

To The Marching Band Alumni of Baltimore City College:

The Baltimore City College Marching Black Knights are requesting the aid of the Baltimore City College Alumni Association to help them purchase new band uniforms.

The Mission of the Marching Black Knights is to provide all participants with the aesthetic, technical, scholastic, social, and life-long learning skills for appreciating and interacting in the world of music. The goal is to establish a foundation in a discipline such as, music that will enhance personal and occupational success as a productive citizen.

Over the past six years the Marching Black Knights have been going through a rebuilding phase. I am please to welcome Mr. James Childs, BCC'99 as the new Band Director. Mr. Childs is a graduate of Howard University and comes to Baltimore City College after serving as Band Director at Hamilton Middle School. Mr. Childs is also a former Marching Black Knight under the direction of Mr. Alvin Wallace, former BCC Band Director.

There are about 40 uniforms, mostly in extremely poor condition, that are currently available to the band; which is not enough to outfit the entire band. Most of the uniforms are at least 14 years old and have reached the end of their usefulness.

The cost of new uniforms is approximately \$600.00 per uniform, Flag Girl uniforms are approximately \$90.00 and Dancer uniforms are \$120.00. To outfit a 128 member band would cost \$76,800. The cost to outfit 16 Flag Girls is \$1,440 and 8 Dancers is \$960.00. The total cost to outfit the Band would be approximately \$79,200. At the present time, there are no funds available in the school's budget to purchase new uniforms.

Those of you that attend the City/Poly Game have seen how professional our students look during the Halftime Show. However, this year our students will have to perform in sweat suits. Until recently, Poly's band performed in sweat suits and we all commented on how unprofessional they looked.

In order to have the new uniforms here before the 2009 school year, the uniforms must be ordered by April 1<sup>st</sup>. I am asking all of the Baltimore City College Alumni, if at all possible, to contribute to this cause. To kick off this fund raising drive, Mr. Arnold Fruman, Al Robinson and the Baltimore City Alumni Association have contributed \$1,000.00 to this cause.

Please make your check out to the Baltimore City College Alumni Association and put Band Uniform Fund on the memo line. The Baltimore City College Alumni Association address is P.O. Box 21494, Baltimore, Maryland 21282. All donations are tax deductible.

CITY FOREVER,

Jacob D. Howard, III  
President  
Baltimore City College Alumni Association, Inc.