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2024 . . . A New Year and A New Beginning
A Message of Hope & Gratitude

2024 is a brand-new year that brings with it immeasurable possibilities and a fresh start for everyone. It is time to reflect on the journey behind us, embrace the present, and eagerly anticipate the adventures that lie ahead. ***At G.S. Proctor & Associates, we choose to embark on this new chapter by spreading positivity and sending this "Message of Hope and Gratitude" to you and yours.***

To our clients and business associates, it is our desire that you will have a successful and productive year; the best one ever, and that blessings will accompany you on this journey called life. We hope you will have wisdom to navigate the challenges that may come your way and strength to overcome any obstacles. May your path be illuminated, and grace be your constant companion. Our greatest desire is that peace, love, kindness, and understanding will reign in your business and personal relationships, and that joy will be a constant undercurrent, even in the midst of trials.

And finally, we are asking for healing, unity, and peace. Please join us as we embrace and encourage our elected and appointed leaders to make decisions that are in the best interests of the people they were elected to serve, promoting justice and compassion for all mankind. Please join us also in our great mission to increase our love for one another and to develop a heart of gratitude for the blessings we often take for granted. May the year 2024 be filled with fresh challenges that ignite your passion, moments of triumph that celebrate your collective achievements, and a continued sense of camaraderie that makes your workplace and ours not just a desk, but a family built on the foundational principles of love, respect, honor, and integrity.

G.S. Proctor & Associates Team Members



1st Row (L-R): Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez (Associate) , Charlita Proctor (Chief Operating Officer), Trey Proctor (Vice President), Steve Proctor (President & CEO), Dianne Proctor (Chief Financial Officer), Cheryl Landis (Executive Administrative Officer), and Jackie Brown (Community Liaison).

2nd Row (L-R): Monroe Harrison (Associate), Jada Ward (Administrative Assistant), Jungan Choi (Government Relations Assistant), Erica Queen (Chief Administrative Officer), Sherrie Sims (Senior State Associate), Michelle Goodwin (Associate), Robert Glidewell (Associate), Tatiana Alston (Government Relations Assistant), Chloe Williams (Administrative Assistant), and Joe Green (Director, Strategic Partnerships).

446th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD – January 10 to April 8, 2024

HOUSE OF DELEGATE CHAMBERS



SENATE CHAMBERS



The 446th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly was gaveled in on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 12 noon. Along with it came a plethora of issues that will require lawmakers to engage earnestly in collaborative conversations and thoughtful deliberations.

As the opening sessions convened, there was an air in both chambers of optimism and concern about the state's current budget situation. Already over 900 bills have been filed between the House of Delegates and the State Senate, with more expected to follow.

Topics that may be addressed during the legislative session include, but are not limited to:

- *Budgetary shortfalls expiring before federal pandemic aid*
- *How to increase revenues to offset proposed cuts to state transportation aid*
- *Medical aid in dying for individuals with terminal illnesses*
- *Juvenile crime, juvenile justice, and public safety*
- *Shortage of law enforcement officers*
- *Blueprint for Maryland education reforms and the budgetary pressures created by its implementation*
- *Boosting affordable housing*
- *Reviewing Maryland's health insurance marketplace to make it available to all Marylanders, including undocumented immigrants*
- *Energy issues and climate control*
- *Securing private investments from technology companies*

Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller
in the Maryland State Senate Chambers on opening day of the 2024 Legislative Session



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Capital News Service

Maryland Senate Leadership



President of the Senate
Ferguson, Bill *(D)*
District 46, Baltimore City



President Pro Tem
Augustine, Malcolm *(D)*
District 47, Prince George's County



Majority Leader
King, Nancy J. *(D)*
District 39, Montgomery County



Majority Whip
Benson, Joanne C. *(D)*
District 24
Prince George's County



Minority Leader
Hershey, Stephen S., Jr. *(R)*
District 36
Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil, and Caroline Counties



Minority Whip
Ready, Justin *(R)*
District 5
Frederick and Carroll Counties

Maryland House Leadership



Speaker of the House
Jones, Adrienne A. *(D)*
District 10
Baltimore County



Speaker Pro Tem
Stein, Dana *(D)*
District 11B
Baltimore County



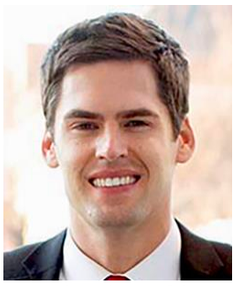
Majority Leader
Moon, David *(D)*
District 20
Montgomery County



Majority Whip
Lewis, Jazz *(D)*
District 24
Prince George's County



Minority Leader
Buckel, Jason C. *(R)*
District 1B
Allegany County



Minority Whip
Pippy, Jesse T. *(R)*
District 4
Frederick County

Maryland Democratic Party Annual Legislative Luncheon
Westin Annapolis Hotel - Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Maryland Democratic Party Leadership



Kenneth "Ken" Ulman
MDP Chair



Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D.
MDP First Vice Chair

Under the leadership of Maryland Democratic Party (MDP) Chair Ken Ulman and MDP First Vice Chair Dr. Charlene Dukes, the Maryland Democratic Party hosted on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, its annual legislative luncheon at the Westin Annapolis Hotel.

