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Prince George's County Libraries Mark Milestone With First Black CEO

By NESTOR DIAZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Winston, Ph.D., as the new chief executive officer (CEO) for the Library. In this role, Dr. Winston will provide strategic and operational leadership to oversee a nationally recognized organization that is leading the future of libraries through innovation, democracy, and equity.

Prince George's County is one of the largest and most diverse counties in Maryland, serving a population that is 64 percent Black and nearly 21 percent

Hispanic or Latino, according to U.S. Census data, and one of the wealthiest Black-majority counties in the U.S.

Dr. Winston, the system's first Black CEO in its 78-year history and a Maryland native, began his tenure on January 29. He looks forward to meeting many in the Prince George's County community at the opening of the Baden Branch Library on February 6. Early in his tenure as CEO, he will work to establish partnerships throughout Prince George's County and the region, engaging key stakeholders including local, state, and federal government officials, agencies, community groups, and businesses.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to assume the role of CEO of the Prince George's County Memorial Library



Dr. Mark Winston
PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

System. I am very enthusiastic about working with such an impressive staff and dedicated Board in building on the library's success in providing library services for the community," Dr. Winston said.

"It is humbling and motivating to think of my appointment as a milestone."

Most recently, Dr. Winston was the executive director of the J. Lewis Crozer Library in Chester, PA, where he also worked as development officer and head of adult services. Additionally, he has worked as engagement officer and librarian at Widener University's Wolfgram Memorial Library, assistant chancellor and director at Rutgers University, and has also taught at University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Rutgers University and held librarian and administrative positions at Valdosta State University and the University of Arizona. He has also served as a management consultant, diversity consultant, and trainer, working with a range of academic, corporate, and public sector client organizations.

In addition to his library management, university faculty, and consultant experience, Dr. Winston is an author, columnist, and book reviewer, with an extensive background in grant writing. Currently, he writes a column called "Diversity Matters" for the Journal of

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Visions and Voices: The African American Voting Experience in Laurel

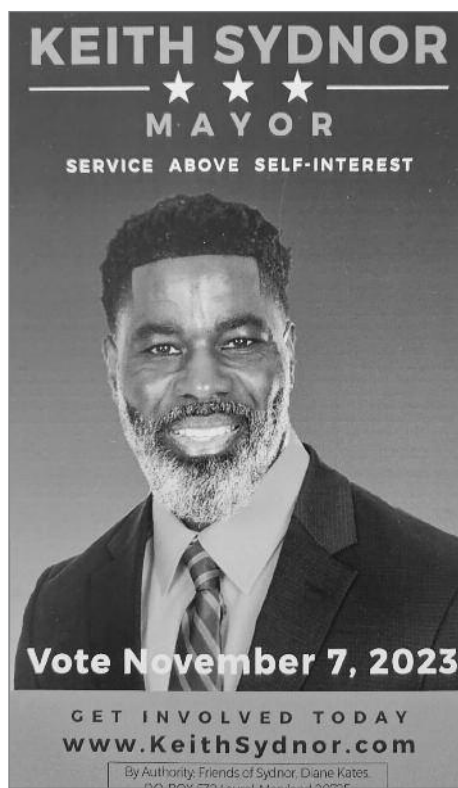
Opens February 16

By PRESS OFFICER
Laurel Historical Society

LAUREL, Md. (Jan. 31, 2024)—Keith Sydnor's 2023 election as Laurel's first African American mayor was an important milestone but only part of the African American voting story in this city of 30,000. The Laurel Museum's newest temporary exhibit "Visions and Voices 1920–2023 The African American Voting Experience in Laurel, Maryland" running February 16–June 16, 2024, celebrates his and others' election accomplishments. The exhibit also explores some of the highlights and perspectives of African Americans who ran for office. Through artifacts, interviews, and a timeline, it puts them into perspective within the United States and Prince George's County.

Visitors to the museum, located at 817 Main Street in Laurel, Maryland will discover campaign materials, and a 1922 Poll Book which lists registered voters. Men are listed separately from women, and people of color are noted with a "(col)" next to their name. Curiously, while "col" men were listed, no "col" women were. In 1928, a similar book listed nine women of color. A timeline notes the election of Reginald Parks in 1992, Laurel's first African American Council member, Fred Smalls, the longest serving African American Council Member, and Valerie Nicholas, first African American woman elected as Council President, while highlighting important Laurel and U.S. voting developments.

