



**Black Lives Matter Global Network Responds to COVID-19 Ethnicity Data (See Page A-7)**

# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



**Mayor Eric Garcetti Addresses Pressing Matters Surrounding COVID-19; L.A. Residents provided with Angeleno Card (See page B-3)**

VOL. LXXXVI NO. 16, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

## California Surgeon General: Keep Your Stress in Check During COVID-19 Crisis



**California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris**

BY QUINCI LE GARDY  
*California Black Media*

On April 7, World Health Day, California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris announced the release of the California Surgeon General's Playbook on Stress Relief During COVID-19. The playbook includes evidence-based guidelines on how to alleviate stress during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

At a press conference in Sacramento last week, Burke Harris spoke about the importance of mental health during the pandemic. An increase in stress hormones during a time of worry and uncertainty can impact an individual's physical health, she said.

"During times of heightened stress, our bodies make more stress hormones, including adrenaline and cortisol, and these can affect our health, our behaviors and

{See COVID-19 A-10}

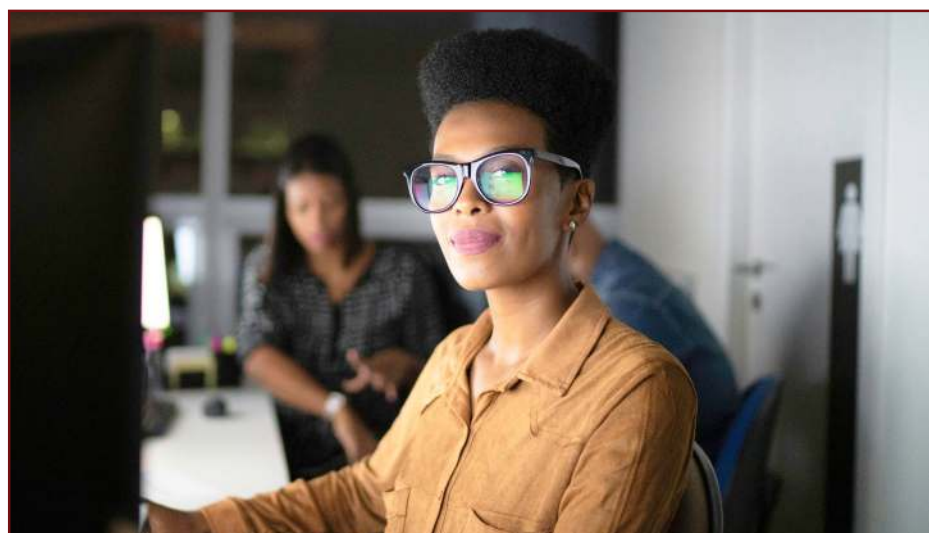
## Black Businesses Matter, But Will They Get Fair Share of COVID-19 Aid Money?

BY BARRINGTON M. SALMON  
*The Final Call*

President Donald Trump and Congressional leaders announced the \$2 trillion economic stimulus package—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to great fanfare, touting the deliverables of different aspects of the provisions and their belief in its ability to slow the economic tsunami exacerbated by the novel coronavirus pandemic. One of the major selling points is a \$1,200 one-time payment to adults.

The pandemic has cut a wide and deadly swathe through communities across the country, overwhelmed the medical infrastructures of places like New York City, Detroit and New Orleans, and brought much of America's economic activity to a standstill. At press time, the grisly tally in the U.S. stood at 356,942 confirmed cases and more than 10,524 deaths. New York is still the epicenter with more than 122,031 confirmed cases and almost 4,159 deaths.

In a desperate effort to blunt the spread of Cov-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Compared to other small business owners, African Americans have generally had to face more daunting challenges.**

id-19, state governors have ordered as many as 230 million people to stay home, which has brought commerce to a virtual standstill. Along with the sudden and brutal decline of the much vaunted, record-setting stock market, the economy began a freefall dragging with it jobs, businesses—large and small—and the destinies and fortunes of tens of millions of American workers.

Compared to other small business owners, African Americans have generally had to face more daunting

challenges such as smaller cash reserves to draw from, difficulty in securing bank loans and other financing and being sole proprietors or "mom and pop" establishments that are ineligible for most small business loans.

Businesses, big and small, have been savaged, with the hardest hit sectors being the travel and hospitality industries and the retail sector.

Financial planner and wealth manager, Ivory J. Johnson acknowledged that COVID-19 has shaken up

U.S. businesses and hit Black customers hard.

"It's having a tremendous effect," he said. "Cash flow just stops. 10 percent retail, 10 percent of restaurants, 20 percent of the population just stopped. This is the end of the business cycle; we're at peak employment where wages go up, corporate money gets squeezed and they fire Bob," he explained.

"People didn't have time to pivot. For Black business, access to capital

{See BUSINESSES A-10}

## Community Organizations Are the Other First Responders During COVID-19

*Brotherhood Crusade, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles and other local non-profits remain open and serving the needs of the community through this pandemic and any other crisis*

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.  
*Executive Editor*

While businesses around the city, state and nation close their doors and "Shelter in Place," community-based organizations like Brotherhood Crusade, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, the Jenesse Center for battered women, and other non-profits remain open, operating and serving a community that was already in desperate need of resources, long before COVID-19.

Charisse Bremond-Weaver, president of the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, has been "Sheltered in Office" ever since Mayor Garcetti and Governor Newsom announced the "Stay at

Home" order on March 19, 2020. "Our doors remain open, providing the essential services that our community needs. We have a responsibility to the people we serve to continue operating. Our kids, our seniors, our community have always depended on us. From the Watts Rebellion, through the Rodney King Trial, through the Baldwin Hills Fires, the Northridge Earthquake and now, through COVID-19, the Brotherhood has always been a trusted resource within the community that our people count on."

These sentiments are echoed from Sharon Shelton, vice president of Empowerment Services for the YWCA of Greater Los



COURTESY PHOTO

**Nakia Brazier, job developer provides YouthSource student Asamm Burrough with free tablet. This is in partnership with Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle to provide 5,000 tablets to South and East Los Angeles students. Funding provided by Weingart Foundation, CAM Foundation, Sandra Evers Manly and if you want to support the project please contact Charisse Bremond at (323) 846-1649.**

Angeles. "We must continue to operate through these most challenging of times. The programs we operate were essential before this pandemic, and while we have had to adjust our operations, these services remain essential to the people of South Los Angeles."

The YWCA of Greater Los Angeles has four programs, which primarily serve South L.A. These programs are: 1) Workforce Development, 2) Child Development, 3) Rape and Domestic Violence and 4) Senior Support Services.

"All of these programs

{See YWCA A-8}

## Individual Stimulus Checks Begin to Arrive -What Should You Expect?

BY STACY M. BROWN  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

**The IRS does plan to set up a portal on its website where folders can enter direct deposit information if the agency doesn't already have those details. Those who have provided bank information on their 2018 or 2019 returns don't have to do anything unless their information has changed.**

Payments from the \$2.3 trillion federal coronavirus stimulus package have begun hitting individual bank accounts.

In a memo, IRS Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

said the first round of payments were sent on Thursday, April 9, and should arrive in bank accounts beginning no later than Tuesday.

{See STIMULUS A-8}

## State Sets Bail to Zero for Misdemeanors and Some Felonies

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY  
*California Black Media*

In an effort to protect the safety and health of the citizens of California, the state's Judicial Council set bail to zero for non-violent crimes. The new rule is one among 11 the council has adapted to avoid filling up jails during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Certain lower-level felonies and misdemeanors will get temporary 90-day reprieves in order to shield attorneys, court staff, judges, law enforcement agents, employees and incarcerated inmates in jail facilities from the deadly effects of the coronavirus.



COURTESY PHOTO

**The action by the policy-making body of the courts was called to help control the spread of the virus among inmates and reduce the number of prisoners from lock-up.**

The action by the policy-making body of the courts was called to help control the spread of the virus among inmates and reduce the number of prisoners from lock-up. The city of Los Angeles first enacted a zero-bail ini-

tiative a couple of weeks ago.

Now, the measure is statewide.

California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the chairperson of the

{See BAIL A-8}

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# The stimulus check is in the mail. Here's how you can deposit it safely from your home.

BY BARRY SIMMONS  
California Divisional  
Director at Chase Bank

With COVID-19 putting a financial strain on American families and businesses, millions of us are counting on our government stimulus payments.

Eligible consumers will receive up to \$1,200 while married couples will get up to \$2,400, and \$500 will be added for every child. The government estimates that more than 80 percent of Americans will receive a stimulus payment during these challenging times.

For many taxpayers, the stimulus payments will be deposited directly into their bank account.

But millions of consumers – including many of you reading this – will receive a paper check in the mail. That could be because you received a federal tax refund either last year or earlier this year by paper check rather than direct deposit. Check recipients more often may be senior citizens, lower-income and/or African Americans.

If you receive a paper check, my message to you is simple: Deposit your check using your bank's mobile app from your smart phone or tablet instead of coming into your local bank branch. That keeps you safe and helps you comply with California's stay-at-home order. It's also very convenient.

In fact, you can do much of your banking by using your bank's mobile app or going to its website.

So here's what you need



COURTESY PHOTO  
Barry Simmons, California Divisional Director at Chase Bank

to know about banking digitally:

- You can use your bank's mobile app or website to handle most common banking tasks like depositing checks, paying bills, sending money to friends, and locking and unlocking a credit or debit card.

- Chase customers can go to [www.chase.com/stayconnected](http://www.chase.com/stayconnected) to enroll in digital banking, learn how to download the Chase Mobile app and watch how-to videos that walk you through it.

- If you have accounts at another bank, check out their website for their digital and mobile capabilities.

**Skip the Trip**

- Once you're signed up for digital banking, depositing a check can take less than one minute,

whether that's a stimulus check, work payment or a check from a relative.

- For information about stimulus payments, visit the [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) or [www.chase.com/stimulus](http://www.chase.com/stimulus) for more information.

**Banking made accessible**

- Chase's mobile banking app, for example, is available to all its customers, including those new to banking with a Secure Bank account. The account provides all the benefits of banking with Chase for a low monthly fee and with guardrails so you don't spend more than what's available.

- If you don't have a bank account today with Chase or another bank, or are thinking about getting an account, check in with BankOn for affordable options. That would let you

manage your money digitally, including paying bills, people, and depositing checks from your phone.

At Chase, we're working hard to give you up-to-

date information on how to prepare for these payments and for these challenging times. You can find the latest tools, tips and information at [www.chase.com/stayconnected](http://www.chase.com/stayconnected).


Please stay safe and take good care of yourself and your loved ones. We're here to help you map your way during this uncertain time and beyond.

## HOW TO DEPOSIT YOUR GOVERNMENT STIMULUS CHECK FROM HOME

Over 80% of American adults will receive a government stimulus check in response to COVID-19. While most Americans get these funds via direct deposit, a sizable portion of the population will receive a paper check in the mail. Here's how to deposit your check without visiting a branch or ATM.


### HOW TO DEPOSIT A CHECK ON THE CHASE MOBILE APP

**STEP 1**




Download the Chase Mobile app on Android or iOS and sign in

**STEP 2**




Tap the menu in the upper left and select Deposit Checks

**STEP 3**



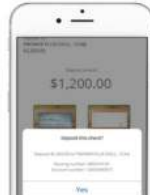
Choose the account where you want to deposit your funds

**STEP 4**




Enter the deposit amount and take a picture of the front and back of the check

**STEP 5**




Check to make sure your deposit details are correct and select Deposit


**STEP 6**




You'll get an immediate confirmation that your deposit was submitted



Depositing checks can take less than one minute




Funds are available as quickly as one business day



Deposit limits have been temporarily increased


Download the Chase Mobile app to deposit checks, pay bills, send money to friends, cancel travel plans booked through credit card rewards, lock/unlock a debit card and more. Learn how by visiting [www.chase.com/stayconnected](http://www.chase.com/stayconnected).



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## Gig Workers Still Not Clear on Whether They Will Get \$600 or Up to \$1050 in Unemployment Benefits Each Week

BY QUINCI LEGARDYE  
California Black Media

Gov. Newsom announced April 9 that California will begin distributing an extra \$600 per week of unemployment benefits provided by the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic, Security) Act, which started April 12.

While the announcement may be welcome news to laid off W-2 workers, most independent contractors and gig workers are still unclear on whether they are eligible for the additional unemployment benefit or not.

California's standard weekly payment to unemployed workers falls between \$40 and \$450 a week.

The CARES Act opened up unemployment insurance to self-employed workers through its new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The new program is meant for workers who are unemployed, have had their hours reduced, or are unable to work due to COVID-19, and who are not eligible for state unemployment benefits.

However, California's Employment Development Department (EDD) will have to build a new application system for the federal government program. According to the EDD website, the new program "will likely rival the size of the regular UI [unemployment insurance] program the EDD already administers."

According to the

California Unemployment Office Sign

CARES Act, coverage for independent contractors under the PUA program starts retroactively on Jan. 27. Each individual freelancer will receive a maximum of 39 weeks of benefits.

The EDD has also encouraged independent contractors to apply for state unemployment benefits. According to the COVID-19 FAQ section of the website, independent contractors and gig workers can apply if they or their past employer has made contributions to state's unemployment insurance program. The self-employed and independent contractors are told to list themselves as their last employer. There's currently no information on whether or not any independent contractors have been approved for standard California unemployment benefits after following these instructions.

However, some independent contractors are concerned that the EDD is encouraging them to apply as independent contractors,

considering the fact that the state has already reclassified them as W-2 employees under the state's new AB-5 law, which took effect January.

The CA EDD Twitter account received backlash from an April 1 post. "We hear you, [independent contractors]! We have a process to determine if you've been misclassified and eligible for UI benefits. It starts with you filing a claim to get the process going."

Independent contractors commenting under that post fired back, complaining that they didn't think they were misclassified. They just want clear guidelines for how self-employed workers could receive benefits.

Clarity from the state on self-employed workers and their unemployment benefits may take some additional time, with the extra \$600 per week payment ending at the end of July, independent contractors and gig workers are wondering how long they'll have to wait.



# THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY



As I watched Coronavirus Taskforce Member Dr. Anthony Fauci behind the podium at the White House press room last week, he delivered words that cut through the Black Community like a knife. He said bluntly that: “Health disparities have always existed for the African-American Community, but here again with a crisis, it’s shining a bright light on how unacceptable that is because—yet again— when you have a situation like the coronavirus, they are suffering disproportionately”.

Locally, blacks make up nine percent of Los Angeles County’s population. Although information is changing daily, initial COVID-19 data shows that of all the COVID-19 deaths where race was reported, 14% were African American.

Future research will, hopefully, put to rest all the myths and social media theories during the early stages of the outbreak, suggesting that darker skin color could be a safeguard against the virus.

Dr. Fauci went on to say that the data haven’t shown that blacks are getting infected more than anyone else. Instead, it’s their all-too-common underlying medical conditions, like asthma and other respiratory diseases, heart disease and diabetes that have led our community to be more likely to be hospitalized or die from the COVID-19.

Those same underlying medical conditions are affected by the air we breathe. As Chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board, we have been at the forefront of taking action to improve air quality in disadvantaged communities across Southern California.

Through Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617), we have been working tirelessly with disadvantaged communities to find solutions to bring real change and improvement in our air quality. Unfortunately, Governor Newsom’s January budget proposal called for significant funding cuts for AB 617 that would have helped our disadvantaged communities reduce air pollution and thereby improve public health. In addition, the Governor’s budget made a \$135 million cut to clean transportation funding; from \$485 million last year to \$350 million for 2020, thus making it more difficult to carry out these important programs.

Despite the air being cleaner because of recent rainy days, along with less traffic caused by stay at home orders, this is not the time to declare victory. We know that as we approach our smog season, we will continue to face poor air quality and our most disadvantaged communities will continue to suffer more of the adverse health effects. Indeed, a study by the World Health Organization states that air pollution is a global health crisis that kills an estimated seven million people worldwide each year. The days of taking air pollution lightly are over.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William A. Burke".

William A. Burke, Ed.D.

Chairman of the Governing Board

South Coast Air Quality Management District





# Keeping Vulnerable Homeless Seniors Housed Post-Pandemic

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Amid the pandemic, Los Angeles County is making an unprecedented effort to urgently bring 15,000 homeless people indoors to protect them from COVID-19 and slow the spread of infection. Acting on a motion by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn, the Board of Supervisors approved developing a plan to keep particularly vulnerable homeless individuals housed even after the pandemic has subsided.

Currently, the L.A. County CEO Homeless Initiative is collaborating on Project Roomkey with the State of California, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and other public and private partners to secure 15,000 hotel and motel rooms to serve as temporary homes for people experiencing homelessness who are particularly vulnerable to contracting the coronavirus, especially seniors and those with underlying health conditions. As of April 13, more



PHOTO BY AURELIA VENTURA/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas participating in the April 14, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

than 1,946 beds at 23 sites have been procured, of which 515 beds are already in use.

“We can’t just think short-term,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “We need to be thinking two steps ahead in order to mount a crisis response that is not only comprehensive but sustained.”

“Now is the time to be having these conversations – not when the disaster funding runs out,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas added. “We may need to strategically prioritize existing resources, including housing vouchers and supportive housing units that are

coming online with Measure H and Proposition HHH funding, as well as Rapid Rehousing slots and resources for veterans.”

“We’re using unprecedented resources to bring people off the streets and indoors during this pandemic,” Supervisor Hahn said. “This is the level of urgency that the homeless crisis has demanded for years and when the day comes that this pandemic is behind us, we need to ensure that we can take advantage of the progress we have made and make sure that the people we have found shelter do not end up back on the streets.”

Bobby, a 65-year-old former software programmer lived in his car for 10 years until Project Roomkey helped him temporarily move into a hotel room. “It’s like I have to pinch myself all the time to believe this,” he said. “I would love it if they turn this into permanent housing because it would be kind of a bummer to have to go back to the car. To have permanent housing would be life changing – mentally, spiritually, every kind of way.”

Arthur Ross, a 72-year old street outreach case manager for the homeless services provider HOPICS, also backed the effort to provide long-term housing, particularly for vulnerable homeless seniors. “A society’s greatness can be measured by how well it treats the young and the old,” he said. “With a sustainable plan, homeless seniors have an opportunity to rise like a phoenix out of the ashes of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) also expressed “strong support” for the Supervisors’ motion, calling it “a major step toward a long-term strategy to provide a roof over the head of every Angeleno.” LABC President Mary Leslie said, “With nearly nine percent of the L.A. County homeless population aged 65+,”



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/L.A. CO.  
A woman who benefited from Project Roomkey.

and growing, we must take every action to protect these at-risk individuals and families.”

Meanwhile, Willowbrook Senior Center Director and Empowerment

Congress Senior Services Committee Director Sandi Hamilton said, “Older adults have had to dip into their retirement savings to

legal obligation to provide housing.

In a report back to the Board dated March 24, 2020, a workgroup of



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
Project Roomkey provided people experiencing homelessness with a motel room to stay in during the COVID-19 pandemic.

address high housing costs, home and car maintenance, family matters and medical needs. This public health crisis will further send many senior citizens into poverty and homelessness. Plans to address homelessness must continue as, indeed, housing is a human right for all individuals. This motion supports outside-the-box solutions to ensure that we have NO unsheltered people over 65.”

This motion continued action that Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Hahn initiated on January 21, 2020 when the Board directed County Departments to examine the Comprehensive Crisis Response Strategy issued by Governor Newsom’s Council of Regional Homeless Advisors and develop the framework for establishing a

County Departments proposed implementing or scaling up 16 of the Comprehensive Crisis Response strategies. It also proposed a pilot program that would focus on ensuring housing for homeless people aged 65 years or older.

“The County has been working aggressively to address the homelessness crisis. With assistance from the State, the county could do even more to help people move into housing,” County CEO Sachi Hamai said in the report.

