



ADVANCE SHEET – July 3, 2026

A Word From The Librarian

As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, how we look at the day will be in accord with our individual perspectives. As Americans, this is of course, our prerogative. We should remember that this is not the case in many nations around the world. You think as you are told to think.

As I have gotten older, I have become more definite in my opinions. I have not lost sight, however, that others are entitled to their opinions as well, and even if they are diametrically opposed to my own, this does not make those individuals somehow evil. I hope this is the case, since many who I have disagreements with are members of my family. We disagree, we argue and debate, we move on, and in the end come together. Sort of the American way.

As far as my perspective, it was primarily formed by two men. My grandfather who emigrated from Germany as a young man, fought in World War I against Germany. For him, every day was “I am An American Day.” My father, who grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II in the Pacific, thought that being an American was about the greatest blessing a person could receive.

Set forth below is the Declaration of Independence. It is a document we are all familiar with, but one we most likely have not read in a very long time. I encourage you to do so and to think about what took place 250 years ago.

God Bless America.

Joe Bennett



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Baltimore City Police Commissioner Richard J. Worley Jr.

On **Wednesday, July 8, 2026**, Baltimore City Police Commissioner Richard J. Worley Jr. will speak in the Main Reading Room of the Bar Library.

The Commissioner will provide his thoughts on crime, causes and effects, as well as strategies for combating it. Coming from a man who has spent his entire adult life studying and “fighting against” crime, it is sure to be a most fascinating and elucidating evening. I hope to see you there to show support for a man who has dedicated himself to protecting the people of our City.

Place: Mitchell Courthouse – 100 North Calvert Street – Main Reading Room of the Bar Library (Room 618, Mitchell Courthouse).

Time: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 8, 2026.

Reception: Catering by DiPasquale's featuring their famous prosciutto, cod fish, fruits and cheeses.

Invitees: All are welcome to this **free event**.

R.S.V.P.: If you would like to attend telephone the Library at 410-727-0280 or reply by e-mail to jwbennett1840@gmail.com.

Police Commissioner Richard Worley was nominated to lead the Baltimore Police Department on June 8, 2023. He was confirmed on October 2, 2023, and sworn in on October 5, 2023.

He joined the Baltimore Police Department in 1998 and spent his first four years with the Department as a Patrol Officer in the Western District. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2003, where he worked the midnight shift and an administrative position. In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the Northern District, where he worked patrol and operations. In 2009, he was promoted to Captain and remained in the Northern District as the Executive Officer. He was promoted to Major in 2012 and assigned as the Northeast District Commander. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel and worked as the Assistant Chief of Patrol, the Assistant Chief of Internal Affairs, and the Chief of Homeland Security. In 2018, he was promoted to Colonel and became Chief of Patrol. In 2021, Commissioner Worley became Chief of Criminal Investigation, which included overseeing the Homicide Unit, the Citywide Robbery Unit, the Special Investigations Unit, the Anti-Crime Unit, and the Warrant Apprehension Task Force.

In 2022, he was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of the Operations Bureau, where he oversaw Patrol, Criminal Investigation and several other units.

Commissioner Worley has shown his commitment to his hometown law enforcement agency with more than two decades of experience in patrol, public safety and community policing. He has been instrumental in formulating crime prevention/reduction strategies and strengthening community relationships.

He is also an avid baseball fan and has served as an authenticator of merchandise for Major League Baseball.

Commissioner Worley received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Oklahoma City University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He is a graduate of the Maryland Police Training Commission and is a Police Executive Research Forum/Senior Management Institute for Police graduate.

He has received multiple awards and honors, including the Mayor's Certificate for Community Engagement, Councilman Brandon Scott's Dedicated Service Award, Special Commendation for Performance in the Riots of 2015, and the Maryland Delegate's Citation for Positive Role Model. He was the Incident Commander and oversaw the successful planning and deployment during the 2020 nationwide unrest, where BPD was recognized as being one of the few large departments that handled the protests well.

Commissioner Worley is married, has two adult children and two grandchildren, and is a native of Pigtown in Southwest Baltimore.



In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Georgia

Button Gwinnett

Lyman Hall

George Walton

North Carolina

William Hooper

Joseph Hewes

John Penn

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

Arthur Middleton

Massachusetts

John Hancock

Maryland

Samuel Chase

William Paca

Thomas Stone

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia

George Wythe

Richard Henry Lee

Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross

Delaware

Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas McKean

New York

William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

New Jersey

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart

Abraham Clark

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple

Massachusetts

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery

Connecticut

Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
William Williams
Oliver Wolcott

New Hampshire

Matthew Thornton



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

What Does Dear Abby Know That I Don't

Although I do not claim to be a relationship expert (if you are reading this for that purpose, I suggest you move on), I sometimes wonder just how little I know particularly when it comes to celebrity relationships. Last week I was reading the paper (yes I am the guy who still does that), when in my effort to “get my monies worth,” somehow found myself reading an article which was under a caption “celebrities.” In it, a “celebrity” who had just filed for divorce states “Me and my wife are best friends. We will always be best friends.” Later, “I love you baby.” I’m missing something, aren’t I? Perhaps there was a misprint: this wasn’t the fellow who had just filed for divorce, it was the toast given by another chap on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary. Just to let everyone know, when the inevitable day comes when my wife and I divorce, we will at that point truly hate one another. And if any of you happen to see her at an upcoming Library event, say at Commissioner Worley’s presentation on July 8, could you not mention this article to her. She can be pretty mean.

There are so many reasons to come to the Library, in addition to Commissioner Worley’s event on July 8, or to “tattle” on me to my wife, that to list them all would require expanding this addition of the *Advance Sheet*, so, let me just name a few. Treatises on the latest developments in the law to those going back hundreds of years; Westlaw databases covering what you would expect, as well as many covering more than you could imagine; elegant rooms for research, meetings or any purpose that a room could be utilized for to advance your case or practice. In essence, we have what you need. The only thing we need is you here.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joe Bennett



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