

## MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

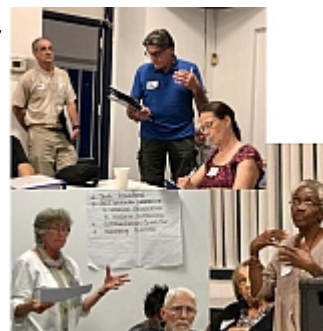
Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



### General Meeting - September 2017

#### Prince Georges County, Maryland

We convened with about 65 participants at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Boys and Girls Club meeting room after a generous potluck dinner. After a welcome by LBGC president Adrian Rosseau, our facilitator Jerry McLaurin introduced [Del. Darryl Barnes](#).



Del. Barnes invited MAJR members to attend the annual [Legislative Black Caucus](#) public meeting this Saturday, 9/30/17. He also commented on the unfairness of Maryland's old money-bail system. He suggested that legislators may wish to make changes to the current Rule, but he added that any major reforms may be difficult in 2018, which is an election year.

Jerry explained the format for our general meeting and introduced the chairs of our [Front Door](#), [Behind the Walls](#), and [Back Door](#) workgroups. His introduction was followed by 45-minute breakout sessions that gave the opportunity for more detailed discussions for those interested in each area. Chairs then reported on the priorities identified by workgroups.

Learn about those priorities. [Read the brief minutes of this meeting.](#)



We successfully passed the Maryland Fair Access to Education Act of 2017 (Senate Bill 543/House Bill 694) with **substantial majorities** in the House and Senate. The bill removed the arrest/conviction question from initial college applications to allow applicants to be assessed first on academic merit alone

(the question could still be asked later).

**But at the end of the session Governor Hogan vetoed the bill.**

Now, we must come together to override the veto!!! Everyone deserves a chance to attend college. And we know that keeping returning citizens from furthering their education does not increase public safety - it just makes it harder for people to access opportunities and support themselves.

First, you can [sign the petition](#).

Then mark your calendar for the [Ban the Box on College Apps Rally](#) on October 7th! The rally takes place at 3400 N Charles St, on the grass at Hopkins campus, from 11am - 2pm, sponsored by [Job Opportunities Task Force](#), [Out For Justice](#) and [From Prison to PHD](#).

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MAJR has received this important announcement from the [Tacoma Park Mobilization](#) organization:



Thurs. Oct. 5  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Historic Takoma  
7328 Carroll Ave  
Takoma Park

Work with a new committee and your Maryland District 20 delegation to help stop putting so many Black and Brown people in prison. Specific subcommittees so far on Expungement clinics and on restorative practices in the schools.

And, there to work with us will be Senator Will Smith, Delegates David Moon and Jheanelle Wilkins, as well as candidate for delegate Lorig Charkoudian of Community Mediation Maryland, all of whom have already been working hard on this issue.

For those of you who live in Maryland District 20 (Montgomery County) MAJR urges you to attend!

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## Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission



The **Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission** held its first meeting on August 30, 2017, and several of MAJR's monitors were in attendance and listening closely. The commission is established by law to oversee allocation of state funds saved by reducing unnecessary incarceration. The Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA), which authorizes its work, goes into effect on October 1, 2017.

Throughout the meeting, the critical need for local involvement was emphasized. Local government, in partnership with the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board, will be led by Local Government Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Councils. Local involvement must include provision of data and reporting of needs. It should enable sharing of successful programs and strategies and report local needs.

Don Hogan, Chief of Legislation & Justice Reinvestment in the Governor's **Office of Crime Control and Prevention**, noted that the state cannot expect to see meaningful savings for justice reinvestment from implementation of JRA until 2019, but he pointed out that the prison population is now approximately 19,000, down from the all-time high of 24,000 (and from 22,000 in 2014). The chairman, Robert Green, noted that the average delay between the request for treatment and the provision of inpatient services is now down to 55 days where it had been 101 days. He asked the commissioners to provide data about what is going on in local jurisdictions.

**Please check out the full report!**



MAJR thanks the following monitors for this thorough report:

Rosalie Dance

Adrian Bishop

Patricia Marks

Candy Clark



## MAJR General Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

6pm - Potluck Supper

7pm-9pm General Meeting

Location to be announced. Stay tuned!



MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over forty 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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