

Local Politics Matter

A Conversation About Baltimore

It's More Than What You See On the News



This thread is a discussion among three millennials. They were born in Baltimore and attended elementary and high school in Baltimore. They are proud to be natives of Baltimore and are insulted that the president is using Baltimore's problems to denigrate people of color.

Like all cities, parts of Baltimore struggles with urban blight, poverty and crime. However, these parts of the city that often make the local and national news are but a small piece of the culturally and ethnically diverse city that is Baltimore. The Orioles, the Ravens, the Harbor, Edgar Allan Poe, Fort

McHenry, Johns Hopkins, Morgan State University, the blue crab, the striped bass, Rhebs chocolates, Wockenfuss candies and Berger's cookies are just a few things that make the city unique and special. -

Francine Terry

Conversation

Eric: Well, not like he isn't telling the cold truth about BMore.

Pat: No... I disagree. I think what he's telling is more a story about urban decline, urban neglect and poverty under postindustrial capitalism. What's also ignored is the fact that the per capita income of this congressional district inclusive of areas of are-

as of urban decline is much higher than many in the country. Baltimore has issues but is still a city rich with history and with significant levels of high achieving Black folks. We are testaments to that.

Eric: Agree, but that won't be the picture they're painting. We know that cause we are from the area. Outsiders only hear about the worse BMore has to offer even though our history and national attractions are strong.

Kevin: Not to mention that context is key. The criticism only comes from him regarding areas of concentrated black and brown people. If you've ever been to Appalachia, you would find that they have the same if not worse issues. But these areas in Appalachia are called "the fabric of America" as opposed to an infestation.

Pat: [The congressional district](#) is 95% urban, 60% black, but 67% white-collar with a median income of \$61,000. Correspondingly, Mark Meadows' district is 47% urban, 90% white with median

incomes of \$45,000. Also keep in mind the national average is \$59,000.

In fact, of the 30 largest cities in America, Baltimore is 9th in average household income (slightly different metric). So, don't let this media bullshit make you feel like Baltimore is hell on earth. Baltimore is strong and one of the few places in the country where blacks dominate. We have high income, we have high education rates, and we don't live in fear of whites like other places in the country with high African American populations (namely the south).

Kevin: FACTS!

Pat: Hey, these folks never let facts get in the way of a good story, but that's why education and facts are so powerful. They can never make me feel shame about my city, my heritage, my people. They want to tell you that you are shit, that you're from shit. DON'T BUY IT!

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