

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Paul Schurick ([00:00](#)):

This obviously is shoes right here. All right. I got one more up front here. Yeah, so I just loaded up, I think, six or seven, great big plastic bags full of clothes and shoes and whatnot. I'm going to push this big yellow bin into Paul's Place. We'll make it up on the second floor where we'll start to sort and put the clothes out on the racks for the guys.

Paul Schurick ([00:27](#)):

I'm Paul Schurick. I live in Crownsville down in Anne Arundel County. I've been a volunteer at Paul's Place since April 2012. I'm here every Thursday. I do whatever is needed to be done.

Speaker 3 ([00:39](#)):

All right, man.

Speaker 4 ([00:42](#)):

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All right, [inaudible 00:00:42]. Thank you.

Paul Schurick (00:42):

Redemption comes in many forms here at Paul's Place. It's not hard to look around and see it. Really every day you can find someone who can claim redemption because they walked into Paul's Place, including me.

Jayne Miller (01:00):

Donna, the courtroom was packed for Schurick's sentencing with friends and supporters of him, a testament to his long career in public service that he admits has been badly tarnished.

Paul Schurick (01:10):

In 2010, I was involved in a political campaign, and we made a mistake.

Jayne Miller (01:17):

Schurick was convicted of election fraud for authorizing the robocall on election day 2010. At the time he was the top campaign official for Bob Ehrlich.

Paul Schurick (01:25):

It was really late in the afternoon on election day in November of 2010, I think it was around four o'clock. So the voting day was almost over. A suggestion was made late that afternoon that we launch a robocall targeting African-American households.

Jayne Miller (01:48):

The call suggested the election between Martin O'Malley and Ehrlich was over before the polls had closed. It had no authority line identifying its source.

Paul Schurick (01:56):

Certainly didn't recognize it at the time. But I think in hindsight, and certainly the state saw it this way, that that robocall was deceptive.

Jayne Miller (02:05):

Schurick's sentence a year in jail, but all of it suspended. Instead, he'll spend 30 days on home detention, perform 500 hours of community service. He will not have to pay a fine. Reporting live tonight from the Mitchell Courthouse, I'm Jayne Miller, WBAL-TV 11 News.

Paul Schurick (02:20):

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It was an in the moment stupid decision. It was not thought out. On election days, they're hectic and kind of the fog of war thing, you don't sometimes give the level of thought that those decisions need. And I didn't. I made a mistake. It was a stupid idea, and it was a stupid decision that was not thought out.

Paul Schurick ([02:45](#)):

I was convicted in December of 2011 and sentenced in February of 2012. Judge Fletcher-Hill sentenced me to 500 hours of community service. I believe, I started here on the first week of April 2012. I had to do 30 days of so-called home detention. So I sat at home in March 2012 and watched the NCAA Basketball Tournament. But when that 30 days was over, I believe, I started right away coming here every Thursday. I've barely missed a Thursday since. I think I'm in my fifth or sixth year.

Aaron Henkin ([03:25](#)):

So, the 500 hours has come and gone long ago?

Paul Schurick ([03:29](#)):

That came and went a long, long time ago. I would not need one hand to count the number of Thursdays that I've had to miss here. This has been a blessing. My entire life had been about public service and a political career in government service and that crashed and burned. That evaporated overnight, but the silver lining or redemption, call it what you will, a silver lining or redemption is that I'm back helping people right now. I know I'm making a difference. When I leave here today, any day that I leave here, there's no question that I improve people's lives that day. I'm doing it today.

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