



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Curtiss Cook — Reprising His Role in Season Three of Showtime's 'The Chi' (See page B-2)



105-Year-Old Compton Woman Celebrates her Birthday in Style (See page C-1)

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Council President Nury Martinez Won't Stop Fighting For The People

L.A.'s first Latina Council president has spent her entire life fighting for a higher quality of life for communities of color and those often excluded and underserved. And neither COVID-19 or attacks from the Police Union will detract her from her mission.

By DANNY J. BAKEWELL, Jr. Executive Editor

Councilwoman Nury Martinez became president of the Los Angeles City Council in January of 2020. Becoming the first Latina City Councilwoman to serve in this position in the history of the City. Needless to say, there was no way that the newly elected madam president could have foreseen all of the unprecedented events that would rock the city and the nation when she took on the historic position.

Under Martinez' presidency, she has been instrumental in helping the city cope with and navigate through the tragic death of Lakers superstar, Kobe Bryant. She is also leading efforts to bring resolution to an unparalleled homeless crisis in Los Angeles, while challenged by a court order limiting how and what the city can do to address the thousands of homeless



Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez stands in the John Ferraro Council Chamber located in Los Angeles City Hall.

people sleeping on the streets, under and over freeways and throughout the city. Then, there was the COVID-19 pandemic, which the entire nation was unprepared for, and the federal government's slow response only perpetuated an already critical disease that is debilitating Los Angeles. The fallout from COVID-19 forced businesses throughout the city to close, bringing about record unemployment, putting an overwhelming strain on our medical system and virtually bringing the Los Angeles economy to a screeching halt.

In May of 2020, the nation also witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minnesota, a public killing that outraged the world and led thousands, if not millions of people, to the streets all over the world, calling

{See MARTINEZ A-10}

20 Years After Disbanding its Police Department, Compton Leaders and Residents Fed Up with Sheriff's Take to the Streets

Kendrick Lamar, Mayor Aja Brown march in Compton's largest protest against police brutality in modern history.

By JASMYNE A. CANNICK Special to the Sentinel

At the time, the \$12.3-million contract with the city of Compton was the most expensive among the 41 cities patrolled by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Led by then-Mayor Omar Bradley, the five-member City council voted 4-to-1 in July 2000 to disband the Compton Police Department in hopes of getting a handle on the high homicide rate that had gripped the city and kept residents indoors in fear of



PHOTO BY DAMION LOWE

{See COMPTON A-10} Compton Mayor Aja Brown marches in Compton against police brutality Jun 7, 2020.

Juneteenth—An American Holiday for Freedom



By BERTRAM KELLER Contributing Writer

June 19, celebrated as "Juneteenth," a special moment in American history, our nation's second Independence Day. A day that established a progressive step for human rights, and commemorates the end of

slavery in all 50 states.

Many Americans share the misconception that President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. However, Pres. Lincoln's proclamation

{See JUNETEENTH A-14}

The Struggle, As Well As Protest, Continues

By THANDISIZWE CHIMURENGA Contributing Writer

Calls to #defundthepolice have become the rallying cry of a majority of protests against the Memorial Day death of George Floyd by



Rep. Karen Bass and L.A. City Councilmember Marqueece Harris Dawson

police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The protests, which have been ongoing in several cities across the U.S. since that time, have also created a backlash amongst many Whites. Numerous stories and viral videos have shown White individuals, males and females, harassing and assaulting protes-

tors, including the taking of signs and banners, spewing racist vitriol and physical assaults.

Most disturbingly, police have continued to use deadly force in questionable circumstances and, ominously, as of this writing, the bodies of three Black men have been found hanging from

trees in public spaces.

Twenty-seven-year-old Rayshard Brooks was fatally shot June 12 in Atlanta by now former police officer Garrett Rolfe, a six-year veteran of the department. Brooks had fallen asleep in his car in a Wendy's parking lot. Police were called and Brooks failed a sobriety test. Video from the event shows Brooks talking calmly with officers and obeying their instructions while taking the sobriety test.

Once the determination is made to place him under arrest Brooks attempts to escape from the custody of the officers who eventually use a taser on him. Brooks can be seen running away from the offi-



Dr. Melina Abdullah, co-founder and organizer of Black Lives Matter-LA

cers after attempting to use on one of them. He is then shot in the back twice and falls to the ground.

Demonstrations were held in the city and the Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was killed was burned to the ground. Protestors also shut down a nearby freeway.

In two California towns, Black men were found hang-

ing from trees, as well as one in Manhattan and one in Houston, Texas.

Twenty-four-year-old Robert Fuller was found dead near City Hall in Palmdale, approximately 60 miles north of Los Angeles, on June 10. On May 31, 38-year old

{See STRUGGLE A-10}



Black Lives Matter Founder Finds Hope in Global Protests Over George Floyd's Murder

BY GAIL BERKLEY
Special to California Black Media Partners From The San Francisco Sun Reporter

For Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza, the widespread global protests and activism that followed the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by Minnesota police have been heartening — and they make her feel hopeful for the future. At the same time, she said, “It’s bittersweet that it takes someone being murdered on camera to get to the point of conversation that we’re in.”

“I was horrified,” Garza said of viewing the video of Floyd’s life being taken by a White police officer with his knee on Floyd’s neck. “Every time a Black person is murdered by police there is something disturbing about it.” She added, in this case, “Just the callousness of it; and him calling for his mother. There’s just so much in there that’s horrifying. It’s just a brutal reminder of how Black lives don’t matter in this country.”

Garza, who lives in Oakland, is strategy and partnerships director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Principal at the Black Futures Lab.

Seeing Black Lives Matter (BLM) signs held by protestors in all 50 states, including in many small towns with few Black residents, Garza said, “It’s humbling to see



Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza

it and to have been a small part of it.” She is heartened that people are awakening.

Garza said she is also pleased that many celebrities who have large platforms are using them now to push for change. She said the Black Futures Lab has a strategy for helping celebrities to use their platforms for the movement.

“When they use their platforms to activate people, it’s an important way to save our democracy. It makes us active and engaged participants.”

“I got to take over Selena

Gomez’ Instagram last week. It was awesome.” She said people are really hungry for information. “We’ve been doing a lot of work and talk about what’s going on. When folks like Selena do that, it engages people in issues of our time. I plan to work with her through this election cycle.”

Garza said she will also be taking over Lady Gaga’s social media in the coming week. “We’re really focused on transferring this energy into political power.”

She said it’s important to change the people who are making the rules and those who aren’t enforcing the rules. She cited as an example the recent election in Georgia where voters in predominantly Black areas waited hours to vote. Movement for Black Lives is not just about police violence. It’s about how Black lives are devalued.

Black Lives Matter is for an opportunity for us to recognize and uphold the right to humanity and dignity for Black people. She said Black people also

have to work “to remove the negatives we’ve internalized about ourselves.”

“For people who are not Black, there’s also work to do.” She said it’s not only about changing the rules, but also about a culture shift. “That’s what I think we’re seeing now. It’s going to take all of us staying committed.”

She said the millions joining protests following the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Auberry and Breonna Taylor were sparked by “a powder keg waiting to happen.”

“People are mad about a lot of stuff. We’re all tender right now. It’s an election year. We find ourselves in a global pandemic. The lack of human touch... and being able to gather. Because of that we also have the expansion of an economic crisis. Not only are people trying to stay healthy, they’re trying to pay their bills.”

“What we can all agree on is that policing is not serving the people that they’re supposed to serve. When we’re afraid of the police that’s not serving. Whenever I see tanks, rubber bullets, and tear gas being used -we pay for that. Are we keeping people safe? We’ve been defunding the Black community for a long time.”

“Defund the Police” is a controversial slogan that has been held by some protestors. Garza said that slogan comes from the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition that includes BLM. “This work

is something many organizations have been doing for many years,” she said.

“It’s really about getting a handle on how we’re spending our money.” She cited the fact that education funds have been cut, the postal service is near bankrupt, and thousands of homeless are living on the streets.

“We’re using police to deal with homeless. You don’t send a nurse to deal with a drug cartel.”

“We did the largest survey of Black America in 2018 - The Black Census Project. The overwhelming majority said in the past six months they’d had a negative experience with the police.”

She said what she supports is “limiting the size, scope and role police play in our communities. Police also need consequences when harm is enacted. Police unions are a huge, huge issue. They block transparency for officers.”

Speaking of another campaign that’s getting national attention Project Zero’s “8 That Can’t Wait,” Garza cautioned, “We have to be wary of things that are a quick fix.”

She said ‘8 That Can’t Wait,’s campaign that pushes proposals for police reforms, “doesn’t deal with the real issue here: nobody should be above the law.”

“Public safety is not about bloated police budgets. It’s about expanding the safety net for Black people,” she concluded.



If I could do one thing, I'd make sure we stay healthy.

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SAY THEIR NAMES: George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ezell Ford, Freddie Gray, Mya Hall, Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Jamar Clark, Tony McDade, Marcus Golden, Kenny Watkins, Eric Logan, Stephon Clark, Michelle Cusseaux, Tanisha Anderson, Natasha McKenna, Walter Scott, Bettie Jones, Philando Castile, Botham Jean, Atatiana Je

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT**
on
RACE & RACISM
Using Pain for Transformation

Pain. Grief. Rage. Outrage. Frustration. Hurt.

Ironically, at around the time George Floyd pleaded for air while a police officer's knee was lodged in his neck, our Board of Directors was scheduled to have visited the Equal Justice Museum and the Lynching Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama – a trip postponed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Lynching exhibit was thoughtfully constructed as a powerful reminder of America's terrible past and its history of racism; George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and Ahmaud Arbery represent fresh, painful reminders that anti-Black racism and white supremacy are still with us.

And the pain is searing, cutting, and deep. How is it possible – roughly 150 years after the Dred Scott decision and the Emancipation Proclamation; and roughly 55 years after Selma, the March on Washington, and the Voting Rights Act – that African-Americans specifically, and people of color generally, are still viewed as less than fully human in our nation?

