those who want me dead.
 So much hatred, so much misunderstanding.
 If only we could talk. If I could only explain.
 This job is so hard. They need to see what I've seen.
 Feel what I've felt. Breathe the stench of death.
 Hear the cries of pain. Fight to not lose your lunch.
 My brain repeats the horrors.
 I have to live with what I've seen.
 And yet I still defend and protect you,
 because I am a cop.
 And now that gun is pointed at me
 and the voices egg him on.
 Will I live to see my son being born?
 Will I get the chance to hold my wife again?
 These thoughts rush through my mind as I wonder if
 I'm at the end of my borrowed time.

**WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED INSTEAD OF MAILED?
 LET US KNOW AT brpbaoffice.com.**

**As of the printing of this newsletter, 91 officers
 across the nation have lost the battle against
 Covid-19. Rest in Peace Officers and thank you for
 the ultimate sacrifice.**

“It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.”

MEMORIES

Bob DiStefano's op-ed letter in the Sun of March 21, 2020 about John Unitas unleashed a flood of memories for me.

For instance, in 1970, Baltimore, with a population of about 906,000, as compared to roughly 610,000 today, had the best Police Department in the State, if not in the United States. The City had the World Champion Orioles and a football dynasty, our cherished Colts. Both teams played at Memorial Stadium, the World's Largest Outdoor Insane Asylum.

Northern District, at 34th and Keswick, housed the Police Academy. Instructors gave trainees lessons on the effects of mace by spraying them in the face. They used smelling salts to revive those knocked out in boxing matches while their classmates laughed hysterically. The trainees worked weekends at various districts without overtime pay. During the week, Sgt. Michael ran them from the playground at 34th St. and Beech Avenue to the bridge at University Parkway and back again — after a grueling set of calisthenics, and Sgt. Chaney marched them in the District's parking lot. They drove to the range to learn to shoot with Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolvers on 41 frames. Before they went to their first district assignments, they attended graduation at the War Memorial at Gay and Fayette Streets.

On October 16, 1975, I was a Detective Sergeant in charge of the Northwest District Squad in CID Property Crimes. A prisoner I was interviewing, escape artist Wendell Beard, slipped out of a handcuff securing him to a desk chair and got away by jumping from a second story window at the old Central District. Wendell hit the ground, and bolted away, running as fast as Usain Bolt. I was not quite so successful when I jumped after him. I shattered my right ankle and fractured my left heel.

About a year later, Detective Sergeant Cliff Reinhardt mused, to the great amusement of then-Detective Sergeant Stu — now Jim — Oliver, that I had gotten a particular new investigative assignment, of a plane crash, because of my expertise in crash landings.

On December 19, 1976, the still hated Pittsburgh Steelers had demolished the Baltimore Colts, 40-14, in a playoff game. People in Baltimore generally don't remember much about the game, though. Instead they recall that Donald Kroner crashed a Cherokee plane into the upper deck of Memorial Stadium right after the game ended. Howard Gersh, the head of the Homicide Unit of the State's Attorney's Office, got the case and requested that the Police Department assign me to do the investigation.

I discovered that Mr. Kroner, whom I nicknamed Sky King, infuriating Colonel Joseph Carroll, our Chief of Detectives, whose nickname was Gentle Ben, had recently persuaded the National Transportation Safety Board to agree to the restoration of his pilot's license, previously suspended for psychiatric reasons. Football fascinated the intrepid pilot. Compelled, in his mind, to participate in the playoff game in some fashion, he decided to do aerobatics during the game.

Initially, Kroner rented a Cessna at Essex Sky Park. During the first half of the game, he was flying that over Memorial Stadium with Foxtrot, the Police helicopter, following at a safe distance as he maneuvered it between the lights. Not achieving the notoriety and applause he desired, Sky King then flew the Cessna to what is now Harford County Airport on Aldino Road in Churchville. Landing it, he told the attendant there, apparently not a MENSA member, that he wanted to rent a somewhat larger small plane, a Cherokee. He crashed that one.

