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RED DOT PRICE	41.18

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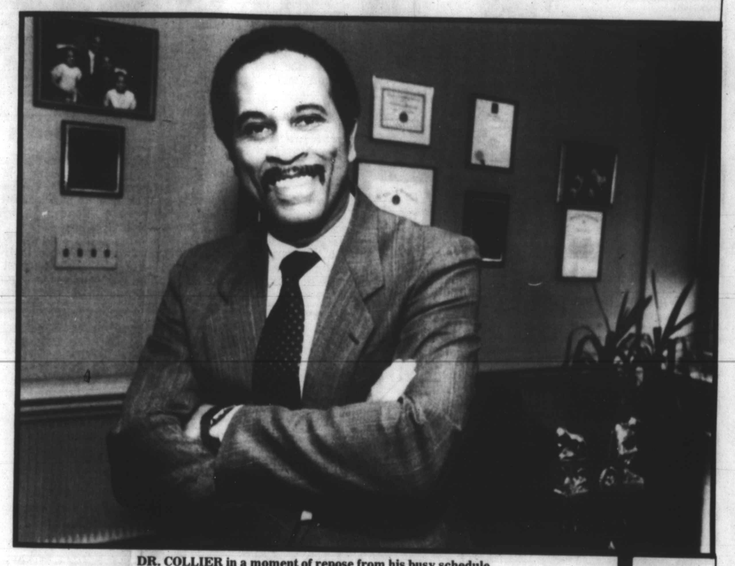
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

METRO PROFILE

New Baltimore Health Commissioner

Doctor Maxie Collier



DR. COLLIER in a moment of repose from his busy schedule.

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore's new Health Commissioner, Dr. Maxie Tyrone Collier, thinks of himself as the physician in charge of administering to the health needs of Baltimore's entire population rather than an administrator who confines himself to communications which emanate solely from behind a desk.

He insists on rolling up his sleeves and working directly with the staff and people in the programs he has initiated since he came to office in October 1987.

He finds it exciting being a part of Mayor Schmoke's administration and sees Baltimore as a family of which he is proud to be a part. His only "problem" he says" Is with those people who insist on spelling his name Maxine or something similar to that rather than the Maxie which I was named.

Dr. Collier says his name "was adapted from the prize fighter Max Bear, a man whom my amateur boxer father thought was great."

Dr. Collier attributes his work style to his membership in the 60's generation, saying "I am a product of the 60's and the civil rights struggle that occurred at that time. I was inspired by Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King and others who led the struggle for equality."

Dr.Collier says, "At the time Dr. King led the Birmingham Alabama March I was only twelve or thirteen, but I distinctly remember the pride felt by all blacks. This march together with Dr. King's example became the inspirational model that blacks in my small hometown of Waverly, Tennessee followed. Although there was no overt violence, the presence of violence was always hanging in the air."

Dr. Collier remembers his first encounter with the discriminatory attitudes prevalent in his hometown saying "My mom took my three brothers and me with her to some of the voter registration drives and sit-ins she attended. It is the memory of these encounters that became the origin of many of the programs started by Dr. Collier.

Dr. Collier saw medicine as his way of solving what he termed "many of the problems indicative of the black experience." Dr. Collier left Waverly, Tennesse to attend Vanderbilt University, and later attended Tennessee State University and the University of Maryland where he received his medical degree and also met his wife, Katherine.

Dr.Collier's medical background is in psychiatry yet, you will not find a single sofa in his office but he does admit to using his psychiatric training and sense of persuasion he acquired in medical school to sometimes coerce his family and children.

Dr. Collier has 7 children, Nonya 5, Tara 7, Shartriya 13, Lemoya 17, Zaitrarrio 10, Mar-Yoi 19 and Maxie Dayrron 20. The family resides in Columbia where they enjoy a close knit relationship that Dr. Collier says "resembles Bill Cosby's."

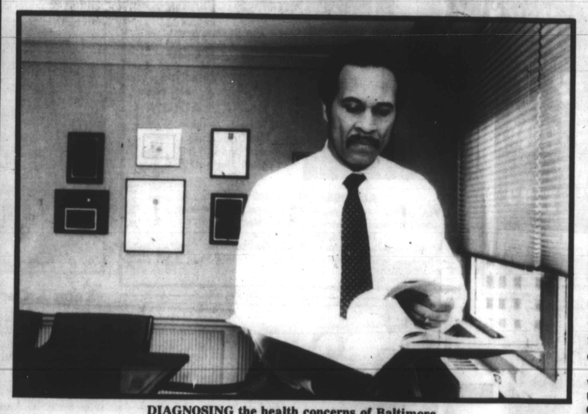
As Health Commissioner for Baltimore City Dr. Collier wants to improve the health conditions for all Baltimoreans but he says "although all races have incidents of high blood pressure, diabetes, high adolescent pregnancy rates and low birth weight babies these dilemmas plague blacks in disproportionately higher numbers."

Before his appointment as Health Commissioner Dr. Collier was employed in the psychiatry department at Springfield State Hospital. It was there that Dr. Collier honed his grant writing capabilities, later becoming the impetus behind a $6.3 million grant Baltimore received for decreasing the infant mortality rate when he joined the Health Department.

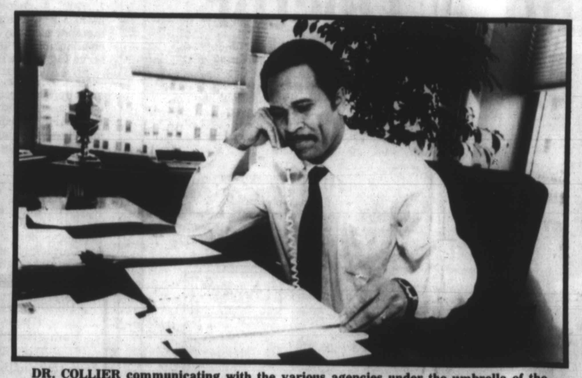
Dr. Collier has also campaigned to get monies for AIDS research. HERO has also received funding from grants which Dr. Collier is responsible for. AIDS is a disease Dr. Collier says "that has been a major thrust of his health campaign in Baltimore city."

Infant mortality and low birth rate are other health issues that Dr. Collier wants to statistically improve. Dr. Collier says "each of these issues must be adequately funded before we will see a decline in these areas."

Dr. Collier is working hard to achieve the goal of more financial aid for researching the causes of these health problems and creating techniques for their prevention.



DIAGNOSING the health concerns of Baltimore.



DR. COLLIER communicating with the various agencies under the umbrella of the Baltimore City Health Department.

AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene