



Criminal Justice in Baltimore

DLA Piper's Mt. Washington office hosted the third Speaker's Series of the Fellowship. This week, the focus was on the City's criminal justice strategy. The panel's three speakers included Baltimore City Police Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld, III; Baltimore City State's Attorney Gregg L. Bernstein and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hanlon.

Commissioner Bealefeld spoke, focused on the impact of negative perceptions of Baltimore city. He said that despite Baltimore's many challenges, it has made enormous progress. He cited the U.S. Conference of Mayor's that was recently hosted in Baltimore as an example of changing perceptions of Baltimore.

The Commissioner's grandfather and great grandfather were both Baltimore city police officers, and it was clear that he had a strong sense of history. Bealefeld was proud that President Barack Obama chose to stop in Baltimore on his way to the inauguration and pushed to have Obama's speech in front of City Hall. Bealefeld left the audience with a final heartfelt charge: "Find some way to be of service to the people in your community."

He was followed by newly elected Baltimore City State's Attorney Gregg Bernstein. Bernstein ran on the platform of increasing cooperation between

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Q & A with Mayoral Fellow Alumnus Laura Bumiller



Name: Laura Bumiller

Hometown: Columbia, Maryland

Degrees: BA Human Services,
Psychology & Sociology, Villanova
University

MSN, University of Maryland

Fellowship Class: 2008

Fellowship Placement:

Office of Community and Human
Development

Where is she now?

Senior Program Manager for Public
Allies Maryland

Laura Bumiller, a 2008 Mayoral Fellow, shares her thoughts on the impact the Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship had on her and advice for current and future fellows.

Why did you choose to participate in the Fellowship?

While pursuing my Masters in Social Work, I was interested in learning more about communities and how they function and succeed. I knew that local government has a significant impact on community life in many neighborhoods in Baltimore and I wanted to get the inside scoop on the role that government plays and how it operates.

What was the most memorable thing during your Fellowship?

I helped implement a Call-In for Park Heights which was intended to scare the repeat offenders in that district. If they broke the law again, they would be federally prosecuted and shipped to prison out of state. I was there to offer resources to the ex-offenders and their families. This was probably my second week on the job and I found myself in a church basement with about 40 of the city's most violent offenders... pretty memorable.

What was the most important lesson you learned from your experience as a Mayoral Fellow?

Whether you like it or not, this city often operates based on whom you know. You don't necessarily have to ask for favors or throw names around, but it's important to build a trustworthy and respectable reputation for yourself. Relationship building is really crucial in order to succeed. It's surprising which relationships come in handy. When I go back to City Hall for meetings or events, the security guard still remembers me and that helps get me in quickly!

Do you have any advice for current or future Fellows?

I remember it feeling like everything was urgent, critical, or due yesterday, but take your time and do it right. Get to know everyone that you're working with and make sure you ask them questions about what they do and how they do it. Run things through the appropriate channels to get approved, but be as innovative as possible. Make your mark.





Program Spotlight: Baltimore Food Policy Initiative

Since joining the Office of Sustainability in 2010, Holly Freishtat, Baltimore City's Food Policy Director, is working with other city departments and nonprofit agencies to increase access to healthy, affordable food in Baltimore City's "food deserts." Food deserts are low car ownership neighborhoods that are a quarter mile or more away from a full service grocery store.

This summer, there are a number of exciting initiatives kicking off. You may have noticed the fruits and vegetable ads created by 250 elementary students displayed in buses and metro stations. These ads are a part of the "Get Fresh Baltimore" ad campaign to create awareness, action, and engagement for youth and their families. "The strategy for this campaign is for all the students to be 'winners', to increase the likelihood the youth will talk with their family and friends about their campaign ads, and to show the youth that they can make a difference and influence others to eat more healthy fruits and vegetables," said Freishtat.

One innovative city program to combat food deserts is the Virtual Supermarket, which allows residents to place grocery orders at a local library or school to be delivered the next day. This summer, the Virtual Supermarket is piloting the Neighborhood Food Advocates initiative. Over the course of ten weeks, community members will educate themselves as well as friends and family about food issues. In exchange, these Neighborhood Food Advocates will receive 150 dollars of Baltimarket Bucks to spend at the Virtual Supermarket.

The Food Policy Initiative is also increasing access to fresh produce by encouraging more urban farms. These farms will build on the success of community gardens and projects like Real Food Farm to provide fresh produce to city residents. In addition, The Office of Sustainability has overhauled the permitting process and fee structure for farmer's markets by creating a Zoning and Permit guide for the farmers. Also, the office has created a [Baltimore City Farmer's Market Map](#) that includes basic information such as dates, times, locations, and what nutrition assistance programs are available at each of the cities twenty farmer's markets.

All these efforts have not gone unnoticed. Holly Freishtat was asked to present at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, recently hosted in Baltimore. By promoting these new solutions, The Office of Sustainability will foster community development and a healthy outlook among Baltimore residents.



Featured Fellows

**School:**

Johns Hopkins University

Agency:

Baltimore City Parking Authority

Hometown:

Phoenix, Arizona

Ben Kauffman

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Ben Kauffman moved to Baltimore in 2007 to attend Johns Hopkins University on a wrestling scholarship. Growing up in Arizona, Ben rarely had difficulty parking by his house or downtown. Referring to Phoenix as the “biggest suburb in the U.S.,” he

On his Parking Authority assignment “It’s a great opportunity to have a direct impact on an existing program within the city’s that’s an important quality of life issue to residents.”

notes that practically every house had a garage or driveway to park their cars. How things changed when he decided to move to Baltimore four years ago.