How much longer must we wait?

The spontaneous eruption of protest and activism tells us that we are witnessing the most significant and transformative moment in social change in the past 50 years that has taken place in our nation. At the California Endowment, we will and are taking this as a moment of deep, purposeful, and serious reflection about who we are and the work we must do. But simply put, we stand with our community partners and recognize that as a foundation we can and must do more to advance racial justice. Racism and white supremacy generally – and anti-Black racism in particular – are the root causes of the myriad of challenges faced by the communities we serve through our mission as a foundation. We stand in solidarity with the millions of freedom fighters across the nation and around the world “who are sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

We stand united as we commit our resources to combat racism and its considerable array of malicious and deleterious impacts. We hold ourselves accountable as an organization to advance racial equity and emerge as fully anti-racist in our work. Specifically, we commit to the following:

- To use our voice more explicitly in calling out racism in all its forms with prioritized attention to anti-Black racism.
- To a decade-long investment in community “power-building”, and to strengthening the capacity of grassroots, activist, and advocacy organizations and their leaders to drive systemic changes that result in health and racial equity – supporting alliances, coalitions, and partnerships along the way.
- Through our 10-year strategic plan, to substantially increase our investments in Black-led organizing, advocacy, and movement-building organizations and institutions. We commit to working with partners in philanthropy to co-invest in partnership strategies – designed by organizers and activists themselves – to support the shared vision and work of these organizations. We specifically acknowledge the need to fund and partner with Black-led queer and trans organizations in this work.

Internal to our organization, and in the spirit of accountability, we commit to:

- Improved tracking, reporting, and transparency of our funding to community of color-led and Black-led organizations, with a complete public reporting by October 1, 2020.
- A significant increase within two years in Black-led grantee, consultant, contractor and investment manager relationships.
- An explicit strategy to utilize impact-investing tools – such as mission-related and program-related investments – to contribute to Black economic development and entrepreneurship to advance health and wellness in communities.
- Create a new Director of Advancing Racial Equity at our foundation, reporting directly to the President and Chief Executive Officer.

Finally, we will heed and follow the vision and voices of our grantee-partners to lead, cajole, and push our great state of California to soaring new heights on the matters of race, full inclusion, and healing. The time is now: California must demonstrate national leadership on solving the centuries-long crisis of racism, and do that through a structural and systemic lens. From you, our civic and grantee-partners, we have long heard a call for the full and robust reimagining of our criminal justice system; for reimagining community safety and policing; for a new system of Health For All; and for full and complete economic inclusion – in short, a new social contract for our state and nation. We understand the matters of race and racism serve as the root cause of inequality across all of these systems. Humbly, we admit to not having all the answers. We pledge to continue to strive to be the best listening, learning, and strategic partner that we can be in the decade ahead.

In closing, we end with a note of inspiration drawn from the recent protests and activism that have swept across the nation. We have witnessed an unprecedented level of multi-racial solidarity as communities of color and whites have displayed a recognition that taking on anti-Black racism makes us a greater and stronger nation. As the philosopher Rumi noted, the wounds of oppression have allowed for enlightenment to take place. We are proud of, and will continue to invest in, transformative solidarity. We will not allow the pain of the wounds we share to go unheeded.

Shawn Ginwright, Chair
Board of Directors

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Vice-Chair
Board of Directors

Dr. Robert K. Ross
President & CEO

SAY THEIR NAMES
#BlackLivesMatter



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Congresswoman Maxine Waters

COURTESY PHOTO

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, issued a statement on the death of at least two Black men who were killed by the police in the past few weeks: Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta, GA and Maurice Gordon in Bass River, New

Jersey. Her statement follows:

“Over the past 19 days, millions of protesters in this country and around the world have created one of the largest sustained demonstrations in history to make a clear and profound statement of opposition to the continuous murder of Black men and women by law enforcement. Yet, in the

Rep. Waters to Police: Do Not Kill Another Unarmed Black Person

midst of all the protests demanding justice, we have learned of at least two additional unarmed Black men who have been murdered by the police.

“Video footage of the murder of 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks revealed a police officer making the choice to cast aside his taser, reach for his gun, and shoot down a Black man who was found sleeping in his car. Rayshard Brooks posed no threat to the police and spoke calmly with officers for 27 minutes. Rayshard Brooks was running away from police, unarmed, and in possession

of a taser -- which by no stretch of the imagination is a deadly weapon -- when an officer fired three shot at his back and killed him. Another unarmed Black man, 28-year-old Maurice Gordon, was killed by a New Jersey state trooper after being pulled over for speeding. These are two of the most recent murders by police that have garnered media attention, but there may be other victims that we don't have video footage or national awareness of.

“The African American community is beyond outraged. We are frustrated.

We are sick and tired of being sick and tired, and we are beyond the point of accepting incremental change. The murder of George Floyd by the police and the international calls for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black men and women should have been a wake-up call. Instead of justice and reformed practices by the police, we have been confronted with more murder and police brutality. What more will it take?

“Law enforcement has been given the opportunity

to reform its practices time and time again. All police officers who choose to use deadly force on unarmed citizens of this country must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Far too many Black men and women are continuing to be murdered with impunity at the hands of the police, and the people of this country will not stand for such blatant disregard for human life any longer.

“As a Black woman, wife, mother, and grandmother, I demand that police officers do not kill another unarmed Black person.”

Joe Biden Takes Firm Stand Against Police Murder of George Floyd

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

After going out to personally meet with demonstrators in Delaware, presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden has taken a firm stand against the police killing of George Floyd and the overall plight of African Americans who've been targeted, brutalized and killed by law enforcement officers.

“I can't breathe.” “I can't breathe,” Biden said in a lengthy address on June 2.

“George Floyd's last words,” Biden explained. “But they didn't die with him. They're still being heard. They're echoing across this nation. They speak to a nation where too often just the color of your

skin puts your life at risk,” Biden pronounced.

Between 2013 and 2019, police in the United States killed 7,666 people according to data provided by Mapping Police Violence, a research and advocacy group. The number of police killings in America disproportionately affects African Americans, who despite only making up 13 percent of the U.S. population, are two-and-a-half times more likely than whites to be killed by police.

Biden's address comes as uprisings continue throughout the country and as viral video and news reports show police using tear gas to disburse peaceful demonstrators gathered near a church where President Donald Trump visited.

Trump has also suggested that police shoot



AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP, POOL

Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden speaks via video link as family and guests attend the funeral service for George Floyd at The Fountain of Praise church Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in Houston.

demonstrators and he continues to publicly consider using U.S. Armed Forces to combat protesters.

A new ABC News/Washington Post poll shows Biden up nationally by a 53 percent

to 43 percent margin among registered voters.

CNN reported that the context of individual polls continues to show Biden is in one of the best positions for any challenger since scientific polling began in the 1930s.

“There were more than 40 national public polls taken at least partially in the month of May that asked about the Biden-Trump matchup,” CNN reported.

“Biden led in every single one of them. He's the first challenger to be ahead of the incumbent in every May poll since Jimmy Carter did so in 1976. Carter, of course, won the 1976 election.

Biden's the only challenger to have the advantage in every May poll over an elected incumbent in the polling era.”

In his address, Biden expressed concern for African Americans and other minorities who have suffered under oppressive government policies.

He said Floyd's last words speak to a nation “where more than 100,000 people have lost their lives to a virus and 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment -- with a disproportionate number of these deaths and job losses concentrated in the Black and minority communities.”

“And they speak to a nation where everyday millions of people -- not at the moment of losing their life -- but in the course of living their life -- are saying to themselves, ‘I can't breathe.’”

“It's a wake-up call for our nation. For all of us,” Biden stated.

Wesson, Martinez Call for Reforms to Replace Police Officers with Non-Law Enforcement Agencies For Non-Violent Calls

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Councilmember Herb Wesson and Council President Nury Martinez, supported by Councilmembers Bob Blumenfeld, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Curren Price have

called for the development of an unarmed model of crisis response that would divert non-violent calls for service away from LAPD, replacing them with the appropriate non-law enforcement agencies.

“Angelenos protesting

in the streets, supporting the People's Budget LA, have asked us to reimagine public safety in the 21st century, and that is what we are doing,” said Councilmember Wesson.

“Today my colleagues and I continued our efforts

on this City Council to reimagine what public safety looks like in the city of Los Angeles in order to better serve our communities, as well as our police officers,” said Council President Martinez. “Eliminating non-violent response duties for police officers would be another major step forward in this larger effort. We will not step back from our responsibility to make our city a better place to live for all people.”

This effort will focus on reducing the need for LAPD to be first responders for non-criminal situations. Budget cuts in social services have resulted in law enforcement taking on a greater role in dealing with homelessness, mental health and even COVID-19 related responses.

Wesson and Martinez are calling the development of a systematic crisis-response plan to directly connect people in need to city, county or community-based service providers and replace police presence in non-violent, non-criminal situations with a range of unarmed service providers including medical professionals, mental health workers, homeless outreach workers and other unarmed professionals with specialized training.

The motion calls for the Chief Legislative Analyst to analyze and report back on programs such as CAHOOTS in Eugene, Oregon as well other models of crisis intervention. CAHOOTS is a mobile crisis intervention service integrated into the public safety systems of Eugene and Springfield.



Nury Martinez



Herb Wesson

CAHOOTS provides many different types of services, including, but not limited to: mental health crisis intervention and counseling, drug and alcohol related de-escalation, family dispute mediation, welfare checks, basic-level medical care, and transportation to social services. CAHOOTS is not meant to replace the police, instead, it offers a service that responds to non-emergency crises so police don't have to.

“We have gone from asking the police to be part of the solution, to being the only solution for problems they should not be called on to solve in the first place,” said the motion.

“Everyday LAPD officers respond to non-violent calls because we simply don't have any other mechanism to immediately address these needs,” said Councilmember Blumenfeld, co-author of the motion. “It's unfair to ask officers to do the job of a social or public health worker and it's wrong to perpetuate the criminalization of homelessness and mental illness. The time is now to rethink how we use our resources to meet these needs and get healthy outcomes.”