The newest motion called for the County to report back with an initial plan in 30 days and a longer-range implementation framework within 45 days to ensure options to all homeless older adults aged 65 and older who are willing to receive housing and services.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
A couple who benefited from Project Roomkey.

## L.A. Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson Hosts Diaper Grab-and-Go

Wesson partners with Good Plus Foundation to provide free diapers to families during coronavirus economic crisis

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles City Council President Emeritus Herb J. Wesson Jr. and Good Plus Foundation hosted a diaper grab-and-go for last Saturday morning at his district office in West Adams. Diapers were given to families in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Priority was given to families in the 10th

Council District, but no families were excluded and cars were lined up down the block and around the corner before the event even started.

So many people live on the margins,” Wesson said. “Hell, I’ve lived on the margins so anything you can get to help those going through a crisis is important.”

Families were asked to

preregister for the diaper giveaway online.

As soon as it was posted, there was so much of a response that within hours, every diaper was spoken for.

“I think it’s important people know we give a damn about them and that we’ll go above and beyond,” Wesson said.

Founded in 2001 by Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld,

Good Plus Foundation is a leading national nonprofit that works to dismantle multi-generational poverty by pairing tangible goods with innovative services for low-income fathers, mothers and caregivers, creating an upward trajectory for the whole family. Dr. Alan-Michael Graves serves as their Director of National Programs and is based in the Los Angeles office.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Councilman Herb Wesson

## Councilmember Harris Dawson Saves South L.A. Businesses with Emergency Senior Meals Program

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

South Los Angeles is known for its plethora of outstanding family owned restaurants and eateries. Small businesses are critically important to the culture of South L.A. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of us into our homes and is threatening to force many of the businesses we love to close. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson launched the emergency senior meal program to address the immediate needs of vulnerable seniors and help 23 local small businesses remain operational and continue serving the South L.A. community.

“I feel a personal connection and responsibility to every resident in my district and in the South L.A. community,” said Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. As soon as this crisis hit, I took immediate action to protect our sen-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WELLS FARGO WORKS  
Cary Jordan in front of Jordan’s Hotdogs.

iors as well as small businesses and their employees. We can make it through this crisis together and come out stronger in the end.”

Currently, South Los Angeles is in a cultural and entrepreneurial renaissance. After decades of dis-

investment, residents with deep ties to our neighborhoods are opening community coffee shops like South L.A. Cafe and dine-in restaurants like Swift Cafe. Many of these institutions have become cultural hubs within the community. Like many small businesses,

these family restaurants run on very thin margins and the sudden drop in customers threatens their survival. Many restaurants across the city and the country have already closed their doors.

Even before the threat of COVID-19, local entre-

preneurs feared rising rent costs would price them out of their own neighborhoods. For many, COVID-19 felt like a deathblow. Because of the emergency senior meal program, vulnerable seniors have access to free healthy meals and classics like Jordans Hot Dogs and new favorites like Hilltop Coffee can remain open and continue serving our community.

After the Watts riots in 1965, Oranee Jordan saw a need for quality food and long-lasting businesses in South L.A. With that in mind and as a community leader, Oranee founded Jordan’s Hot Dogs and watched it survive the Watts Riots. Wilson Salguero opened Caveman Kitchen in 2007 and made it through the Great Recession. The restaurant combines peruvian and cuban cuisines, to bring foods he grew up eating to South L.A.

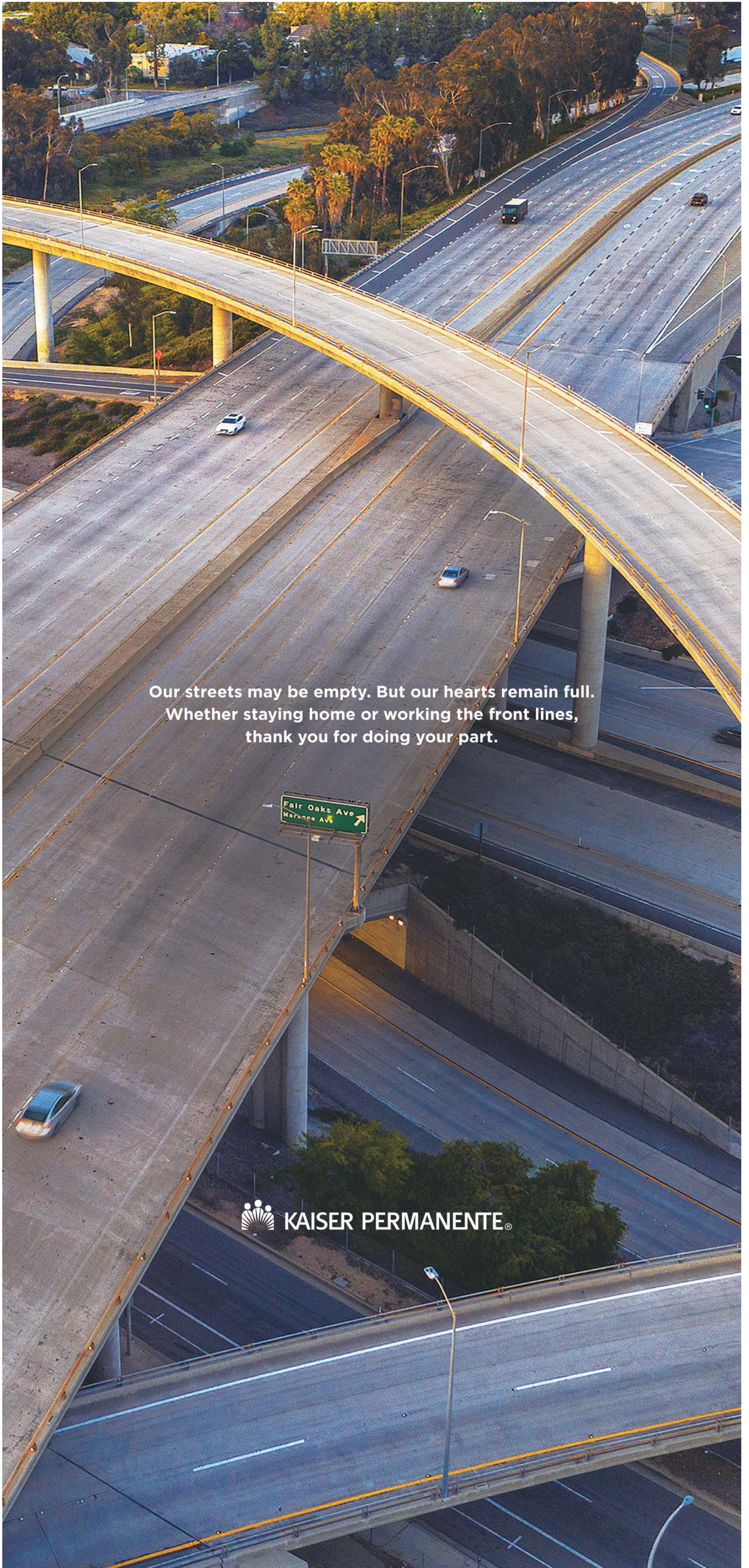
“Before Councilmem-

ber Harris-Dawson introduced the emergency senior meals program, I was sure my business would close,” said Caveman Kitchen owner, George Salguero. “Now, we are able to keep our staff employed and give back to our neighbors in need.”

“It all started with my grandmother Oranee Jordan who moved here from Alabama, said Cary Jordan of Jordan’s Hotdogs. Our family has been a part of this community since 1935. Huge thank you to the councilmember and his team for helping us make it through this crisis. We plan on sticking around no matter what.”

This crisis presents real challenges. It also creates real opportunities for South L.A. residents to unite and bounce back stronger than ever. We cannot let the coronavirus threaten the investments we’ve made to restore our South Los Angeles community.





Our streets may be empty. But our hearts remain full.  
Whether staying home or working the front lines,  
thank you for doing your part.





# Meditating on the Meaning of Struggle: Valuing Our Inward and Outward Striving



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

In reaffirmation. Those of us who still wage righteous and relentless struggle inwardly and outwardly to live a liberated, good and meaningful life will continuously find invaluable sources for grounding and growth in the enduringly relevant and deeply insightful sacred teachings of our ancestors found in the Odu Ifa, especially in this critical time. For it is about our natural and needed striving and struggle to be good, live good lives, and bring and share good in the world. I stress both inward and outward struggle, for the outward struggle in relations, society and the world requires a simultaneous inward striving for a disciplined and constantly developing heart and mind. Indeed, without discipline, development is less focused, less founded and less fruitful.

In Kawaida, struggle is posed as one of the defining features of what it means to be human. Indeed, the whole of our lives from birth to transition into the afterlife, we are compelled to struggle and, in that struggle, we define and develop ourselves. In a word, we struggle to come into being; that's called birth. We struggle to make the most out of our being; that's called life. And we struggle not to go out of being; that's called the quest for immortality. Thus, Odu 10:6 teaches, "We are constantly struggling all of us. We are constantly struggling." For also we are not perfect, do not always choose rightly, always make the best choice, always live a disciplined life or always live up to our highest potential. "So, we are continuously struggling, all of us."

Also, Odu Ifa 245:1 tells us that "If we are given birth, we should/must bring ourselves into being again." Our parents give us the gift of birth, but even then, we must struggle to

come out into the world to live the life given us. And then, we must bring ourselves into being again, that is to say, struggle to realize our potential and promise and come into the fullness of ourselves. And we must struggle to leave a legacy worthy of remembrance, a legacy of good work, service and struggle which is also a message and model for those who come after us.

Moreover, Odu Ifa teaches us that even if we are disadvantaged physically or socially or are about to die, we should still struggle to live as best and as long as we can. Thus, Odu 43:1 says, "Even if we are going to die, we must wage a life and death struggle. We should still struggle hard." This was directed especially to those confronted with the possibility or certainty of death, and for the physically disadvantaged, the lame, the blind. But in a larger sense, it is a call and challenge to all who are disadvantaged, disabled by physical, psychological or social conditions or threatened with death. Indeed, it's a call and challenge not to be defeated internally, so that externally we can wage a strong, disciplined and victorious struggle with the capacities we have and the resources and relations to which we have access. Here Molefi Asante's call for a "victorious consciousness" is key and compelling. This is the meaning of Odu 19:2 in its advising and cautioning against "interior deterioration," the unraveling of values and relations that are our anchor and indispensable means of orientation and assistance in any struggle we wage externally. Thus, this verse speaks of those who would go to the battlefield not knowing that "It is at

home that the war is lost even before reaching the battlefield."

Interrelated with this verse is Odu 59:1 which says that "a constant soldier is never unready, not even once." This verse tells us we must be constantly prepared and preparing. It means continuously measuring strengths and weaknesses, and as Amilcar Cabral teaches, always struggling to turn our weaknesses into strengths. Indeed, he says, "That's what struggle means, turning weakness into strength;" transforming what is or could be a liability in life and struggle into an asset. And it means reaching inside of ourselves for the known and unknown potential and promise of growth, development and righteous change, righteous change in our views, values and practice and in the ways we relate to each other and engage the world. Especially, Odu Ifa 33:1 instructs us, we must constantly strive and struggle to "speak truth, do justice, be kind and not do evil" and to "bring good in the world."

It is this moral core at the heart and center of our struggle, internally and externally, that must always be in the forefront of all we do. Indeed, this relates to Odu 78:1's affirmation: "Let's do things we joy. Surely, humans have been divinely chosen to bring good in the world" and this is the fundamental mission and meaning of human life. Given this essential and overarching ethical imperative, we must wage struggle in righteous and dignity-affirming ways and be a model of the good we struggle for. Thus, Odu Ifa calls for a commitment that the battle we fight, the struggles we wage, always add to our honor. Odu 152:2 says, "May the battle I fight (the struggle I wage) always add to my honor." We are struggling to bring, increase and sustain good in the world, and we must not emulate our oppressor or opponent and use evil means that undermine our cause, aims and identity.

The Yoruba word for honor (iyi) in the text also means great respect, nobleness, integrity and value. Like its synonym olá, it suggests in this verse added honor, gained for greatly respected and valued thought and practice, or behavior. The example of such an honor-bringing struggle used in the Odu is that of the lion. It is what we call in Kawaida, being simba-hearted, lion hearted, i.e., noble in conduct; courageous in combat and uncompromisingly committed to victory. Here I use noble

in the moral sense as the Yoruba words iyi and olá suggest. This follows the Hon. Marcus Garvey's teaching that in the struggle to liberate Africa, nobility and aristocracy must be based on service to the people and the struggle, not on hereditary class and status.

The Odu then teaches us to wage righteous struggle in the interest of human good and the well-being of the world. This struggle for good in the world, Odu 78:1 says, must include as its essential goals: full and effective knowledge for all; happiness everywhere; peace within and with others; harmony with nature; health and wholeness; resilient strength to meet crisis; and the end of poverty and misery in the world. And the sacred text tells us that to achieve victory in this outward struggle, we need also to wage righteous and continuous struggle inwardly, developing virtues and strengths of adequate wisdom, especially wisdom to rightfully engage each other and the world; willingness to sacrifice; good character; the love of doing good, especially for the needy and vulnerable; and "the eagerness and struggle to increase good in the world and not let any good be lost."

Odu Ifa (33:2) also tells us in terms of ensuring the well-being of the world that we should take responsibility for the world and do good for the world. And Odu 10:5 teaches us that humans "should stop making sacrifices for wealth and

instead make sacrifices that will protect the earth from its enemies," i.e., plunder, pollution and depletion, and of course, the corporate and personal interests that drive these. "For in this way we will live and thrive."

Finally, Odu Ifa 11:1 tells us we must, in our most earnest struggle, also model fire without its destructiveness, but with its capacity to make a way for itself. It says, "Wherever fire emerges, it will make a way for itself. Its head will clear a way for it." Therefore, "anyone who wants to achieve anything, that person should practice sacrifice, so that a way can be opened for them as it is opened for fire." The point here is that in our striving and struggle, we must be like beneficial fire, way-openers, using our head and heart in the most constructive ways. And we must be way-openers not only for our personal selves, but also for our collective selves, our people. This is the message and model of our ancestors, the lifters up of the light that lasts, who opened the way for all of us and brought life-giving and uplifting light and warm to the world.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis. www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.*

• DAVID TUCKER •

## Will the 2020 Census change the course of history for the Black community?

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau works to conduct an accurate count of the nation's population, as provided for under the U.S. Constitution. This decennial count – which is currently underway – is one of our nation's most inclusive civic activities, including every person living in the country, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion or citizenship.

An accurate count is essential to our democracy and our community's growth because the data helps determine how much federal funding and political representation each state and community receives. Census results are used to determine political seats and draw district lines for all levels of government and to



DAVID TUCKER

allocate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal spending nationwide for critical community resources like parks, infrastructure, health care, and support programs in education, housing grants and nutrition.

Black Americans have been systematically undercounted from the very

first census, disadvantaging Black communities and neighborhoods, and silencing our voices. An inaccurate census count can negatively impact community programming for schools, housing, health care services, business investment and much more.

The first census count in 1790 deliberately listed only the names of the heads of free Black households, while all other free persons were listed by age. By the 1860 census, at the start of the Civil War, the Black population increased to 4.4 million, about 14 percent of the overall population of the country. Yet, the explicit undercount of the Black population continued until the first post-Civil War census in 1870, following granting citizenship and

equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and slaves under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Over the following century, explicit discrimination was outlawed – but systemic discrimination persisted. Even today, the Census continues to disproportionately and systematically undercount the Black population. Black men have been undercounted in greater numbers than men of any other racial or ethnic group. In 2010, Black children were undercounted at twice the rate as a young non-Black child, affecting the funding for programs designed to serve children and families, like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs and the National

{See TUCKER A-12}

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**CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN**

**AMERICA FIRST ...**

**...in Coronavirus deaths, wealth inequality, racism and discrimination in health care!**

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• KAILEE SCALES, MANAGING DIRECTOR •  
BLACK LIVES MATTER GLOBAL NETWORK

## Black Lives Matter Global Network Responses to COVID-19 Ethnicity Data

For decades, we have been fighting to improve the material conditions of our lives. We have fought against and worked to overcome systemic racism, economic inequality, and mass incarceration. Now, during a global pandemic, the impact of this bias is clearer than ever.

This virus is devastating to us. We are the essential workers who keep the country going; we are the mail carriers, delivery personnel, transportation providers and hospital workers. We cannot just #stayhome. Yet, we represent the vast majority of COVID-related deaths in Chicago, Louisiana, and Michigan -- Black people are dying at rates that are two and three times our population share -- and that is only what we know right now, these numbers will increase as the virus continues to engulf our vulnerable communities.

We have never had access to adequate healthcare in our communities and many of us don't even know we have the pre-existing conditions the coronavirus feeds on. Our children historically suffer in our education system and are now at risk of falling further behind due to a lack of access to virtual education programs. The prison population, which is disproportionately Black, has deplorable and unsanitary conditions in which people must serve their time. There is no protection plan for incarcerated people, and no one has provided basic sanitary supplies. On top of that, incarcerated people are fundamentally unable to practice social distancing. Adequate testing is non-existent for us, so we don't know who has—and can spread—the virus.

The CDC has reported that people with asthma, heart and lung conditions, and other preexisting conditions are at high risk for contracting the coronavirus—and the stats are staggering:

- Black children are more than 20% likely than any other children to get asthma



Kailee Scales

COURTESY PHOTO



- Black families are more than 40% more likely to have high blood pressure

- Black women are 3x as likely to have lupus than White women

- People with sickle cell anemia are especially susceptible and vulnerable to respiratory viruses

This is why we will keep fighting for the protection and provisions we need to live.

We need every state and municipality to collect and release the demographic data on who is contracting and dying from this disease. The more we understand about the virus, the better equipped we will be to determine the resources and funding needed in communities hit hardest by the pandemic. We will continue to amplify and demand what we need in our communities. Specifically:

The CDC must aggregate and provide nationwide data about the coronavirus' impact on Black people

The CARES ACT must be targeted towards communities in need. Trillions of dollars are being spent while our people are not being cared for and are dying.

- We need access to health care that is not tied to employment

- We need massive testing in our communities

- We need a protection plan for incarcerated people as well as bail reform and a decarceration plan

- We need adequate provisions for the poor and for working poor

- We need adequate leadership and clear communication from the government and protections and provisions for our people

That's why we have started a petition. We demand racial data on COVID-19 to be collected, released, and aggregated in order to provide essential information and resources targeted to our needs. Please Sign the Petition.

We will continue to shine a spotlight on the inequalities that continue to upend our communities. We will continue to demand our communities receive the resources and support we need.

We will continue to fight for our lives.

*Kailee Scales is the Managing Director for Black Lives Matter Network Action Fund and Black Lives Matter Global Network, Inc. Black Lives Matter Global Network is a world-renowned global movement that began as a rallying cry to end state-sanctioned and vigilante violence against Black people and achieve Black liberation. In her capacity, Kailee has built a sound infrastructure around this global phenomenon and has keenly focused on evolving the movement from a hashtag to a political and cultural powerhouse for Black people across the globe. Kailee has helped pave the way for sustainable legacy building for BLM, launched its*

*Arts+Culture platform, its presence in the fine art world, as well as created BLM's*

*What MATTERS2020, a civic engagement campaign targeted towards Black Millennial and Gen Z voters at risk of disenfranchisement in one of the most important election cycles in our lifetime.*

• KRISTEN CLARKE •

## Black Communities Deserve Health Equity During COVID Crisis

In 1966, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “[o]f all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman.” Dr. King’s words ring true today. All across the country, Black communities are reeling from the devastating impact that the pandemic is having on our communities. The pandemic has also exposed the ways in which racism and systemic discrimination have left Black communities more vulnerable to coronavirus and its impacts.

Data revealed from pockets of the country have made clear that the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on Black Americans. The Trump administration’s lack of transparency and failure to release racial data on a national level has undermined efforts to develop a targeted response to the crisis. As a result, too many of our communities are left without fair and equitable access to testing, care and treatment.

