

Welcome to the first monthly MYJC newsletter! Each month we will 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).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Organizing to Oppose the Prince George's County Youth Curfew Bill!**

*What does the bill do?*

Prince George's has had a curfew provision in their code since at least 1995. However, the provision was effectively dormant and not enforced until 2022 when County Executive Alsobrooks called for enforcement to resume in September.

In mid-April of this year, following incidents at the National Harbor, Councilman Ed Burroughs introduced an emergency bill that would expand curfew establishment in the County. In its current posture, the bill:

- Allows the Police chief to accept and approve applications to create zones that have more restrictive curfew times, primarily for commercial areas like restaurants and retail stores.
- Proposed curfew times can begin starting at 5 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. Under the current statute, curfew times begin at 11:59 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 p.m. all other nights.
- Applications must include a letter of support for the creation of the curfew zone from at least one member of the County Council who represents the district where the proposed curfew zone would be.
- The bill limits public approval of the application to property owners. There is no opportunity for public comment or input from the wider community.
- The bill maintains existing fines and fees that parents must pay for curfew violations.
- First violation is a warning
- Second violation is a first offense with a civil violation and \$50 fee.
- Third violation is a second offense with a civil violation with a \$100 fee.
- Fourth and subsequent violations are a third or subsequent offense with a \$250 fee.
- Parents must pay babysitting fees to the County if they cannot pick up the child within one hour.

# RECAP

## VETO ADVOCACY

MYJC spent most of April and May asking Governor Moore to veto HB814, a bill that will be incredibly harmful to kids and won't make our communities safer. We wrote op-eds, contacted legislators, organized our community to send emails and make calls to Governor Moore, and even rallied in front of the governor's mansion in Annapolis. Although he ultimately did sign the bill into law, we know our advocacy changed the narrative around what our kids and communities need from our leaders, and the final bill was less harmful than what was initially introduced.

## TOWN HALL

We also hosted a virtual town hall to talk about HB814, explain what it does and to answer questions from the community. Attendance was strong from community members across the state. Check out some of the slides here. MYJC will be holding more virtual and in-person events like these in the future, so stay tuned!

# AHEAD

## MYJC Retreat – June 20, 2024

MYJC will convene for an all day retreat on June 20th to recap our 2023/2024 organizing and plan for the year ahead.

Looking to 2025, MYJC will be advocating for passage of the YES Act to end the practice of automatically charging kids as adults.

All MYJC members and allies are invited, and there is no cost to attend.

RSVP by sending an email to [alice@advancemaryland.org](mailto:alice@advancemaryland.org)



MYJC members at our rally to urge Governor Moore to veto the bill he ultimately signed to roll back youth justice protections.

# IN THE NEWS

## Baltimore City

Baltimore City's public pools opened over Memorial Day Weekend, but [many have criticized](#) how the pools -- meant to bring fun and joy during hot summer days -- are so restrictive that they resemble the carceral system. You cannot bring clothes or bags on to the pool deck, and if you don't have quarters or the lockers aren't working, you're out of luck. At night, [the city often uses their police helicopter](#) to circle the Patterson Park pool to scare kids away. Our youth should be able to enjoy their summer, not be exposed to systems that mirror the juvenile "justice" system.

## HB814 opposition and bill signing

HB814 was signed May 16th with many news sources framing the issue as Moore signing bills “tightening juvenile justice” or “focusing on public safety”. According to the articles, HB814 is a broad bill with a mixture of “accountability and rehabilitation”. The Juvenile Services Oversight Commission is often discussed, along with the fact that children 10-12 can now be charged. Multiple articles cited the Brooklyn Homes shooting. Articles mentioning HB814 typically also mentioned controversy and pushback from MYJC and juvenile justice experts, with law enforcement and state’s attorneys portrayed as the other side. Some quoted politicians saying there will be more work on the juvenile justice issue in future sessions.

- Maryland Matters, WTOP: [Moore signs bills to tighten juvenile justice, expand gun safety measures](#)
- Baltimore Sun: [Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signs juvenile justice legislation, state budget, and bills in honor of Pava LaPere](#)
- WBAL: [Maryland governor signs controversial juvenile law reform package into law](#)
- Baltimore Sun: [Despite calls to veto, Gov. Wes Moore to sign hotly debated juvenile justice bill](#)

## Automatic charging in the news

Chair of Senate Judicial Proceedings, Senator Will Smith [said he hopes to shrink the list of crimes that land kids in adult court](#). MYJC is pleased to hear Senator Smith wants to take steps to curb automatic charging, but believes the legislation should go beyond the charges identified in the article and will be advocating for the YES Act next session.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Solutions Not Punishments Town Hall**

Saturday, June 15th at 5:30pm

Suitland Community Center (5600 Regency Ln, Forestville, MD 20747)

[Click here to RSVP](#)

## **MD Equal Justice Initiative – 13th Viewing and Panel Discussion**

June 17, 2024 at 5:30pm

University of Baltimore School of Law (1401 N. Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21201)

[Click here to RSVP](#)

## **MYJC Retreat**

June 20, 2024

Annie E. Casey Foundation (4 E Franklin St, Baltimore, MD 21202)

RSVP by sending an email to [alice@advancemaryland.org](mailto:alice@advancemaryland.org)

## **Citizens Policing Project - Juneteenth Block Party**

June 22, 2024 – 12-3pm

1546 N. Fremont Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217

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

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

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