“This legislation is a bold logical solution to reduce unnecessary police interactions and improve public safety,” said Councilmember Harris-Dawson.

“I am excited to take this critical step towards reimagining how our city operates and responds to the needs of our residents.”

“The rumbling in the streets is being felt right under our feet and is demanding all levels of government to be bold enough to re-evaluate the future of what policing looks like to better serve neighborhoods so that all people feel safer and supported,” said Councilmember Price. “We're seizing the moment by creating a new model of public safety that includes non-emergency, unarmed crisis professionals and community-based service providers to better meet the vast needs of our city in instances when having a weapon present would only escalate a situation.”

The motion introduced today instructs the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, with assistance from the Los Angeles Police Department and LAHSA and in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and other relevant government service providers, to develop an unarmed model of crisis response that would divert non-violent calls for service away from LAPD to the appropriate non-law enforcement agencies.

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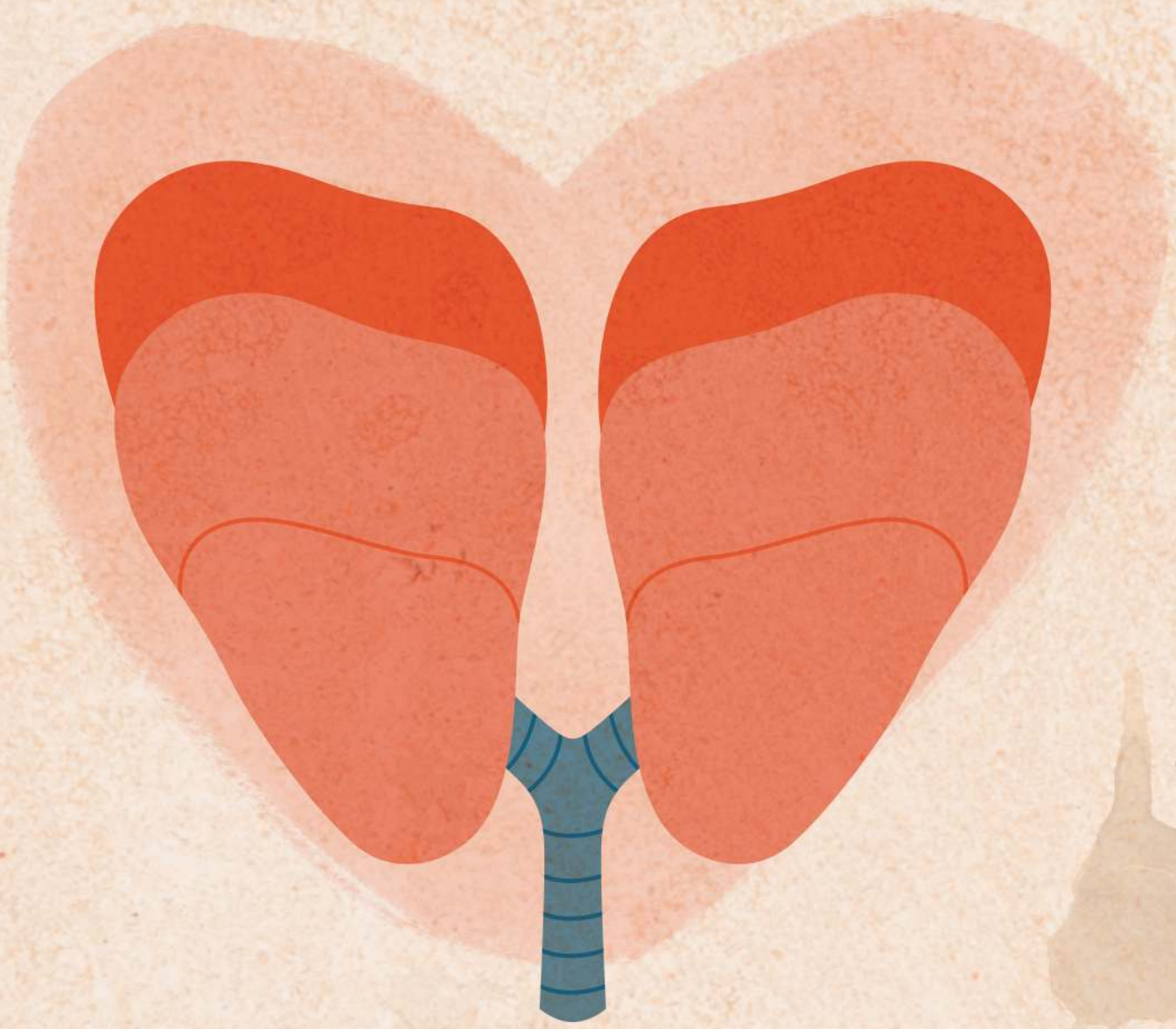
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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Maintaining the Meaning of Juneteenth: Staying Focused on Freedom

This is a Kawaida position statement on rightly celebrating Juneteenth as a day of freedom as distinct from a day of unreflective Americana – red soda water, boppin', barbequin', flag waving, etc. It speaks against fostering images of a darker version of the 4th of July without Frederick Douglass at the podium making necessary distinctions in our minds. It is to remind us of the long and continuing fight for freedom, the awesome sacrifices made, the hopes fulfilled and the long journey still to be travelled over rough and uneven terrain, steep inclines and enveloping valleys. For as our ancestors taught, "freedom ain't free." Indeed, it's not cheap, but comes with great cost and many casualties, but as they also promise us, victory is certain.

The celebration of freedom is to be encouraged and applauded everywhere and all the time, and the celebration of Juneteenth, June 19th as Emancipation Day, is, of necessity, no exception. For freedom is so essential to our lives, our concepts of ourselves and our understanding of what it means to live and flourish as human beings. In this context, Min. Malcolm X makes freedom the most essential value in his ethical insistence on freedom, justice and equality as non-negotiable needs and rights of the human person. Thus, he states that "freedom is essential to life itself" and equally, "freedom is essential to the development of the human being." Moreover, he says, "if we don't have freedom we can never expect justice and equality." For "only after we have freedom, does justice and equality become a reality."

It is this ethical insight and emphasis on the priority of human freedom as the condition and context for justice, equality and hu-

man flourishing that leads Min. Malcolm to argue the right to pursue and achieve "freedom by any means necessary." This phrase is not a claim to do even the unethical, but is a cornerstone in his ethics of self-defense against oppression, his reaffirmation of the right of resistance to all forms of racist violence – police, vigilante and general systemic violence. It also represents his call for a courageous commitment to give all that's necessary to be free men and women, and stand upright and worthy among persons, peoples and nations of the world.

So, when we celebrate Juneteenth, drink the red soda water, eat the barbecue, turn up the music, and march and dance in the streets, let's not forget to stay focused on freedom. And let's remember and continue the struggles of our ancestors which gave birth to hope and brought freedom into being. And let us say with the Hon. Marcus Garvey, "No better gift can I give in honor of the memory of the love of my foreparents for me, and in gratitude of the suffering they endured that I might be free, no grander gift can I bear to the sacred memory of the generations past than a free and redeemed Africa," i.e., both the Continent and Diaspora.

To celebrate Juneteenth rightfully and righteously as a day of freedom is first of all to have the right interpretation of what happened on that day, June 19, 1865, and to tell it in a way that honors and praises our people, not the oppressor. Nor must we divert the discussion to Whites, who may have assisted us in some way or even worse introduce imaginary White saviors in the discussion. Surely, the Union troops arrived with

news of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. But that did not really free the enslaved Africans, it only offered a legal ground for it that was not always or fully enforced. And even if it were rightly and fully enforced, the people, themselves, would still need to decide to be free and act in freedom in order for freedom to take hold in any real and relevant sense.

So, it's not the news and troops alone that brought freedom. It was the conscious decision of the enslaved Africans to be free, to walk away from the fields, to throw down their tools in the yards, to take off their aprons in the kitchens and their colonial costumes in the parlors and walk defiantly out. And finally, it was their decision to stop the horses, get out of the buggy, and let Miss Daisy (or Miss Ann) and her man drive themselves or walk wearily back to that house of horrors they called home.

Secondly, we must recognize and respect the fact that there was a psychology of freedom needed then and the same is needed now. We must, as our ancestors, will ourselves to be free and act accordingly. Free men and women are responsible persons, responsible not only for the consequences of their actions, but also for taking initiative and acting in their own image and interest. To



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

act in our own image is to act as Black people, African people, who have both the right and responsibility to exist as a self-conscious, righteous, freedom-fighting and justice seeking people. It is to celebrate ourselves and our awesome march thru human history with an unapologetic sense of identity, dignity and determination. And to act in our own interest is to act always to free and uplift the people, to imagine and build the new and just communities, societies and world we all want and deserve. And as our ancestors also taught, it is to speak truth, do justice, be kind, pursue peace, and always do what is good.

Moreover, to celebrate rightfully, we must call our people by their rightful name, Africans, and describe their condition as an imposed and coerced

one, "enslaved," not simply collapse their identity and condition into one word, "slave," as if it were the natural condition of a nameless, cultureless, non-historical being. There is no respect or rightful recognition of their identity, dignity and humanity, if we call them simply "slaves," as if they have no ancestral home, history or culture, and as if Blacks are so identified with enslavement one needs no qualifier.

Thus, we must call them enslaved Africans so that when we tell their story it reflects their and our real identity, rightfully links us to the longest of human histories, to a land and peoples of great learning, profound spirituality, exquisite art and bodies of sacred texts second to none. And let it remind us of their unjust and savage enslavement, the Holocaust it brought, the great sacrifice and suffering, and the morally monstrous destruction of human life, human culture and human possibility.