At the time of the crash, the Cherokee's cockpit contained a roll of toilet paper, a can of yellow spray enamel paint, a can of spray snow and a note to Colts quarterback, Bert Jones: "To Bert Jones, QB, from Blue Max. Good luck, you Baltimore Colts." That was no surprise because 12 days before he crashed into the upper deck of Memorial Stadium, Kroner had been involved in another incident at the Iron Horse Restaurant owned by former Colts linebacker, Bill Pellington. Angered at having been thrown out, Kroner had flown over the restaurant, bombing it with a scotch bottle and toilet paper.

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This time, after Kroner rented the Cherokee, he headed back to the Stadium. It was never clear if Sky King, who certainly was at least 6 sandwiches short of a picnic, may have chosen Memorial Stadium because of its designation as the World's Largest Insane Asylum. At any rate, he initially flew the Cherokee into the open end of the horseshoe-shaped stadium. The folks rolling the tarpaulin onto the field heard a noise and looked up to see the plane bearing down on them. They ran for their lives. Sky King pulled it up quickly, stalling and ultimately crashing into the upper deck at Section 41, but not before almost hitting John Steadman, the dean of Baltimore sports writers.

In doing the investigation, I found out that Sky King also hung out at the Golden Arm, the restaurant owned by John Unitas, who had graciously named its lavatories after Joe Thomas and Bob Irsay. Mr. Unitas could not have been any more gracious and accommodating when I talked to him. He directed me to a witness, Gary Minnick, who testified at trial that Kroner had announced to anyone who would listen to him at the Golden Arm that he was going to do aerobatics over the Stadium during the game.

After I read his newspaper article about the crash, I called John Steadman to ask him if I might come up to the newspaper to interview him. John replied that he would walk down to the Headquarters Building to talk to me. That started a terrific friendship. His decency and compassion exceeded his prodigious reporting and writing talents.

Years later, the year I was President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the St. Patrick's Parade Committee elected John as Honorary Grand Marshal. Some members of the Friendly Sons objected, demanding that I insist that the Committee revoke the honor because years before John had written a tongue-in-cheek article about the Irish, including the extremely funny (to me, anyhow) remark that it was redundant to refer to a drunken Irishman. I ignored the protests. John somehow found out and announced at a public gathering how courageous I was when all I had done was the right thing.

In 2020, Baltimore no longer has the Colts although the Ravens have certainly filled the void created by Irsay's move to Indianapolis. Healthy Holly's author was the last elected person to fill the office William Donald "Do It Now" Schaffer occupied between 1971 and 1987. Her successor, a mayoral candidate who declines to meet with the FOP as part of his campaign, urges citizens not to shoot one another because Baltimore needs hospital beds for persons sickened by COVID 19. The once proud Police Department loses personnel faster than it can hire them. All around, things are challenging, if not unnerving.

Yet, through all this, we have our memories; we have our companionship; we have our mutual respect; we have our pride in what we did so many years ago; we have each other. During this difficult period, we must cherish our memories and take care of each other. The oath we took so many years ago remains — to the end of our lives.

*Michael P. May
March 22, 2020*

DO YOU HAVE A BENEFICIARY FORM ON FILE? IF YOU ARE NOT SURE, PLEASE EMAIL US AT BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM. WE STILL HAVE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WITH NO FORM ON FILE. IT'S YOUR MONEY, PROTECT IT!!!

New Site Info with Recall Light Correction

By Kenny Driscoll

Rather than present a long historical event in this newsletter, we would like to offer a correction and invite our members to a new Baltimore Police History site. It has taken more than 6 months to rebuild the site, but we think it is nice and worth the wait. We should also point out that when Bill Hackley built the first History website, it was 90 pages and the URL was:

www.BaltimorePoliceHistory.com.