The few states and cities across the country that are publishing data are providing doctors and medical professionals with the critical information needed to help ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable and high-risk communities. In other states, doctors are virtually shooting in the dark.

Easter-weekend data on COVID-19 provides a harrowing picture of the pandemic’s impact on Black Americans and makes clear that African Americans are dying at higher rates than Whites. In Illinois, African Americans make up 14.6% of the population, but 43% of deaths. Similarly, Michigan’s population is 14% Black, but African Americans make up 43% of deaths. In South Carolina, African Americans make up 27% of the population but 38% of deaths. And in Louisiana, Blacks make up 33% of the population but 71% of deaths. If the CDC did its job and released data for the entire country, we



Kristen Clarke

COURTESY PHOTO

could begin to strategically target and deploy resources to these hot spots across the country.

Why are our communities suffering more?

The earliest days of the pandemic were ones in which we saw very little testing and the few testing options that were available were seemingly reserved for the well-connected and the privileged. Systemic racism and discrimination across our healthcare system has also left far too many African Americans beleaguered with pre-existing conditions that rendered them more vulnerable to coronavirus-related complications and deaths. Provider bias meant that some Black Americans were prematurely turned away at the hospital door or denied access to equitable treatment. Far too many African Americans have lost their jobs or been furloughed and are currently without access to health insurance. And a disproportionate number of people of color find themselves in jobs deemed “essential,” including postal workers, public transit employees, sanitation workers, back-of-the-house restaurant cooks, home care assistant and delivery workers who subject themselves to higher risk reporting to work every day.

We also can't ignore the false disinformation campaigns on social media that suggested that African Americans were immune to the disease. Our online platforms must do their part

to ensure that these dangerous campaigns are immediately shut down.

And while the CDC has encouraged all people to wear masks in public, for African American men and boys who are too often subject to racial profiling and police violence, the choice to wear a mask brings with it significant risk.

Now is the time to fight back. My organization, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, has partnered with hundreds of doctors and healthcare professionals to fight for the Trump administration to immediately release national-level racial data. This data is a critical tool in the fight to ensure a strategically targeted response to the pandemic. That data can also help inform time-sensitive advocacy efforts to push more employers to grant paid leave that can literally help save lives. We are also calling for more states to begin releasing this data at the state-level as well. Every day that the administration fails to release this data may hamper lives.

We are also taking action to address overcrowded jails and prisons which are very vulnerable to rapid spread of the virus.

This season demands that we collectively leverage our voices to call for justice, equity and action to advance the shared goal of beating back this pandemic. We should heed Dr. King’s calls and begin to push our leaders to address the “shocking and inhuman” disparities that have left African Americans particularly vulnerable during the current pandemic. We should view Covid-19 through a racial justice lens and demand equal access to healthcare as a critical civil and human right.

*Kristen Clarke is president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the nation's leading non-partisan civil rights law firm. Follow her on Twitter at @KristenClarkeJD*

• DR. CAPRICE YOUNG •

## After COVID-19 Let's Build Back Better for Our Students

BY DR. CAPRICE YOUNG

Build Back Better has become the mantra of post-disaster reconstruction, since the United Nations' 2006 report, “Key Propositions for Building Back Better.” It points out that disasters can be leveraged as opportunities for change and improvement.

Education has been turned upside down in recent weeks and I hope we never go back to the way things were before. Let's look at this as a helpful interruption to inadequate policies and practices that have been largely unchallenged. Policies that have been harmful to disadvantaged students and their families. We have had needed changes in education for a long time and leaders must address them while there is a genuine sense of urgency. Let's build back better with these six important steps.

1. Broaden access to technology to eliminate inequities. This crisis has exposed the extreme inequity in our school system. The most obvious is



Dr. Caprice Young

COURTESY PHOTO

the digital divide that plagues low income households. Basic laptops now cost below \$200 (less than a semester of high school text books), so there is no excuse not to ensure a laptop for every student starting in kindergarten, loaded with the software and communications tools needed to compete with affluent peers and spark their imagination about the world. The FCC needs to make basic internet service free to all households or homeless shelters with children of any age. Let's build back better.

2. Leverage data to serve students. School dis-

tricts must invest in online professional development for teachers and staff. We've demonstrated that we can learn and collaborate electronically. Let's never go back to boring afternoons of administrators drilling staff with canned PowerPoint presentations. Technology enables us to have real-time and asynchronous training whenever it works for the workers. Let's build back better.

3. Create more individualized instruction. Students should progress from grade to grade based on their competency in the subject matter, not how much time they sit in a classroom. Some students learn best in small groups, others with one-on-one tutoring or through experimentation. Others thrive in a classroom model or independently. Older students may not need to be on campus all day, every day, preferring a university-like model. Let's build back better.

4. Trauma-informed practices must become the

**{See STUDENTS on B-3}**

• SANDRA EVERS-MANLY •

## #BHERCStrongTogether

to remember what has made us strong, as a people, and made the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) family, its friends, and colleagues unique...being enthusiastic, providing steadfast support, and responding to the call over the years. Let us all take action. Let's remind those around us how much they matter. Encourage others to stay strong and resolute.

I urge you to continue to move forward as we chart our path through these challenging days. Remember, there are things we can do to help:

- Call a senior to check on their well-being

- If shopping (do so under City/State and CDC guidelines), pick-up an item or two for a senior or someone in need (practice physical distancing)

- Help with an online task

- Make a meal and drop it off (practice physical distancing)

- Send an online order to someone in need

As you are aware, many of our seniors and those with “underlying” health conditions have been extremely impacted and need our assistance now, and in the

months ahead. So, one of the ways BHERC will continue to help others and move forward is to provide 100 care packages to our seniors and those designated with “underlying” health conditions. And, we can all join in the fight by making just a quick phone call or sending a simple text message. Keeping each other positive and reminding our friends, neighbors, and loved ones that even in our isolation, we are not alone, we are in this together.

Lastly, I implore everyone to stay healthy and safe. Please remember to take care of family and friends -- but ALWAYS utilize health protocols! Let's continue the BHERC tradition of employing unwavering support, abundant generosity, and restorative caring that touches the mind, heart, body, and soul. #BHERC-StrongTogether!

“Every day that we have with one another is an opportunity to help one another be great, which everyone can be, but it's so much better together.” – SEM

*Peace and Blessings,  
Sandra J. Evers-Manly  
President  
#BHERCStrongTogether*



Sandra Evers-Manly

COURTESY PHOTO

Dear BHERC Family and Friends:

*“Our lives are to be judged for how far we were willing to go for each other.”*

– Sandra Evers-Manly

During this unprecedented time in our lives, a worldwide health pandemic COVID-19, is re-defining the very way we live our lives daily. In many instances, this will eclipse the future of what daily work, education, entertainment, and play will look like for all of us. But I am certain of one thing... we MUST have faith, focus on our well-being, keep moving forward, and a willingness to help others.

You might ask, how will we do this? With that said, I am calling upon you



## YWCA {continued from Pg. A-1}

have been in place before the coronavirus pandemic. But today, these services are even more essential than before," stated Shelton. The YWCA provides career training, provides on-line customer service training as well as a variety of computer skills training courses. However, with people losing their jobs, being laid off or furloughed, there is an even higher demand for people to get new and updated training, that when they were working, they did not have time to take the courses."

Shelton also explains that while their child care programs have closed because of COVID-19, the students in the workforce programs still need child-care services. Furthermore, "over 75% of the students who were in our child care programs relied on us for daily meals, she said." "We provided them with breakfast, lunch and a snack every day. We have had to continue providing that service to our children because we want to ensure that they are receiving the meals they need."

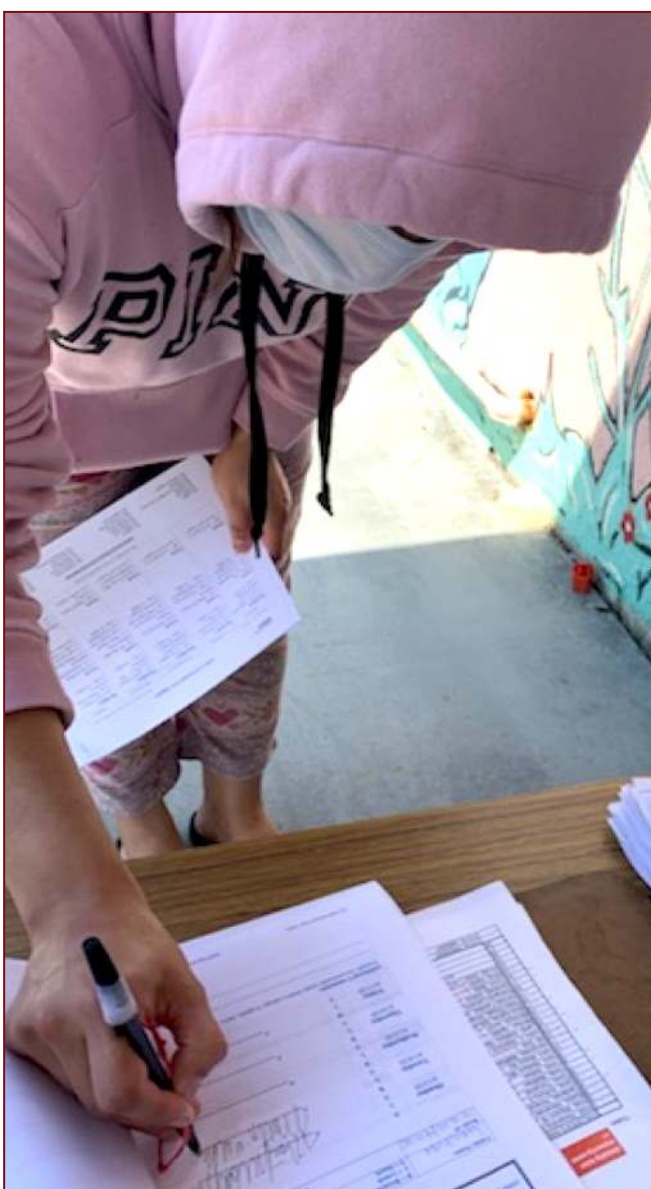
These meals are not only for the children, but the YWCA also provides healthy meals to the senior citizens in the community. These are not just meals; they are healthy and well-balanced dishes. Low sugar, low sodium, but still tasty enough for people to want to eat and enjoy. Sharon also explains, "our daily meal programs, when we were open every day, provided the social support services and human interaction that seniors need. Now, they have to "Shelter in Place" because they are the most vulnerable. But, the YWCA has to make sure, via electronic field trips, and telephonic inter-

action, that these seniors don't remain isolated and/or unattended to.

The Brotherhood Crusade finds themselves faced with many of the same challenges as the YWCA, but serve a different group. "One of our key programs serves over 400 young boys of color between the ages of 16 and 22. We were mentoring and working with these young men to develop their social skills, provided them with job training and resources they will need to remain productive citizens in our community and within society," stated Bremond-Weaver.

"These services cannot stop. In many cases, we are the most stable, trusted and relied upon element of their lives, and they will learn critical coping skills as they navigate through this pandemic. They rely on us, in many instances, their families rely on us as well; not only for training, but for life-services, from meals to medicine to other services that far too many people take for granted. From the first days of this pandemic, our board of directors gave us the mandate to be there, be available and service our community. From our Board Chairman Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., to my father, Walter Bremond, who founded The Brotherhood, we have always been there to serve our community and our people and this will never stop," she said.

Bremond-Weaver says that while The Brotherhood has an obligation to remain open and provide services to the community, this would not be possible without the support of so many of their corporate partners who have stepped up during these most critical of times. "We would not be able to keep our doors open



COURTESY PHOTO

Local families pick up groceries from YWCA of Greater Los Angeles.

and provide services to the community if it were not for the emergency support we've received from the James Irvine Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, Aids Healthcare Foundation, Weingart Foundation, The California Endowment, Westfield, CAM Foundation, Sandra Evers Manly, Wells Fargo, SoCal-Gas, Liberty Hill Foundation, and California Community Foundation. These foundations and companies' support have been critical for ensuring that this community and the residents we serve have whatever is needed and necessary to ensure that we survive through these difficult times".

Cynthia Heard, vice president of Business De-

velopment and Communications for the YWCA, believes that COVID-19 or no COVID-19, the obligation of services never goes away. "The YWCA GLA always leads and answers to the call-to-action. There is no time for posturing when lives are at stake. The COVID-19 pandemic that we, as a nation, are facing today, is magnified in the communities that the YWCA GLA serves. Thus, at-risk communities that are disenfranchised and clearly marginalized are always disproportionate to the masses and have a severe lack of access to essential services. On a daily basis, the YWCA GLA continues to be there for the needs of our at-risk communities, both pre and post COVID-19."

Beyond basic needs, like food and shelter; these times are tough on many residents within the community mentally as well. The YWCA provides counseling services and says that during these stressful times, their 24-hour rape and domestic abuse hotline is a critical part of providing services within the community. "Our program provides counseling for those who are victims of rape and sexual assault. But since COVID-19, we have had to expand our services to include domestic violence and partner with the Jenesse Center to provide additional services for women through these times," explains Shelton. "We are here for the women in this community and throughout the region, anyone who is a victim and

needs help should feel free to call the YWCA Rape/Sexual Assault Hotline anytime, day or night, the number is (877) 943-5778.

"Police officers, fire fighters, doctors and nurses are certainly first responders and we should never forget or ignore their sacrifices. But we should also be mindful that those operating food banks, providing job placement, delivering meals to the elderly and children alike, and all of those organizations that are providing services during the previous worst of times, are still on the front lines during COVID-19 and will still be responding each and every day, tragedy or not."

## Stimulus {continued from Pg. A-1}

than Tuesday, April 14.

Most Americans are eligible for and will receive stimulus payments, except for those who owe back child support payments.

Single-filers who make less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200, while married couples making less than \$150,000 are scheduled to get \$2,400. An additional \$500 payment will be provided to households for each child under 17.

The IRS will base the

payments on the adjusted gross income of taxpayers' 2019 return. If a 2019 return hasn't been filed (the deadline has been extended for two months), the IRS will use information from the 2018 return. If the return doesn't contain direct deposit information, or if the IRS doesn't have returns from 2018 or 2019, a paper check will be issued later.

Electronic payments also will go out to those receiving Social Security and

disability, even if recipients don't typically file a tax return.

For those who haven't provided the IRS with bank account information, paper checks are expected to begin reaching households in May, but, in some cases, recipients won't receive payment until September.

"If we have your bank information, you'll get it within two weeks," Mnuchin said. "Social Security, you'll get it very quickly after that. If we don't have your information, you'll have a simple

web portal, we'll upload it. If we don't have that, we'll send you checks in the mail."

Treasury officials said they expect 50 million to 70 million Americans to have received directly deposited payments by April 15, which is one day later than what the IRS said it expects the deposits to become available.

The IRS does plan to set up a portal on its website where filers can enter direct deposit information if the agency doesn't already have those details. Those

who have provided bank information on their 2018 or 2019 returns don't have to do anything unless their information has changed.

As for paper checks, the Washington Post reported that the IRS plan would distribute those to the lowest-income Americans first, prioritizing payments for individual taxpayers with incomes of \$10,000 or less on April 24.

Checks for earners of \$20,000 or less would be in the mail May 1, followed by those with incomes of \$30,000 on May 8, \$40,000

on May 15, and continuing in income increments of \$10,000 each week, according to the plan. The IRS plans to issue about 5 million checks each week.

Stimulus checks would be issued on Sept. 4 to joint taxpayers earning \$198,000, the maximum allowed under the stimulus. All others would be sent on Sept. 11, in most cases, because the IRS did not have prior tax information for them, and they need to apply for the checks.

## Bail {continued from Pg. A-1}

Judicial Council, said the measure received a lot of input and considerations before approval to reduce the jail population.

"We listened to suggestions from our justice system partners, the public, and the courts, and we greatly appreciate all of the input," said Cantil-Sakauye in a written statement. "Working with our stakeholders, I'm confident we can preserve the rule of law and protect the right of the victims, the accused, litigants, families and children, and all who seek justice. It's truly a team effort."

In mostly overcrowded conditions, African Americans are over-represented in California's prison population. Nearly 29 percent of the state's male inmates were Black in 2017, the Public Policy Institute of California reported.

Social justice advocates up and down the state have been pressuring officials

about the welfare of inmates in jails and prisons since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis.

Across the state, many inmates, as well as California prison officials have been diagnosed with the virus. Advocates believe releasing inmates will solve the solution to prevent the spreading of the virus and save lives.

Jamilia Land is an African-American community activist and member of California Families United 4 Justice, a Sacramento-based nonprofit organization that supports families impacted by police-involved shootings and violence. She said the cancellation of bail is a "wonderful idea," but it is something that should have taken place long before the pandemic.

"It's something that been needed to happen," Land told California Black Media. "Unfortunately, when we look at the demographic of people who are

incarcerated and overpopulating the jails in general, they look like us. They are Black and Brown people. Also, bail is feeding a lobster that is known as mass incarceration. We need to end it."

In 2018, when Gov. Gavin Newsom was lieutenant governor in Gov. Jerry Brown's administration, California passed Senate Bill 10 (SB 10). It was landmark legislation that abolished the cash money bail system for defendants waiting for trial, and also gave judges more discretion to determine who will be sent to jail or not – based on risk.

California was the first state in the nation to do so.

But the bail industry and other opponents of SB 10 rallied against the bill and collected more than 400,000 signatures, preventing the legislation from becoming state law the following year.

Now, it is up for a statewide referendum vote on the California ballot in November 2020.



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Agency: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Bid Date/Time: Thursday April 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Kleinfelder is seeking interested Community Business Enterprise (CBE) firms/subcontractors, for portions of work for the above listed Request for Proposals (RFP), which includes but not limited to geotechnical consulting and geohazard investigation including soils and geologic exploration, analysis, and recommendations in conjunction with project design and all services that are rendered for Code and quality assurance/quality control (QC/QA) inspections, including geotechnical monitoring and testing, investigation and analyses, and various materials sampling, testing and inspection services. Additionally, the scope includes optional services to provide environmental assessment and remediation, Phase I environmental site assessment, preliminary endangerment assessment, collect groundwater and other material samples and conduct testing, perform geophysical surveys, Dig Alert demarcations and notifications. All services shall be provided in accordance with all County of Los Angeles guidelines and ordinances. OSHA Construction Industry Standards, California Code of Regulations, South Coast Air Quality Management District Regulations, the Los Angeles County Building Code, and other applicable Code. Kleinfelder will advise and make an effort in assisting interested firms in obtaining bonding, lines of credits and/or insurance required by the contract documents should it be needed. RFP can be reviewed at Kleinfelder's office located at 20411 S Susana Rd Unit E, Long Beach, CA 90813 or can be downloaded by clicking on this link [https://dpw.lacounty.gov/Contracts/aed\\_rfp/ProjectDocuments.aspx?project\\_id=BRC0000133](https://dpw.lacounty.gov/Contracts/aed_rfp/ProjectDocuments.aspx?project_id=BRC0000133)

Interested firms should provide statement of qualifications, published fee schedules, CURRENT CBE certification form, and copies of their current laboratory certifications to:

Danya Hanna, Kleinfelder, 20411 S Susana Rd Unit E, Long Beach, CA 90813

Phone: (909) 376-6128, or e-mail: [dhanna@kleinfelder.com](mailto:dhanna@kleinfelder.com).

ALL SOQ INFORMATION FOR THIS RFP IS DUE TO KLEINFELDER NO LATER THAN

April 24, 2020 BY 5:00 P.M.

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# Rep. Maxine Waters Working for the 43rd District During the Coronavirus Pandemic

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In light of the unprecedented economic and health challenges presented to working families and small businesses by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, has employed the full force of her office and leveraged new technology to assist the people of the 43rd District.