Let us make this a day, then, a time of reflection, remembrance and recommitment, as well as one of food, festival and fun. Indeed, it is important that we avoid transforming Juneteenth into a Black 4th of July with imported miniature flags, mindless bouts and binges of feasting and drinking, false conscious-

ness about freedom, and a perverse and pathetic patriotism that teaches hatred of others, especially the weak, vulnerable and dark peoples of the world. Instead, let's mark off the fields for the cultivation of a consciousness of our history and a commitment to our ancestors in the righteous ways we live our lives, do our work and wage our struggles.

And in that consciousness and commitment, let us reaffirm in practice that in the final analysis, any serious celebration of freedom requires ongoing efforts and struggle to secure and sustain freedom and pass it on as a legacy for future generations. Anything less is diversion and self-deception, hardly the hallmark and history of those courageous ones among us who used to say, sing and pursue in practice this battle-cry: "my mind is stayed on freedom and I ain't gon' let nobody turn me 'round."

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, The Message and Meaning of Kwanzaa: Bringing Good Into the World and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• REP. ALMA ADAMS •

Weapons of War on Our Streets?

John Adams and his son, John Quincy, were the only two of our first 12 Presidents who didn't own slaves.

I mention this for two reasons: first, to demonstrate how the control and devaluation of Black lives formed the foundation of our political thought; and second, to reinforce that Adams may be more qualified than most founding fathers to speak about justice.

He wrote, "we are to look upon it as more beneficial, that many guilty persons should escape unpunished, than one innocent person should suffer."

As for the consequences of a criminal justice system that values punishment above innocence, Adams writes, "virtue itself, is no security. And if such a sentiment as this, should take place in the mind of the subject there would be an end to all security whatsoever."

The preservation of innocence should be more

important than punishing every offender. This goes to the heart of why hundreds of thousands of Americans have marched since the killing of George Floyd: Black people are unable to feel secure in this country because we are not offered the presumption of innocence.

Over the past three weeks, we saw the battle between innocence and punishment move from the traffic stop to the streets of our cities. Chemical agents – including tear gas, pepper balls, and other lachrymators – have been fired at peaceful protesters in cities including Austin, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Richmond, Sacramento, San Diego, Seattle, and even Beverly Hills.

Chemical agents were originally designed for war before they were banned. International law prohibits the use of "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices"



REP. ALMA ADAMS

in armed conflicts. Weapons that are illegal in war should not be used on our own people nor in our own neighborhoods.

We should be even more concerned about the use of these "riot control agents" on our soil. While they are "non-lethal," they do more than disperse crowds – they punish and harm the innocent. The graphic wounds from "pepper balls" remind me of the dog bites my generation endured when we protested.

The most high-profile

of these incidents involved the U.S. Park Police using chemical agents to disperse protesters in Washington, D.C. so that President Trump could walk across Lafayette Square to St. John's Episcopal Church for a photo op. The action was almost universally condemned, including by many of my Republican colleagues.

The protesters committed no crime but were punished anyway. The President, in his narcissism, casually unleashed a violent metaphor for the Black experience in America.

We should be even more concerned about the widespread use of chemical agents by local police departments. On the fifth night of Charlotte's protests, scores of protesters were trapped by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department with no clear escape route. The live streams of the incident are

{See WAR A-8}

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• SANDRA J. EVERS-MANLY •

We Hurt, We Cry, and We Continue to Ask Why The Killing of George Floyd

June 12, 2020, marks the 57th anniversary of the killing of my cousin, Medgar Evers. Who was shot in the back in his driveway by a white supremacist and member of the KKK. It took 31 years to get a conviction for his murder. Some could finally call it justice, but justice is never served when someone you love is murdered.

It was the same hatred in the man who killed Medgar and many others because of their skin color that we saw kill George Floyd on May 25. This time, unlike 57 years ago, it was done in the light of day and captured on camera. It is unimaginable, heartbreaking, and disgraceful that what we saw continues to be played out in America. There was no remorse. And yet again, the killer carried the title of Police Officer, although he does not deserve that title. It should be a bad cop, hater, racist, and cold-blooded murderer. His weapons of choice were his knee and hatred.

Yes, so many of us

hurt, and we cry. In fact, we cannot stop crying; we are angry and well beyond being sick and tired. We continue to see this type of hatred and unjust killing, time and time again. These incidents are often at the hands of bad cops, but there should be no such thing as a bad cop. And sometimes, others carry out these heinous crimes as well.

I fear daily for the two young Black men that I helped to raise, along with my partner, brothers, nephews, cousins, friends, colleagues, and all those who carry the title “Black Man” or “Black Boy” in America. You see, their life’s journey and walk in this country is very different from mine and others. Their walk is often one of being harassed, profiled, full of fear, uncertainty, and shock. Being parents, guardians, family members of Black males, our walk is also different; It is one of worry, anxiety, constant prayer, and restless nights. And days when they are out, the crying



COURTESY PHOTO
SANDRA J. EVERS-MANLY

begins.

We all know racism. I know it well, and I know its affect. I also know what it is like to have racism and hatred as the cause of a loved one’s death. Because of such hatred, I have faced death by murder on many fronts. This is not new, yet it continues year-to-year and even day-to-day. Every day, I live in fear for our Black men and boys in this country; known and unknown, because of this wicked, abiding hatred.

I still remember writing a poem in 1994 about being a mother to Black males in America, when my nephew

lived with me and wanted to go out one Friday night. The poem was called:

A Black Mother’s Cry

*It’s Friday (Saturday, Sunday, Monday...)
and my son wants to go out and*

play (go to the movies, hang out with his friends, get a bite to eat).

Tick tock, Tick tock, I watch the clock and pray to God

Please let my son come back for another day.

Its Friday night and my son wants to go out and play

I watch the clock; I watch the door and sometimes I fall

to the floor and pray and pray, cry and cry

That my son comes back for another day.

A Black Mother’s Cry

Tick tock, tick tock I watch the clock

And pace back and forth on my feet

And in my mind only to watch and pray.

Tick tock, I watch the clock.

The door opens and thank God

my son made it home for another day.

A Black Mother’s Cry

Throughout this time, we will see and feel a host of emotions. The key for us now is what we need do to ensure REAL JUSTICE for George Floyd’s family, change in our country, government, and real sustaining action that truly makes a difference for all. What will we do beyond the marching, beyond the praying, and beyond the crying? What will we do to make our communities safe and our walks in life better?

We all want justice for George Floyd and his family. We all want justice for Breonna Taylor and her family. We all want justice for Ahmaud Arbery and his family. We all want justice for all of those who lost their lives unjustly.

Some people expect many of us to loot and burn

down the businesses in our communities. I expect us to take action. We need to decide how and where we spend our money, invest in our businesses, get involved in our communities. We must fight for things such as: criminal justice reform, equal access to quality education and technology and other changes that will make a lasting difference. Not to mention, reforms in voter mobilization and registration. We must get out and vote.

To all the Black men and boys: we hurt, we cry, and we continue to ask “why?”. We know being ‘Black ain’t easy’ in this country, but we also know we must be a part of the solution. Until that time, when we are truly free from racism, discrimination, police brutality, killings and fear for our black men and boys walking the street...

We Hurt, We Cry, and We Continue to Ask, Why?

A Black Mother Still Cries (2020)

{See MANLY A-8}

• MARK T. HARRIS •

Why Byron Allen’s Comcast Settlement Win Is an ‘L’ for Black America

SPECIAL TO CALIFORNIA Black Media Partners

Former comedian and entertainment mogul Byron Allen filed suit against Comcast in 2015 seeking \$20 billion in damages. Allen alleged that Comcast refused to offer many of his television programs as part of its cable television offerings because he is African American. Earlier this year, Allen’s legal challenge reached the United States Supreme Court to determine whether Allen could proceed with his civil action under Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866. Immediately following the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which provided a wide-ranging ban on race discrimination. Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 is one of the statute’s most critical provisions, ensuring that “[a]

ll persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right ... to make and enforce contracts ... as is enjoyed by white citizens.” The goal of this section was to free the contracting process from the burdens of discrimination and ensure that newly freed slaves were guaranteed the same opportunity to contract as Whites. Passage of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and its “equal protection” clause, soon followed in June of 1866. In response to Allen’s lawsuit, Comcast took the position that Allen must prove that his race was the “but for” basis for Comcast refusing to add his Black-owned television stations. In other words, if there were ANY other credible reason for rejecting Allen’s proposal to carry his television stations on Comcast, Allen would lose. In a unanimous opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court



COURTESY PHOTO
MARK T. HARRIS

sided with Comcast over Byron Allen. All of the justices ruled that to prevail, “(Allen) must initially plead and ultimately prove that, but for race, (he) would not have suffered the loss of a legally protected right.” Let’s take a breath here. What Allen placed before our conservative led U.S. Supreme Court, was the potential for raising the evidentiary standard that every subsequent litigant in the United States — that’s any of us filing a discrimination case — would need to prove.

The Supreme Court met Allen’s challenge and rejected his legal arguments. The result is that the next person seeking to argue that racial discrimination was one element leading to their failure to be awarded a contract, would have their case dismissed from any court in he nation because discrimination was not the “but for” reason for their rejection. Many leaders in the Black community attempted to talk Allen out of taking his battle with Comcast all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, but Allen stubbornly persisted with his lawsuit. After losing on the procedural interpretation of the application of the “but for” standard, Allen has “folded” and has reached a settlement with Comcast! Allen and Comcast have agreed that three of Allen’s television stations will be offered by Comcast. However, a victory for Allen is an “L” for the Black community.

Thanks to Allen, from this day forward, any African American or ethnic minority, when attempting to enforce Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, will be required to prove that the “but for” reason for their denial of a contract was their ethnicity no matter how egregious the otherwise discriminatory conduct they suffered have been. In other words, thanks to Allen’s case, in order to receive enforcement under the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the racial discrimination suffered by plaintiff must rise to the level of being virtually the only cause for the denial of a contract or contractual rights, as opposed to one of the causes for the denial. Many in the civil rights community, too, attempted to convince Allen not to pursue his litigation to the point of the U.S. Supreme Court fearing the very outcome that has now transpired. American jurisprudence

operates under the principle of “stare decisis,” which is a Latin term meaning “respect for precedent.” What the Allen case represents is the creation of a new, almost insurmountable, barrier to bringing subsequent cases for litigants who have nowhere near the financial resources that Allen has at his disposal. Before we rejoice Allen’s victory over Comcast, we should be mindful of the loss for our community it represents.

