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**THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE
BLACK CAUCUS BLUEPRINT:
1983 AND BEYOND**

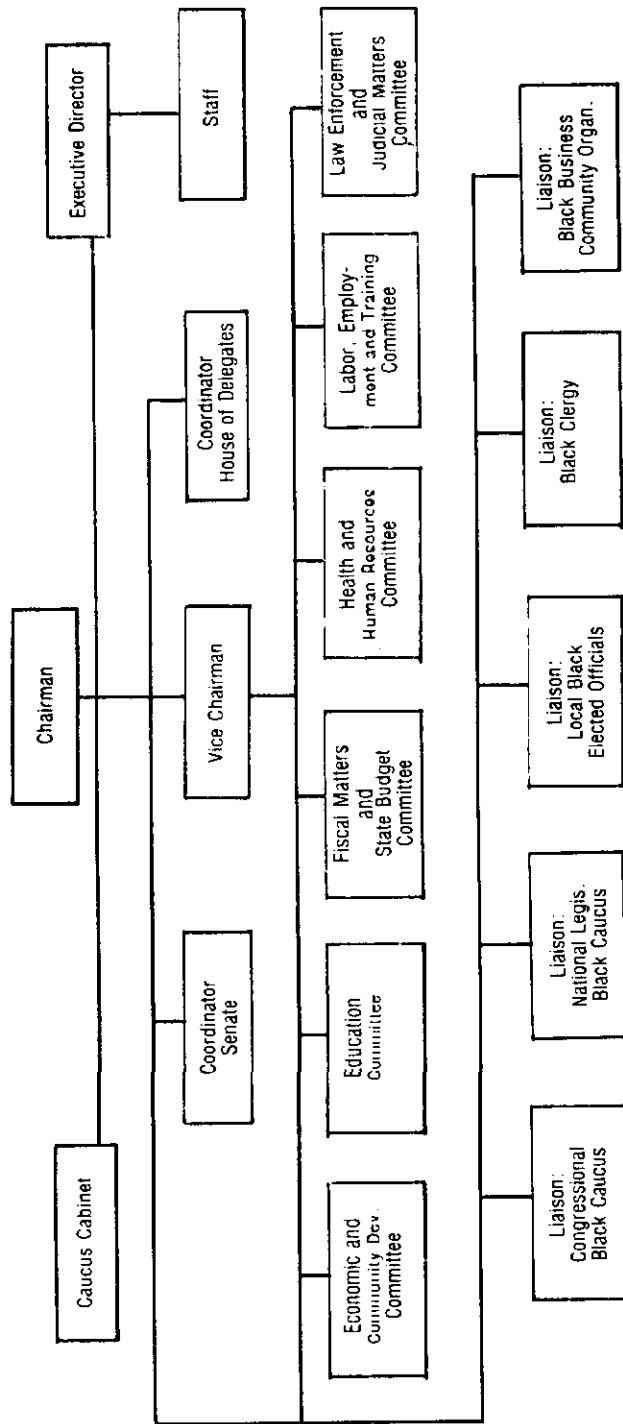
The Honorable Clarence W. Blount, Chairman

Compiled and Edited by Gretta A. Middleton

**The Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis
February 1983**

Organizational Chart

Maryland Legislative Black Caucus



A History of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus

A Decade of Progress

The turbulent sixties provided the impetus which propelled several local community leaders to seek a bridge of understanding and solicit radical changes around the conference table and through the state legislature. Three educators and civil rights activists proposed the formation of a legislative black caucus that could act as a stimulant to effect social and political change.

These three highly visible and respected men were Roosevelt Duncan, administrator, Howard "Pete" Rawlings, instructor, and the late Norman V. A. Reeves, counselor, all of the University of Maryland. Mr. Rawlings was later to become a member of the Maryland House Delegates and Mr. Reeves, a Baltimore City Councilman.

Delegate Lena K. Lee honored the recommendation and issued the call for a caucus. At this point in time, there were two black members of the Senate: Verda Welcome and Clarence Mitchell, III, and eight black members of the House of Delegates: Arthur King from Prince George's County, and from Baltimore City, Floyd Adams, Troy Brailey, Joseph Chester, Sr., Isiah Dixon, Jr., Calvin Douglass, Lena K. Lee and Lloyal Randolph.

The hard-fought 1970 elections resulted in the election of seven more black legislators. They were — Senators: Clarence Blount and Robert Dalton; and Delegates: Frank Conaway, Hildegardis Boswell, Walter Dean, John Douglass and Kenneth Webster, all from Baltimore City.

History was made in 1970 when Delegate Arthur King convened a meeting of black legislators that resulted in the formation of a caucus and the official adoption of the title Legislative Black Caucus. Delegate King chaired the body during its first year of existence and Senator Verda Welcome was the first Vice Chairman.

The mantle of leadership then passed to Delegate Lloyal Randolph who served as Chairman for the 1973-1975 period. Delegate Randolph's superb knowledge of parliamentary procedures enabled him to guide the Black Caucus through those crucial formative years.