"I want my constituents to know that despite the challenges presented to us by the coronavirus pandemic, my office has not stopped working on behalf of our community," said Congresswoman Waters.

"It is imperative that the people of the 43rd District have a federal government that they can rely upon to address this unprecedented crisis. My office is respecting the social distancing guidelines, and actively taking advantage of telephone and video conferencing technology services that will help us keep in touch with and better serve you."

On March 19 and April 2, Congresswoman Waters conducted the first two in a series of 43rd District telephone town hall meetings that included approximately 19,000 and 15,000 local residents, respectively. Her calls featured presentations by the Los Angeles County Department of

Health, the IRS, the Small Business Administration, all of the school districts in the 43rd District, LA Metro, LA Homeless Services Authority, LA Regional Food Bank, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Watts Health Care, South Bay Family Health Clinic, and UMMA Community Clinic.

Congresswoman Waters also organized conference calls with 43rd District mayors Patrick Furey (Torrance), James Butts (Inglewood), Alex Vargas (Hawthorne), Tasha Cerda (Gardena), Robert Pullen-Miles (Lawndale), and James Gazeley (Lomita), and leaders of the hospitals serving her district, including Torrance Memorial

Hospital, Centinela Hospital, Providence Little Company of Mary, Memorial Hospital of Gardena, and Harbor UCLA Medical Center. She and her staff are urgently following up on a number of concerns raised during the calls such as the need for increased federal funding for coronavirus testing; PPE and medical supplies for health care workers, city employees, and first responders; health care services for the uninsured and the homeless; and reimbursement for lost city revenue and emergency housing and homelessness assistance programs. She has also joined conference calls, led by Rev. Jesse Jackson, with national clergy leaders who

outlined their concerns regarding minority communities and small businesses who are desperately in need of federal assistance.

Congresswoman Waters is also continuing to provide direct constituent casework services for 43rd District residents, which have included: identifying and directing seniors and local families to free meal programs and local food pantries; securing emergency U.S. State Department chartered flights for Americans who were stranded abroad in Morocco due to coronavirus-related flight cancellations; and advocating for increased demographic, testing, and medical supply data from



FILE PHOTO  
Rep. Maxine Waters

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the African American community in Los Angeles County and counties across the country.

For additional updates on Congresswoman Waters' efforts, please visit her website, [waters.house.gov](http://waters.house.gov).



COURTESY PHOTO  
Rep. Karen Bass

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This week, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global

# Rep. Bass Slams Trump Administration For Halting WHO Funding During Pandemic

Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, issued the following statement after the Trump administration halted U.S. payments for the World Health Organization during a pandemic.

"President Donald Trump's absolute abdication of international responsibility and leadership is now



COURTESY PHOTO  
Donald Trump

unequivocally apparent.

"Tonight's move to halt funding to the World Health Organization in the middle of a global pandemic is the exact opposite of what this country should be doing. As past administrations have done successfully prior, we should be investing in our response capacity and rallying the entire world to

respond in a unified fashion to the crisis before us. To abandon this international effort days after our country has officially suffered the world's largest death toll at the hands of COVID-19 is especially insidious.

"More brothers and sisters will be infected, more mothers and fathers will be admitted to already strug-

gling hospitals and more grandparents will die. This is an attempt by the administration to shift blame away from its own failure to heed internal warnings given as early as January. This administration should be taking every single step possible to build a coalition to defeat this virus.

"And we must."

# Additional Loan Assistance for Small Businesses

## Critical Delivery Service

Temporary delivery program for older and dependent adults

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the California Safer at Home Initiative, our aging population has an increased need for timely delivery services. WDACS has launched a temporary delivery program called Critical Delivery Services (CDS) to deliver food and other vital items to individuals who are unable to leave their homes due to COVID-19.

**Who qualifies for delivery services?**

Delivery services are reserved for those who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- ➔ Aged 60 years and older
- ➔ Individual with a permanent or temporary disability
- ➔ Dependent Adults (aged 18-59 years)

Once items are ready for pick-up, call 888-863-7411. Deliveries can be made:

- 🕒 24 hours a day
- 📅 7 days a week

**What can be delivered?**

Groceries

Household Items

Vital Necessities

Per month, individuals can receive up to:

- 📦 Four (4) deliveries or
- 📍 40 miles worth of deliveries

**How can deliveries be scheduled?**

- 📞 Call 888-863-7411 to request delivery service
- 📱 Order items for delivery via online/phone and provide payment for items to the pick-up location
- 🚗 Critical Delivery Service Coordinator will schedule a taxi driver to deliver your items to you
- ✅ Critical Delivery Service Coordinator will call you back to confirm the delivery has been scheduled
- 📅 To schedule deliveries, call hotline M-F, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Same day deliveries are available only during schedule hours.

BY SENATOR STEVE BRADFORD

Previously, my office sent out information about small business loans you can apply for through the Small Business Administration. If you are a small business owner whose business has been impacted by the current public health crisis, I encourage you to apply for a loan through one or both of the SBA's two disaster loan programs. If you need help applying for an SBA loan please visit LA CARES corp a partnership between L.A. city and the county of L.A. to provide small businesses with the help they need to apply for federal loans under the CARES Act. Recently, the Federal Reserve announced it will be dedicating \$2.3 trillion to help ensure that the previously announced small business loan programs and other COVID-19 relief programs work as intended.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Steve Bradford

ble California businesses are those that have been negatively impacted or experienced disruption by COVID-19 and have no more than 750 employees. Loan proceeds can be used for business continuance or to cure "economic injury" as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small businesses that want to apply for a loan through this program should contact the Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corporation (<https://www.pccorp.org/>) at 213-739-2999, Ext. 222.

For more resources and information to help you and your family combat COVID-19, please visit my website. As you are all aware, this situation is fluid and ever changing. As more information becomes available, we will share with you. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

# California is Providing Hotel Rooms for Essential Workers



AP PHOTO/RICH PEDRONCELLI, POOL  
California Gov. Gavin Newsom updates the state's response to the coronavirus.

BY QUINCI LE GARDYE  
California Black Media

California has begun offering no-cost and low-cost hotel rooms to doctors, nurses and other critical frontline healthcare workers who test positive for, or have come into contact with COVID-19. Gov. Newsom announced the new program April 9, and the reservation portal opened through the Cal-TravelStore website April 10.

The program is designed to help infected healthcare workers avoid spreading the virus by staying in hotel rooms in close proximity to medical facilities after leaving their shifts.

"California is fighting to protect those who are protecting us," said Governor Newsom during the announcement. "As we ramp up the workforce to meet the demand we are also stepping up to help keep our [health care]

workers' families safe by providing hotels as temporary housing options."

150 hotels have already opted in to provide discounted rates. The Department of General Services is currently prioritizing hotels in counties with large populations or high amounts of positive test results.

While taking precautions to protect California's health care workers, the state is also continuing to widen the ranks. 86,516 health care professionals have signed up for the California Health Corps so far, which recruits public health professionals, medical retirees and students, and members of medical disaster response teams to help address the COVID-19 surge in hospitals.

The governor's office has also partnered with United Airlines to provide free flights for volunteer health care professionals to bring them to areas where they are most needed during the pandemic.

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## Businesses {continued from Pg. A-1}

may not be there and Black customers are going to be hit very hard. It's going to be a challenge for all businesses. You have to figure what you need to do now."

He characterized the relief package as, "keep the light on money," likened the U.S. economy to a Ponzi scheme with the U.S. government printing money "out of thin air," and said now that corporations—who are carrying between \$4 trillion and \$10 trillion worth of debt—face an economic reckoning, the realization is dawning that the way they've been doing business is untenable.

"They are now seeing that this isn't sustainable," said Mr. Johnson, who for the past two decades has helped families and small businesses create and protect wealth, and who has guided them to see the benefits of developing a financial game-plan. "Nobody ever shoots Santa. People don't care and weren't complaining when they were making money."

Mr. Johnson said the Covid-19 pandemic merely accelerated what has been happening to the economy, just at a slower rate.

"Here's the reality: what happened is that they are creating money out of thin air, buying assets, feeding the Ponzi scheme," he said. "They were rigging earnings, strip-mining stocks and buying back stocks, while the Federal Reserve pushed down interest rates and have been buying bonds and assets."

Mr. Johnson, who founded Delancey Wealth Management LLC in 2012, said 35 percent of small businesses couldn't sustain a three-month shutdown, while 70 percent wouldn't survive past six months.

He said the country is staring at the abyss. The unemployment rate during the Great Depression was 25 percent and financial experts are predicting that unemployment figures could reach that figure before all this is done. In late March and early April, about 10 million Americans filed for unemployment. The next jobs figures are expected to be considerably higher.

Veteran labor organizer Bill Fletcher, Jr. said there are a couple of layers to consider when contemplating the effect coronavirus will have on African Americans.

"One is the question of the impact of the crisis on Black America and Black businesses. One of the things that we're going to have to deal with in this country, irrespective of race, is going to be trauma," he said. "I think that it will have a

particular type of impact on Black America—looking at illnesses and a further elimination of wealth, along the lines of 2008 crash," added Mr. Fletcher.

"African Americans never really recovered from the housing crash and economic meltdown and that reality is going to be a very important factor for Black people, especially since the U.S. may be going into some form of depression," said Mr. Fletcher, former president of TransAfrica Forum and a senior scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies. "I saw a report last week that shows the Washington metropolitan area could lose 35 percent of small businesses. Add a layer of race onto that—lower savings rates and profit margins and most small biz not able to sustain themselves for three months and the problem becomes clear."

What comes out of this crisis will be equivalent to the aftermath of a war, he said.

"It's not like coming out of a recession with the infrastructure intact. Even if the number of people who die isn't as high, we're looking at high levels of devastation economically," Mr. Fletcher explained.

Marc Morial is one of a number of critics who don't believe the package goes far enough and said he and others in the civil rights and business communities will have to push just as hard as they have to ensure that more is done for African American businesses. He said he doesn't have to look too far to see the impact of the pandemic on small Black businesses owners in New York, where he lives.

"My barber is closed down. That's where three people work. It's their livelihood," he said soberly. "Every barber shop, every hair salon has been closed down."

Mr. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, said he, other civil rights organizations and their allies fought fiercely to ensure that Congress wouldn't pass a bill that completely ignored African American businesses at perhaps their time of greatest need.

"The \$2.2 trillion recovery relief plan is a down payment," Mr. Morial told The Final Call. "In the best-case scenario, it will offer two months relief for small business owners and four months relief for unemployed worker. There is a need for them to go back. We fought hard in discussions, along with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), to ensure, for example that

lending platforms would be open to non-profits, sole proprietors and mom and pop stores."

"The language is broad and inclusive, and the execution may take a while. We have to lean in on this opportunity hard. African American business owners shouldn't sit around and wonder if they should apply. Apply! We have to put pressure on the process for it to serve us."

Mr. Morial said, "There will definitely be a need for more money and we're working with Rep. Karen Bass to see what the next package will look like." President Trump signed the bill March 27.

Ron Busby, president and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC), played a similar role as Mr. Morial pressing lawmakers to include provisions favorable to African American businesses.

"I want readers to understand that in the 700-plus page bill, nowhere was the word, 'Black,'" said Mr. Busby, who serves on the Pfizer Small Business Council, National Newspapers Publishers Association Foundation Board of Directors, and White House African American Leadership Council. "It is a race-neutral bill, has nothing to do with Black people. The U.S. Chamber advocated to keep it race neutral to ensure that the bill would get support. Congress felt it would be easier to get passed that way."

Mr. Busby said, while \$2 trillion seems like a great deal of money, \$349 million will go towards the Small Business Administration's Payment Protection Program (PPP).

"That also seems like a great deal of money but it's not enough funding," he said. "It will be very difficult for Black and small businesses. We fought for small, Black-owned businesses, fought for a couple of things—to ensure that businesses wouldn't be cancelled because of supply chain issues and problems with developing products and widgets because of the epidemic. We also fought to get a 'front-pay' program where businesses would get paid in the next 15 days."

"The federal government is notorious for slow payments of 60, 90, 120 days—and most Black-owned businesses are more interested in and dependent on cash-flow. They (negotiators) pulled it out at the last minute but they said they will continue to pay businesses through the disruption."

Mr. Busby and other observers say most Black



STOCK PHOTO

**Businesses, big and small, have been savaged, with the hardest hit sectors being the travel and hospitality industries and the retail sector.**

businesses have small payrolls and use what is called 1099 workers and contract employees, but if business owners apply for the PPP, it will pay 100 percent of their payroll for the next three months. Some aspects of the plan are still vague, saying he's not sure how the wording will be received at banks, he added.

Ohio Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and Rep. Dwight Evans of Pennsylvania told The Final Call that the good news is that small businesses, including those who work as 1099 employees, beauty and nail salons, painters and others who are self-employed will have an opportunity to participate.

"April is when they can first apply," she said. "The good news is that dollars are available. It's first come, first serve. It was important for us to make sure that individuals who work as contractors weren't left out. We can't make a commitment that everyone will get in but people should prepare their packages, go to the Treasury website and download the application package."

Rep. Beatty, who is vice chairman of the Small Business Committee and serves on the Committee on Financial Services and the Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions subcommittee among others, said she has worked very closely with Chairman Nadya Velasquez and other committee members.

"CBC members have stepped up. We're teaming up and working together, but there are a lot of devils in the details, especially those not in the traditional SBA," said Rep. Beatty, who has served in Congress since 2013.

She said she and some

of her colleagues met with civil rights leaders and will continue to do so as all of them try to stay ahead of this crisis. Congressman Evans said providing economic distress loans, the PPP and \$10 million for minority development agencies is very important and underscores the importance of small businesses.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and it's very important in terms of what these programs will mean," he said. "We will probably need more money and jobs as ways to build wealth. Closing the income and wage gap and stabilizing and building Black businesses is a priority for Rep. Karen Bass."

Rep. Beatty agreed with Mr. Morial and Mr. Busby that there's much more that needs to be done to make sure that African Americans have a safety net during these calamitous times.

"The old adage is that when America gets a cold, African Americans get pneumonia," she said. "What's happening with coronavirus has exposed so many disparities. Disparities are being shown by the media. In Detroit, for example, 14 percent of the population is African American but 40 percent of those dying are African American. The increasing numbers of people who are incarcerated, homeless. We need to look at the total picture of disparities."

Zeville Preston, a member of New York City's Black Business Empowerment Committee (BBE), was scathing in her criticism of the relief package.

"This bill is D.O.A. (dead on arrival). We need something of value. Black blood and bodies built this country and as usual, once

again, we find ourselves at the back of the line," she said. "We're 22 percent of New York City's population but we are less than two percent of business and get less than two percent of the contracts, numbers which have declined over a five-year period. Black businesses dying on the vine and the governor cares not at all."

"This is to put CBC on notice. They want people to think they did something, and they did nothing."

A March 20, 2020, letter sent to the CBC points to 94 proposals to help African Americans that the body sent to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, with only three speaking directly to Black people and only money allocated to Historically Black Universities and Minority Serving Institutions has a dollar amount attached to it: \$450 billion. In their letter, the BBE expresses frustration and dismay: "The CBC's 94 initiatives totaling \$459 million basically leaves the Black business community with nothing, especially in New York state where all other ethnic groups and White-women's participation far exceeds Black participation," it states. "BBE is most disappointed that the CBC saw fit to argue the case for minorities, women and small businesses while neglecting to propose funding specifically for Black businesses. Harlem's BBE finds this unacceptable!"

Ms. Preston said BBE is reaching out across American cities to see if business owners and others in the Black community are having the same issues.

"We're figuring strategically to speak in one voice," she said.

## COVID-19 {continued from Pg. A-1}



California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

our emotions," said Burke Harris. Those effects are of particular concern to African Americans. Some of the health conditions that can be exacerbated by heightened stress include heart disease, blood pressure and diabetes.

"Healthy nutrition, regular exercise, mindfulness like meditation, good sleep hygiene and staying connected

to our social supports and getting mental health care, all help to decrease stress hormones and improve our health," said Burke Harris. The playbook elaborates on the six stress-busting strategies Burke Harris mentioned during the press conference, as well as a self-care template for adults. There is also a companion playbook with tips and tricks for caregivers

and kids.

The surgeon general also highlighted the importance of familial and social relationships to mental health. "Safe, stable and nurturing relationships, help to protect our brains and bodies from the harmful effects of stress and adversity."

Gov. Newsom also gave a message of faith. "We are bigger than anything we face, and so, I know that fear and anxiety, we all have, but let us have faith. Faith conquers all. Know that this will pass." Both playbooks are available under the "Stress playbooks" tab at covid19.ca.gov.

In addition to the playbooks, the website lists the numbers of the 24-hour Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence Hotlines. There are also California-based hotlines for non-emergency support, including the "Peer-Run Warm Line" for anyone in California seeking emotional support.



Project: On-Call Special Inspection and Materials Testing for Various County Health Care Projects

RFP Number: BRC0000132

Agency: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Bid Date/Time: Thursday April 30, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

Kleinfelder is seeking interested Community Business Enterprise (CBE) firms/subcontractors for portions of work for the above listed Request for Proposals (RFP), which includes but is not limited to providing special inspectors certified by the following agencies:

- County of Los Angeles
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) in California
- California Division of the State Architect (DSA)
- 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trained

The work shall consist of providing special inspection and materials testing services as required by the code, OSHPD and/or the County or other agency having jurisdiction for inspection during the construction of the project. The construction materials laboratories shall be certified to comply with ASTM E-329 and licensed and/or approved by at least two of the following organizations: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Caltrans, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Los Angeles, Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory, Metropolitan Transportation Agency, Division of the State Architect, and Bureau of Standards (for compliance with ASTM-329). Kleinfelder will advise and make an effort in assisting interested firms in obtaining bonding, lines of credits and/or insurance required by the contract documents should it be needed. The RFP can be reviewed at Kleinfelder's office located at 20411 S Susana Rd Unit E, Long Beach, CA 90813 or can be downloaded by clicking on this link ftp://dpwftp.co.la.ca.us/aedproj/1z4/RFP/

Interested firms should provide statement of qualifications, published fee schedules, current CBE certification forms, and copies of their current laboratory certifications to:

Dany Hanna, Kleinfelder, 20411 S Susana Rd Unit E, Long Beach, CA 90813

Phone: (909) 376-6128, or e-mail: dhanna@kleinfelder.com.

ALL SOQ INFORMATION FOR THIS RFP IS DUE TO KLEINFELDER NO LATER THAN

April 24, 2020 BY 5:00 P.M.

Kleinfelder is an Equal Employment Opportunity Company.



# Black PBS Newshour Reporter Questions Surgeon General's 'Big Mama' Remark



President Trump looks on as U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams addresses nation the Coronavirus pandemic.

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY  
California Black Media

"Don't wash your dirty laundry in the street," goes the centuries-old African-American adage. The saying is a warning to Black people: Don't get into spats with other Black people about racial differences while "in mixed company." That's code for White people.

But at a White House Coronavirus Task Force press conference last week things got a little heated. An exchange between a

Black Journalist and the country's top doctor went there — touching on African American culture and racial stereotypes in a very public way. Big Mama may not have approved.

At the briefing held to update Americans about the global Coronavirus pandemic, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, who is African American, probably didn't think he would set off a controversy when he said people of color should avoid drugs, tobacco and alcohol as a safety precaution against

the coronavirus.

"We need you to do this, if not for yourself, then do it for your Abuela. Do it for your Granddaddy. Do it for your Big Mama. Do it for your Pop Pop," said America's top doctor, who is tasked with advancing the health of Americans, to journalists gathered at the White House.

Moments later, Yamiche Léone Alcindor, a Black White House correspondent

for PBS NewsHour, fired a pointed question at Adams. She asked him if his comment was an attack on African Americans.

"There are some people online who are already offended by that language and the idea that behaviors may be leading to these high death rates," Alcindor told Adams.

