

# MONTHLY REPORT | DECEMBER 2021



Mayor Takisha D. James  
Monthly Report on Meetings and Activities

## Monthly Meetings & Activities for December 2021

**December 1: MMA Executive Committee Meeting** | We held our regularly scheduled monthly meeting to discuss the upcoming winter conference. With the most recent COVID-19 variant, we are preparing for proper protocols for holding in-person meetings. We also discussed efforts to reach out to more mayors to increase the membership base.

**December 9: Town of Bladensburg Swearing-in Ceremony** | Council Member Trina Brown, Council Member Carrol McBryde, and I had the honor of being sworn into office by the Prince George's County Chief Deputy Clerk of the Court, Gerry Mobley. Following the event, my campaign hosted a private reception to thank the residents, my family and community stakeholders for their support.



I want to thank everyone who attended including County Council Member Calvin Hawkins, Ms. Denise Ross (on behalf of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks), Ms. Wanda Gorman (on behalf of Delegate Diana Fennell), Ms. Betty Armwood (Senator Malcolm Augustine's office) and County Council Member Jolene Ivey. I'm also grateful for Elizabeth Seton High School for opening their doors to us and allowing us to have the ceremony at the school. This beautiful facility enabled us to accommodate more people that we could safely hold at the Bladensburg Town Hall.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to give a special thank you to my family who traveled into town from Georgia and Michigan. On top of having the support of my husband, Former Mayor James, and my daughter, Imani James, it was especially meaningful to my extended family present, especially my mother and 91-year-old Grandfather.

**December 10: World Ebony Network Hosts the Community Brokering Holiday Event** | Council Member Brown and I attended this event to celebrate the work of WEN to support African immigrants. They offer a range of service from business support to immigration services, as well as counseling. During the event, we heard from Ms. Keisha Thorpe, a teacher at the International High School of Langley Park, along with one of her outstanding students who shared her experiences as an immigrant and the challenges she faced being a student in the United States. The event was also attended by Delegate Diana Fennell and her staff member Mamie Smalls.



**December 11: Town of Bladensburg Annual Shop with a Cop** | The Bladensburg Police Department hosted this important event to brighten the Christmas holiday for less fortunate students from our community. Selected students received a shopping spree at our local Walmart and were accompanied by a police officer. The true beauty of the event was seeing each child accompanied by an officer to assist them with their shopping. It's critically important to leverage opportunities such as this to build positive relationships between our law enforcement officers and our youth.

A highlight of the 2021 event, was the partnership with Toyota of Bowie, which allowed us to support 75 students for the first time in the program's history. We are immensely grateful for their generosity.



**December 11: Annual Toy Drive by NOW Foundation** | NOW sponsored the third annual toy drive. They served 400 families with toys, diapers, wipes, clothes, blankets and food. I'm also thankful for Starbucks Capital Plaza for donating hot chocolate for the event.





**December 11: Merry & Bright Bike Ride | Parks & Recreation (MNCPPC), MNCPPC Park Rangers and the Town of Bladensburg** hosted our first holiday bike event. It was an opportunity to also bring people together for an outdoor activity that combined holiday cheer with physical activity in a unique way. It was well attended and a great way to connect people to our wonderful bike trail. While the temperature was 70 degrees, there was rain in the forecast for that evening, so we had to shorten the ride to be 3.5 miles.

I want to thank Chief Collington, Lt. Silvers, and Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart for their support with planning this event along with our partners. I also want to thank the First Gentleman/Former Mayor of Bladensburg, Walter James for participating as well. I must also thank the Bladensburg Waterfront staff for their awesome partnership on this great event.



**December 14: IHSLP Steering Committee Meeting |** The Committee convened to discuss the roles for each member, in an effort to maximize the participation and outcomes from the group. I was asked to support outreach efforts to help develop strategic partnerships to bring resources back to the school.