His wife contacted me to let me know Bill wanted me to take the site. and to continue building it. However, by the time she had contacted me the URL's had expired, and for those that don't know, there are some companies that will purchase expired domains that the owners fell behind in payment with hopes that they will pay to get it back, their asking price was \$800 per URL so we had .COM .ORG and .NET meaning they wanted \$2400 for all three.

At the time, the rebuild was taking it from a Verizon personal site to a more professional CMS or Content Management System. This is not knocking Bill's work as it is the same information. Bill did a great job. But built on a different platform, templates, Mods, plug in and other components can get pricey. Rather than spending the \$2400 on domain names, we bought www.BaltimoreCITYPoliceHistory.com (Using the rest of the money Patty and I had set aside for fun money to buy the templates, mods etc.)

We also paid a coder to help with the first site. He also trained me in coding, but at that point the site was too much for me, so he passed it off to a better coder. A better coder means more money. But we got it done. We used the new URL and several others over the years until one day we did a search and found that those who were holding our URLs hostage gave up, and www.BaltimorePoliceHistory.com became available again. So, in honor of Bill Hackley, the new site can be found at his 1st site's domain www.BaltimorePoliceHistory.com and where his site once had 90 pages, this new site has around 900 pages and will keep growing. So I hope you will enjoy it.

Also, at the top of each page there will be 5 yellow stars; you can click on anywhere from 0 to 5, I hope you will rate the pages, and use the "Like" buttons at the bottom of each page to share these pages on Facebook. One last note before we give you a touch of history: Until further notice we will keep both history pages up and running, however, we will only update the newer of the two. If you have stories, pictures or anything of historical value (and I mean anything; we take scraps of paper, lookout books, you name it, you would be surprised at the information we have gotten just off a scrap of paper), let us know. If

it has to do with our Baltimore Police please, do not hesitate to contact us at TheDriscolls@GMX.com

Now some history. We will constantly be researching and re-researching (I'm from Dundalk; that is a real word LOL) our history, and from time-to-time we will come across information that is new, and might even be contradictory to information we received in the past. That new information is regarding the Recall Light. Initially we were told the lens colors were RED, but the RED caused problems because the same time they were working to build the Recall Light they were also building the Traffic Light system, so they ditched the RED and went to the AMBER. It was also said that they tried BLUE lights, but the Cobalt Blue Glass was expensive, and these lights were prone to vandalism. The information we initially obtained came from guys that were Baltimore Police and remembered some of this, some of our old-timers that were in their 90s and to their credit they were sharp, some of the information they saw, other parts of it came from those that came before them. Either way, it was a lot of years had passed and they may have been mixed up. So, where we were told the lenses were never GREEN and they felt the GREEN may have been the housing of the light, and not the lenses, we have since found the first lights as we know were made up of spare parts from the marine unit and the lenses were also out of spare parts, the two most common colors would have been RED or GREEN and the lens was known as a Fresnel lens. The first lenses BPD used were in fact, GREEN, and with these GREEN lenses the system became popular, not just in Baltimore City but around the country. Closer to home they were erected in Baltimore County. On 1 Aug 1923 within 5 to 50 minutes of a holdup being reported to police headquarters by means of our "Call Box" system, the GREEN lights atop patrol boxes lit up in the city and suburbs and nearly every policeman on duty had been supplied with the description of the bandits that had just robbed the bank.

This excerpt is from the Baltimore Sun:

In that 1923 case, Patrolman Harry Bryan was the first to learn from the bank teller what had happened. He immediately notified Captain Mintiens, of the Central District. Meanwhile, Sergeants Becker and Rosensteel, at Police Headquarters flashed word to the Captain of Detectives Charles Burns, who, in command of a squad of detectives, rushed to the bank an automobile. Uniformed police under Captain Mintiens arrived a few minutes later.

