

# MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

## May 2026 Newsletter

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Welcome to the May 2026 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](mailto:gail@advancemaryland.org). Feel free also to forward this newsletter with your network and encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy [here](#).

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

Not yet a member of MYJC? Email [gail@advancemaryland.org](mailto:gail@advancemaryland.org) today to join.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**The Youth Charging Reform Act (YCRA) was signed into law!** 🎉



**Photo:** Members of MYJC gathered for the signing of the Youth Charging Reform Act.



**AHEAD**

## **YCRA Celebration**

To celebrate the passage of YCRA and the progress and achievements of MYJC, **we will be having a cookout on Thursday, June 11** hosted by Jamal from Baltimore Algebra Project in his backyard. [Please RSVP as soon as you can](#) so we can get a sense of how many will be attending. This is a semi-potluck — we will provide the main dishes, and encourage everyone to bring something to share if you're able.

## **Pre-Retreat Survey**

Additionally, [click here to fill out our annual survey](#) that will help us all shape an effective agenda for our annual retreat in mid-June. Filling out the survey should take no more than 20 minutes, though we highly encourage as much input as you'd like to share. **Please fill out and submit your survey responses by Friday, June 5th.**

## **New Commission Appointments**

**The Commission on the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children is accepting applications for public members.** The Commission's website, including information on membership, meeting schedules, and public participation, is available [here](#). To apply for a public member position, please contact the Office of the Attorney General's Office of Equity, Policy, and Engagement at [HORCommission@oag.maryland.gov](mailto:HORCommission@oag.maryland.gov) or 410-230-1700. The following public member positions are currently being filled:

- **One descendant of a child buried at the site, a former resident of the House of Reformation, or a former justice-involved youth.** This member helps ensure the Commission centers the voices and lived experiences of those most directly affected, including families of children who died in State custody and individuals who experienced the juvenile justice system firsthand.
- **One academic expert in forensic anthropology, archaeology, African American history, or other related disciplines.** This member brings specialized scholarly expertise to support the Commission's investigation into burial site identification, historical records research, and documentation of institutional conditions and deaths.
- **One representative from a historically Black college or university in the State.** This member connects the Commission to Maryland's HBCU community, which has a longstanding stake

in preserving and advancing African American history and may contribute research capacity, institutional knowledge, and community trust.

- **One representative from a civil rights organization.** This member brings an organizational perspective rooted in racial justice advocacy to inform the Commission's work on reconciliation, systemic reform recommendations, and engagement with affected communities.
- **Two individuals with experience in civil rights advocacy and litigation.** These members contribute legal expertise in civil rights to support the Commission's analysis of institutional failures, reconciliation, and recommendations for systemic reforms to juvenile justice policy and practice.

## IN THE NEWS

**Gov. Moore signs the Youth Charging Reform Act.** See coverage from the [National Law Review](#), [Maryland Matters](#), [WYPR](#), [Imprint](#), [TheBayNet](#) (May 27, 2026).

**How Maryland redined public safety this year.** "For decades, Maryland funneled Black children into the adult criminal legal system at alarming rates. Approximately 80% of children charged as adults in Maryland are Black. Previous statutes mandated a rigid pipeline, automatically routing children into adult court for specific charges without regard for their individual humanity or developmental needs. We sent them in first and asked questions later. The Youth Charging Reform Act (S.B. 323) begins to correct that injustice. It narrows the automatic pipeline and redirects more cases to the juvenile system, where accountability and rehabilitation can work together. This is not leniency. It is evidence. Children prosecuted as adults reoffend at higher rates. If public safety is the goal, Maryland was doing it wrong." [Read more in the Baltimore Sun.](#) (May 16, 2026)

**Baltimore City unveils summer youth engagement strategy, curfews to deter juvenile crime.** The Summer Youth Engagement Strategy has gotten positive feedback over the years for helping drive down youth-related crime, while giving children activities. The program is in its fourth year, and it is part of what the mayor's office and law enforcement credit for playing a role in decreasing Baltimore's once historically high crime numbers. [Read more from CBS News here.](#) (May 13, 2026)

**Mayor Brandon Scott discusses how Baltimore is trying to cut down youth crime.** "I see through our youth engagement so many young folks that may have been on the wrong side that we get back on the right track," Scott said. "But then there's that small few, when we are talking about thousands of kids in the city, you are talking about a very small percentage of them that are the repeat offenders and the ones getting into trouble." [Read the CBS News article here](#), and [watch the clip here.](#) (May 11, 2026)

**Cheltenham inmate described violent abuse, confinement.** Like hundreds of runaways before them, the three young men were caught by the police and sent back to the Cheltenham School for Boys in March 1946. Gov. Wes Moore is expected to sign a bill creating a state commission to investigate what happened at Cheltenham. For the commission, the Richardson case could be one of the most detailed firsthand accounts of a Cheltenham youth facing violent abuse at the institution. [Check out this Maryland Matters article for more.](#) (May 11, 2026)

**Death count at Cheltenham boys' center was nine times that of white facility.** The death count at the House of Reformation for Colored Boys at Cheltenham, a juvenile detention center whose violent past is under state investigation, was nine times that of its white counterpart, the House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents or Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School, according to a Capital News Service analysis. [Read more from Maryland Matters.](#) (May 9, 2026)

**Gov. Moore dedicates historical marker to children who suffered at former Cheltenham facility for Black boys.** See coverage from [AFRO News](#), [BET](#) (May 8, 2026).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Baltimore Together: A Summit on Violence Prevention**

Tuesday, June 16, 8AM–4PM

M&T Bank Stadium

1101 Russell St, Baltimore MD

[RSVP here](#)

Join Baltimore's leading voices in violence prevention—from grassroots organizers and frontline practitioners to Mayor Brandon Scott and other invited officials—for a day centered on listening, learning, and meaningful connection. As the city sees a notable decline in violent crime, this gathering brings together those behind that progress to discuss what's working, what challenges remain, and how to maintain and build on these gains. Connect directly with community leaders and those on the ground, hear how their efforts are shaping this moment, and form partnerships with key organizations to strengthen collaboration, expand impact, and help chart the future of violence prevention in Baltimore. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

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**Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the June newsletter?**

Email [gail@advancemaryland.org](mailto:gail@advancemaryland.org).

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614 Seymour Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933