Attorney Mark T. Harris practices civil rights law in Sacramento and is the Director of Pre-Law Studies at the University of California, Merced. Attorney Harris is the Managing Partner of the Sacramento Office of Ben Crump Law and served as an appointee of former California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. to the California Fair Employment and Housing Council.

• CHARLENE CROWELL •

As MLK asked in 1967, Where Do We Go from Here: Community or Chaos?

The nationwide protests against the heinous killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis policeman, is reminiscent of the 1960s era of turmoil and voices that fervently called for social and economic justice. Today’s turbulent times seem that history is repeating itself. In addition to George Floyd, recent tragedies took the lives of a Black Louisville EMT in the middle of the night while she was asleep in her own bed. In another fatal incident, a young Black Georgia man jogging in daylight was shot dead. None of these three unarmed people deserved to die violently. For Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a book begun in 1966 while he was living in a Chicago tenement reflected similar chaotic challenges against a backdrop of seething racial resentments. Published the following year and entitled, “Where Do We Go

from Here: Community or Chaos?”, Dr. King drew upon his visits to cities across the nation to pen how substandard housing, failing schools, a dearth of job opportunities, and a myriad of other ills erupted into bloody riots. Then and today, violence is broadly condemned, but there still seems to be little concern or justification for the resulting backlash of militarized communities, or a president who has yet to grasp that Black lives matter. So once again, the question, “Where do we go from here?” is both timely and poignant. For more than 386 organizations, a written appeal to congressional leaders noted that over the past year, more than 1,000 people were shot and killed by police. Facilitated by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and led by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the June



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CHARLENE CROWELL

I letter called on Congress to “rectify these structural wrongs through legislation before another Black life is needlessly lost.” But police violence is not the only problem that needs to be eradicated. People who riot are usually those who have no hope. The most dangerous person is not the one who lost a job, but rather the one who has no hope that another can be found. Since March, 40 million people have sought unemployment benefits. This

monumental surge has exceeded states’ technological capacity to swiftly process these claims, resulting in multiple attempts to use online systems and lengthy waits, often 30 days or more. Although federal stimulus checks were intended to provide a much-needed cash infusion, many consumers were forced to endure another lengthy wait for this benefit. Further, America’s legion of working poor often holds multiple jobs because stagnant low wages have failed to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Today’s federal minimum wage is still \$7.25 an hour. In many cases, these are the same workers who walk or rely upon public transit where available to reach their places of employment. It should also be noted that these workers comprise many of those who have not had the option of working from home during the COVID-19

pandemic. Often, many who were forced to work during the pandemic have not been financially compensated with hazard pay while working during the public health crisis. While these Americans jeopardize the health of themselves and their families, Congress continues to brush aside attempts to raise the minimum wage, or fund infrastructure that could create jobs while improving transit, roads and bridges. By contrast, investment and corporate interests have seen swift governmental adjustments. Several monied interests received significant funds through the Paycheck Protection Program, even as many small businesses - particularly owned by Blacks and Latinos - struggled to access the aid. After the public outcry, the Treasury Department publicly called for approved multi-million-dollar loans be returned. The Federal

Reserve also took a previously unused action of buying corporate debt, ultimately saving the firms billions in borrowing costs. Over the years, this column has reported on racial disparities in homeownership, family wealth, the lack of access to affordable credit, and the pattern of alternative financial services preying upon communities of color by charging triple-digit interest rates on small-dollar loans. Sadly, during the pandemic, this financial exploitation has persisted and falls on those hardest-hit with job losses, illnesses, and loss of life. For example, as many low-income people and especially those of color realized that competitive jobs markets essentially required skills and training to access gainful employment, millions were snookered into enrolling in costly for-profit colleges that failed to deliver

{See CROWELL A-8}

• GREGORY C. SCOTT •

Unmasking the George Floyd Phenomenon: Biopolitical Race and Poverty

I still remember the first time I had to encounter racism growing up as a young man in Paterson, NJ. On some level, it had become normal for myself and other young Black boys to be sitting on the curb in handcuffs with my head down in shame, in fear, in a state of confusion; and feeling worthless. I'm not sure who I feared more; the police officers who were questioning me for walking home from school or my mother who had to come to get me, and I desperately wanted her to.

I still don't recall why I was stopped in my tracks as I expeditiously walked home from the iconic Eastside High School after my 6th-period class. I do remember I was in a rush to get home to take the bus I needed to get to my part-time job at Burger King. It was an episode in my life that haunted me for many years until I subconsciously learned to fear the police even up to this day. I also learned to bury it. It's the "code-switching" that many Black professionals have mastered to minimize our pain to fit in corporate America.

At that time, I didn't realize it would be the first of many occasions where my race would be an issue in my community, my class-

room, and career. In many respects, the death of George Floyd reminded me of every time I was called n***** on my college campus, to times where I was made to feel I didn't belong, to being followed by security when I walk into a store, to hearing the click of doors being locked because I walked by, to purses being clutched because of my presence in the elevator.

All of this has a psychosomatic impact on many Black lives who have experienced similar encounters. Even today, I still feel the need to cross the street so the White people I am about to cross paths with don't feel uncomfortable or when I decline to get on the elevator at the City Club in Downtown Los Angeles because the ride to the 51st floor with a group of people who don't look like me is too long to bear the awkwardness of being "othered." However, I am the speaker at the very event they are attending.

Watching the death of George Floyd unmasked every feeling of pain, anger, frustration, and numbness. I AM NOT OK! Black lives, whether under the knee of a cop or at the mercy of systematic racism in education, healthcare, and in the marketplace, are under attack.



GREGORY C. SCOTT

We celebrate milestones in racial equity, but racial injustices, not only continue, they have a renewed vigor, especially during a double pandemic of COVID-19, and racism in America. African Americans still have the highest unemployment rate, lowest educational scores, fewest homeowners, and disproportionately suffer from coronavirus.

Racism has created a system of legal enforcement de-

signed to inexplicably jail African Americans. This level of policing and bigotry for over 400 years has built a large gap between Black people and every other race of people. This racist strategy has kept the African American community excluded in the process of the American Dream. For many, there's a dichotomy of living the American

dream externally, and silently living the American nightmare internally.

While there is a current focus on the murder of George Floyd, this is certainly not the first blatant example of the physical tactics by certain police officers. We must also remember Breonna Taylor, Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Mike Brown, Alton Sterling, Philando Castille, Oscar Grant, Amadou Diallo, and Tamir Rice. Each fatal incident is our reminder of the systematic racism that exists today. It's a system that is designed to keep poverty and socioeconomic injustice at the forefront of the fabric of our society.

Change is possible, and I'm optimistic about our future when all lives will truly matter. Young Black Americans are tired and are saying enough is enough. This is not just a Black issue; this is an American issue.

Our previous generations fought against slavery, Jim Crow; and fought for civil rights, the right to vote, and women empowerment. This generation will make history by changing policies that eradicate police brutality. We still must change all

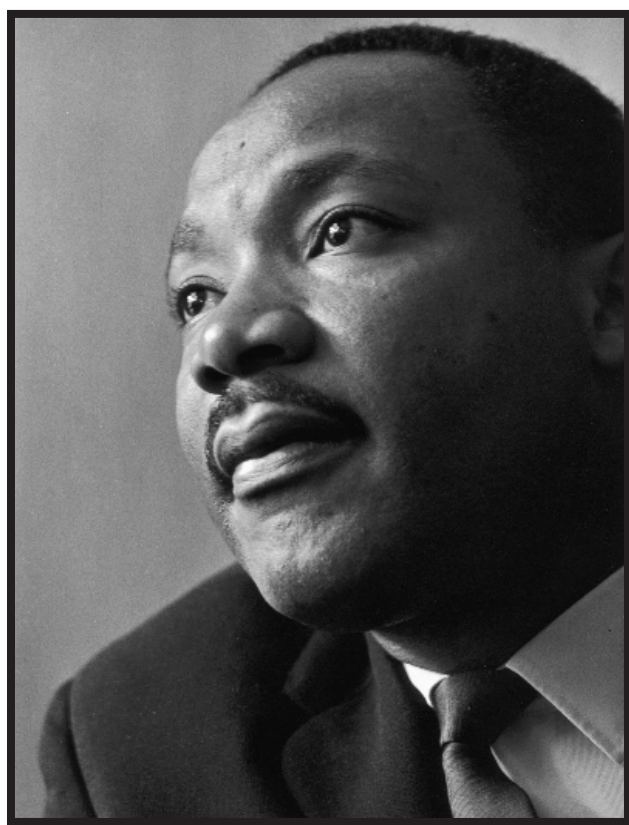
other systems in our trilogy of race, politics, and poverty to change all social justice issues that keep people impoverished.

The movement of Black Lives Matter is not a slogan or a temporary protest until it happens again. It's the mirror in the face of every American citizen that says, WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS. It's a reminder that Black lives are essential. It's a unified movement against racism on any level in America. It's putting a demand to end the death against Black people at the hands of police officers and change the system of policing.

This is our moment to STAND TOGETHER, no matter what ethnic background you are. As Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently stated, "Injustice anywhere, is injustice everywhere."

Gregory C. Scott, a visionary business and non-profit Chief Executive, an accomplished agent of change, an innovative and inspirational leader, social entrepreneur, community advocate, executive coach, faith leader, and leadership thought leader with over 20 years of experience in philanthropy and community development.

Crowell *{continued from Pg. A-7}*



COURTESY PHOTO

the training or credentials necessary to live financially independent lives. With low graduation rates, many of these former students incurred deep debt without the requisite skills nor a degree that enable them to secure employment with adequate wages to repay their loans. Just as after the Great Recession, emerging signs

indicate that this industry will once again achieve explosive growth in the midst of widespread economic insecurity.