Adams apologized, but he said that he used language he uses around his

family.

But Alcindor continued pressing Adams, "Could you, I guess, have a response to those who might be offended by the language you used?"

"Some will find this language offensive after Adams stressed that behavior was not the issue for why more Black [people] are dying," Alcindor tweeted from the press conference.

"We need targeted outreach to the African-American community," Adams responded to Alcindor. "I used the language that I used in my family. I have a Puerto Rican brother-in-law. I call my granddaddy, 'granddaddy.' I have relatives who call their grandparents Big Mama. So that was not to be offensive."

Adams is the 20th U.S. Surgeon General. He oversees 6,500 uniformed officers who serve almost 800 locations around the globe

charged with promoting, protecting, and advancing the health and safety of the United States.

Adams, 45, received his bachelor's degree in both biochemistry and psychology from the University of Maryland, master of public health degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine.

Adams grew up on a farm in Maryland, the Baltimore Sun reported in 2017. He assumed the office of Surgeon General of the United States on Sept. 5, 2017.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the leading experts on infectious diseases and a member of the task force, defended Adams' remarks.

"I know Jerome personally," Fauci said. "I can testify that he made no — not a hint of being offensive at all with that comment."



Yamiche Léone Alcindor, White House correspondent

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Forgiving for Living

## What Now?

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) crept up on most of us like a thief in the night. It came so unexpectedly. Who could have ever imagined we would experience such an epidemic in our lifetime? Most of us were not (and possibly still aren't) prepared for the changes that would happen in our day-to-day lives. As time continues to move forward, the consequences have been devastating. Families have lost loved ones, businesses have closed, and for all of us, our day-to-day routines will forever be changed. But no matter what, we must all maintain the attitude that we are in this together and strive to come out on the other side wiser.

This past week kicked off the holiest of holidays for many across the globe. Passover began on April 8, Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ

this past Sunday, and Ramadan will begin April 23. More than any other time of the year, this season represents hope and renewal. Each day when I get up, I am grateful for the opportunities that are still yet before me. With the dawning of each new sunrise comes hope and with every sunset we can be grateful for the blessings that day gave us. No matter what, we are still here.

The question most of us are asking is what now? How do we continue to move forward in what seems to have become our new normal? There are some answers that will only be revealed in time. There's a lot of pressure, especially on social media, that we should be using this time to achieve as much as we can, do all the things we never had the time to do and come out wealthier and stron-

ger. Although I was first drawn to this philosophy, I had to stop myself and think things through. After a conversation with my daughter, it became clearer to me that we all move through tragedies at a different pace. We must be kind to others as well as to ourselves and move at our own speed. Life is not a sprint, but rather a marathon.

What now? For me, I am trying to stay true to myself and my calling. But when I am not having a good day, I am learning to be kind to myself and give myself whatever time and space I may need to heal from this abrupt change in our day-to-day schedules and lives. Truth be told, I am used to moving at a pretty rapid pace. Slowing down has been a bit difficult for me. However, what I am learning is

{See WENDY A-12}

## Success On "The Way"

Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™

## "The Best Good Friday: Celebrate!!"

## "Every Friday is Good Friday!"

I see visions in the eye of my mind of Jesus, The Christ, carrying that heavy more than 100 pound wooden cross, bleeding, stumbling along, demonstrating visually how heavy all our sins are. Too heavy for us to carry, so He carried them for us. I see Him in the Garden of Gethsemane having to bear the burden alone while the disciples slept. Yes. He was fully human and fully divine. When He needed them most, they slept. I see Him being betrayed by Judas with the "kiss of death." I see Him in controversies with the elitists Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes. I think of how they plotted to kill "My Saviour, Your Saviour" because He healed on the Sabbath and they thought the Sabbath was so holy that even the sick could

not be healed on the Sabbath; but they thought if an animal became trapped or lost, they could put the animal rights before suffering people. I see "My Saviour, Your Saviour" having mercy on the "woman at the well, a Samaritan, (not a racist) who had been shunned, ashamed, married five times, but yet, He took time to witness to a woman, seeing her need for salvation. She became an evangelist, "Come and see the man who told me everything about myself! Is this not the Messiah?" I see "My Saviour, Your Saviour" as the one who didn't leave women behind, but many followed Him and supported His ministry with their own resources. I see "My Saviour, Your Saviour" who "loved the little children" and didn't let the

disciples discard the "little children" as unworthy to listen to.

I see "My Saviour, Your Saviour" who cares for "the very least, I see "My Saviour, Your Saviour" who calls Philip from an evangelistic meeting to minister to one. Every "One is important to "My Saviour, Your Saviour." Thank you! Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday, and may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. Why is Good Friday called Good Friday? Probably because good used to mean holy. ... "That terrible Friday has

{See PARKER A-12}

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Celebration of Life

The Passing of Roland L. Wirt

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

We have lost a giant promoter in the entertainment industry. At approximately 2:30 am on April 13, 2020, Roland L. Wirt ("Rockin' Roland, The Cat-N-Da-Hat, and Dresser Extraordinaire"), passed due to an ongoing heart condition, unrelated to COVID-19.

Roland was known by many as a promoter in Los Angeles, and he began his career dating back to the 70's. He was influential in helping numerous singers, musicians, actors, models and athletes in event planning and promotion. His annual All White Party was an event that could not be missed. People flew in from across the country to be present.

His charity, kindness, charisma and loving spirit



will always be remembered. The light that lit his beautiful smile will never be forgotten. The memories will never fade. His friendliness to all will forever be in our hearts. We will miss our husband, brother, father, and friend. We will miss Roland L. Wirt.

Roland was 68 years old. The Wirt Family

A special memorial fund and GoFundMe page was created by the Wirt family, honoring Roland L. Wirt and his beloved wife Lisa. Please visit: https://www.gofundme.com/f/memorial-fund-for-roland-wirts-wife?utm\_source=customer&utm\_medium=sms&utm\_campaign=p\_cf+share-flow

Wendy {continued from Pg. A-11}

as life is forcing me to step back and reset, I am sleeping more and a bit better; I have time to work on projects that have been on the back burner and they are providing joy to my soul. When the going gets tough,

the tough get going. We all work hard in our own way and at our own speed to meet this challenge.

What we must all understand is we need to show compassion towards others and realize people work

through tough times differently. It's not one size fits all. We must be kind. We must not pass judgement. One of the things that has become clear is we can be up one day and down the next. Just as in years past, whether it was the Spanish Flu of 1918; or the Great Depression of 1929; or the

Asian Flu (H2N2) in 1957; or the Swine Flu of 1976; or any other tragedy that has hit mankind, the way we survive and eventually thrive again is through loving one another and standing together.

What now? Continue to move forward the best way you know how. If you need

help, don't be afraid to ask. If you feel like completing your next or first novel, go right ahead. If you need to rest and take things slow, so be it. As for me and my house we will continue to serve the Lord, take one day at a time and help others.

Healing Without Hate:

It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on!

Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is an international coach, consultant, trainer, author and speaker.

Parker {continued from Pg. A-11}

been called Good Friday because it

led to the Resurrection of Jesus and His victory over death, sin and the grave...celebration of Easter, (Resurrection Sun-

day) the very pinnacle of Christian celebrations," (Huffington Post.) Forest Wickman-Brow Beat.. Wikipedia) Last Friday was Good Friday, the day on which Christians commem-

orate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. The name may seem counterintuitive to many Christians and nonbelievers, since the day is typically viewed as a solemn one, often observed with fasting and somber processions. Why is Good

Friday called Good Friday? Probably because good used to mean holy. There are a few theories about why Good Friday is called Good Friday, only one seems to be supported by linguists and by historical evidence; Good Friday is called Good

Friday because, Christians believe there is something very good about it: It is the anniversary of Jesus suffering and dying on the cross at Calvary for our sins; but not just for Christians sins, but for the sins of the whole world, because His arms

are outstretched for anyone who will choose to accept Him as God's only begotten Son.

Tucker {continued from Pg. A-6}

School Lunch Program. Even as the 2010 census overcounted the population as a whole, it undercounted the Black population by more than 800,000 people.

Certainly, there are social and economic problems that make the Black community hard-to-count, including increased rates of housing instability, industrialized incarceration, home-

lessness, and even lack of internet access. And a deep distrust of government and concerns about privacy only make things worse.

This means many in the Black community are "missing" in their own communities, hiding in plain sight – even to this day.

These are unprecedented times. So, we must come together to ensure

that Black communities are seen, heard and counted.

That starts by ensuring people know what to do to participate: You can go to my2020census.gov right now to fill out the form. It's a simple, confidential nine-question survey that asks for basic information like your name, address, sex, race, and age. For those who prefer to fill out the form over the phone, you can dial 844-330-2020 to participate.

And don't forget, your responses to the Census are protected by law and cannot be shared with, or used by, any other government agencies. Answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine eligibility for government benefits or immigration enforcement.

Black Californians deserve a fair and accurate census count in 2020. Our democracy relies on accurate data to make sound

decisions that reflect our country's needs. An accurate representation of our communities in the census will allow Black Americans to have a greater influence over resources and representation and the ability to hold lawmakers accountable. The Black community has an opportunity to change the history of the census in 2020 and participate in record numbers – let's seize this moment.

David Tucker is a Re-

gional Program Manager for the California Complete Count – Census 2020. He has worked for the California State Assembly, and U.S. Congress and reinforced and validated with his work in the private sector, championing social, economic and education reform issues in Bay Area communities. www.californiacensus.org!

Public Notices

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY for Contractors, Subcontractors, Suppliers. Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Invite Bids For The Construction of: Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant Sewer Rehabilitation (Bid Opening May 26, 2020 - Estimate \$150,000 - \$250,000). Contracting And Supply Opportunities Include: Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Lining, Flow Bypass Pumping, Sewer Cleaning and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspection, PVC liner repair. Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts encourage participation of minority, women, disadvantaged, disabled veterans, and small business enterprises.

Project Location: The Refined Project addresses improvements to 40.6 acres within the 152-acre Exposition Park located approximately 2 miles southwest of the Los Angeles Civic Center at 700 Exposition Park Drive in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. Project Description: The Refined Project, consisting of nine elements, would guide the development of Exposition Park, for an additional 25-year period beyond that envisioned in the 2003 Los Memorial Coliseum renovation project. The Master Plan is available online at www.expositionparktogether.org. Public Meeting: OEPM will host one virtual public meeting online from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

Comments on the Draft SEIR will be accepted by OEPM between April 17, 2020, and 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2020. Please include your name and address for all written correspondence. Please e-mail your written comments to info@expositionpark.ca.gov. LOS ANGELES SENTINEL. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY. IFB NO. P0819R-20 PTC Network Equipment. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is seeking bids for PTC Network Equipment. Upon award, a purchase order will be issued for the goods included in the solicitation. Electronic bids must be submitted online at https://metrolinktrains.com/doing-business, on or before 2:00 PM Local Time on April 20, 2020. Electronic bids will not be received after this date and time.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Special Inspection and Materials Testing for Various Medical Campuses (BRC000132) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works, Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 until 5 pm on April 30, 2020. An RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-2530 or TDDat(626) 282-7829. LOS ANGELES SENTINEL.

estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/05/20 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner GARRY FOSTER 3505 W. 139TH STREET #39 HAWTHORNE CA 90250 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/20 CNS-3358772# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2020058586. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GOODBADTRUE COLLECTIVE, 21625 YUCATAN AVENUE, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364 County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): CLEMENTINE FILMS INC, 21625 YUCATAN AVENUE, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364; State of Incorporation: CA. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant(s) started doing business on 03/2020. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). CLEMENTINE FILMS INC S/ LAURA PARKER, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY. From: Office of Exposition Park Management. Attn: Ana M. Lasso, General Manager. 700 Exposition Park Drive Los Angeles, CA 90037 info@expositionpark.ca.gov. SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Exposition Park Master Plan. The State of California Office of Exposition Park Management (OEPM), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed the preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to the certified 2003 Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Renovation Project Environmental Impact Report (2003 EIR) (SCH# 1990011065) that evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed Exposition Park Master Plan (Refined Project). In accordance with §15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines, OEPM has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft SEIR for a 45-day public review period between April 17 and June 1, 2020. The NOA and related documents can be reviewed

Due to the unknown duration of the Governor's shelter in place directive (Executive Order N-3-20), the documents are being made available online at http://expositionpark.ca.gov/Public-Notices/ and www.expositionparktogether.org, and a USB thumb drive can be provided to organizations representing 50 people or more if requested.

Probate. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GARRY FOSTER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the

GOVERNMENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of

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# RELIGION

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

www.lasentinel.net

B-1

## COVID-19 Claims Lives of Local & National Faith Leaders

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT  
Religion Editor

The devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic transcends all boundaries and the faith community is no exception.

Since the end of March, several religious leaders in Los Angeles and across the nation have passed away due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Among the victims in the L.A. area is Bishop Anthony Pigee, Sr., the 49-year-old founder and senior pastor of Life of Faith Community Center, who died April 8, of complications from coronavirus.

Known throughout the U.S. for his powerful preaching, Pigee was also lauded by his family and colleagues for his charitable and generous spirit towards others in need.

In a statement, his family said, "We bow our heads in humble submission to the perfect will of God as He has seen fit to transition Bishop Anthony Pigee, Sr... a giant of a husband, father, son, brother, pastor and preacher across this

country and a blessing to so many."

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC) denomination has been especially hard hit by COVID-19, with a number of bishops and superintendents dying from the disease in the last month. The First Jurisdiction of Michigan alone lost seven leaders including Bishops Robert E. Smith, Sr. and Robert L. Harris, and Superintendents John D. Beverly, Paul E. Hester, Sr., Kevelin B. Jones, Myron E. Lett and Leon R. McPherson, Sr.

The passing of COGIC Bishop Timothy T. Scott, who died on April 3, especially saddened communities in the South. Scott, the pastor of St. James Temple Church of God in Christ in Clarksdale, was the presiding prelate of the Northern Mississippi Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. He was also the longest serving jurisdictional prelate in the Church of God in Christ, according to The Christian Post.

"Bishop T. T. Scott is an icon of fatherly leadership, humble servitude, and unwavering faith," said



Bishop Anthony Pigee, Sr.

Bishop Robert G. Rudolph, Jr., adjutant general in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., in a statement.

The passing of Bishop Phillip A. Brooks, a legendary preacher, statesman and social activist in the area, similarly distressed residents in Detroit, Michigan. He passed away on April 9, at the age of 88.

In an April 10 story in The Detroit News, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., described Brooks as an "intellectual giant" for writing the manual for the training of COGIC leaders.

Brooks, who was also selected by Blake to serve

as the denomination's vice president, was known as a confidant to Coleman Young, Detroit's first Black mayor, and the late recording artist, Aretha Franklin.

Knowing the deadliness of COVID-19, Blake has been providing clear directives for the members of the church since March 2020, said COGIC spokesman Robert Coleman.

"These directives have included the shutting down of the national headquarters and publishing house locations in Memphis, mandating that all other locations comply with local and state orders, cancelling all international events, es-

tablishing an informational call with the White House for pastors and leaders and canceling of four of the church's upcoming major conferences and meetings," explained Coleman.

In addition, Blake recently released a video to COGIC members where the presiding bishop stated, "I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, unequivocally state that all Church of God in Christ local, district, state, national and international gatherings should cease.

"Saints of God, let us please continue to do all we can to contribute to the flattening of this pandemic's curve. I cannot stress the vital importance of doing so for the safety and well-being of all."

Bishop Gerald O. Glenn, founder and pastor of New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Chesterfield, Virginia, also came to that conclusion before he died from COVID-19 on April 11.

Initially, Glenn resisted his state's social distancing recommendations and continued to hold in-person

worship services despite the pandemic. In his last known in-person sermon on March 22, the New York Post reported that Glenn boasted about being "controversial" and "in violation" of state social distancing recommendations.

"I firmly believe that God is larger than this dreaded virus. You can quote me on that," he declared.

The next day, after Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam prohibited gathering on more than 10 people, Glenn announced an indefinite suspension of services.

He even reminded members to "be mindful" of the heightened risk that large gatherings could pose in the spread of the coronavirus, reported the HuffPost.

Glenn's daughter, also advised people to adhere to social distancing recommendations.

She told WTVR-TV, "I just beg people to understand the severity and the seriousness of this, because people are saying it's not just about us, it's about everyone around us."

## 88th St. Temple and Community Groups Distribute Free Groceries

By SHERRI SMITH REESE  
Contributing Writer

The event was a joint effort of Superintendent Anthony L. Williams, senior pastor of 88th Street Temple Church of God in Christ; Robert Sausedo, CEO of Community Build, Inc. (CBI); and the Community Response System of South L.A. (CRSSLA), a coalition of over 30 non-profits, churches and community stakeholders.

Over 1,200 people were served and scores of others volunteered, including Steve Wesson of USC, a premier CRSSLA network partner. The collaboration resulted in the distribution of more than 50,000 pounds of food, which was donated by the Sam Simon Foundation and Mendicino



Robert Sausedo, CEO of Community Build, Inc., left, and Pastor Anthony L. Williams of stand among the people lined up for the food distribution event at 88th Street Temple Church of God in Christ on April 14 in South Los Angeles.

Farms Restaurant. The sustenance included fresh fruit and vegetables as well as pasta, beans, rice, bread and more to keep community members healthy.

A community leader for the past thirty years, Williams said, "It is important to take immediate action and respond to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This free food distribution event shall bring hope and fresh food to many within our community." He also noted that the assistance may bring comfort to people who might be experiencing anxiety, depression and hopelessness during the pandemic.

88th Street Temple COGIC has been designated as a CRSSLA emergency food distribution site. The dispersal is con-

ducted inside of the church parking lot located at 8825 S. Vermont Ave., in Los Angeles. Williams added that he and Sausedo would continue working hard to provide food distribution in the community.

Robert Sausedo shared, "Today embodies the 'culture of care' that all CRSSLA network partners are providing throughout South Los Angeles." CRSSLA network partners include Brotherhood Crusade, Los Angeles Urban League, Charles Drew University, Vermont Slau-son Economic Development Corporation, Community Coalition, Vermont Village EDC and T.H.E. Medical Centers.

(More photos from the event are on page B-2.)  
{See 88th ST. B-2}

## Pastor Says He'll be in Pulpit Despite Pandemic

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT  
Religion Editor

No matter what calamity occurs, the Rev. Walter Hudson III said he will be worshipping in his edifice, even during the current coronavirus pandemic.

As pastor of AAmen Ministries, Inc./Church of Christ Seventh Day, the spiritual leader believes that he can serve God best by keeping his church doors open for those who desire to worship in person. "I'm not asking members to come or attend service, but I want them to see that God's house is a place of refuge and a beacon of light in the community and no matter what's going on, people should be able to know that God's house is still in operation," insisted Hudson.

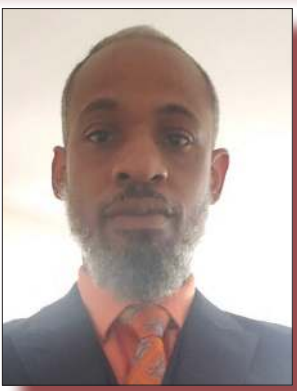
"We respect the reports of the medical experts, of course, but our faith and trust are in the Word of God, not the government or man. I consider the church to be an essential business.

Serving God is always first," he said.

Because he has a small congregation, Hudson feels that it will be easy for his congregation to practice social distancing and other guidelines recommended by public officials to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus. He also provides masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. And like other churches, AAmen Ministries offers worship services through other means such as Facebook Live and via a prayer line.

Still, Hudson is adamant that the sanctuary must be available for people to enter if they are so inclined. "I want them to always see the pastor serving in my position and that the church doors should not be shut, no matter what opposition that the church is facing," he said.

