



THE JUDGE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR. CENTER FOR EDUCATION, JUSTICE & ETHICS

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BE CURIOUS. BE COURAGEOUS. BE COMPASSIONATE.

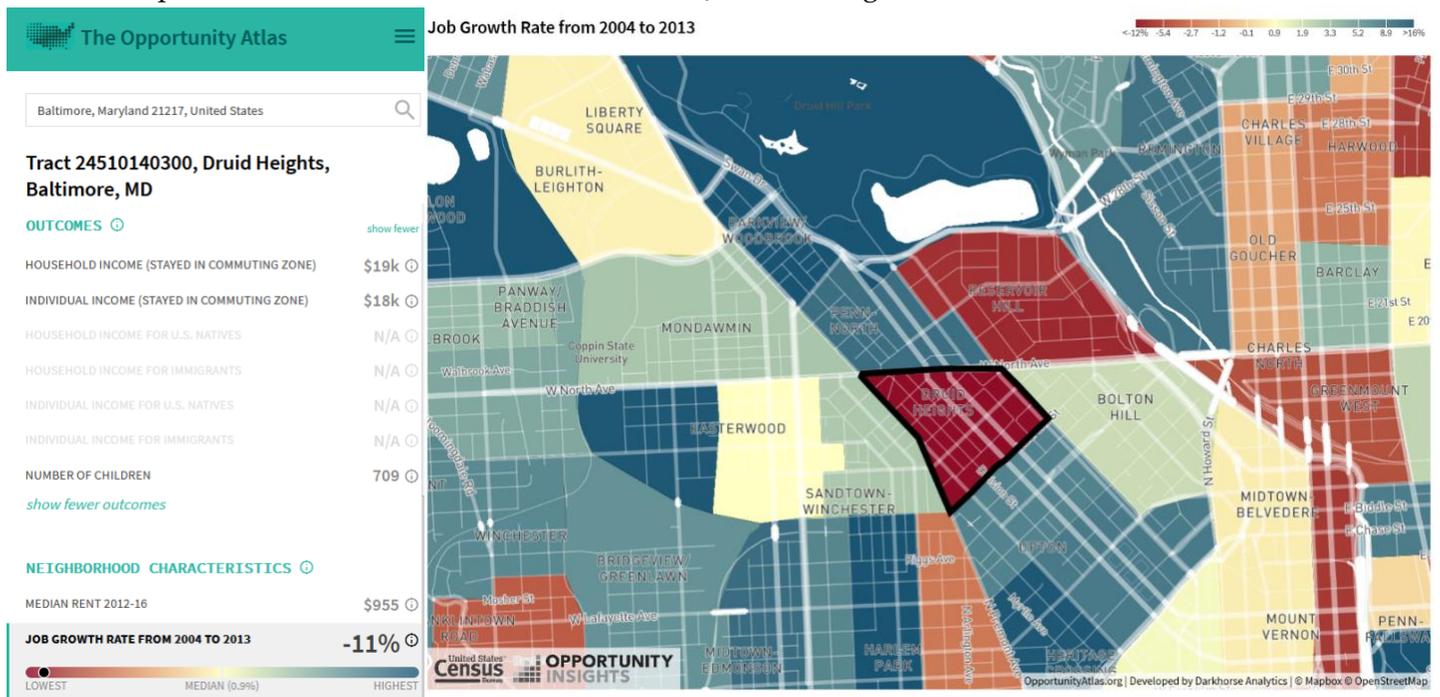
“The hallmark of any great society is measured by the extent and degree of involvement or engagement in activities and projects benefitting the community and advancing the public good.” – Hon. Alexander Williams, Jr., Nov. 2018