Despite recent and bipartisan support in Congress, the Trump Administration again chose to shield predatory for-profit institutions at the expense of students and taxpayers. Last week,

the Administration vetoed a recent measure to overturn a 2019 rule that would weaken accountability for these institutions. This action also prevents defrauded students from access to financial relief. The 2019 rule overhauled a previous one adopted during the Obama Administration that ensured direct and corrective response to release former for-profit students from the educational debts incurred by false promises. "If Congress doesn't override the president's veto," noted Ashley Harrington, Federal Advocacy Director and Senior Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), "Secretary DeVos' 2019 harmful Borrower Defense Rule will go into effect this summer making it nearly impossible for future defrauded students to access relief and taxpayers to recoup their wasted and misused dollars."

Similarly, the Department of Justice under the current administration, has not pursued cases of discrimination. Where former Attorney General Eric Holder went to Ferguson, Missouri to find out first-hand that community's racial tensions

in policing, current Attorney General William Barr has been conspicuously silent and invisible.

Under the current administration, regulations that held illegal businesses accountable for financial exploitation have been removed or weakened. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), created to be the consumer's financial watchdog in the marketplace, has consistently acted in the interest of businesses instead of people, holding that consumer information – not protection or enforcement – is their watchword. Additionally, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency recently followed through with its plan to dramatically overhaul the Community Reinvestment Act, which will cause further financial harms to low-to-moderate income families and communities of color.

The onus for achieving financial fairness rightfully rests with government. Consumers who have been victimized by profiteers should not be asked to conduct their own investigations and have no standing to prosecute whatever they might discover.

All governments – federal, state, and municipal – need to do their jobs. At the same time, leaders in business and commerce have a role to play as well: advocating and ensuring that all consumers, regardless of race, have access to the credit they deserve. Just as the Federal Reserve took decisive action to support corporate and investor interests, working families are equally deserving of a governmental champion to unclog the blocks on benefits, loans and grants.

Right now, not sometime in the future, Black businesses need ready access to available grant aid and credit through mainstream lending. Fortunately, in this market, there seems to be a window of opportunity for real change.

Already a coalition of civil rights advocates that include the NAACP, Unidos, and CRL appealed to Congress to fix the Paycheck Protection Program by streamlining loan forgiveness for small loans and ensuring both reporting and data transparency. In addition, and to assist the very smallest businesses, the coalition supports instituting a minimum loan origination

fee.

Now, while the nation awaits additional Congressional action, several major bank CEOs have begun speaking out about racism and their respective plans to ensure that institutionally, their operations can eliminate discrimination. But to date, there has been no large-scale or long-term banking program that offers the financial heft to effectively address the lack of credit – even as the Black homeownership rate remains at 42%.

As Dr. King wrote, "[W]e need the vision to see in this generation's ordeals the opportunity to transfigure both ourselves and American society... Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny... to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness."

Amen, Dr. King.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Manly *{continued from Pg. A-7}*

I grew up somebody's child,

Naive and ignorant of the things that waited for me in the wild,

I never understood the importance of my mother's home,

Until now that I have a child of my own,

He's naive just like me, And thinks he's invincible with not a worry in his heart,

I've tried to prepare him as best I can from the start,

But still young people have to live, and learn on their own,

So, every day I sit and pray, that my child makes it home,

Every day when he leaves for school, I pray that I will see him soon,

Anytime he leaves for

work, I pray that he will not be hurt,

When I don't hear from him and feel the fear, I cry a mother's cry, asking God to bring him here,

On Friday nights when the worry never stops, tick tock I watch the clock, and pray to God,

A ring of the phone will make my heart drop, I might collapse if I hear a knock, But when I hear that knob turn, my prayers have been answered cause my child has returned, He has no idea when he sees my eyes, just how much a Black mother cries.

Still a Black Mother Cries. Sandra J. Evers-Manly, is president of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center, and can be reached at:

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War *{continued from Pg. A-6}*

hard to watch. Justin LaFrancois, a local journalist, reported "we're trapped, they're shooting pepper balls at us, they've thrown out tear gas, flash-bangs, smoke ... we're trapped here, they're up top shooting at us."

The protesters were the victims of indiscriminate force. They couldn't breathe.

After the incident, the Charlotte City Council prohibited any police spending on

chemical munitions in its 2021 budget, without prohibiting CMPD from using chemical agents. Seattle and other cities have gone further, declaring temporary moratoriums on using tear gas.

We can't forget that these protests come in the middle of a pandemic. There is growing concern that tear gas exacerbates the spread of diseases including COVID-19. NPR highlighted

both a 2014 study by the US Army concluded that soldiers exposed to tear gas were more likely to contract respiratory illnesses, as well as a letter signed by over a thousand public health professionals that "Oppose[s] any use of tear gas, smoke, or other respiratory irritants" during the protests.

Finally, tear gas may not even work for crowd control. Scholarship on the subject tends to reinforce the idea that escalation, including through the use of riot gear and chemical agents,

makes protests more violent, not less.

These "pain gasses" are being used on protesters who are predominately peaceful. Across our country, entire groups of people are being sentenced to choke on gas for the actions of a few protesters. This goes against the value of innocence that John Adams and others placed at the foundation of our criminal justice system. That is why I introduced legislation to make the use of riot control agents, as defined by federal law, with-

out a clear, audible warning given beforehand and a reasonable amount of time to disperse, a criminal violation. This common-sense proposal would set a federal standard regarding the use of chemical agents, holding all police departments accountable for indiscriminate use against American citizens.

The doors to the Mecklenburg County Courthouse in Charlotte borrow a quote from Adams as well: "God Almighty grant us Wisdom and Virtue sufficient for the

high Trust that is devolved upon Us."

We cannot lose the trust of the public by inflicting indiscriminate punishments. Both wisdom and virtue tell us tear gas has no place in the arsenals of local law enforcement.

Congresswoman Alma Adams, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and the chair of the Congressional HBCU Caucus, represents North Carolina's 12th District (Charlotte) in the US House of Representatives.

ADVERTISEMENT

COVID-19 IS KILLING BLACK PEOPLE.

PRESIDENT TRUMP, HELP US!

Covid-19 is killing us. Racism is our pre-existing condition. This is not hyperbole. We have a crisis within a crisis. This moment, our bodies carry the vestiges of America's hateful past. The intergenerational trauma of slavery, hate, murder and institutional injustice is carried in our DNA. Over 400 years of exploitation and violence have literally made us sick. Food deserts, expensive healthcare, pollution, and endless microaggressions are all traumas of the mind and body — and they are killing us. Nationally, Blacks are dying from Covid-19 at a rate 3 to 4 times higher than whites.

Today, Black people have higher incidences of hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, infant mortality, and strokes. Trauma after trauma, generation after generation, poverty, oppression, and violence sit in our bodies as disease.

Mr. President, right now, this minute, we need you to LEAD. I grew up in a family business. I'm not an expert on pandemics, but I see desperation and pain spreading in our communities. We need decisive and urgent action.

There are federal actions that only you can take. Please form an urgent response team to target Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations. This team must include the best and brightest from communities of color with expertise in: infectious disease and research; targeted marketing and communications; general expertise in hospital and institutional supply chains; retail supply chains and manufacturing operations; and, state and county healthcare coordinators. The team must give weekly updates on C-SPAN with FACTS from each discipline. Journalists from affected counties, neighborhoods, and reservations must have virtual access to these press conferences.

We need mass quantities of PPE and cleaning products. In some cases, we are paying \$4 EACH for disposable surgical face masks and \$9 for a 16-ounce bottle of hand sanitizer *if we can find them*. CDC-recommended masks, sanitizer, disinfectant cleaners, and wipes are scarce and expensive. Our communities already spend more on basic household items as a percentage of income. How can we get back to work *and* protect our families? Must we choose between our livelihoods and our lives? Once schools reopen, there will be even more demand for virus-related supplies. How can families afford to keep children safe? This is America?

Use the Defense Production Act (DPA) to get these products to our shelves urgently — within weeks, not months — at PRE-PANDEMIC PRICES. Flood the marketplace with products to save lives and end the price gouging.

People of color are primarily the ones disinfecting our public spaces, cleaning hospital rooms and common areas, providing daily personal care for the sick, driving the buses, working the cash registers, harvesting and cooking our food, delivering packages, and so much more. Businesses are already passing on their costs of pandemic-related overhead. Small businesses can't carry these additional expenses unless they increase prices. We are paying more for food and household basics. Higher prices pour salt in the wounds of disadvantaged communities.

PPE, syringes, swabs, vials, gloves, sterile wipes, and other critical items need to be produced under the DPA now! WE STILL DON'T have enough PPE. It is delusional to think demand has lessened. It's not lower; we are rationing our supplies because *we have to*. And we're compromising our healthcare workers and hospital staff in the process. Proper medical standards for PPE usage must be reinstated. Public and private healthcare systems are paying more for supplies and passing the costs on to us!

DPA must control prices on medical and household virus-related goods. PRE-PANDEMIC PRICES must be held in check at each stage of production, distribution, and point of sale. The DPA producers must proportionally include our communities for employment opportunities and as vendor partners.

This is not the time for corporate America to be greedy.

We need MANY, MANY MORE TESTS for those disproportionately affected! Let me define what I mean by testing: ACCURATE with RAPID RESULTS (within hours, not days); adequate supplies to rapidly process tests; and, ACCESSIBLE and free weekly testing for frontline and essential workers to be tested in their zip code.

Please don't keep telling us that testing is not necessary for everyone; only those with symptoms. Don't tell us "we can't test 300 million people" and that you are tracking cases to identify hot spots. Cases are PEOPLE. We are not numbers to be "tracked" by some lag indicator. People who live in densely populated cities or work the front lines need frequent testing. PERIOD. Those with positive or undetermined results need temporary housing to self-isolate. Use federal or military housing. Allocate money to target states to pay for all test-related expenses.

