

Media Contacts:
brianna.nave@maryland.gov



***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

In Defense of Us - Championing for Children: Childhood Protected, Rights Respected
October 21, 2025 | Catonsville, MD

BALTIMORE, MD (October 15, 2025) – The Maryland Office of the Public Defender and local partners invite community members, advocates, and media representatives to join an important discussion on criminal justice reform and child well-being. *In Defense of Us - Championing for Children: Childhood Protected, Rights Respected* will amplify voices and strategies that prioritize nurturing, protecting, and honoring the rights of children within a comprehensive, holistic approach to public safety.

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM

Location: Baltimore County Public Library – Catonsville Branch
1100 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228

About the Event:

Children are the future. True public safety requires that we nurture and support our children in community—not in cages. The Maryland Office of the Public Defender and its partners will highlight evidence-based, safety-oriented strategies that enhance public safety by transforming lives, strengthening families, and building the foundation for thriving communities.

What to Expect:

- Learn about preventive strategies that keep children from entering the legal system
- Explore community-based alternatives that prioritize healing over punishment
- Hear from leaders advancing evidence-based approaches to juvenile justice reform
- Join intentional dialogue about the future we are building for children
- Participate in audience Q&A

Panelists:

The evening will feature a panel of advocates, experts, and community leaders committed to protecting children's rights and reimagining justice:

- Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle (LBS)
- Erinique King, Intensive Advocacy Assistant Director, *The Choice Program at UMBC*
- Donna D. Brown, Project Manager, Citizens Policing Project, Beyond Youth Organizing

Event Flyer: Attached – please share with colleagues, clients, and community members who may benefit.

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