The Judge AW Center’s *Community Invested Violence Intervention Collaborative (C.I.V.I.C.) Baltimore Initiative* will add value to [The Justice Thurgood Marshall Center at P.S. 103](#) by bringing a blend of applied academic research, legal advocacy, intervention programming, and ethics training to the beloved community of West Baltimore, MD, in 2023. The C.I.V.I.C. *Baltimore Initiative* will enable us to address systemic challenges confronting the residents of West Baltimore such as structural and interpersonal violence, at-risks youth detention, the need for legal aid and advocacy, and the need for ethical leadership development education. Through a strategic partnership with the Beloved Community Services Corporation, Inc. of Union Baptist Church, the Judge AW Center has acquired use of this historic site in the heart of West Baltimore, MD, which will serve as the programmatic epicenter of our social impact efforts in the future.

As the lead occupant of this soon-to-be renovated 22K+ sq. ft. facility, the Center will enjoy approximately 5K sq. ft. of space covering two floors for the administration and operation of four *signature* programs: (1) **The Legal Education & Advocacy Division (LEAD)** – a legal support services and advocacy initiative to carryforward the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Mitchell by advancing criminal justice policies of reform and access to justice for underserved and disadvantaged communities; (2) **The Transformative Research & Applied Violence Intervention Lab (TRAVAIL)** for the Study of Gun Violence, Trauma, and Transformative Justice – a translational research intervention lab program under the direction of [Dr. Joseph B. Richardson, Jr.](#) that uses rigorous interdisciplinary methods to inform the development of a holistic, evidence-based, public health approach to gun violence intervention programming; (3) **The Life’s Blueprint Project (LBP)** – a juvenile diversion and HIGH Y.I.E.L.D. (Youth Initiative to Empower Leadership Development) beloved community partnership for learning program that aims to operationalize the practice of restorative social justice by shifting the trajectory of at-risk, vulnerable, and resilient youth and; (4) **The Institute for Ethical Public Leadership & Accountability** – an educational initiative to advance the development of ethical public leadership through the implementation of ethical guideposts, continuing education training, discussions and presentations on the role and importance of ethics and successful leadership in our contemporary society for both public servants as well as private entities interested in ethics.

The need for community reinvestment in West Baltimore is conspicuous. Baltimore is the most divested zip code in America. According to a 2018 article published in [USA Today](#), “more than 2,100 homes, or 16.5 percent of all single family homes, in the 21217 zip code are unoccupied, well above the 2.5 percent share

across the broader Baltimore metro area.” West Baltimore’s home vacancy rate is among the highest in the nation, and is one of the many socio-economic indicators cited in arguing for the reinvestment and revitalization of this historic and beloved Baltimore community. “Situated on the south side of Druid Hill Park in northwest Baltimore, the 21217 zip code covers the city's Reservoir Hill, Penn North, Druid Heights, Bolton Hill, and Upton neighborhoods. Far poorer than much of the surrounding metro area, more than one in three zip code residents live below the poverty line, compared to about one in 10 Baltimore metro area residents.” Furthermore, the article notes, “in the last five years, the area's population fell by 1.6 percent, even as the broader Baltimore metro area population grew by 3.1 percent.” By mapping the metrics that determine levels of upward social mobility, the [Opportunity Atlas](#) helps visualize which neighborhoods in America offer children the best chance to rise out of poverty. The Atlas allows us to see where and for whom opportunity has been missing. According to the Atlas, the average annualized job growth rate from 2004 to 2013 was -11% in the 21217 zip code of West Baltimore, MD, where The Justice Thurgood Marshall Center at P.S. 103 is located.



These stark conditions describe the need and rationale for why the Judge AW Center has partnered with key local stakeholders to facilitate our expansion to West Baltimore, where we will implement signature programs and strategic initiatives designed to revitalize and uplift the people of this community over the next decade and beyond. The aforementioned challenges cannot be successfully resolved without broad based support from community, city, and state level stakeholders. Therefore, the Judge AW Center has launched this collaborative initiative to elevate the civic values that will empower and transform Beloved Baltimore.

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“Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.” — Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)