G.S. Proctor & Associates was honored to be invited guests of Chair Ulman. Steve Proctor joined the ranks of hundreds of Democrats from across the state who were in attendance. In addition, G.S. Proctor & Associates' Executive Administrative Officer Cheryl Landis was also an invited guest of Chair Ulman. She represented the Democratic National Committee as DNC National Committeewoman for Maryland.

Members of the House and Senate Delegations of the Maryland General Assembly, county officials, and Democratic advocates from across the state gathered to outline party priorities for what lies ahead in the 2024 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

During his shared comments, Senate President Bill Ferguson noted that "the state is facing a $761 million shortfall in projected revenue for the 2025 fiscal year; thus, it is imperative to prioritize state investments during this legislative session." House Speaker Adrienne Jones announced that she "is committed to promoting the decency agenda, a package of bills focused on combating hate and prejudice, including acts of discrimination against Jewish and Muslim people."

While the 446th Legislative Session was at the forefront of everyone's mind, there were also very succinct reminders about the importance of the upcoming General Election. "I know every cycle, it seems that somebody says that this is the most important election of our lifetime," said MDP Chair Ken Ulman. "Well, this one is."















Steve Proctor, 2024 Chair, Greater Washington Board of Trade



On Tuesday, December 12th, Steve Proctor was officially recognized as the incoming 2024 Chair of the Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT). He, along with outgoing Chair Jermaine Johnson, participated in a gavel exchange at the GWBOT's annual meeting held at MGM National Harbor. Mr. Johnson is Regional President, Greater Washington and Virginia PNC Financial Services Group.

As he humbly acknowledged his acceptance and gratitude for the awesome responsibility before him, Steve graciously stated: "Without hesitation or reservation, we know emphatically that any success achieved in 2024 must be and will be the direct result of the work we do together as a team. We are all in this together, which means that we will reach our collective goals through thoughtful and collaborative conversation that acknowledges, understands, trusts, and values the contributions made by all. There is an old African proverb that says: "if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." So, let us be clear, that we will . . . go far, we will . . . go together, and we will . . . be successful in our efforts to further strengthen and strategically position the GWBOT as the engine that drives smart, innovative solutions for inclusive economic growth and livability in the Washington metropolitan region."



Steve noted that some of the GWBOT policy priorities for 2024, are:

- *Technology, transportation, talent, downtown revitalization, and public safety*
- *Short-term and long-term solution for WMATA*
- *Establish deeper and focused engagements with elected leaders*
- *Continue Regional Policy Leadership Series*
- *Provide enhanced programming for GWBOT members*
- *Put additional efforts in media outreach and programming*
- *Diversify the GWBOT membership portfolio, including medium and small businesses, as well as securing program sponsorships*







CLIENT SPOTLIGHT
MD Building Industry Association (MBIA) Award of Excellence Honoree



Alejandro (Alex) Villegas
Joseph C. Rodgers Associate of the Year

Alejandro (Alex) Villegas is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of expertise in land development consulting, primarily within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. His leadership in navigating land development entitlements, coupled with comprehensive planning and engineering consulting, has solidified his standing as an industry trailblazer.

As Senior Principal/Vice President at Rodgers Consulting Inc., Alex brings a distinctive blend of strategic vision and technical prowess to the forefront. His intuitive grasp of client needs harmonizes seamlessly with his deep-rooted understanding of zoning intricacies and engineering finesse.

Under Alex's guidance, Rodgers Consulting Inc. continues to thrive as a legacy firm in land development, driven by unwavering core values and an unrelenting commitment to fulfilling clients' diverse needs. His strategic focus on ensuring an exceptional client experience and expanding geographical reach aligns seamlessly with the firm's overarching objectives.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Brandywine North Keys Civic Association

Earl Mitchell *President*	*Todd Johnson* *1st Vice President*	*Erica Hawkins* *2nd Vice President*	*Dianne Johnson* *Secretary*	*Jean Mitchell* *Treasurer*

The Brandywine North Keys Civic Association, Inc. was formed in 1980 as a non-partisan, non-political, and non-sectarian non-profit organization, reserving the right to advocate or oppose any legislation affecting the welfare of the Brandywine-North Keys area. According to its Charter, the organization endeavors to stimulate interest in and to devise ways and means to promote civic, community, and general welfare, giving special attention to public improvement beneficial to the Brandywine-North Keys area.