At the same time, police all over the country were working on leaving the Semaphore system of manually directing traffic at

Continued page 11

intersections and going to an automatic light system, and those lights were the same as we use today, RED, YELLOW, and GREEN. So, GREEN needed to be replaced. Some boxes at the time (and between this time and the 1980s when the recall lights stopped being used), did receive RED lenses, as did a few get BLUE lenses. But the main color we saw, and most will remember was the AMBER. Some might ask, if they couldn't use RED and GREEN due to traffic lights, why could they use AMBER. Those that have seen these boxes will remember the AMBER was actually, AMBER or BROWN, the AMBER light as we call it today on a traffic light was YELLOW and back when the traffic light system began it was also called YELLOW.

We are working on a display for the museum in which we've already purchased three antique FRESNEL LENSES. They will be displayed in a box to protect them, showing the GREEN, RED and BLUE lenses. Along with this we will put three of the four styles of Recall lights we used; the first being that homemade Recall Light, followed by a Cast Iron Lamp that would have been the third issue lamp so to speak and the 4th issue which was the same as the 3rd but made of Brass. I have no idea as to where to get that 2nd issue but will continue looking. The original three Recall lamps we have in our collection also have the original AMBER lenses.

I hope you find this interesting. We will, from time-to-time, find information that refutes information we had learned previously and when we do, we will make corrections and bring it to you as soon as possible. We will also be including pictures of this information to the site as soon as possible,

Speaking of the website, it is not cheap to run, we spend around \$75 to \$100 a month on servers, and research a month. Likewise, we spend a ton of money on the Domain names we use. We could use a shared server for much less, but our website houses 1000s of pictures and on a shared server would run so slow no one could enjoy it. We have patches and will be getting decals soon to give as rewards to those that make donations. So please stop by, visit the site, give us information if you have it, pictures you may want on the site, etc. We hope you enjoyed this information and we hope to see you all again in the next newsletter.



Silent Partner

Now Put Away Those Nghtsricks
 The Brand New Leader Cried
 For When You Twirl Them On The Streets,
 The Folks Are Terrified
 The Veterans Wincd In Disbelief At
 The Loss Of An Old Friend
 When This Baltimore Tradition
 Reached An Unexpected End
 It Gave A Sense Of Comfort As They
 Trod The Midnight Street
 In The Days When Neighbors Felt
 Secure With The Officers On The Beat
 A Symbol Of Authority
 Morning Night And Noon
 Known To The Police Of Baltimore
 As Their Trusty Espantoon
 Unique It Was To Baltimore,
 His Strange And Ancient Name
 Handed Down From Olden Days
 Now Things Won't Be The Same
 But Then A Different Leader Came
 With A Sense Of History
 And Restored This Silent Partner
 To Where It Used To Be
 Once Again To Work The Streets
 Once More At The Officer's Side
 He Brought Us Modern Methods
 Our Tradition Had Not Died

Ret Sgt Robert P Wolfe
 Prof of Criminal Justice
 Balto City Community College

Contributed by: Ret. Major Don Healy

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Ronald Gale	James McCartin
Janet Greaves	Jeffrey McKnight
Ralph Greaves	Eric Thess
Ronny Hege	William Wagner

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.

Newsletter Chairman:

Patrick Youells
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

Distress Fund Chairman:

Daryl J. Buhrman
410-803-2293

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Website www.brpbacom
Email Address: brpbaoffice@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
Securian Financial 1-888-658-0193
Municipal Employees Credit Union 410-752-8313
Employee/Retiree Affairs Unit 410-396-2546

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



WANT TO EARN

SOME EXTRA CASH????

GET INVOLVED IN THE BRPBA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BY HELPING US INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP. FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER YOU SIGN UP, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$50.00 (up to ten new members).

JUST HAVE THEM EMAIL
BRPBAOFFICE@GMAILCOM AND WE WILL SEND OUT AN APPLICATION AND ONCE WE RECEIVE THE APPLICATION BACK, YOU RECEIVE \$50.00!!!