We need a specific, detailed plan for every type of congregate housing, their residents, staff, and vendors. This includes prisons, jails, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, shelters, and other places. It is long overdue. We need a PLAN NOW . . . today! Families are at risk.

We need your leadership. If you allow this virus to hollow out essential workers and communities of color with more sickness and death, our economic recovery won't be a "V", it will be an "L" — and our morality will never recover.

**MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE
FOR GOD'S SAKE . . . HELP US!**

Prayerfully,



Terri Gardner, Elder, WerItribe.org

Martinez {continued from Pg. A-1}

for justice and police reform. The outrage over Floyd's death also brought attention and shed light to other tragic Black deaths at the hands of police, including Breonna Taylor who was murdered in her own home when Louisville police entered into the wrong house and subsequently shot and killed her.

Yet, through all the city's challenges, Martinez has endured, pushed forward and continued to lead her council district (#6, Pacoima/San Fernando Valley area) and the city council doing the people's business.

"We are busy working for our citizens; people are hurting, people are not working. We are trying to re-open the economy and unfortunately

lars and we all have to share in this sacrifice in order to be able to provide some of our other critical services."

Martinez points out that she values public safety and values good officers and appreciates the work that they do. She points out that "We ask police officers to do jobs that they shouldn't have to be doing; they're not mental health workers, they're not homeless care providers and we are relying on them to do work that they should not be doing. We are asking them to do too much."

But, her decision to reallocate funds from the police and direct them to other departments to re-think how the City and the police department allocate their re-



L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez (middle, left) stands with council president emeritus Herb Wesson (middle), councilman Curren Price (far right), councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson (middle, right) and service providers at a press conference to mark the introduction of improvements to the Operations-South Bureau Human Trafficking Task Force.



L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez provides low-income residents with a \$60 shopping spree at Aldi Market Panorama City during the COVID-19 pandemic

some jobs may not come back online, and people are not going to be able to go back to the jobs that they had before COVID," stated Martinez.

Needless to say, 2020 has been a tough year so far, and she is quick to remind us that we are only halfway through. She also wants to remind the city that we have to still navigate through fire season (which the City is currently updating plans for). The City is still trying to lock in the 20-21 fiscal budget and then, there are the challenges City Council faces with "Defunding LAPD."

When asked about defunding the police, the council president had this to say. "Sometimes, you have to make a difficult decision that makes some people uncomfortable. And since the pandemic, this council has had to make some very tough decisions. So, when it comes to the LAPD question, we are in the middle of a pandemic and an economic crisis. We've been asking everyone (City departments) to take a look at their budgets. We're not asking LAPD to do anything that we are not asking other City departments and employees to do themselves. We know there is going to be a shortfall of hundreds of millions of dol-

sources, has brought the council president under fire from members of the rank and file, as well as from the powerful peace officer's union.

A Spectrum News report brought to light that she had a security detail placed in front of her home for several weeks providing the council president with added security for herself and her family. When asked for her version of the story, President Martinez said, "Thank you for asking; no one has asked me for my side of the story."

Because of COVID-19, the entire city council was forced to change how they did business, just as many businesses and governments throughout the nation have had to do. The City of Los Angeles has an old and antiquated voting system. So, as a result of the mayor's Safer at Home Order, the City had to figure out how to conduct its business remotely. This caused her to have to cancel some city council meetings while the city got up to speed on how to handle meeting remotely. Martinez' decision was not a popular one, with protesters blocking her street and protesting in front of her home. Threatening her and her family (the council president has an 11-year-old daughter), calling and email-

ing her office and threatening her life. Because of these threats, she met with LAPD and the recommendation was to assign a detail to protect her and her home, and to ensure that none of the protests and protesters got out of hand.

"I don't live in a gated community; I live in the same neighborhood I grew up in. I live in a working-class community and these

protesters were not only disrupting me and my family, but they were showing up early in the morning, blocking driveways and not allowing my neighbors to get out of their driveway and go to work." Martinez has never had a protection detail; she doesn't have a driver. Only the mayor and the City Attorney have a full-time protection detail, but when one of her neigh-

the detail in place and so she did.

"My daughter's room is at the front of our home, so to have people out front yelling profanity, making noise and being disruptive to my family and my neighbors was crazy." The protesters were not people from her community, but what she was really trying to avoid was her neighbors taking control of their street and confronting the protesters, which Martinez believes was certainly possible.

Nury Martinez has always been about her community; at a young age she learned that it was Black and Brown and communities of color that were often disenfranchised and needed the most help. This inspires her to bring resources into her community and communities of color. She says she sees and knows first-hand how Black and Brown people are often the last communities to receive the desperately needed resources from the City and the federal government. Through all of the challenges she's faced in 2020, she continues to provide and direct as many resources as she and her colleagues can to those most in need. She has worked tirelessly for the COVID-19 Paid Leave for Families Motion, which ensures paid leave for

directly for tenants who have been laid off or have been affected by COVID.

With the help of her city council colleagues, Martinez has gotten a lot done, but her biggest challenge to schematically reimagine how to reinvest public safety and public safety dollars for the betterment of all communities and the people who live them. She is not shy about pointing out that racism in Los Angeles and throughout this nation is real. She says, addressing racism requires the uncomfortable conversations that many don't want to have. She knows there are good police officers and that the few bad ones make it difficult for all of the good ones. She remembers growing up, she had never seen a Latina police officer, and it was not until she was 19 years of age that she had ever met a police officer of color.

"I was organizing a community clean up and someone suggested that I go to the police station and ask them for help. I had never even imagined you could ask the police to help on a community clean-up project." But there she met then Captain Kenny Gardner, a well-known African American police officer who passed away of a heart condition a few years ago. Kenny was a beautiful



L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez sits at her desk in the John Ferraro Council Chamber located in Los Angeles City Hall.



Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez stands at the entrance of the John Ferraro Council Chamber located in Los Angeles City Hall.

neighbors asked a protester to move so they could pull out of the driveway, the protester refused and altercation escalated. At that point, Nury agreed to allow LAPD to provide her, her family and her neighborhood with a patrol detail in front of her home.

After the city council had worked out its remote meeting challenges, Martinez office began rolling back the protection detail, but the threats to her and her family continued, so Martinez went back to LAPD and asked for advice on what to do. The advice came back leave

people needing to care for a family member affected with COVID. She has also led the effort to create the Workers Retention Ordinance and Workers Recall Ordinance to insure when employees go back to work, they return at the same status or level they were at pre COVID. She fought for the creation of the COVID Eviction Moratorium and included giving tenants the right to sue landlords who pressured them for stimulus monies or who do not honor the eviction moratorium. She is also leading the council to provide over \$100 Million for Residential Renter Relief paying landlords di-

person; he asked where the clean-up was taking place? That Saturday, he showed up with his then 6-year-old daughter and helped with the clean-up.

"Kenny was my first experience with community policing, and I know that most officers are good honest hard-working men and women."

We've made great strides, but she also believes we can still do better by reallocating funds to the people who are better trained to provide the services to those in need; one way that Council President Nury Martinez intends to make a difference.

Grisly Hanging Deaths of Three Black Men in Two Weeks Hark Back to Terror of Lynchings Past

BY EBONE MONET AND ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Author and investigative journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a staunch crusader against lynching at the turn of the last century, would likely have been included among the hundreds of thousands of people calling for a thorough investigation into recent hanging deaths of two Black men in California and another in New York.

Wells-Barnett (July 16, 1862 - March 25, 1931) led one of the most aggressive anti-lynching campaigns through the Black press, beginning in the 1890s right up to her death about 40 years later. Wells wrapped statistics in touching stories that personalized the brutal lynchings and other race-based crimes happening in towns across the Deep South, bringing them to the attention of people across the country and in other parts of the world.

Now more than 150 years later, Los Angeles County called in California state Attorney General Xavier Becerra to keep an eye on the investigation of a Palmdale man found hanging from a tree last week.

Although local authorities have listed suicide as the likely cause of death in both instances, people in California and across the county are

demanding more transparency in the investigations of the separate hanging deaths of the African American men.

On May 31, San Bernardino Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a man found hanging from a tree in Victorville, a desert city nearly 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles. On June 13, authorities released information identifying the man, who was homeless, as 38-year-old Malcolm Harsch. He died at a makeshift encampment for unsheltered people where officials believed he lived, close to Victorville City Library.

It took the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office 10 days to release information about Harsch's death.

The delay in releasing information about this case is the crux of many complaints being lodged against law enforcement in San Bernardino County. People are incredulous about authorities preliminarily deciding that Harsch's hanging was a suicide. The comment sections of the Sheriff's social media accounts include calls for investigators to release more information about the case.

People are also questioning if Harsch was lynched.

About 52 miles away, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is investigating another hanging in Palmdale. Saturday people gathered at Poncitlan Square

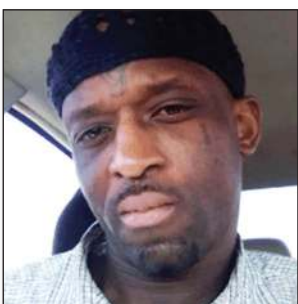


PHOTO BY TAISHA BROWN
Malcolm Harsch, the Victorville man found hanging from tree.

park near a tree outside of City Hall. That is where 24-year-old Robert Fuller's body was found hanging on Wednesday June 10.

City officials have backpedaled since initially saying that Fuller's death was likely a suicide.

Last Friday, authorities in Palmdale told people who crowded into a City Council meeting on Friday that there is no security footage from outside of city hall.

Activists are also calling on the New York Police Department to conduct a deeper investigation into the death of an unidentified Black man who authorities say died from another apparent suicide. He was discovered hanging from a tree in a park in the Inwood neighborhood of northern Manhattan near the Hudson River during the early morning hours of June 9.

Investigators in New York are conducting an autopsy to get to the root of his cause of death.



PHOTO BY TAISHA BROWN
Robert Fuller, Palmdale resident found hanging from a tree.

On Sunday, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva announced that State Attorney General Xavier Becerra will "monitor" the Fuller investigation. On Twitter Villanueva described his choice to bring in Becerra as part of his "commitment to transparency."