In support of his decision, Hudson cited Matthew 18:19 ("where two or three are gathered together...") and Hebrews 10:25 ("do not forsake the



Pastor Walter Hudson III

assembling of yourselves together") as two scriptural references.

"I'm not trying to make anybody put their life on the line, but I want them to know that I'm going to stand in my space so people can see that the church of God is a place that instills hope, faith, and gives spiritual guidance to those who are seeking solace through worship and it shall never be closed!

"We are a Black-owned independent church and we invite the community to come worship with us here at AAmen Ministries," added Hudson.

AAmen Ministries is located at 5400 11th Avenue in Los Angeles. The worship service is held on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

## Op-Ed: Worship Where You Are

By BISHOP KENNETH C. ULMER  
Senior Pastor, Faithful Central Bible Church  
Founder, The Ulmer Institute

Scripture: Psalm 139:7 -Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Complete Jewish Bible)

In this, the most holy season on faith calendars, practitioners of practical spirituality struggle to hold on to the communal expressions of shared religiosity amid the tension of governmental mandates to public health and safety.

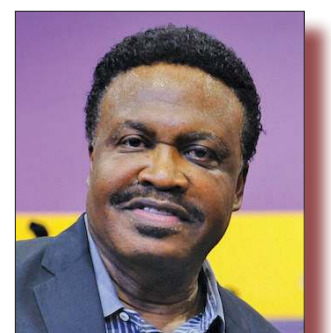
Amid these days of pandemic and panic, frustration and faith, the religious-minded find themselves in the tension of spiritual celebration and spatial isolation. Worshipers, clergy, laity and religious leaders are drawn between coming together to share their faith and being obedient to public guidelines that prohibit such congregating.

It is in this tension that we are challenged to remember that the object of

our faith is not limited to time nor space. The One who was present to cover and protect each Hebrew home in anticipation of the Exodus and deliverance; is the same One who met with the fledgling Pentecostal church that met from house-to-house.

He was no less Omnipresent when leading them through the Red Sea than in the small family gatherings after Pentecost. There was no crowd as the Shepherd walked through the valley of the shadow of death. So it is with us; we are walking through a dangerous valley of the shadow of death. But, we shall come through it.

There was no great crowd around the cross, which is the focal point of the Christian theology of salvation, healing and deliverance. This declaration of Divine presence, amid those who gather in synagogues, churches, mega churches, storefront sanctuaries, is no less a spiritual reality than in the minimal context of two or three gathered in that Name.



Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer

The One who exhorts us not to forsake the gathering of ourselves in community also says He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Declare that your house - your personal house - is a house of prayer. From the thousands at the temple, to the clusters in the synagogues, to the two or three gathered in His name in the early church - our worship is legitimized, not by how many of us are present, but by God's presence, regardless of how many - even if you worship him alone, you are not alone.

Finally, remember that we have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power to stand in the midst of ad-  
{See WORSHIP B-2}



# Words of the Week - This Crisis Is Better Than Christmas!

BY LARRY BUFORD  
Contributing Writer

Let me explain. Christmas is a time when we scuttle about trying to buy presents for one another. All the thought, energy and scurrying about comes to a crescendo on December 25, which is not the actual date that Jesus was born.

It's similar to the Easter holiday, which was born out of a pagan tradition. But, we should celebrate, acknowledge and declare Jesus' birth, death, burial and resurrection any day that we can.

These calendared holidays last for a day, then they fade away. What we're seeing now, during this CO-

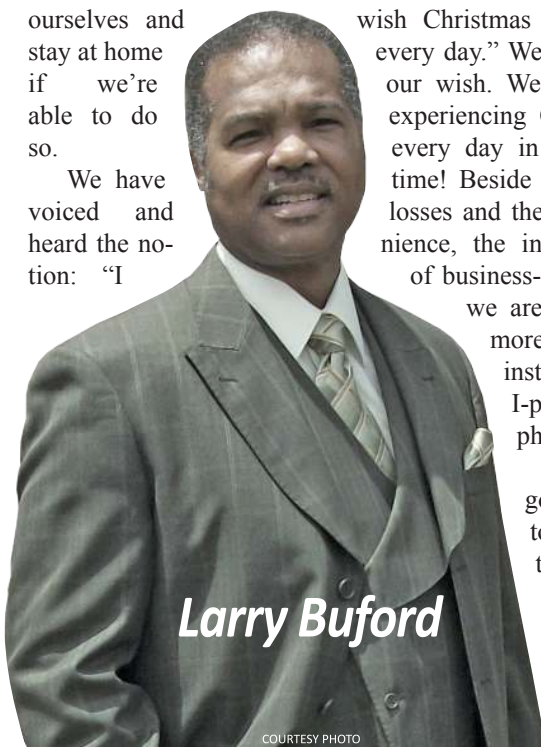
VID-19 crisis, is a continued outpouring of love and compassion for our fellow man that we haven't seen in our lifetime. Yes, it's horrific on the one hand as many have lost their lives; and who knows, one of us could be next.

On the other hand, the glass is not half-empty, but half-full. Our omniscient God has allowed us to have a respite from our daily activities, not just for a day, but for an indeterminate season. And what can anyone do about it?

The only thing within our control right now is to follow the instructions that we've been given - pray, wash our hands, wear a face mask, distance

ourselves and stay at home if we're able to do so.

We have voiced and heard the notion: "I



Larry Buford

COURTESY PHOTO

wish Christmas could be every day." Well, we got our wish. We are now experiencing Christmas every day in our lifetime! Beside the tragic losses and the inconvenience, the interruption of business-as-usual -

we are focusing more on God instead of our I-pads and I-phones, etc.

What a good time to pick up the Bible and read the instructions that God

has given mankind. If you want to know the essence of Jesus and what His mission was, please read John 1. His mission was to reconcile mankind to God.

We are experiencing a miracle - something we thought could never happen just a few months ago. Can you now fathom the fact that God created this world in six days? Can you now understand that (the miracle of) the Red Sea was parted for the children of Israel to walk through on dry ground?

The whole global economy has been shut down; only God could do that - not the heads of state nor our so-called leaders. Look at the magnitude of it all.

God is in control.

What we are seeing, what we are experiencing is God's handiwork. So, when I say this crisis is better than Christmas, this is how God wants us to live daily - being kind, empathetic and loving one another in the agape way.

Isaiah 43:19 says: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Thank you for the gift, Father God. This crisis is better than Christmas!

Larry Buford is the author of "Things Are Gettin' Outta Hand" and "Book To The Future." Email: LBuford8101@hotmail.com

## 88th Street

(Continued from B-1)

Hundreds of bags filled with groceries were set-up and distributed to people during the emergency food distribution at 88th St. Temple COGIC.

Following the event on April 14, Pastor Williams and his mom, Rev. Mother Williams, broke out in a praise dance.



DONNA DYMALLY/88TH ST. TEMPLE COGIC



DONNA DYMALLY/88TH ST. TEMPLE COGIC

## Worship

(Continued from B-1)

We have opportunities to express love to others - inside and beyond our close circles - along with the ability to make sound judgements and

wise decisions.

It is wise to both worship personally, or even privately, while doing so as a sound, wise decision and as an act of good judgment.

We should be worshipful and wise; not either/or, but both/and. We look

forward to the day when we gather with throngs of like-minded worshipers, but until then, we stay at home - and know that we are blessed, even there as we worship, knowing that the God of our faith is with us.



DONNA DYMALLY/88TH ST. TEMPLE COGIC



DONNA DYMALLY/88TH ST. TEMPLE COGIC

## Pastor Johnny Baylor Passes at 64

Another spiritual giant was lost with the passing of the Rev. Dr. Johnny V. Baylor on April 5.

Baylor, the founding pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Carson, died



from cancer at the age of 64. A celebration of his life was held on April 8, with Bishop Jawane Hilton serving as the eulogist. - Cora Jackson-Fossett, Religion Editor.

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# Mayor Eric Garcetti Addresses Pressing Matters Surrounding COVID-19; L.A. Residents provided with Angeleno Card

BY BETTI HALSELL  
Contributing Writer

Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti has taken the initiative to provide the current statistics surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Tuesday, April 14, Mayor Garcetti disclosed statistical evidence of L.A. efforts to flatten the curve; it is showing promise with daily coronavirus increase in single digits. The Los Angeles City Mayor addressed pressing matters such as relaxing the Stay at Home order. Mayor Garcetti and his office has studied data locally and internationally, the evidence reflects that

L.A. should remain under quarantine. The L.A. elected official explained the decisions to remain under strict physical distancing guidelines as we maneuver through many waves of the coronavirus increase.

Mayor Eric Garcetti began his announcement with the data surrounding coronavirus in Los Angeles. As of April 13, there were 25 additional deaths, 11 of these individuals were between the ages of 65 and over, with underlying health conditions. This brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in the L.A. County to 320.

Although "Drive-thru"

testing locations increased the accessibility for the L.A. County, Mayor Garcetti recognized that a good number of Angelenos do not own a vehicle. In order to overcome that hurdle, there are new "walk-in" facilities. The first of its kind opened a couple weeks ago at Carbon Health in Echo Park. The second one opened Tuesday April 14. Anyone with symptoms can be tested at this time. Locations were strategically placed to prioritize African American communities and others within urban areas, since evidence has proven the COVID-19 related death rate are higher within the African American ethnicity. Mayor Garcetti stated, "This is very important because it's the second move we've taken to serve African Americans and lower-income Angelenos, when we saw troubling statistics that this was disproportionately hitting Black communities and low-income Angelenos."

The Elected City Official foresees 2-3 more spikes in positive COVID-

19 cases, one of the projected peaks landing on April 19. With that in mind the L.A. City Mayor is standing behind the currently enforced physical distancing guideline amid the flux of the virus. The study of past pandemics, proven that L.A. should remain in a state of observation of how other countries are being affected by relaxing their quarantine orders. So far, while examining Wuhan and South Korea the way the physical distancing regional guidelines are uplifted, makes a significant impact in the relapse of contracting the virus. Strategies in place for L.A. remain steadfast in flattening the curve, while not falling blind to the need of help.

The Angeleno Card is being offered to families directly hit by the menace COVID-19 has caused in L.A. The Angeleno Card is "a free prepaid debit card intended for residents in Los Angeles with incomes below the federal poverty line," it provides financial



Eric Garcetti, Mayor of L.A. wearing a mask, photo from the office of Mayor Eric Garcetti.

assistance for households in need of assistance. The three main requirements include: "You and your household has fallen into deeper economic hardship during the COVID-19 crisis because at least one household member has lost a job or experienced a reduction in income of at least 50%. Or your household is within the city of Los Angeles, and Your household income fell below the federal poverty level prior to the COVID-19 crisis."

L.A. COVID-19 cases have reached over 10,000 reports and Eric Garcetti has not taken this lightly. With the rise of Price Goug-

ing, raising the cost of products essential to medical care such as gloves, hand sanitizer, and toiletries, the city has been cracking down on those trying to set an unreasonable price post-pandemic. So far, there has been 10 prosecutions against non-essential businesses that refuse to comply with the Stay at Home order. The city has been monitoring stay at home tests and remedies that has not been approved by the FDA. Eric Garcetti has been working every department and nonprofit outlet to contribute to the need of the assistance to this pandemic.



SCREENSHOT

## Weingart Foundation Grants \$100,000 to Brotherhood Crusade, Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle

*Grants bring aid to the food and technology inequities in Los Angeles and surrounding communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Weingart Foundation granted \$100,000 to Brotherhood Crusade, Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle to bring aid to the food and technology inequities in Los Angeles and surrounding communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Brotherhood Crusade, Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle recently joined forces to raise \$400,000 to support 5,000 at risk South and the Eastside of Los Angeles students with technology and emergency needs.

"Because of their deep roots in communities, Brotherhood Crusade, Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle proactively came together to ensure the voices of youth of color are not lost in COVID-19 relief efforts and their right to education is not violated," said Fred Ali, President and CEO of the Weingart Foundation. "We wholeheartedly support this critical effort to address educational inequities exacerbated by the global COVID-19 crisis."

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced school closures through the end of the 2020 school year. While the organizations support the imple-



COURTESY PHOTO

mentation of a public health response to flatten the curve and protect the most vulnerable, students and families are communicating grave concerns about the inequities in access to academic instruction and support, as it relates to the current COVID-19 response.

Parents and families in under-served communities are primarily concerned with three major issues: (1) the continuation of education through access to technology; (2) food insecurity (less meals for children); and (3) housing displacement.

Charisse Bremond Weaver, Brotherhood Crusade President and CEO said, "We are truly grateful to the Weingart Foundation for this level of partnership in supporting the vision of The Brotherhood Crusade, Community Coalition and InnerCity Struggle to jointly answer the call to the dis-

parate and inequitable material conditions during this COVID-19 pandemic, that make those we serve particularly vulnerable, such as food insecurity, wealth inequality and the digital divide. Our goal is to raise \$400,000. With this donation, we only have \$300,000 to go to make an impact in the lives of 5000 citizens in South and the East of Los Angeles."

While affluent and many middle-class families are able to use technological hardware and high-speed internet to provide their children with online classes and other learning and enrichment resources, too many do not have those opportunities. For the majority of the families with which we work, it is not feasible. In fact, the COVID-19 crisis threatens to further deepen existing educational inequities.

"Efforts to close the digital divide have an immediate and greater urgency, now given the school closures which highly impact students of color and their families. InnerCity Struggle is excited to partner with Brotherhood Crusade and Community Coalition to support young people in South Los Angeles and the Eastside of Los Angeles by helping to expand access to technolo-

gy. We are joining forces to address a critical need in our communities," said Maria Brenes, Executive Director for InnerCity Struggle.

### {Continued STUDENTS from A-7}

standard. Many students and teachers are feeling the stress and grief from COVID-19. Even before this pandemic, schools primarily treated the behaviors associated with grief as discipline cases. When youth and adults act out in grief, with short tempers or by becoming withdrawn, we need leaders and counselors to recognize grief and respond through trauma-informed practices. In this crisis, we are seeing a warming of empathy and compassion in our communities. Let's build back better.

5. School safety will also mean cleanliness. People need to feel safe in our schools. Building maintenance and cleanliness often has been given short shrift in our urban public schools. The elementary my daughter attended was the best science magnet in Los Angeles, but the halls always smelled of urine and there was a school nurse only once a week. Without a



COURTESY PHOTO

Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, Executive Vice President Community Coalition said, "The current global crisis has exposed deep existing inequities in our educational system with devastating impacts to our highest-need students. Community Coalition is honored to join forces with Brotherhood

Crusade and InnerCity Struggle to fight the digital divide and address the learning needs of our students. We are grateful that moving forward, students will be able to connect with their teachers, counselors, peers and social justice organizations. When we come together we win!"



COURTESY PHOTO

greater investment in sanitizing and physical safety, our families will be reluctant to send their children back and our schools and staff won't want to teach there. Let's build back better.

6. Revise the financial structures of our school systems. Many of our schools were facing financial strains before this crisis. With the nation slipping into economic depression, by necessity we will need to rethink and revise the financial structures of our school systems that have long been calcified into laws, regulations and union contracts. We may need more money, AND we will need to spend it differently based on new priorities that put students first and treat our educators as the professionals they are. Let's build back better.

I am heartened by the humor of parents' online posts becoming profoundly thankful for the important work our teachers do.

The wellspring of academic creativity and sharing of resources inspire all of us that education really can become exciting and engaging again. Let's make potions in the kitchen, learn executive functioning skills with Legos and see that special education can highlight the strength in different ways of knowing. Let's build back better.

*Dr. Caprice Young is national superintendent for Learn4Life, a nonprofit network of schools that serves at-risk high school students and former dropouts through a flexible and personalized learning model (not seat-based, one-on-one blended learning). In response to COVID-19, the network moved its 23,000+ students in CA, OH and MI to remote learning within 48 hours, providing meals, social/emotional support, diapers/formula for parenting students, and devices and hotspots as needed.*





# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

C-1

www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

## Student Athlete of the Week: Dominique Allen

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Writer

Initially, senior, Dominique Allen intended to only play basketball at Los Angeles High School. During her years there, she decided to compete in track and field and volleyball and developed a fondness for them.

Her experience in track and volleyball enhanced her skills on the hardwood.

"Track helps me with stamina," Allen said. "Volleyball, especially with jumping, when I have to go up and block, that helps me with blocking in basketball and eventually, if I was to dunk maybe later in my years, that will also help me."

Allen was the only senior on the L.A. Romans girls' basketball team, she had to aid other teammates with the fundamentals of the game to keep their spir-

its high.

"There were a lot of underclassmen and people who have never played basketball before and it's kinda hard," Allen said. "Having that positive spirit helps a lot and just encouraging myself and to keep myself motivated to also keep them encouraged too."

Their efforts would land the Romans in the playoffs, where Allen dropped 48 points and 18 rebounds on the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences (VAAS) Vipers.

Allen had a completely different experience with volleyball; when she started playing as a sophomore, she did not know much about the sport and her teammates had experience playing in middle school.

During her freshman year, Allen ran track and had plans to compete in the 100m, 200m, and the high jump this year. The



L.A. High Senior, Dominique Allen has taken two AP classes this year.

COVID-19 pandemic caused the CIF to end all sporting events for the rest of the year, thwarting Allen's ability to compete.

A major inspiration for Allen is five-time WNBA All-Star Candace Parker. To

honor the L.A. Sparks forward, Allen wore a no. 3 jersey for her freshman and sophomore year.

"She's one of the best to ever do it," Allen said. "She really inspired me to keep moving ... if you have a

dream, chase it."

Having high determination is a major part of being a student athlete, according to Allen. It helps to get through the challenges of balancing all their obligations.

"You can really get discouraged, especially when you have all this work, and have practice and then you're tired," Allen said. "You have to be really motivated for both."

Allen is taking AP Government and AP Environmental Science this year. Through her Government class, Allen learned about the Amendments to the United States Constitution.

"We learn a lot about politics and I never knew I would be interested in that stuff," she said.

Along with sports, Allen has worked with the Black Student Union and Leadership. With the BSU, she would attend field trips and

get involved in discussions about controversial issues. Last year, she was the sport commissioner; she was obliged to making announcements on the P.A. system about sports at L.A. High.

Allen aspires to be a physical therapist and open her own clinic. She will miss the hospitable atmosphere that the students, staff, and faculty had at L.A. High.

"I didn't know anybody when I came here," Allen said. "They make you feel welcome and like a family, so everybody here: staff, administration, everybody here is like a family to me."

To see more student athletes that we featured, follow @lasentinelnews on Instagram and @thelasentinel on Twitter. If you know a well-rounded student athlete who is involved in their school and community, email amanda@lasentinel.net



Corner, Martez Carter (28) is a product of Grambling State University.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Writer

On April 10, the XFL suspended their operations and laid off nearly all of their staff. League owner and WWE CEO Vince McMahon filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, listing \$10 million to \$50 million in debts and assets.

The XFL had 500 players and 400 employees, they kept only 18 employees. There has not been any talks of if the league will return in 2021.

Gameplay of the league

was suspended on March 12, halfway into their 10-week season, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 20, the rest of the season was cancelled. The Los Angeles Wildcats were 2-3 overall, playing their home games at the Dignity Health Sports Park.

"The COVID-19 pandemic, and the most recent local and state regulations, have left the XFL no choice but to officially cancel the remainder of the 2020 season," the league said in a statement. "This decision has been made with the health and safety of the entire XFL family as our top priority. While we are disappointed to not complete the 2020 season, our hearts are full of appreciation for your overwhelming support."

There are between 1,000 to 5,000 creditors, among them are seven head coaches. Los Angeles Wildcats Coach and general manager, Winston Moss is owed \$583,333. The St.



The Los Angeles Wildcats run onto the field at the Dignity Health Sports Park.

Louis Sports Commission is owed \$1.6 million, making them the largest creditor.

In March, it was reported that all players will be paid their benefits and base pay for the regular season.