"We thought last year's election was the time to look at some of the electoral achievements of Laurel's leading African American citizens," noted Ann Bennett, LHS Executive Director. "We asked those

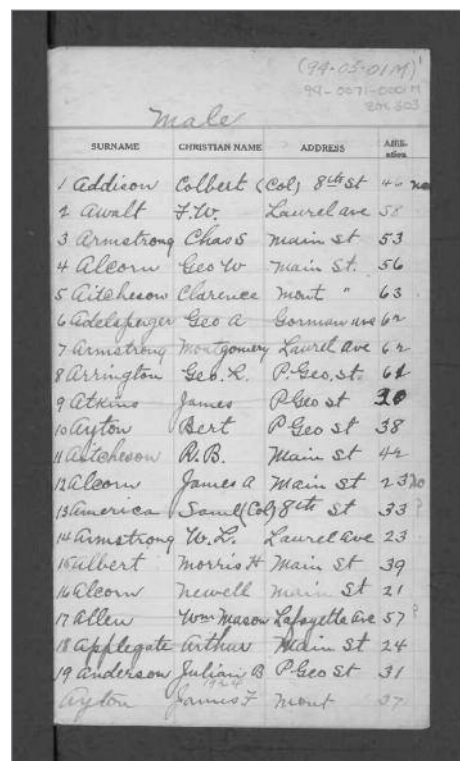


Campaign materials for Keith Sydnor, elected Laurel's first African American mayor on November 7, 2023.

who were running and had run in the past why they ran, and also their experiences, which several generously shared."

While celebrating the achievements of African Americans to elected office, the exhibit has a sub-theme on the difficulties of increasingly low voter turnout in the community. In 1920, 95% of the registered voters turned out. In 2023, during a hotly contested mayoral and Council races, only 13% of those registered voted.

"Visions and Voices" will run concurrently with the Laurel Museum's current long-term exhibit, "It's All Laurel," which continues through August 2024. That exhibit looks at the different neighborhoods and communities within and outside the Laurel city limits, which share the Laurel name. Beginning February 16 the Laurel Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12–4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org or contact info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org



CREDIT: LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION, GIFT OF JAMES BOSS.

First page of the 1922 Laurel, MD voter registration book. Two African American men, Colbert Addison and Samuel America, are noted as "(col)."

Council Member Krystal Oriadha Launches 'Green Book,' Black History Month Campaign to Highlight Black Businesses, Authors, Musicians

Launch in tandem with legislation creating
Black Start-Up Fund to support Black businesses

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Council Media

District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha has launched her annual #EverythingBlack campaign this Black History Month to focus on highlighting local Black business owners, artists, authors, entrepreneurs and other influencers.

Her interactive "Green Book" pays homage to Victor Green's publication of the same name, and will serve as a guide to help people eat, shop, read and listen in support of the local Black community. The launch includes new legislation that will create a Black Start-Up Fund to provide capital to allow Black-owned businesses to expand or get off the ground. The bill, which is part of the Council Member's goal to help African Americans create generational wealth, [was] presented Tuesday February 6, at the Council Meeting.

"This Green Book is about giving back the power to African Americans to share our story of Black mobility in a way that doesn't only focus on our struggle," said Council Member Oriadha. "It's important to share our stories and history in uplifting ways, while highlighting the impact we have on American history, entertainment and the economy. I hope to shed light on the jewels in our own backyard, while inspiring other like-minded creatives and entrepreneurs to create their own history."

The Green Book dates back to the Jim Crow era. The travel disparities faced by African Americans were life-threatening, and with its publication, the Green Book helped African Americans navigate the segregated South while providing a comprehensive list of Black-owned or non-discriminatory lodging, gas stations, restaurants and more.

The link to the interactive Green Book is posted on the Council Member's social media accounts and Prince George's County Council webpage. Council Member Oriadha will also be hosting her "Black on the Block" Black History Month Celebration on February 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 4217 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, MD.

Link to Greenbook: bit.ly/KOGreenBook

University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center Ranked #1 in Maryland and Among the Top 10 Percent in the Nation for Stroke Care

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Capital Region Health

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center (UM Capital), a member organization of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), has been rated #1 in Maryland and among the top 10 percent in the nation for Stroke Care according to new research released by Healthgrades. UM Capital also received five-star recognition in Cardiac, Orthopedics, Pulmonary and Critical Care.

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a stroke is

critical and can have a life-saving outcome. One patient and her family know the importance of swift action. Hear firsthand from a young boy who used skills acquired from being a Boy Scout to take immediate action to help save his grandmother, who received life-saving care at UM Capital: (https://youtu.be/oiEOduE8i7Q?si=GeA_TLNn1Om8Y2u3)

"This achievement reflects UM Capital's dedication and commitment to providing excellent care in Prince George's County and the surrounding area," said Nathaniel Richardson Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of UM Capital Region Health. "We remain steadfast in our pursuit to bring our

community high-quality, safe, and compassionate care. These recognitions are an outward showing of the work we continually strive to provide to all those who enter our doors and I could not be prouder."

Healthgrades evaluates hospitals on patient outcomes to determine the top-performing hospitals for specialty care in each of the 32 states assessed. Healthgrades' 2024 analysis revealed that patients who seek care for a particular condition or procedure at a top-ranked hospital have a better chance of a good outcome.

"Healthgrades is proud to recognize University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center as the

top facility in Maryland for Stroke Care with additional recognitions for Cardiac, Orthopedics, Pulmonary and Critical Care," said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Data Science at Healthgrades. "Hospitals with a #1 ranking in their state deliver consistently superior outcomes for patients in their community. Consumers should feel confident knowing that they have access to top-ranked care at University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center."

Consumers can visit Healthgrades.com to learn more about how Healthgrades measures hospital quality.

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