

## MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



### MAJR General Meeting

Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

People for Change Coalition,  
9500 Arena Drive, Suite 460  
Largo, Maryland 20772

We will continue our planning for the 2017 legislative session and for monitoring progress of the newly-created Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board. Food will be provided.

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## Working Groups Formed: Are You in One Yet?

At the last general meeting in June, five new MAJR workgroups were formed. Three topic groups will study the needs and make recommendations for legislation in the 2017 legislative session in three areas related to criminal justice:



- The **Front Door** Issues Workgroup will consider pretrial detention and bail, alternatives to arrest, diversion to mental health programs, and mediation and other alternatives to incarceration.
- The **Behind the Walls** Workgroup will make recommendations regarding education within correctional facilities, solitary confinement, preparation for re-entry, and parole for lifers.
- The **Back Door** Issues Workgroup will focus on re-entry and collateral consequences.

In addition, the Regional Organizing Workgroup will recruit and organize MAJR supporters throughout Maryland on a geographic basis.

Finally, the MAJR Monitors will attend meetings of interest to MAJR and write up their proceedings for the MAJR website. These will include the meetings of the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board and a state-level task force that will study Collateral Consequences. If you become aware of an event that we should cover, please let Susannah Rose know. She can be reached at [susanhillsrose@gmail.com](mailto:susanhillsrose@gmail.com)

These new groups are in addition to the three ongoing committees: the Legislative/Policy, Networking, and Communications Committees. If you would like to participate in any of these groups which often meet by conference call, contact Pat Schenck at [pat.schenck3227@gmail.com](mailto:pat.schenck3227@gmail.com). She will add your name to the list and forward your request to the group's convener.

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## Contributing to MAJR and Being Reimbursed for Expenses

MAJR now has a checking account. This facilitates the making of contributions, as we no longer have to go through Annapolis Friends Meeting. If you wish to give to MAJR, send your contribution to Barbara Thomas at 5957 Second Street, Deale, MD 20751. Contributions are not tax deductible.

The Executive Committee has approved the following reimbursement policy for anyone who would like to be reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred while doing MAJR work.

*Anyone incurring expenses doing the work of MAJR may be reimbursed. The request should include receipts for purchases or a detailed statement of mileage. Mileage will be reimbursed at 23 cents/mile. Time is never reimbursed. Any equipment, printing, travel, meals, or other expense over \$100 must be approved in advance by the treasurer. Expenses over \$500 must be approved by the Executive Committee. Reimbursement is available for travel to committee or work group meetings for members of those committees/groups. It is not available for attending general MAJR membership meetings or public meetings unless the person does so on MAJR business.*

Send reimbursement requests to Barbara Thomas at [bthomas60@comcast.net](mailto:bthomas60@comcast.net) or at 5957 Second Street, Deale, MD 20751. Reach the treasurer, Pat Schenck, at [pat.schenck3227@gmail.com](mailto:pat.schenck3227@gmail.com) or 410-263-4529.

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## Returning Citizens prepare to give back to their communities

Becca Gardner, a member of the MAJR Networking Committee and the Monitors Workgroup, attended the July meeting of First Monday Empowerment Group, a group of returning citizens (mostly released through the Unger ruling) that meets in the offices



of the Living Classrooms Foundation's **Project SERVE** on 901 N. Milton St. Baltimore. Project SERVE (Service- Empowerment- Revitalization- Volunteerism- Employment Training), which provides job training and other educational opportunities to disadvantaged youth in the "target investment zone" of east Baltimore, has expanded to include services for re-entering citizens. Project SERVE also fosters Sharp-Dressed Man and Fresh Start.

Participants in the Empowerment Group "conduct community revitalization projects while learning marketable skills, professionalism, problem solving, social skills training and then transition into employment" where they receive after care support from a case manager in the form of tutoring and referrals for 3 years.

At the recent First Monday Empowerment Group meeting, Mr. Ellson Pinanszu invited Juvenile Ex-Offenders Who Are Now Adults (JEONAS) who have successfully re-entered their community to take part in his doctoral research study, which will focus on their personal experience of incarceration and what helped them to successfully return to the community.



The Empowerment Group invites MAJR members to attend its Annual Freedom Family Picnic on August 6th at Carroll Park, 2100 Washington Blvd in Baltimore, from noon to 7pm. Becca went last year and reports that games, fun and community were shared by all ages. A donation of \$5 or more would be appreciated.

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MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over thirty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.

**Help us by forwarding this newsletter to your community!**

Visit: <http://www.ma4jr.org>

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