

# MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

## September 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the September 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](#).

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **The Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform & Emerging Best Practices**

Created by HB814, [this Commission](#) is charged with oversight of Maryland's juvenile justice system and programming. They are also expected to review particular programming, submit reports, and make recommendations for potential policy changes. The Commission is comprised of 28 members, including four members of the General Assembly.

The Commission was expected to convene this summer, but as of September 1, only four members have been named to the Commission. The Commission must hold regular meetings at least six times a year, but its first report is not due to lawmakers until Oct. 1, 2025. Read the Maryland Matters article [here](#).

MYJC plans to monitor the meetings and actions of the Commission once meetings begin, which could happen later this month. If you want to help monitor the Commission, please email [alice@advancemaryland.org](mailto:alice@advancemaryland.org).

## RECAP

## AHEAD

An outrageous, early-August [Baltimore Sun column](#) denied science, disputed best practice, and used misleading data from the state's attorney (Ivan Bates) to call for more and longer sentences for young people. The author, Sun co-owner Armstrong Williams, was wrong on every point.

MYJC hit back in an [8/25 letter to the editor](#) to correct the numbers and remind readers that being serious about youth safety means focusing on prevention, treating kids like kids, minimizing their contact with courts, and removing obstacles to success for young people touched by the system.

Advance Maryland is leading a youth supply closet donation drive for the Office of the Public Defender. All donations go to OPD 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

The commission established in HB814 **may begin meeting as early as this month**, despite only having confirmed four of 28 seats filled in the panel. The commission must hold regular meetings at least six times a year, but its first report is not due to lawmakers until Oct. 1, 2025. Read the Maryland Matters article [here](#).

**Crime rates have fallen significantly in most jurisdictions and in most and across most categories of crime**, but you wouldn't know it from the misleading coverage, such as [this Maryland Matters article](#) that mostly focused on places where some crime increased and didn't do enough to celebrate major progress in gun violence reduction and rates of homicide.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## MYJC Workgroups Kick Off in September!

If you would like to attend the standing legislative workgroup, or you want to join the Youth Justice Action Month event planning group, please email [alice@advancemaryland.org](mailto:alice@advancemaryland.org).



Attend **Associated Black Charities'** Cookout: A Celebration of Black Culture, featuring a Movement March for Equity and Justice. The event is free to join, and partnership opportunities are available.

September 14, 2024 — 10am-4:30pm  
Canton Waterfront Park  
3001 Boston Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

Join the 13th Man for their 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Sponsorships are available.

September 16, 2024 — 11am  
Norbeck Country Club  
17200 Cashell Road, Rockville, MD 20853  
[RSVP here](#)

For more information, please contact [info@the13thman.org](mailto:info@the13thman.org).







Associated Black Charities invites you to a special screening of A.J. Ali's award-winning documentary **"WALKING WHILE BLACK : L.O.V.E. Is The Answer"**—a film that tackles the difficult conversations surrounding race, policing, and community relations in America.

Register [here](#) at no cost.

September 19, 2024 — 5:30pm-8:30pm  
Baltimore Unity Hall  
1505 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, MD 21217

[RSVP here](#)

**Racial Justice NOW!** is hosting an emergency convening centering the **humanity and dignity of Black male adolescents** in Montgomery County and beyond. To RSVP, fill out the form [here](#). Sponsorships are available.

**Beyond the Pale: The Systematic Vilification of Black Boys and Men**  
September 27 & 28, 2024 — 10am-6pm  
YoShow Place  
621 Southlawn Lane, Rockville, MD 20850  
[RSVP here](#)

Any questions may be directed to [zsj@racialjusticenow.org](mailto:zsj@racialjusticenow.org).

Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the October newsletter?  
Email [gail@advancemaryland.org](mailto:gail@advancemaryland.org).

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