MY DREAM IS OF A PLACE AND A TIME WHERE AMERICA WILL ONCE AGAIN BE SEEN AS THE LAST BEST HOPE OF EARTH - **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

DISTRESS FUND NEWS

The Board Members of the BRPBA would like to take this moment and thank you for all you do for the organization and the Distress Fund. Without you, we are nothing. These past few months have been trying for all and we were saddened to have to cancel our meetings where so many gather to get an update, enjoy good food, meet new friends, and reminisce with old friends.

It is the time of year when we renew our commitment to the BRPBA Distress Fund with our yearly raffle. It will be mailed the first week of September. As promised, we have removed over eight hundred names from our mailing list of members and widows who do not purchase tickets. This saves the Distress Fund some much needed money and saves our members from having to throw them in the trash.

Again, thank you very much for your continued support of this very important yearly drive to replenish the Distress Fund. Due to Covid19, we haven't had any requests for help in the first four months of this year, but we suspect that will change very shortly as people try to dig themselves out of the bind of being out of work for months at a time.

Before I sign off, I want everyone to remember. The BRPBA is here for you and wants every one of you to know that we are only a phone call away if you need financial help or even emotional support. We can listen, or we can help you find someone in your area who will help. You are not alone. Call Patrick Youells at 443-695-4202 or myself at 410-803-2293.

Take care, stay safe, stay well.

Daryl J. Buhrman

Chairman, Distress Fund

P.S. Additionally, if you or someone you know has thoughts of suicide, please know that the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress. Safe Call Now (1-206-459-3020) offers those services specifically for first responders.

References:

<https://apnews.com/2cc9379fc97547f48dd6a90b7be26698>

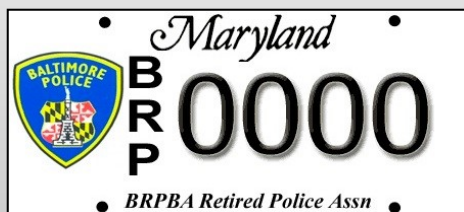
https://www.policemag.com/536451/report-228-american-police-officers-died-by-suicide-in-2019?fbclid=iwar0bswaamrqv8of9udy8jrxbcywjaievqiax2ffxrsq_iajuta9e6g8cp8

(The members of the BRPBA Board are not certified psychiatrists or therapists.)

BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION TAG PROGRAM

As of April, 2020, we have 675 sets of very professional looking tags in Maryland. Many members thank us for providing our retirees with the ability to display their pride of being a police officer. Our tags are a one time fee of \$25.00 to the MVA and a small donation of \$20.00. Don't forget to contact Daryl if you want motorcycle tags.

Contact Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293 if you would also like to tell the world how proud you are to be a retired Baltimore City Police Officer.



Visit our website for more information at:
www.brpba.com under Member Information or call
Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293.

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Retired non-member, George Christian (03/08/2020)
Mrs. Anna Dietz (08/01/19)
Gloria Nolker (3/22/20). Civilian employee for 30 years.
Retired P.O. Alphonso W. Wright (3/23/2020)

BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

Joseph Barnes
Lee Cohen
William Dowdy
Rev. Andrew Griffiths
Wardell James
Edward M. Johnston
Carter Myer
George Stiemly
Frank Walmer

Police week begins May 10th. Many events will be cancelled as a result of the virus. It's sad that we cannot honor our fallen and LOD injured as we normally do.

For more information about cancellations, check updates on this website: <https://www.policeweek.org/schedule.html>.

"Step forward now, policeman, You've borne your burdens well. Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets, You've done your time in hell."





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THIS NEWSLETTER REACHES OVER TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE, FOUR TIMES A YEAR. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR HOBBY, WHETHER FOR ONE NEWSLETTER OR FOUR A YEAR. CONTACT BRPBAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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ALL MEETINGS ARE ON HOLD RIGHT NOW

***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month and
General Meetings on the third Tuesday at Knights of Columbus Gardens,
4301 Klosterman Avenue, Perry Hall, MD. Please join us!***