

Local Politics Matter

The Wire

Live and in Living Color



The Wire was an American crime drama series that was set and produced in Baltimore Maryland. The show ran from June of 2002 to March of 2008 which covered five seasons and 60 episodes. The Wire was a very bleak portrayal of Baltimore City. It sought to expose the most insidious aspects of the City. From the drug trade, to the Seaport industry to the City Government, Baltimore's unseemly underbelly was exposed. While these overarching themes were interesting, the real draw for people across this Country was the unadulterated code of violence and loyalty that the series depicted. People who live outside

of Maryland often asked if life in Baltimore really was the way that it was depicted on the Wire. There was a time when these questions were greeted with snickers from those who were born and raised in Baltimore and knew the City well.

We are now in the summer of 2017 and the snickers have been replaced with quizzical looks and shoulder shrugs. Parts of the City of Baltimore are beginning to look more and more like the City that was depicted on the Wire. The shootings, murders and other crimes have made the streets of Baltimore anything but charming. Charm City as it is often called has been turned

into Harm City. Through early July 2017 there have been 180 murders in Baltimore City. This represents a significant increase over 2016 and puts the City well on its way to hitting the 300 murder mark for the third straight year. Baltimore made the list of one of the [26 most dangerous cities](#) in the world, it was number 26. There is no discriminating when it comes to those falling prey to the violence plaguing the City. The murders cut across age, race and gender. The Inner Harbor which was once the pride of Baltimore is often occupied by groups of wayward youths looking to wreak havoc simply for sport. Behind all of the violence and chaos are leaders

who appear to be at a loss. From the Mayor to the Chief of Police to the members of the City Council all of them have that unmistakable blank stare. It is a stare that tells us that they don't know what to do to address the violence. Worse yet they will never know what to do to address the violence in Baltimore City. The amazing thing is that most of these (small L) leaders were born and raised in Baltimore. You would think that they would understand the City and its culture. But that is not the case. They are so clueless that one of them suggested that the violence was a result of all of the drug treatment facilities in Baltimore City. That statement is laughable so I won't even delve in to the idiocy that it conjures up. Baltimore City. Charm City. Yes, it is becoming a Live Wire.

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