**December 14: Prince George’s County Municipal Association Legislative Meet & Greet |** Council Member Brown and I attended this annual event where the Legislative Committee presented the 2022 priorities to our county and state officials and federal officials. The priorities presented were:

- 1) State Legislation
  - a. Construction, maintenance, and replacement of sidewalks
  - b. Bus stop shelters along State roadways
  - c. Police Reform
    - i. Preservation of local authority on Police Accountability Boards and Charging Committees
    - ii. Legislation/changes pertaining to municipalities
- 2) County Legislation
  - a. Incorporating Inclusionary Zoning and Accessory Dwelling Units
  - b. County zoning laws
- 3) County Partnerships
  - a. Expanding access to County Crisis Intervention Services

PGCMA Support For:

- 1) State Legislation
  - a. MML Priorities
    - i. Restoration of Highway User Revenue Funds

- b. Establish Juneteenth as a State recognized holiday
- 2) County Legislation
- a. Eliminating use of plastic bags and mandating deposit and refunds for glass, plastic bottles and aluminum cans

**December 15: Bostwick House Stakeholder Group Meeting |** Given the preservation and restoration of the Bostwick House is a Town of Bladensburg legislative priority, we wrapped up 2021 with the final stakeholder group meeting to review the draft report prepared by the Neighborhood Design Center. As a reminder, a grant was secured by Amman Trust to contract the services of the NDC for the purpose of assessing the financial feasibility of different development and reuse strategies for Bostwick House. The project goals are primarily to preserve Bostwick House and making it an asset valued and supported by the entire Bladensburg community.

In summary, it became clear that wider community support was needed to help form the long-term vision for the Bostwick House and grounds. We also identified the need to have the community help determine how the story of Bostwick should be told. Recommendations on how we can best proceed on these fronts will be presented at the January Town Council Work Session.

**December 19: Maryland Citizens for Responsible Transportation Presentation Preparation |** I worked with members of the MCRT to prepare a presentation for Friends of the Earth Japan. In preparation for the presentation, the PowerPoint slides and script needed to be prepared and submitted by December 19, so we could pre-record the presentation and have it translated into Japanese. Friends of the Earth Japan heard of the success MCRT and their allies who are advocating against the SCMaglev have had in advocating against this train and asked them to present for an upcoming meeting in January. We will hold the official recording in January after taking time off during the holidays to rehearse.

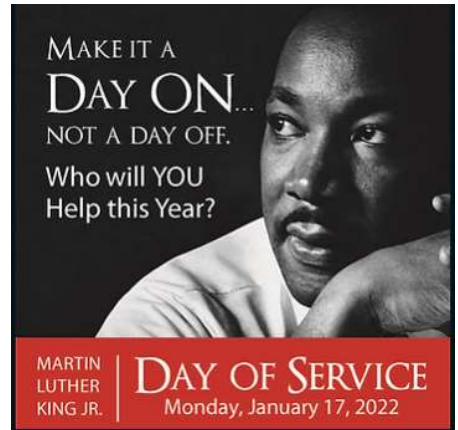
**December 22: Holiday Basket Distribution |** I want to thank Mr. Rich Charnovich and Chief Collington for helping to facilitate the distribution of holiday baskets to town residents in need. This resource was presented to us by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' office. The baskets were sponsored by Washington Gas. We received 70 boxes and were able to distribute 20 to Colmar Manor to help their residents. I want to give special thanks to staff members for assisting with the organization and distribution.

## Upcoming Events & General Information:

**The 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**, which marks the 444th session of General Assembly will convene in Annapolis, Maryland. The Town Council and staff will monitor important legislation that supports our legislative and work priorities during the upcoming session. The session will be held January 12 - April 11, 2022.

**January 17: National Day of Service/Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** | The Town of Bladensburg will partner with Friends of Quincy Run to hold our annual community cleanup event. We will meet at Quincy Point at 9:30 am and will work until 12:00pm. If we receive enough volunteers, we'll be able to reach out to cover multiple sites.

Please consider volunteering or helping us recruit volunteers to support this effort. Please register here <https://www.friendsofquincyrun.org/contact-us> so we can ensure there are enough supplies and PPE.



**Call for Volunteers** | The Town of Bladensburg is seeking volunteers for town committees and teams. Please consider applying to be a part of the following.

**Fire Safety Reminder** | As a reminder, Bladensburg Fire Department Chief Dave Sumner announced at the December Council meeting, residents can call (301) 883-5250 to request a smoke detector.