This XFL reboot will be remembered by its unique innovations that sped up the game, like their unique kick-off setup and how their extra-point scenarios consisted of three different options.

They interviewed players after each quarter, fans

can hear coaches communicate to players via helmet receivers during broadcasts. The league had TV rights deals with ESPN, Fox and ABC.

It was an improved version of the first launch of the XFL in 2001 which adopted several aspects of WWE wrestling; it folded after one season.

Like the Alliance American Football league, the XFL showed the demand for spring football. In their opening weekend, the XFL games broadcasts garnered

from 2.5 million to 3.4 million viewers.

The league ultimately generated \$14 million in revenues.

Since the suspension of the XFL, several players were signed to NFL teams. The L.A. Chargers recently signed Dallas Renegades tight end, Donald Parham Jr. and Wildcats tackle, Storm Norton. Parham was the only tight end in the XFL to record a 100-yard performance, coming in third in the league in reception yards.

After five games, he had 24 catches for 307 yards and four touchdowns.



The L.A. Wildcats defeated the Tampa Bay Vipers 41-34 in their final game.

Norton was the top selection in phase two of the 2020 XFL Draft, the Wildcats voted him as captain.

Quarterback P.J. Walker, who led the undefeated Houston Roughnecks with 1299 passing yards for 119 throws for 15 touchdowns, signed with the Carolina Panthers.

"The experience on the five games we played—I wish we played a full season," Walker said to ESPN. "But for a lot of guys like myself, being out there, going out there playing in front of fans and getting the experience to get those minutes, it was awesome."

## Offseason Moves Give the L.A. Sparks Championship Experience

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Writer

The Coronavirus has now impacted the WNBA, as the league announced on April 3 that training camp and the season tip off will be postponed due to COVID-19. While the start of the WNBA season is still shrouded in uncertainty, the WNBA Draft will be broadcasted on ESPN on April 17

at 7:00 EST.

The Los Angeles Sparks are still focused on having a contending season regardless of the obstacles they face.

If other leagues resume their season, this could lead to the Sparks, Lakers, Kings and Clippers hosting games in the Staples Center all at once; the Sparks are anticipating the scenario, according to assistant general manager,

Michael Fischer.

"Our Team, Coaching Staff and Front Office, is going to be prepared whenever the league gives the green light," he said. "It's about being the most prepared team and staying connected."

In March, Sparks guard, Sydney Wiese became the first WNBA player to contract the Corona Virus. Fischer noted that her condition should not slow her preparation for the season.

"She was doing pretty good and in good spirits because that's who Sydney is," he said. "Regardless of situation she finds a way to consistently be herself and that's what we love about her."

During the free agency period, the Sparks made moves to fill their roster with more experienced players.

In February, the Sparks acquired four-time WNBA champion, Seimone Augustus, who spent the past 14 seasons with the Minnesota



Atlanta Dream's Brittney Sykes during the second half of a preseason WNBA basketball game, Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Uncasville, Conn.

Lynx. She brings a career average of 15.9 points per game and 48 percent shooting from the field. Fischer was looking for a player that understood the importance of winning, leading him to pursue Augustus.

"It was amazing to hear her commitment to being part of something bigger than her," he said. "We really wanted to put a team together that was in full 100% commitment with

what was best for the group."

After winning a championship with the Washington Mystics, guard Kristi Toliver also signed with the Sparks. She helped the Sparks win the WNBA title in 2016. She shot at 42 percent from the field and behind the arc that season.

"I wanted to make sure I spoke with Candace (Parker) and Nneka (Ogwumike) specifically during this process because those were two core pieces from the past," Toliver said. "We were on the same page and had the same vision for what could possibly be moving forward and having another shot at winning a championship together."

The Sparks traded rookie center, Kalani Brown for guard, Brittney Sykes and center, Marie Gulich from the Dream. Sykes averages 11.3 points and 4.1 rebounds per game after three seasons with the WNBA. In 2018, she aided the Dream in

reaching the WNBA Semifinals, starting in all five games that series.

"We wanted to have a team that has players that can play at every position but also the right players in terms of balance," Fischer said.

Gulich played for the Phoenix Mercury her rookie year, she became Co-Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year during her senior season at Oregon State.

"It was hard to lose Kalani but, I feel like Gulich can do the same type of thing that Kalani can do while getting up and down the court," Fischer said.

While being separated due to the pandemic, the team communicates through group chat and WhatsApp. They plan to send players film and resources to keep the players active.

"The biggest piece of the puzzle is the mental aspect of preparing for a season," Fischer said. "And that has been majorly disrupted."



Los Angeles Sparks' Alana Beard, left, drives around Minnesota Lynx's Seimone Augustus and Sparks' Nneka Ogumike, right, in the first quarter during Game 5 of the WNBA basketball finals Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, in Minneapolis.





# ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

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C-2

## A'Leia Bundles' book inspired 'Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker' — Currently Playing on Netflix

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL  
Contributing Writer

Although A'Leia Bundles has no blood tie to the great Madam C. J. Walker, she is still referred to as the great-great-granddaughter because of the adoption—by A'Leia Walker, (Madam C.J. Walker's daughter), in 1912, of a little girl named Fairy Mae Bryant who is Ms. Bundles blood relative.

But that's neither here nor there. Bundles does not have to be a blood relative (obviously) to help us understand the importance and the continuing impact of the late Madam C. J. Walker. She had access and a lot of it, so much so that (again) her deeply researched book — "On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker" — is what inspired the four-part Netflix series—"Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker" starring Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer.

I'm highlighting the word inspired because Bundles herself confirmed this in our phone interview. Pushing into the definition of inspired which means an extraordinary quality, as if arising from some external creative impulse.

Madam C.J. Walker is inspiring and larger than a four-part series. Yes, it's a start and a good start but my point is that her story should be told



COURTESY PHOTO

A'Leia Bundles

again and better. I won't accept the argument that one story is enough. To wit, there have been six film versions of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" the most recent version done in 2019 by director Greta Gerwig. See my point.

Black stories about powerful Black women need at least six versions—in my mind—as the years click on.

Here's what I learned in my short, but informative phone conversation with Bundles. She's a force-of-nature. A woman filled with determination and passion. I offer as an example the 50 years it took her to get Madam C. J. Walker's story to the screen. fifty years of having Hollywood executives say "yes" and then change their minds. It almost happened in the 1980s with a TV

mini-series backed by "Roots" author Alex Haley before his death. Then the project slid into the development film "hell" bouncing to several directors, producers, and studios like HBO, and Columbia TriStar but the project always fell short.

"Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker" (premiered on March 20) caught a lot of criticism for having a weak script and questionable casting choices; all valid in my estimation.

But it's a big deal to have the global platform that Netflix provides and I won't underplay that impact.

It's something Bundles is proud of as well. After a 30-year career as an executive and Emmy award-winning producer with "ABC News" and "NBC News," Bundles is now brand historian for MCJW, a line of hair care products inspired by Madam Walker and created by Sundial Brands. She is a trustee of Columbia University and chair emerita of the National Archives Foundation. She's the author of the biography of Madam Walker, is a New York Times Notable Book.

She founded the Madam Walker Family Archives and is on the advisory boards of the March on Washington Film Festival, the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute and the Smithsonian's American

Women's History Initiative.

Currently, she's at work on the fifth book, "The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance" which will focus on A'Leia Walker's legendary parties, arts patronage and travels helped define the era.

Here is what A'Leia Walker author of "On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker" which inspired Netflix's four-part mini-series "Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker" had to say about the flawed production and what's next.

**LOS ANGELES SENTINEL:** What did you think of 'Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker' that's now playing on Netflix?

**A'LELIA BUNDLES:** What do I really think about 'Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker'?

**LAS:** Yes. What do you really think about this four-part series?



COURTESY PHOTO

Fairy Mae Bryant



COURTESY PHOTO

Madam C.J. Walker

**AB:** (inhale of breath) I read your review and I agreed with many of the things that you said. I think if famous people can have more than one movie story about their lives ... I think that Madam Walker could be re-done. I'm almost done with writing the autobiography of Madam Walker's daughter A'Leia Walker.

**LAS:** Yes, I read about that. It's called 'The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance' which will focus on Madam Walkers' daughter whose parties, arts patronage and travels helped define the era.

**AB:** Yes.

**LAS:** Let me get back to that. I'm still on what you really thought about 'Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker'?

**AB:** I hope to have a different relationship with the studio next time.

**LAS:** I should hope so. So I'm thinking you did not

like the product very much? **AB:** I agree with a lot of what you brought up in your review.

**LAS:** I'm not the only critic that expressed disappointment. I believe that there is room for another limited series on Madam Walker's life. I can only hope that your entertainment lawyer structures your deal differently. But it's, I feel, that the first one got made.

**AB:** Madam would be pleased that there are so many successful Black CEO and other successful entrepreneurs. Well, at least before what we are going through now [pandemic], but what she would be disheartened about is that less than three percent of venture capital goes to Black women. And that Black women are still struggling so much. Not being able to get venture capital is real because they could be providing jobs for many Black women as

*{See MADAM C.J. WALKER on C-3}*

## Jonica 'Jojo' T. Gibbs — the Glue in BET's New Comedy 'Twenties' — A Star is Born

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL  
Contributing Writer

Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs —Jojo to those closest to her—is a rising star in the Hollywood television canopy. She's currently tearing it up in BET's new comedy "Twenties" as Hattie (a nod, I suspect to actress Hattie McDaniel) a young, queer woman of color with dreams of becoming a screenwriter. Along with her two straight best friends, Marie (Christina Elmore) and Nia (Gabrielle Graham) they spend most of their days talking 'ish' and plotting out their dreams.

"Twenties" is executive produced by Lena Waite and Susan Fales-Hill who is also the showrunner. Hattie, the character, bears a resemblance to the show's creator, Lena, insofar as, in "Twenties," she presents more masculine of center; a soft, femme butch. She's not a character I've ever seen on television before. I hope we see more.

Back to Jojo the rising star.

I'm playing hard and fast with the word, "star" because actual "stars" are formed inside relatively dense concentrations of interstellar gas and dust known as molecular clouds.

Trust me when I tell you that this could pass as a description of Hollywood. By applying the word dense to describe the "suits" (usually, White, straight men) that stand like special force soldiers armed with guns and itchy trigger fingers, at the gates.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs

I'm applying the words "interstellar gas" to describe the bubble of self-congratulatory nature that most upper management feels as they keep producing the same stilted content and finally, I highlight the words "dust" and "clouds" which is what happens with great ideas and great talent that stay in the game no matter how challenging it appears. Like a dust cloud, they drift—untethered—until it lands on fertile ground.

That's why Jojo is a rising star. She's that unstoppable dust cloud deciding to stay in the proverbial game no matter the pressure calling herself "blessed" and attributing her new success an act of "divine intention." Even in her Instagram description, you get a hint on how she views herself. It reads Los Angeles-based

actress. Comedian. Writer. Tarheel. Grateful and finally blessed.

I would be remiss if I didn't provide the full description of the very well written series — "Twenties." After finding herself homeless and broke, Hattie is introduced to Ida B., a powerful television writer, and producer who hires Hattie to work on her show — "Cocoa's Butter" — as an assistant. New to Hollywood and stumbling from one night stands, Hattie searches to find her voice as a writer and the right girl. Marie and her husband (Chuck) take in Hattie after she gets evicted, but that proves to be only one shake-up in their seemingly perfect relationship. Is he or isn't he gay or bisexual?

At work, Marie is pitted against the only other Black

film executive for a promotion. Once a successful child performer, Nia is now a spirited yoga instructor who decides to get back into acting. While they live separate lives, the girls lean on each other for guidance as they navigate their twenties.

Jojo is a Southern girl. Born in South Carolina where she grew up with her great-grandparents in Hampstead, North Carolina. After graduating from college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied journalism, she began her journey toward Los Angeles with stops in the mid-Atlantic and the South, holding down jobs in Washington, D.C.; crashing on a friend's couch in Savannah, Georgia. By the time she landed in Los Angeles (just five years ago), she realized that her dream was close.

Here is what Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs had to say about working on Lena Waite's show, "Twenties" being surrounded by creative people with a purpose and how she plans to jumpstart her series "No More Comics in L.A.," which she started, some years back, with her best friend Rashonda Joplin.

**LOS ANGELES SENTINEL:** Jojo I enjoyed BET's 'Twenties' in large part because of you. It's great writing, in my opinion, but if you don't care about the main character, a show is dead in the water. You are that character and I am all in with your characters' journey. You make this show, work.

**JONICA "JOJO" T. GIBBS:** (laughing) Wow. Thank you. I appreciate that.

**LAS:** How did you get cast in this project?

**JTG:** It was all God's divine timing, I guess. I do stand up comedy.

**LAS:** No.

**JTG:** (laughing) Yes. So I decided that I wanted to create my own opportunities to act.

**LAS:** That's what I am

talking about. Love it. Continue, sorry, I just love initiative.

**JTG:** Along with my best friend Rashonda [Joplin] and a group of others we all got together. Rashonda and I wrote ten episodes of a web-series. We shot two episodes because Rashonda and I were paying for everything out of pocket.

*{See JONICA "JOJO" T. GIBBS on C-3}*

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{Continued **MADAM C.J. WALKER** from C-2}

Madam Walker did.

**LAS:** What are some of the other things people should know about Madam C.J. Walker and her daughter that were omitted from the miniseries?

**AB:** For me, what's

something other than an illiterate washerwoman.

These women were part of national organizations. So that's where she got this idea of organizing women. So through that and carrying through the story, she starts a

called 'The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Lelia Walker and The Harlem Renaissance.' I'm so excited to be doing this book because when I was writing, 'On Her Own Ground,' initially I thought it was going to be a double biography. That was very ambitious for me. I have hundreds of letters that Madam Walker and her daughter [A'Lelia Walker] and their attorney F.B. Ransom [Freeman Briley Ransom] wrote to each other almost daily and that's why I can turn this story in such a rich and detailed way.

**LAS:** A lot of research.

**AB:** I've done additional decades' worth of research. In the biography of Madam Walker, I develop the relationship between the two women. And what I found when I was writing that book is that most of the things that people knew about Madam Walker were incorrect. And I'm finding as I'm writing, most of the things people know about A'Lelia Walker are incorrect. She's portrayed as a party girl. She's very different from the character who appears in the series.

**LAS:** What did you discover?

**AB:** I have just discovered she [A'Lelia] knew everybody, all the artists and musicians and writers. She hosted the first art show for Augusta Savage, who was a very famous Black woman sculptor. She helped to underwrite some

things; she hired a lot of Black musicians. She also was kind of an impresario and she knew how to have big events that would get attention. She traveled internationally to London, Paris, Palestine, Monte Carlo, Rome for the coronation of the Pope, Addis Ababa, where she met the Empress of Ethiopia. So she's a much more substantial character. So it's kind of painful to me to see people sort of over and over again, basically say, Madam Walker made the money, and A'Lelia spent the money. It's so two dimensional.

**LAS:** Was she a queer woman?

**AB:** In the Netflix series they created [the character] Esther (Mouna Traoré). She did not exist and an affair that didn't exist. The conflict between her mother did not exist. I don't know exactly why they felt the need to do that but they did.

**LAS:** Say what now?

**AB:** The conflict between mother and daughter (Madam and A'Lelia) was over two men. Two very handsome doctors. One who was a guy with a swagger and a bit of a bad boy. And the other that was a good guy so you know where that story goes.

**LAS:** So. She was not a queer woman?

**AB:** Well. I don't know. I'm giving you a really honest answer. Here's what I know. She [A'Lelia] was



COURTESY PHOTO



AMANDA MATLOVICH/NETFLIX

Blair Underwood and Octavia Spencer in "Self Made," on Netflix March 20.

important about her life was that she was nurtured, mentored, and empowered by other women. And part of that is how she got to the point of doing that for other women. When she was the poor Sarah Breedlove-McWilliams, widowed at 20, who moved from Louisiana to Mississippi, along the Mississippi River to St Louis. She had three older brothers who were barbers who were there. She began to learn the hair care business from her brothers. Their barbershop was very near Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, and it was the women of the church, like Jesse Batts Robinson, a schoolteacher, who began to give her a vision of herself as

company. Yes, she works for [businesswoman] Annie Malone for a while, but for a short while, and then she begins to develop her own business, establishes a company, and trains thousands of women. She becomes a patron of the arts, a political activist who supports the anti-lynching movement and involved in so many other things. So that part, the philanthropy, and her political activism get telescoped in the series.

**LAS:** Now let's talk about the new book that you are writing — 'The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance.'

**AB:** Yes. So I'm almost finished with the first major biography of A'Lelia Walker

married three times. She had many friends who were queer. Some of her women friends had been married, heterosexual and then later had relationships with women. I know from the letters because I have these detailed letters, how heartbroken she was over the second husband. The second husband was the love of her life. The third husband was the good guy. The one her mother wanted her to marry.

**LAS:** So no queer anything in this story of A'Lelia Walker in Harlem in this period. A period and

a place is known to welcome sexual expression?

**AB:** Well as I am doing my research I did find a friend of hers that may be more than a friend but I have absolutely no concentrate evidence of this. And I think when you are writing about people, I need facts.

**LAS:** Understood. To learn more go to: [www.madamcjwalker.com](http://www.madamcjwalker.com), [www.aaliabundles.com](http://www.aaliabundles.com)

"The Real A'Lelia Walker Is More Interesting than the Myth" A'Lelia Walker's 1924 Visit to Atlantic City

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

{Continued **JONICA "JOJO" T. GIBBS** from C-2}

**LAS:** Ouch.

**JJTG:** (laughing) Well it became overwhelming for me. I worked as a long-time substitute teacher and also at the Cheese Cake Factory. I would teach during the week and then serve and shoot [the webseries] on the weekends.

**LAS:** You are serious.

**JJTG:** It was exhausting. So we started crowd-funding [No More Comics in L.A.] and our goal was to reach fifty thousand.

**LAS:** No you didn't?

**JJTG:** (laughing) Yes, we did. We hit the pavement hard. We created a movement. In that space, our director Tristin Hill knew Lena's former assistant Raquel. Rashonda organized these merchandise opportunities, we had a sizzle, gave out stickers. We invested in ourselves. We have one to Lena and she must have been impressed. She shouted us out on Insta-

gram and donated to the campaign herself.

**LAS:** And then?

**JJTG:** And then she looked at my Instagram page [jonicatgibbs] and we had a friend in common. She set up a call and basically at the end of the call, she said, that she had this show. She invited me to audition for "Twenties" and she said, if 'push comes to shove' and you don't get it, you can still come to set and check out the actors.

**LAS:** Jojo, this confirms again the generosity of Lena. It's a big deal to be on a working set. It's where you learn. It's where I learned. Sorry, continue.

**JJTG:** I was super grateful. I was blown away. Until then I had only done comedy. I had never done an audition.

**LAS:** And you got the part.

**JJTG:** She [Lena] threw me a bone.

**LAS:** And you caught it. Now what?

**JJTG:** I fell in love with my character. I related to her on a lot of different levels. Honestly, I think GOD that I had done comedy and improv because it made me feel comfortable in that situation. The audition was like it was an open mike [night] and nobody showed up. You still have to perform.

**LAS:** I love that you said you are blessed. I agree but you put your intentions into the universe. You did the cosmic work.

**JJTG:** Exactly. I one-hundred-percent believe that.

**LAS:** So what's next for you creatively?

**JJTG:** That's a great question.

**LAS:** Thank you.

**JJTG:** I'm jumping back into doing comedy. I've re-written the screenplay for No More Comics in L.A. and I think I will re-



COURTESY PHOTO

write it again.

live in LA?

**LAS:** Where do you

**JJTG:** North Holly-

wood but I use to live in South Central for four years.

**LAS:** Are you a member of the LGBTQ community?

**JJTG:** I am. I have a partner. Her name is Olivia.

**LAS:** Last question. What do you think of what Lena Waithe has done in a very short period of time? She's broken down doors. In a word, this woman is a force.