For the summer, Ben will be working with the Baltimore City Parking Authority on reexamining the Residential Parking Permit Program to better serve the residents of Baltimore. “It’s a great opportunity to have a direct impact on an existing program within the city that’s an important quality of life issue to residents”, he says.

Ben Kauffman

He will be evaluating the current program, examining other cities’ programs, determining how technology could be used to increase efficiency, and providing recommendations to meet the needs of Baltimore. Ben feels that this project is a perfect opportunity to understand the challenges that face city officials when creating new policies or proposing new changes to existing policies.

Ben is a recent graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a bachelor’s degree in economics and a minor in entrepreneurship and management. He decided to pursue the Mayoral Fellowship to gain experience in city government firsthand. Outside of the office, he enjoys traveling and staying active by playing all types of sports. During Labor Day weekend this year, Ben will be spotted enjoying the first Grand Prix in downtown Baltimore.



Featured Fellows

Meg Howard

Environmental issues have become a central cause for Meg. The Mayoral Fellowship brings her back to the place where her interest in environmentalism started. She says that “Along with my parents, it was my middle school science teachers who took me on

“I’m excited to be back in Baltimore. There are so many great things about this city, and it’s been fun to experience Baltimore as an adult.”

Meg Howard

trips around the Chesapeake Bay watershed, taught me what an ecosystem is, and taught me how important the natural world is.”

Her middle school experiences helped her decide to major in Environmental Studies at Yale. After college, Meg worked for two years for an environmental design consulting firm in New Haven, CT and also became involved in a local environmental justice organization. Those two experiences inspired her to go back to school to pursue a Masters of Urban Planning at Harvard. “I realized that I wanted to work more directly with people. You

can’t have a sustainable environment without sustainable communities.”

This summer Meg is working with the Office of Sustainability on collecting and analyzing data for green infrastructure opportunities in the city. Even in an urban context, natural environments can act as infrastructure, providing stormwater control, urban heat island mitigation, air quality improvement and a recreational amenity to city residents. Meg thinks that “building more green infrastructure into the fabric of the city—where there are opportunities—is a really exciting idea that has a lot of potential benefits for Baltimore.”



School: Harvard University

Agency: Baltimore City Department of Planning

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland



Mayoral Fellow Teambuilding at the Police Academy

A week after the start of the Mayoral Fellowship, the fellows were invited to the Baltimore City Police Academy in Northwest Baltimore to participate in teambuilding activities. Pulling into the parking of the Police Academy Training Center, the fellows had no idea what to expect for the rest of the day. An obstacle course, 50 foot rock-climbing tower, and a large open field were just some of the daunting items visible from the road.

In 2008, Pimlico Middle School was transformed into the Baltimore City Public Safety Training Center. As the fellows saw, it took little time for Baltimore to put the facility to good use in the name of public safety. The teambuilding activity that afternoon was an opportunity to work together and overcome the fear of heights for some.

The first activity for the group was to scale the rock climbing wall. With another fellow as the belayer, each individual climbed to the top and was greeted by cheers after completing the wall. “Climbing the wall was a humbling experience because I realized it was harder than I thought, but I was able to reach my goal with the help of the fellows cheering and physically helping me,” said Saira Paredes. The next activity was an obstacle course involving climbing over walls, crawling under wire, and walking on a balance beam among other obstacles. The fellows were divided into four groups of three to compete and work together as a team to finish the course.

Throughout the day, the fellows had the opportunity to learn more about each other and pick the brain of police veterans about policing in Baltimore City. As Fellow John David Evans said, “Discussing the challenges Baltimore faces with the other fellows and the activity leaders from the force built a sense of camaraderie and shared perspective.” At the end of the day, it was clear that the afternoon had brought the fellows closer together.





From the left: Assistant Attorney Hanlon, Police Commissioner Bealefeld, and State Attorney Bernstein

agencies and improving technology in the States Attorney's Office in order to prosecute more violent crimes successfully. He described the community prosecution strategy that he hoped to implement in Baltimore. This model—drawn from Brooklyn and Philadelphia—has prosecutors take on all types of crimes in one area of the city instead of prosecuting a certain type of crime all over the city. Prosecutors will be able to build a stronger relationship with a community and the local police district. Bernstein echoed the police commissioners call to service by ending with a quote from Winston Churchill: “You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.”

When Michael Hanlon spoke, he emphasized the cooperation between different government agencies. Fellow John David Evans said, “The criminal justice talk gave insight into the teamwork between local, state, and

federal agencies in prosecuting crime in Baltimore. Hearing how agencies at all three levels coordinate their efforts helped me understand how television portrayals of these relationships are often inaccurate. In reality, it seems that the three levels of government are working together to make sure our streets are safe and justice is served.”

During the question and answer portion, the police commissioner described how his department has cut adult arrests from 108,000 in 2005 to less than 64,000 in 2010, while in the same years the number of murders dropped from 269 to 223. The commissioner said that the department has been more efficient by focusing on major violent crimes and not pursuing ever possible drug arrest.

Fellow Patrick Terranova summed up the event, “The event was a great opportunity to have an unfiltered conversation with the people who know our criminal justice system best. I was left very impressed with the Commissioner and what seems to be a pragmatic, targeted approach to law enforcement. It was also very refreshing to hear from all of the speakers their sense of optimism for the City.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 13th
Optional Visit to CitiWatch

JULY 15th
Service Event: Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter, Inc

JULY 22nd
Orioles Vs. LA Angels game at Mayor's box





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