



## BBH TOURS

Invites you to participate in the

# Freddie Gray Tour of Baltimore, MD



**Preface:** From the Maryland Colony's founding in 1634 until the state abolished slavery in 1864, enslaved Africans and African Americans were important in shaping Maryland's history. The commodities they produced provided the foundation for Maryland's economy and formed its society. Slaves labored on the tobacco plantations that fueled the colony's economic growth during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The fortunes amassed from the labor of enslaved workers allowed Maryland's gentry to dominate colonial politics and propelled some to national prominence. By the nineteenth century, slaves could be found in every corner of Maryland: slaves labored in Cecil County's iron furnaces; enslaved farmhands harvested wheat in Washington County; and skilled slave artisans like Frederick Douglass caulked ships in Baltimore's harbor.

During the Civil War, African Americans reclaimed their freedom, but the weight of slavery's history was not easily obliterated, as slavery continued to cast a long shadow over the state. Blacks have endured poverty and discrimination into the twenty-first century. Slavery's influence can still be felt, as the recent debates about the State of Maryland's state song and reparations demonstrate (as well as the conversation on removing Baltimore Confederate monuments).

In 2000, recognizing slavery's importance to Maryland's history, the legislature created the Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery's History and Legacy. Seven years later, both Houses of the Maryland legislature and the Annapolis City Council officially expressed their "regret for the role Maryland played in instituting and maintaining slavery."

As the official apologies affirm, slavery is now recognized as a great crime, but, for most of human history, few considered it either illegal or immoral. **Source: A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND**

Ironically, Frederick Douglass while residing in Fell's Point (1826-1838) his childhood nickname was Freddie.

For Schedule an Appointment, Call Lou Fields @ 443.983.7974



# Freddie Gray Tour of Baltimore, MD

**Tour theme: Who Was Freddie Gray & Why Did He Have to Die to Live?**

**Freddie Gray, Jr.** was born in Baltimore City on August 16, 1989. Kurt L. Schmoke was the Mayor of Baltimore.

Freddie Gray, Jr. died on April 19, 2015 as a result of injuries sustained during an arrest by Baltimore City Police Officers on April 12, 2015. The aftermath of his death saw Baltimore go up in flames. Young people clashed with Police. Hundreds of marchers lined the streets of Baltimore's Penn North Intersection. Daily hundreds of people gathered in City Hall Plaza to denounce city officials for their role in police brutality cases in Baltimore. Mondawmin Mall, local CVS and hundreds of commercial businesses in Baltimore were looted, burned, and vandalized. Oriole Park became a danger zone, Inner Harbor became unsafe and troops were sent in to patrol the streets of Baltimore. Mayor Blake issued a citywide 10pm-6pm curfew. CNN along with worldwide media outlets convened in Baltimore to cover the news of the uprising, subways and public transportation were shut down. The following months saw record-breaking levels of homicides never seen before in Charm City. The Feds came in, made speeches, promises and left only milk money for the children. Certain non-profit organizations raised millions of dollars, provided a few grants and went back to business as usual. Millions of dollars were lost and millions more were promised. Today, almost a year later and nothing much has changed. Penn North looks the same. Sandtown-Winchester Community is near the same expecting a few beautiful street murals. The Saga of Baltimore continues under the new banner of **ONE BALTIMORE!**

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**The Freddie Gray, Jr. Tour** of Baltimore was created on December 5, 2015 to reveal the environment and the community where Gray lived with his family, hung out with his friends and had too many run-ins with Baltimore City police officers. What were the conditions young Freddie faced as an infant born in Sandtown-Winchester? Did his Mother have pre-natal care? What led to his life being symbolized only through interactions with cops?

Today, the world only knows Freddie's name only because of encounter with police officers on the morning of April 12, 2015 when a 25 year old American male should have been at work, in school or in training. Yet, this young man died as a result of that incident from injuries suffered while in police custody. There is no record of Gray's resisting arrest. He ran away, was caught, arrested and a week later Freddie Gray is dead.

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# Freddie Gray Tour of Baltimore, MD

The world knows little else about this 25-year old American young man that sadly died just seven days after an encounter with members of the Baltimore City Police Department.

**The Freddie Gray, Jr. Tour** seeks to discover and to share who was Freddie Gray and why did he have to die to live? Who were his parents, siblings, friends, home boys? What was the status of his parents? Did he have a girl friend? What were his hobbies? Where did he go to school? Who were his elementary school teachers, junior high and high school? Did he do well in school? Did he graduate? Did he like sports? What was his life goal? What could have been? What was he good at? What kind of person was he? Did he go to church? Who were his mentors, his uncles? What kind of person was he? Did he ever meet any of his four different Mayors, Kurt Schmoke, Martin O'Malley, Sheila Dixon, and Stephanie Rawlings-Blake? Did he know his City Council representatives? In death, not in life, Freddie Gray brought the world's attention to Baltimore, to Sandtown, to North Avenue. If the world did not know him when he was alive...in death they know his all name too well.

## **The Freddie Gray, Jr. Tour of Baltimore includes...**

- Stop # 1: Freddie Gray Jr. Youth Empower Center
- Stop # 2: Ground Zero, Penn North intersection
- Stop # 3: North & Mount Street, Site where Gray and Police came eye to eye, Gray & friends run.
- Stop # 4: Mount & Prestbury....site where Gray is apprehended and arrested and dragged into the police van.
- Stop # 5: Mount & Baker, van stopped, Gray placed in leg irons
- Stop # 6. Western District Police District
- Stop # 7. 1459 N. Carey Street, Gray family rented this lead paint house (1992-1996) from slum landlord Stanley Rochkind.
- Stop # 8. Fremont & Mosher Street, van stop
- Stop # 9 Druid Hill & Dolphin, van requested at North & Penn to pick up another prisoner
- Stop # 10. New Shiloh Baptist Church

Presented by **BAATC/BBH TOURS/BDX**

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**Call Lou Fields @ 443.983.7974**

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