**JJTG:** I am very grateful. By being authentically herself she's opened up a lot of avenues and opportunities for people like me.

**LAS:** And people like me. Thank you Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs. I will close the way that I opened. You are — the glue in BET's new comedy 'Twenties' — a star is born.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.* <https://www.bet.com/shows/twenties.html>



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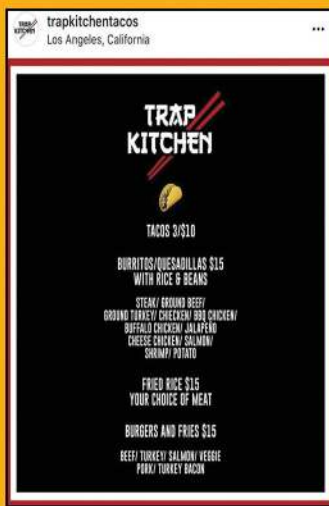
Message from Chairman and Executive Publisher Danny J. Bakewell Sr.

During this time of "Shelter In" let's not forget about our Black Businesses that are still open and struggling to stay afloat. We are facing some challenging times ahead and we need to support one another whenever we can.



In an act of solidarity and togetherness we've put together a list of several of our Taste of Soul partners and other black businesses that are still open and are ready to serve!

Remember we can only get through this if we work to support each other in every way possible!



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## BHERC Operation Love Delivers Love, Easter Sunday Meals and Essential Goods to Seniors in Los Angeles Area

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) continued its "Operation Love" outreach Sunday, April 12, 2020 in the Los Angeles area targeted towards seniors and those with "underlying" health conditions who have been extremely impacted and need assistance. This effort provided a heartwarming – from a distance — welfare check, Easter Sunday meal and gift basket of essential items for 100 seniors. The program has reach over 500 seniors since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Operation Love" meals and gift baskets were delivered to seniors including retired nurses, caregivers and other that have labored in the community for many years among others. All have in some way or another added to the betterment of Los Angeles over the decades. "This small show-

ing of love is both a practical and a heartfelt demonstration of the importance of our seniors. We want our seniors to know they have not been forgotten during this mandated and necessary physical distancing," states Sandra Evers-Manly, president of BHERC.



COURTESY PHOTO

The gift basket included hard to find items such as: gloves, toilet paper, face masks, hand sanitizer paper towels and various other essential items. The meals and baskets were prepared and delivered using City/State and CDC guide-

lines by a host of volunteers. Contributors to the gift baskets include the Barbershop Health Outreach Program (www.blackbarbershop.org), Dr. Bill Releford, founder, Mothers in Action, Tracy Mitchell, president and Larry Chapman, production coordinator, Record One Studio. "You thought of everything," exclaimed recipient Millicent Newkirk. "You even thought to include the L.A. Sentinel and I have truly missed my paper!"

During this unprecedented time in our lives, this COVID-19 worldwide health and humanitarian pandemic is redefining the very way we live out our lives daily. In many instances, eclipsing the future of what daily work, education, entertainment and play will look like in the future for all of us. In addition to the need for essential supplies is the need for emotional support. "Operation Love delivers a strong message that you are not alone in these difficult times. We are with you!" remarked Evers-Manly.

At BHERC, this is the kind of action that has characterized the BHERC family, its friends and colleagues; a unique demonstration of enthusiastic,



COURTESY PHOTO

abiding support and responsive manner when called upon over the years. BHERC encourages everyone that can to act. "Let's remind the ones around us how much they matter. Encourage them to stay strong and steadfast," noted Evers-Manly.

The BHERC family encourages everyone to consider supporting a senior. You can:

- Call a senior to check on their well being
- If shopping (do so under City/State and CDC guidelines), pick up an item or two for a senior or someone in need (practice social distancing)
- Help with an online task
- Make a meal and drop off (practice social distancing)
- Send an online order to

someone in need  
It was an emotional day full of love and thanksgiving and the camaraderie BHERC members, community volunteers and members of the National Black Nurses Association participating in the distribution.

In addition to the focus on seniors, the BHERC Operation Love is focused on distributing masks to the homeless in Los Angeles and supporting the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA). Last week, the BHERC president contributed to the NBNA to create a special fund to support nurses on the front-line battling COVID-19 and to curate an online instructional program for Nurses to Help Nurses. The NBNA donation will also provide 1000 masks for NBNA nurses and provide support

for their distribution of masks and meals where chapters are located across the country. "Each and every one of us must reach out in a safe way to make sure vulnerable populations have someone to talk to, have medications and have enough food to eat during these difficult times," expressed Dr. Martha A. Dawson, president of the National Black Nurses Association. "We are pleased to partner with Ms. Sandra Evers-Manly during these challenging times."



COURTESY PHOTO

Everyone can join in the fight by making just a quick phone call or sending a simple text message. Keeping each other positive and reminding your neighbors and loved ones that even in our isolation, we are not alone. #BHERCStrongTogether

For more information about BHERC email [bherc@bherc.org](mailto:bherc@bherc.org).

## Harris, 22 Senators Reintroduce Resolution Designating April 11-17 as Black Maternal Health Week

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

On Monday, U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) led 22 of her colleagues in reintroducing a resolution to designate April 11-17, 2020 as Black Maternal Health Week to raise awareness about the Black maternal health crisis. The resolution was led in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC).

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Black mothers in the United States are three to four times more likely than White mothers to die from pregnancy-related complications and are two times more likely than White mothers to suffer from pregnancy-related illnesses, known as maternal morbidities.

"The potential ramifications that could come with giving birth during the coronavirus pandemic — specifically a pandemic that is disproportionately impacting African Americans — is of particular concern to Black women who were already facing a maternal health cri-

sis in our country," said Senator Harris. "Now more than ever, we need to address this issue. During Black Maternal Health Week, we must continue in the fight to ensure Black women are taken seriously when they speak about their health concerns, and remove disparities and implicit bias from our health care system."

Joining Harris on the resolution are Senators Merkley (D-OR), Durbin (D-IL), Blumenthal (D-CT), Van Hollen (D-MD), Booker (D-NJ), Klobuchar (D-MN), Hirono (D-HI), Markey (D-MA), Jones (D-AL), Duckworth (D-IL), Menendez (D-NJ), Wyden (D-OR), Sanders (I-VT), Feinstein (D-CA), Murray (D-WA), Bennet (D-CO), Baldwin (D-WI), Peters (D-MI), Smith (D-MN), Brown (D-OH), Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Stabenow (D-MI).

The resolution is sponsored by Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Center for Reproductive Rights, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Black Women's Health Imperative, Center for Health and Gen-

der Equity (CHANGE), Commonsense Childbirth, Every Mother Counts, In Our Own Voice: National

Moms matter," said Representative Adams, co-founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus.



COURTESY PHOTO

Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, March for Moms, National Birth Equity Collaborative, National Black Midwives Alliance, National Medical Association, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Perinatal Task Force, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Southern Birth Justice Network, and WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease.

"This resolution says, unequivocally, that Black

"I'm proud to stand with my colleagues to raise awareness of Black Maternal Health Week, and urge our Congressional leaders to take action on one of the greatest public health crises of our time."

"The Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) thanks Senator Harris and Congresswoman Adams for their continued support and amplification of Black Maternal Health Week (#BMHW20)." As the founders of #BMHW20, BMMA believes that the experiences, voices, and maternity care

work of Black women must be centered in order to address the U.S. maternal health crisis - hence the importance of recognizing April 11th - 17th as Black Maternal Health Week!" said Angela D. Aina, interim executive director of BMMA.

"The Center for Reproductive Rights applauds Senator Kamala Harris and Congresswoman Alma Adams on the introduction of this year's Black Maternal Health Week Resolution. Now more than ever we need recognition of this crisis and federal solutions to save the lives of Black mothers," said Jennifer Jacoby, Federal Policy Counsel. Breana Lipscomb, Senior Manager, U.S. Maternal Health and Rights Initiative, and BMMA Board Member added, "The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that chronic underinvestment in the public health infrastructure is deadly and Black people pay the price. This year's resolution is a call to action, reminding us that in this time of crisis we cannot sacrifice the human rights of birthing people."

"Black Maternal Health Week is an important opportunity to bring national attention to the maternal mortality crisis facing Black women. This is a year like no other, as we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency that is endangering the health and economic well-being of millions and having a particularly harmful—and deadly—impact on the Black community. Sadly, we know the maternal mortality crisis and COVID-19 disparities share a common underlying force: racism and structural inequality. Now is the time to address those evils in this country once and for all, and do all that we can to ensure health equity along racial lines," said Dr. Jamila Taylor, director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow for the Century Foundation.

The United States is one of only 13 countries in the world where rates of illness and death during pregnancy are on the rise. From 2000 to 2014, the U.S. experienced a substantial increase of 26.6 percent in maternal mortality rates.



FILE PHOTO

BY CHARLENE MUHAMMAD  
Contributing Writer

Medical and legal experts and advocates outlined pathways to access public benefits during the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, during an online briefing for ethnic and community media.

It was the third in a series of 10 online briefings hosted by Ethnic Media Services for ethnic news media with the support of the Blue Shield of Califor-

nia Foundation.

A key aspect of the April 8 webinar entitled "Accessing Healthcare and Other Public Services During the Pandemic" addressed how to receive the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.

People with an adjusted gross income of up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full \$1,200 payment and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.

Know that no one from the IRS is going to call asking people to verify or provide their financial information in order to get their Eco-

omic Impact Payment, warned Sunita Lough, IRS Deputy Commissioner, Services & Enforcement. "Watch out for scams! There are scams and fraudsters out there right now," she alerted.

The IRS urges people to not only watch for emails, but text messages, websites, and social media attempts that may request money or personal information. "Please do not give your private information to anybody who says, 'I can get the payment from the IRS for you.' That's really important to us," said Lough.

The IRS plans to launch the "Get my payment"

online application to track payments on April 17. It's similar to "Where's my refund." Lough encouraged individuals to enter direct deposit information to receive payments sooner. Otherwise, paper checks will be issued, which will take longer, she added.

Most tax payers who filed for 2018 or 2019 do not have to take any action, so no need to call. Payments will be directly deposited into bank accounts based on those filings. And on that note: The deadlines to FILE and PAY federal income taxes are extended to July 15, 2020.

## Where's my Economic Impact Payment?

2019 should use the tool, as well as those who don't receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits, or Railroad Retirement benefits, it continued.

The non-filers tool is also an option for those in lower income brackets, who haven't filed taxes in 2018 or 2019 because they are under the normal income limits for filing, such as single filers who made under \$12,200 and married couples making less than \$24,400 in 2019.

More information on Economic Payments may be found at [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).



# Education Trust-West Held a Virtual Press Call to Discuss the California Parent Poll Regarding COVID-19 and School Closures

By SAYBIN ROBERSON  
Contributing Writer

As California practiced distanced learning due to coronavirus, many parents were left to teach their students and access behaviors without the help of teachers from home. Wednesday, April 8, 2020, Education Trust-West (ETW) released the results from a statewide poll of parents in response to COVID-19 related school closures since the change occurred.

Following the poll, ETW held a virtual press call to share the survey findings. Speakers of the call included Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, Executive Director of ETW and Dr. Elisha Smith Arrillaga. Other guests were Project Director of Parent Organization Network, Araceli Simeon, Chief Deputy Superintendent of California Department of Education, Stephanie Gregson Ed.D, and President of California School Boards Association, Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez.

"The poll tells a troubling story about the second crisis, the equity crisis. Long before this pandemic came to our shores, California faced an epidemic of entry occasional inequality," Dr. Arrillaga stated. "For decades, we have given the least access to opportunity to the students

who need it most. We give students of color and low-income students, the least access to critical coursework, highly qualified teachers, crucial technology, and a host of other resources."

Based on the poll, 80 percent of Los Angeles parents reported not having the resources or supplies to help their child stay on track academically. Nearly 20 percent said they had little to no information about resources from the school or the district. Twenty-seven percent of parents are worried about reliable internet at home and 33 percent reported lacking adequate devices at home to access distance learning.

"Educators, policymakers, and advocates should move quickly to address those immediate needs," she continued. "But, they also must look ahead. There is simply no way to close schools for a month without gaps in student learning."

Dr. Arrillaga shares that ETW has created a web source compiled of COVID-19 related tools and resources. "We are launching a new series called education, equity, and crisis to guide educators, advocates, and policymakers on how to ensure the short and long term solutions help the students hit hardest by the crisis."

As the call continued,



COURTESY PHOTO

Tony Thurmond

she allowed the experts to share information on behalf of the organizations they represent. First up, Stephanie Gregson. "The California Department of Education is focusing on how to support students and their families to ensure learning is still happening." She further details they are hosting webinars via Facebook and utilizing media to creatively reach parents in need. As far as resources for students are concerned, "We are leading a digital tech task force focused on securing devices and hotspots for promise students in rural communities."

Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez followed sharing methods the California School Board Association is using to further progress student's access and education. Proud of the work being done in such a quick manner and untimely event, she recognized those

who are working diligently to aid these families. However, the closures as many agreed, highlights the digital divide. "This crisis has brought to the floor existing inequities that have



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Elisha Smith Arrillaga

been in place for a long time," she said. "But I think very clearly, this digital divide comes to the front."

"There is an uneven and often inadequate distribution of infrastructure, hardware, curriculum, professional development, and especially the home environments required to have equitable distance learning. This challenge is especially difficult for low-income households and students in rural areas." She continues to declare the organization is will pursue public-private partnerships and governmental advocacy. "We believe that only with a state-led effort can we fill these holes a hole of this magnitude."

Thurmond also chimed, "We're committed to taking that feedback and to fine-tuning guidance every single time to try and get closer to providing resources because let's face it, this is something that teachers are being asked to do that they've not done before."

Lastly, Araceli Simeon confirmed her organization is doing everything they



COURTESY PHOTO

Stephanie Gregson

can to coordinate food and technology distribution, as well as bridging cultural gaps and language barriers. "We strongly believe that if we can use this moment to redefine learning, and bring together our collective strengths, creativity, and resilience to meet this pivotal moment, we cannot just ameliorate the situation, but we can work together towards closing the achievement gaps and maybe even transform the way we teach children."

The press call ended with a brief question and

answer portion. The overall outcome was that of positivity and hope, two keys to continue to fight for education and families across California during these unexpected and trying times.

"Nobody chooses to find themselves in a public health emergency. But we do choose how we respond to it. I'm so proud of how California's leaders and educators have responded to the immediate challenge," Dr. Arrillaga stated. "If we muster the same unity of purpose. If we con-



COURTESY PHOTO

Araceli Simeon

tinue to listen to students and families. If we commit to directing the most resources to the people who bear the brunt of the pain, I'm confident that we can bounce back stronger than ever."

For more information on the poll visit <https://west.edtrust.org/ca-parent-poll-covid-19-and-school-closures/>.

## COVID-19: turns Pre-existing Issues into Devastating Tragedies; How the Digital Divide No Longer Can Remain on The Outskirts of Government Policy

By BETTI HALSELL  
Contributing Writer

Coronavirus exposed resources that are assisting with pre-existing issues: homelessness, unemployment, and health conditions by demographic. All the noted adversities evolved into tragedy and devastation, as coronavirus continues to attack more than the human body. The unsheltered have always been exposed to elements; that could possibly have ended their life. Those who lost their job or lived paycheck-to-paycheck, always were on the cliff with their feet dangling in front of an abyss of unmanageable financial responsibility. There has been a call to close the digital divide for 25 years now.

On a global scale, the social and economic system is fragile. An adversary unseen to the human eye, infiltrated the mind, body, and livelihood of every human being on the face of this planet. I spoke to pioneers that foreseen the impact of having a digital divide, way before millions of children were not able to attend school remotely, because they do not have the technological resources. I conversed with activists, that had a vision of a better world, due to a wider net of broadband access. Larry Irving, Internet Hall of Fame Honoree, the man who coined the term Digital Divide, saw the great possibilities in humans if we are all connected by the internet and have equal access to technology.

The Digital Divide is the term to describe "the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the internet, and those who do not." However, the significance of that division is living and



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED SOARES

Larry Irving; Internet Hall of Fame Honoree.

breathing. People are living without access to the source of human advancement. The exposed truth during this pandemic is individuals are being left behind. Sharing thoughts with Larry Irving, I wanted to know in this current space, what is his take of the widening gap in lack in digital resources that is peaking in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Irving stated, and I am paraphrasing the exact quote, in a household where money no longer flows due to a parent or provider losing their job, it will come down to paying their car note or keeping the internet connected, "Broadband is going to go first." Narrowing the line to who is on the wrong side of the digital divide, it is affecting people of color and those that live in rural and urban communities. Therefore, the call for policy behind broadening the connection cannot fall on deaf ears. No one should have to sit at McDonald's for hours, just to have access for their child to do their homework. Our future scholars deserve better than writing their entire term paper on their smart phone, because they do not have

access to their computers. This is the reality we live in; millions of Americans are having to think outside the box, just to remain inside civilization."

Statistically within our nation, 60% of Detroit have homes without proper broadband connection, 40% of Houston face the same problem. The numbers fluctuate throughout the states, but the common denominator is the need for a national policy, digitally supporting the people across America. It is within our right to receive a higher education; it is within our culture for freedom and liberation. Deities such as the Homework Gap and the Digital Divide has been a weight on collective advancement, before the era where an entire computer could fit in the palm of your hand.

Irving expressed the need for broadband equality to be included in future stimulus packages. He brought up a potent factor, Capitol Hill is dispersing trillions of dollars, creating grace-period plans for residential and commercial property fees, and setting aside resources for the first response occupations. But where is the trillion-dollar

subsidy to respond to thousands of children with no computer at home. Where is the multimillion-dollar agreement to accommodate digital resources for senior citizens, as they practice social distancing because they are most susceptible to Coronavirus. What is an elder to do if they unable to receive their food supply due to not having access to the food delivery apps.

The most at risk, are people of color. We are showing a higher rate among COVID-19 related deaths. Preliminary race and ethnicity research were identified at the L.A. County Press Conference on

April 7. Confirming within 93 fatal cases, 19% were Asian, 17% were African American, 28% were Latino, 27% were White and 9% were identified as being another race. Looking at these numbers by the total population of each group, Barbara Ferrer, director of Public Health disclosed as of April 7. Black people have a "slightly higher rate" in coronavirus deaths, than any other ethnicity. Considering the demographics of the digital divide, there is a lot of Black and Brown people that are on the wrong side of the division in resources to technology,

amid a direct attack on our lives.

Coronavirus interrupted our way of living, but it also silenced unnecessary chatter for the real quality conversation of closing the connection gap; the issues the digital divide became stronger and more prominent. As I stated before, the information that is affecting the African American community directly, showcases the necessary need to create a stronger bond in communication and assistance within the collective. This evidence calls for resources that are far beyond what's available to the general public.

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Chairwoman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# An Open Letter from Gloria D. Gray

## To the communities we serve,

These are difficult times, carrying great uncertainty and many challenges. However, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its 26 member public agencies continue to deliver safe, high-quality and reliable water supplies to homes and businesses, just as we have done for nearly a century.

## Tap water is safe.

Our water agencies use state-of-the-art, advanced treatment processes that remove and kill viruses, including coronaviruses, as well as bacteria and other pathogens.

## There is plenty of water.

Southern California has an extensive distribution, storage and treatment system to ensure continued deliveries even during a disruption. And, our reservoirs are at some of the highest levels ever.

## Water deliveries are reliable.

Agencies are taking steps to protect the health and safety of our workforce. Our laboratories, treatment plants and facilities continue to be staffed by skilled and dedicated men and women who provide the vital services that keep our systems running.

Metropolitan and your local water agencies are working together, combining our vast resources and talents, to maintain critical services to the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Gloria D. Gray, Chairwoman



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com)