VISION OF BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION: *The vision is to have a community of people and businesses who work together in harmony for a safe, livable, and workable community with sustainable resources.*

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE VISION: *To achieve this vision, the Brandywine North Keys Civic Association will:*

- *Extend open invitations to all public safety organizations so they may provide reports and answer questions in their field of expertise.*
- *Extend open invitations to county and state legislators regarding matters affecting the Brandywine North Keys community.*
- *Work with DPW&T for curb and drainage upgrades and with CSX Railroad to improve railroad crossings.*
- *Work with the Brandywine Revitalization project to create a friendly village.*
- *Extend open invitations to local businesses and developers to allow for community feedback, i.e.,*
  - ✓ *Monitor truck operations and respond promptly to citizens' complaints;*
  - ✓ *Work to have property donated to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to develop the Brandywine North Keys Community Park on North Keys Road; and*
  - ✓ *Meet with business representatives to achieve ongoing success in bringing and maintaining the Brandywine Crossing Shopping Center to the area.*
- *Help Brandywine Elementary School.*
  - ✓ *Made donations such as printers, copy paper and a refrigerator;*
  - ✓ *Sponsored breakfast for parents and teachers and lunch for teachers and staff;*
  - ✓ *Provide donations of school supplies, gloves, hats, and scarves for students; and*
  - ✓ *Contributed funds to families whose children could not afford to participate in school activities or celebrate the holidays.*

The Brandywine North Keys Civic Association meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Brandywine Elementary School, 14101 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. All meetings are open to Brandywine residents. For more information, contact Earl Mitchell, President, via email at: emmitchell1@live.com – or via phone at (301) 372-1740.

National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Tuesday, April 23, 2024



Organized by the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is part of School Bus Safety Week. This event aims to recognize drivers' tremendous dedication and responsibility in transporting students daily to and from school. ***School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is observed annually on the fourth Tuesday in April. This year it falls on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.***

Education is one of the most, if not the most important, aspects of any child's life. What they learn in school during those 12 or 13 years, from foreign languages to math to essential social skills, will likely be the foundation of their life and future. As a result, we should spend a lot of time talking about the importance of teachers and how grateful we are to them for passing on all their valuable knowledge and experience to our young people.

But have you ever taken a moment to think about the people who work tirelessly every day to make sure our young people get to school safely, to learn those important lessons, and then bring them back home? Have you truly thought about the bus drivers who willingly endure the screams, laughter, and general noises of dozens of children confined in a small space for hours on end, day in and day out?

PAUSE RIGHT NOW AND SAY "THANK YOU"

School Bus Drivers' Day originated in California. After it had been celebrated there informally for a while, the California legislature declared the day official. In 2009, they created the day to draw special public attention to school bus drivers in California for their enduring and exceptional contributions to students. The special day has spread throughout the United States and is recognized in public schools all over the country. It is a well-deserved tribute to all of the men and women who devote their lives to ensuring that children go to school every day while remaining patient, helpful, and upbeat throughout.

Being a school bus driver is not only driving in the morning and in the afternoon; but also have some duties and responsibilities that go along with it. Drivers must follow and memorize their routes, stay on schedule, and must know basic bus maintenance. They must also record their mileage and keep a record of their passengers. When students get on the bus, they must make sure they ride safely. When students board the bus, students must ensure that they are in their seats while the bus is in motion. To solve this problem, drivers often create seating maps for students. When students get off the bus, the driver must check the bus once time to make sure everyone is off. In doing so, they took a sign that said "empty bus" and placed it on the back of the bus. At the end of the day, they also have to make sure the inside of the bus is cleaned up.

WHY SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY IS IMPORTANT?

1. ***It is a way to appreciate school bus drivers:*** *The commemoration of this day is a heartfelt way of expressing gratitude for the work that school bus drivers accomplish. One is getting kids to and from school safely and on time.*
2. ***It keeps school bus drivers motivated:*** *School bus drivers are likely to feel motivated by all the appreciation they receive on this day. They will be even more motivated to do a good job if they know they are liked and valued.*
3. ***It is a day to appreciate yourself:*** *If you happen to be a school bus driver, there is no better day to honor your profession than today. Know how precious you are and how important your work is.*

A Pledge of Loyalty to our Clients

At G.S. Proctor & Associates, we pledge to provide our clients with continuous professional services based on a foundation of trust, loyalty, honor, and truth. We pledge to uphold our corporate values with overwhelming respect for the requirements of confidentiality and strong ethical behavior. We pledge also to be loyal in our commitment to serve our clients with integrity, fairness, care, and compassion. We further pledge to safeguard the interests of our clients with fidelity and the relationships we establish on their behalf.