Senator Robert Douglass assumed the chairmanship of the Black Caucus in 1976, a year that marked a vigorous developmental stage and the transition of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus into a political force to be reckoned with. Meetings with the executive branch were frequent and the outcome of legislation often depended upon the Black Caucus' vote.

Delegate Arthur Murphy, Sr. succeeded Senator Douglass and served the years 1977-1979. Throughout his tenure, great strides were made in influencing higher education in Maryland. It is also noteworthy that this period witnessed the direct involvement of the Black Caucus in bringing to statewide attention the practice of experimentation on prisoners, subsequently followed by corrective measures.

Senator Robert Douglass assumed office in 1978 to fill the unexpired term of the late Chairman, Arthur Murphy. This term of office was noted for the passage of legislation and the procuring of Executive orders liberalizing business practices affecting minority contractors and businesses. The demands of blacks prompted the Caucus to seek and gain the famous set aside order. In 1979, Senator Douglass began a second elective term, thereby becoming the only Chairman to be returned after a recess from office. His term, 1979-1980, brought the Black Caucus to the peak of performance in its first decade.

The Caucus continued its involvement in sophisticated mainstream legislation as it moved into the eighties. Delegate Frank Conaway served in 1981 and 1982. During these momentous years, the Black Caucus through the amendment process tempered the harsh bankruptcy laws, and was instrumental in securing the passage of the first bill making cross-burning a felony and a resolution requiring the enhancement of Morgan State University and other black colleges and universities.

Through its persistent efforts, the Black Caucus gained membership on several redistricting committees and forged a new legislative redistricting pattern that led to an increase in black membership in the Legislature during the 1982 election by the addition of delegates from Prince George's County, Carroll County and Baltimore City. The Black Caucus had in less than a decade doubled its membership to the impressive number of twenty-four, and had become deeply rooted in Maryland life.

Against this background, Senator Clarence Blount came to office. The leadership style of the new Chairman manifested itself at once. Senator Blount immediately set upon strengthening the influence and organizational base of the Caucus.

A review of the first thirteen years of the Black Caucus reveals many significant achievements on behalf of the black populace of the State of Maryland. The black legislative effort has produced many gains including open public accommodations, a new and expanded University of Maryland at the Eastern Shore, a District of Columbia Voting Rights Act and an overhauled welfare system.

Black legislators once expected to display an interest only in civil rights, now effectively relate to and impact major mainstream socio-economic and political affairs.

A sense of enterprise and an insatiable quest for excellence continues to act as the driving force undergirding Black Caucus actions in the eighties and beyond.

An Historical Listing of Blacks Who Have Served In The Maryland General Assembly 1955 - 1983 and Beyond

MEMBER	LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
1955 - 1958	
Senate	
Harry A. Cole	Baltimore City, 4th
House of Delegates	
Emory R. Cole	Baltimore City, 4th
Truly Hatchett	Baltimore City, 4th
1959 - 1962	
Senate	
J. Alvin Jones	Baltimore City, 4th
House of Delegates	
Irma George Dixon	Baltimore City, 4th
Verda F. Welcome	Baltimore City, 4th
1963 - 1966	
Senate	
Verda F. Welcome	Baltimore City, 4th
House of Delegates	
Irma George Dixon	Baltimore City, 4th
Clarence M. Mitchell, III	Baltimore City, 4th
Ernest D. Young	Baltimore City, 4th
1967 - 1970	
Senate	
Clarence M. Mitchell, III	Baltimore City, 4th
Verda F. Welcome	Baltimore City, 4th
House of Delegates	
Floyd E. Adams	Baltimore City, 2nd
Victorine B. Adams*	Baltimore City, 4th
Aris T. Allen	Anne Arundel County, 6-C
Troy F. Brailley	Baltimore City, 4th
Joseph A. Chester, Sr.	Baltimore City, 2nd
Isaiah Dixon, Jr.	Baltimore City, 4th
Calvin A. Douglass	Baltimore City, 4th

Delegate Lena K. Lee, a founding member of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, House of Delegates 1967-1982 contributed to this historical data.

Loyal Randolph** Baltimore City, 4th
 Arthur A. King Prince George's County, 2nd
 Lena K. Lee Baltimore City, 4th

**Served one year. Resigned to run for the Baltimore City Council.*

***Appointed to fill vacancy 1968.*

1971 - 1974

Senate

Clarence W. Blount Baltimore City, 5th
 Robert L. Dalton Baltimore City, 2nd
 Verda F. Welcome Baltimore City, 4th
 Clarence M. Mitchell, III Baltimore City, 4th

