

MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

November 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the November MYJC newsletter! Each month we assemble all the latest need-to-know news about MYJC and what's happening for youth across Maryland. Please share your community events, local news, needs, and actions with us by emailing gail@advancemaryland.org.

Share this newsletter with your network and encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy [here](#).

Did you miss our previous newsletters? Find it and all of our newsletters [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

On October 22nd, we gathered in Baltimore for our Youth Justice Action Month event. We discussed [automatic charging and the importance of CIPA](#), wrote postcards to legislators, and organized donations for the Citizens Policing Project. A huge thank you to everyone who attended!



MYJC members writing postcards to legislators.



Group photo from our YJAM event.



MYJC members arranging donations for CPP.

RECAP

AHEAD

On Oct 21st, **MYJC sent a letter to the governor** to demonstrate support for the administration to stay the course in implementing a research-backed, equitable, community-centered approach, including our support of the DJS secretary. The letter has garnered over 220 signatures from different organizations and community leaders across the state. [Read the full letter here \(updated 10/25\).](#)

Announcing the launch of the Youth Rights and Safety Hub! If you are interested in short term and long term narrative change about youth justice, or if your organization needs communications support for your work with or supporting youth, please join the hub. [Learn more here](#) and please share with your network.

We're still accepting donations for the Office of the Public Defender (OPD)'s youth supply closet! ICYMI, Advance Maryland is leading a donation drive to support system-involved youth in need of supplies like those entering group homes. Check out the Amazon [wishlist here](#), and choose to ship directly to OPD's offices.

IN THE NEWS

Check out [this guest commentary](#) published by the Baltimore Sun, from OPD's own **Kimber Watts**, explaining the need for juvenile justice to be about safety rather than retribution. The article mentions that studies and data analysis have consistently proved that kids treated in juvenile court have significantly lower recidivism rates than those sentenced in adult court. Watts says it best: "Ending the automatic charging of teens as adults is in all of our best interests and will make our communities safer."

DJS Secretary Schiraldi spoke with WBAL amid calls for his removal. He explained the process that takes place upon a youth's arrest: Those evaluated as "high-risk" or who have committed a category one serious crime would be detained before the judge sees them the next day and makes an independent decision. Schiraldi also noted kids who commit one of 32 offenses are automatically tried as an adult and don't even come to DJS; they are sent straight to county or city jail. He said it is then up to the police and state's attorneys to notify schools when a student is arrested for a reportable offense, such as attempted murder. Read more and listen to the [WBAL interview here](#).

Beginning November 1, we will see changes in Maryland's juvenile justice laws take effect. Perhaps the most controversial of the legislation is that children between the ages 10-12 will be eligible for criminal charges for a greater number of offenses, which differs from the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, where children had to be at least 13 years old to face charges for most offenses, and at least 10 years old for only the most serious violent crimes. Find a breakdown of the legislative changes and hear MYJC members comment on the new laws in the [Baltimore Sun](#) and [WMAR](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join NDAA to explore the latest research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among rural youth in detention and ways to counteract or build resiliency to ACEs. CLE credit available. [Sign up here](#) to attend.

November 6, 2024 — 1pm-2:30pm

Virtual

[RSVP here](#)



ACLU Maryland is hosting their Expungement Workshop and Re-entry Resource Hub in partnership with the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). The event is available to everyone, with a particular focus on formerly incarcerated individuals in Southern Maryland. Walk-ins are available, [RSVPs appreciated](#).

November 16, 2024 — 1:30pm-4:30pm

West Waldorf Library, Room A & C

10405 O'Donnell Place, Waldorf MD

20603

[RSVP here](#)

Join MOPD attorneys and expert panelists for an informative and interactive discussion on how limiting non-safety-related traffic stops can enhance public safety and strengthen community trust. [Register here for free.](#)

November 19, 2024 — 6pm-8pm
Baltimore County Public Library,
Catonsville Branch
1100 Frederick Road, Catonsville MD
21228
RSVP [here](#)



SAVE THE DATE

MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
DISCUSSIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAFER TRAFFIC STOPS FOR ALL
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Virtual View the briefing on FB @MarylandOPD	PANEL DISCUSSION + Q&A 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Location: Catonsville Library 1100 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228 RSVP TODAY! BIT.LY/4EM7MKW
---	--

 [View the briefing on FB @MarylandOPD](#)

 [RSVP TODAY! BIT.LY/4EM7MKW](https://bit.ly/4EM7MKW)





**HUMAN RIGHTS
for KIDS**

**DISPOSABLE CHILDREN:
THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD
ABUSE AND TRAUMA AMONG
CHILDREN PROSECUTED AND
INCARCERATED AS ADULTS IN
MARYLAND**

**Report Release Event
Presentation of Report & Panel Discussion**

Wednesday, November 20th
3pm
Baltimore, location TBD

Please RSVP to Emily Virgin,
evirgin@humanrightsforkids.org

Human Rights for Kids is holding a report release event for their newest report, “Disposable Children: The Prevalence of Child Abuse and Trauma Among Children Prosecuted and Incarcerated as Adults in Maryland. The event will feature a presentation on the report’s findings, as well as a panel discussion of experts in youth defense, mental health, juvenile justice reform, and legislators. The exact location is TBD, but it will be in Baltimore. Contact Emily Virgin at evirgin@humanrightsforkids.org to RSVP.

November 20, 2024 — 3pm
Location TBD
Email evirgin@humanrightsforkids.org to RSVP

Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the December newsletter?
Email gail@advancemaryland.org.

*Did someone forward you this newsletter?
Click [here](#) to subscribe to our monthly newsletter.*