House of Delegates

Floyd B. Adams* Baltimore City, 2nd
 Aris T. Allen Anne Arundel County, 6-C
 Hildagardeis Boswell Baltimore City, 4th
 Troy F. Brailey Baltimore City, 4th
 Joseph A. Chester, Sr. Baltimore City, 2nd
 Frank M. Conaway Baltimore City, 4th
 Walter R. Dean, Jr. Baltimore City, 5th
 Isaiah Dixon, Jr. Baltimore City, 4th
 Calvin A. Douglass Baltimore City, 4th
 John W. Douglass Baltimore City, 2nd
 Hattie N. Harrison** Baltimore City, 2nd
 Pinkney A. Howell*** Baltimore City, 5th
 Arthur A. King Prince George's County, 2nd
 Lena K. Lee Baltimore City, 4th
 Loyal Randolph Baltimore City, 4th
 James A. Scott, Jr.**** Baltimore City, 2nd
 Kenneth L. Webster Baltimore City, 5th

**Deceased 1972.*

***Appointed to fill vacancy 1973.*

****Appointed to fill vacancy 1974.*

*****Appointed to fill vacancy 1973. Deceased 1973.*

1975 - 1978

Senate

Clarence W. Blount Baltimore City, 41st*
 Tommie Broadwater, Jr. Prince George's County, 25th
 Robert L. Douglass Baltimore City, 45th
 Clarence M. Mitchell, III Baltimore City, 38th
 Verda F. Welcome Baltimore City, 40th

House of Delegates

Troy F. Brailey Baltimore City, 40th
 Joseph A. Chester, Sr. Baltimore City, 45th
 Walter R. Dean, Jr. Baltimore City, 41st
 Isaiah Dixon, Jr. Baltimore City, 38th
 John W. Douglass Baltimore City, 45th
 Nathaniel Exum Prince George's County, 25th
 Hattie N. Harrison Baltimore City, 45th
 Pinkney Howell Baltimore City, 41st
 Lena K. Lee Baltimore City, 38th
 Arthur G. Murphy, Sr.** Baltimore City, 41st
 Margaret H. Murphy*** Baltimore City, 41st
 Loyal Randolph Baltimore City, 40th
 Decatur W. Trotter Prince George's County, 25th
 Kenneth L. Webster Baltimore City, 40th
 Larry Young Baltimore City, 38th

**Legislative Districts were re-numbered.*

***Deceased 1973.*

****Appointed to fill vacancy 1973.*

1979 - 1982

Senate

Aris T. Allen Anne Arundel County, 30th
 Clarence W. Blount Baltimore City, 41st
 Tommie Broadwater, Jr. Prince George's County, 25th
 Robert L. Douglass Baltimore City, 45th
 Clarence M. Mitchell, III Baltimore City, 38th
 Louise Murphy* Baltimore City, 44th
 Verda F. Welcome Baltimore City, 40th

House of Delegates

Troy F. Brailey Baltimore City, 40th
 Joseph A. Chester, Sr. Baltimore City, 45th
 Frank M. Conaway Baltimore City, 40th
 Walter R. Dean, Jr. Baltimore City, 41st
 Isaiah Dixon, Jr. Baltimore City, 38th

John W. Douglass	Baltimore City, 45th
Nathaniel Exum	Prince George's County, 25th
Hattie N. Harrison	Baltimore City, 45th
Christine M. Jones**	Prince George's County, 27th
Lena K. Lee	Baltimore City, 38th
Margaret H. Murphy	Baltimore City, 41st
Wendell H. Phillips	Baltimore City, 41st
Howard P. Rawlings	Baltimore City, 40th
Sylvania W. Woods, Jr.	Prince George's County, 25th
Larry Young	Baltimore City, 38th

**Appointed to fill vacancy 1982.*

***Appointed to fill vacancy 1981.*

1983 - and Beyond

Senate

Clarence W. Blount	Baltimore City, 41st
Troy F. Brailey	Baltimore City, 40th
Tommie Broadwater, Jr.	Prince George's County, 24th*
Nathan C. Irby, Jr.	Baltimore City, 45th
Clarence M. Mitchell, III	Baltimore City, 39th

House of Delegates

Mary B. Adams	Baltimore City, 40th
Curtis S. Anderson	Baltimore City, 44th
Elijah E. Cummings	Baltimore City, 39th
Richard N. Dixon	Carroll County, 5th
Clarence Davis	Baltimore City, 45th
John W. Douglass	Baltimore City, 45th
Nathaniel Exum	Prince George's County, 24th*
Hattie N. Harrison	Baltimore City, 45th
Ralph M. Hughes	Baltimore City, 40th
Christine M. Jones	Prince George's County, 26th*
Ruth N. Kirk	Baltimore City, 39th
Margaret H. Murphy	Baltimore City, 41st
Nathaniel T. Oaks	Baltimore City, 41st
Jerry Eileen Perry**	Prince George's County, 25th*
Wendell H. Phillips	Baltimore City, 41st
Howard P. Rawlings	Baltimore City, 40th
Sylvania W. Woods, Jr.	Prince George's County, 24th*
Albert R. Wynn	Prince George's County, 25th*
Larry Young	Baltimore City, 39th

**Prince George's County Districts re-numbered.*

***Appointed to fill vacancy 1983.*

Lisa Randolph contributed to the compilation of the list of blacks who have served in the Maryland legislature.