On Monday, Becerra told California Black Media he dispatched a team of investigators to Palmdale.

"They will assess what has been done so far by the local investigators, with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, and we will assist moving forward," said Becerra. "We are an independent agency and our work we do on behalf of the Department of Justice — and we will do that as best we can."

A "Justice for Robert Fuller" petition has nearly reached its 300,000-signature goal. Petition organizers question if Fuller was possibly the victim of a lynching. They cite heightened emotions caused by recent Black Lives Matters (BLM) protests as a possible factor. Hundreds of people reportedly took part in Palmdale BLM demonstration a week

prior to Fuller's death. Despite creating some traffic issues, authorities say the demonstrations were peaceful.

Over the weekend Fuller's family and supporters held rallies to demand an independent investigation into his death. They reject the suicide claim presented by the Sheriff's office. Instead in the Change.org petition they point to the community's past "history of racism and negligence."

The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that Victorville and the surrounding county is home to several anti-government and anti-immigration hate groups. In 2012, a man was found hanging from an electric wire in an incident police believed was a suicide.

Still, Victor Valley News reports that San Bernardino Sheriff's officials said there is no indication of foul play.

A similar online petition is gaining signatures for Malcolm Harsch. Twenty-three thousand people have signed petition to seek a thorough investigation. The Harsch family told Victor Valley News that law enforcement's assessment of suicide possibly linked to the coronavirus was off base.

"He didn't seem to be depressed to anyone who truly knew him. Everyone who knew our brother was shocked to hear that he allegedly hung himself and don't believe it to be true as well as the people who were there when his body was discovered. The explanation of suicide does not seem plausible," it reads.

Sheriff Villanueva scheduled a virtual town hall on Monday. He said residents

can talk with law enforcement and get more information about the case.

In both Palmdale and Victorville authorities say the investigations are ongoing.

During her life, Wells-Barnett put all of her resources into journalism and bought a stake in the Memphis Free Speech newspaper. After three of her friends were lynched by a mob in 1892, her journey as a social reformer. She lectured about the atrocities of lynching all over Great Britain. Her three friends' deaths changed her life.

Today, the end of the lives of three Black men, brings back the memory of Wells-Barnett's cause.

Lynching is defined as a form of violence in which mobs, consisting mostly of non-Black people in the Deep South states, executed a person without the fairness of a jury trial.

This practice soared after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in 1865 and continued for about 100 years. Graphic photos of lynchings, many in a spectator setting, still circulate in various forms of media, including U.S. postal cards.

The National Memorial For Peace and Justice (NMPJ) in Montgomery, Ala., is the first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people and Black people terrorized by lynching.

In May of 2020, 89 years after her death, Wells-Barnett was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her journalism.

"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them," Wells-Barnett once wrote.

California Assembly Passes Bill to Set Up Reparations Task Force

BY TANU HENRY
California Black Media

On June 12, the California Assembly voted 61-12 to approve AB 3121.

would be eligible to receive compensation.

"Until the end of the U.S. Civil War, California city and county law enforcement authorities enforced a

that held us back and robbed us of economic opportunities that were afforded others for centuries — both here in California and across this land."

Standing with Weber, all the other members of the California Legislative Black Caucus co-sponsored AB 3121. They are Senator Steven Bradford (D-Los Angeles), the group's vice chair; Senator Holly J. Mitchell (D-Los Angeles); Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), secretary; Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Sacramento), treasurer; Assemblymember Chris R. Holden (D-Pasadena); Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Los Angeles);

Assemblymember Autumn Burke (D-South Bay, Los Angeles); Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr. (D-South Los Angeles); Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento).

"Justice requires that those who have been treated unjustly need the means to make themselves whole again," Weber told her colleagues.

Twelve of the 17 Republican members of the state Assembly voted no on the bill. They are Assemblymembers Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals); Bill Brough (R-Dana Point); Steven Choi (R-Irvine); Jordan Cunningham (R-Paso Robles); Megan Dahle (R-Bieber); James Gallagher (R-Yuba City); Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin); Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale); Devon Mathis (R-Visalia); Jay Obernolte (R-Big Bear Lake); Jim Patterson (R-Fresno); and Randy Voepel (R-Santee).

The Assembly Republicans have not issued a formal statement opposing AB 3121. However, Joshua Hoover, Kiley's chief of staff, has said that he believes a discussion about reparations for slavery should happen on the federal level.



AP PHOTO/RICH PEDRONCELLI
Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, answers a question about police use of force, during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

The "reparations" bill calls for the creation of a task force to study and propose ideas for how African Americans in California can be compensated for slavery and its "after lives," as the author of the legislation, Dr. Shirley Weber (D-San Diego), describes the Jim Crow laws and other forms of injustice and state-sanctioned discrimination that have existed in the United States from 1865 until now.

"The bill would require the task force to recommend, among other things, the appropriate mechanism for redress as it pertains to California's role in the enslavement of Black people," Weber read in a statement at the bill's hearing to her colleagues on the California state Assembly floor.

The California state Senate is now reviewing the bill and is expected to vote on it by June 25.

If the bill passes the Senate and Gov. Newsom signs it into law, the state will appoint and commission an eight-member task force comprised of people from different backgrounds. The team would lead the study that defines what reparations should look like and who

contract labor system, allowing slave holders to effectively hold persons in bondage," Weber said. "In other words, California state, county and city authorities actively supported the institution of Black slavery both within and beyond California."

In May, the Assembly Judiciary committee voted yes on the bill. Nearly a month later, the Appropriations committee passed it, too, before it moved to the Assembly floor for a full vote last week.

"Its time we took an honest look at our history. This is not about pointing fingers. It's about getting to the truth. African Americans have loved this country, and we have served it, and we have contributed to its might as much as every other American," said Hardy Brown, the founder of California Black Media.

"We are not making this up. The history is all there. City councils, state legislatures and the federal government crafted racist laws and adapted racially-biased public policies that deliberately excluded African Americans," Brown continued. "They erected legal barriers

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Studio	2	\$808	from \$25,680 - \$47,500	One Bedroom	2	\$1,384	from \$43,230 - \$61,500
One Bedroom	1	\$921	from \$29,340 - \$41,550	One Bedroom	3	\$1,384	from \$43,230 - \$69,180
One Bedroom	2	\$921	from \$29,340 - \$47,500	Two Bedroom	2	\$1,652	from \$51,870 - \$61,500
One Bedroom	3	\$921	from \$29,340 - \$53,450	Two Bedroom	3	\$1,652	from \$51,870 - \$69,180
Two Bedroom	2	\$921	from \$33,030 - \$47,500	Two Bedroom	4	\$1,652	from \$51,870 - \$78,860
Two Bedroom	3	\$1,024	from \$33,030 - \$53,450	Two Bedroom	5	\$1,652	from \$51,870 - \$83,040
Two Bedroom	4	\$1,024	from \$33,030 - \$59,350				
Two Bedroom	5	\$1,024	from \$33,030 - \$64,100				

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Applications will be accepted between May 7, 2020 through July 6, 2020
For more information, visit <http://www.montairaliving.com> or call (949) 431-7007

Completed applications must be mailed to the address noted above. Mailed applications must be postmarked by July 6, 2020 to be included in the lottery. Eligibility for Montaira is determined by household size, income, and age restrictions. If a sufficient pool of applications is not received as a part of the lottery then Montaira will accept new applications on a first come, first served basis. Maximum and minimum income limits apply.

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Compton

{continued from Pg. A-1}

their lives. Twenty years later, Compton taxpayers are paying \$22 million a year to the Sheriff's Department with only Lancaster coming in higher at \$24 million for a city of 94 square miles and 150,000 residents. At 10 square miles and 100,000 residents, Compton is paying the most money per resident and geographic area.

Today Compton residents and elected leaders no longer look at the Sheriff's Department as the answer, but more as the problem.

On June 7, over five thousand people participated in a march against police brutality—but to be

calling for a change.

Just days after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers—a cellphone video surfaced on social media showing a Black man being beaten by Compton Sheriff's deputies.

The victim turned out to be 24-year-old Dalvin Price who said that on May 31, he was just going home when the sheriff's pulled him over.

The cellphone recording begins when Price has already been forced to the ground by two deputies. Price can be heard on the recording saying, "I'm on the ground," as a third deputy joins and begins to strike Price's right torso with his knee.

Deputies broke several of



Over five-thousand Compton residents attend a protest against police brutality outside of the Compton courthouse on June 7, 2020



Police brutality victim, 24-year-old Dalvin Price speaks at a news conference in Compton, Ca. June 7, 2020

more specific—Sheriff's deputy brutality.

Led by Mayor Aja Brown and Councilwoman Michelle Chambers, thousands walked the 1.3 miles between the Gateway Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. monument in front of the courthouse. Among the marchers were Grammy award-winner and Compton native Kendrick Lamar. He was joined by fellow Compton native, DeMar DeRozan of the San Antonio Spurs and Houston Rockets Russell Westbrook.

But celebrities were outnumbered by Compton's everyday citizens who are fed up with the lack of consequences faced by sheriff deputies who kill and victimize residents.

Community leaders, Compton Cowboy Randy Hook, gang interventionist David Cox, Sylvia Nunn Angel's, Leroy Brown and hundreds from Compton's community-based gang reduction and intervention initiative Compton Empowered all hit the street to join their community in

Price's ribs and then made him sit in a Sheriff's patrol car for five hours after the incident, which happened around 11 p.m. near the intersection of Rosecrans and Pearl Avenue.

L.A. County jail records show Price wasn't booked until six hours later, on the morning of June 1. He was released without a charge.

"I was trying my best to comply with everything they were saying but I was still treated like I didn't have any rights," said Price at a press conference last week. "I was very scared. I knew I was innocent. I knew I didn't do anything wrong. They treated me like an animal, like I wasn't a human being."

Last week, Price stood alongside his grandmother and the woman who caught the incident online and told the media about the harassment they've experienced since the video became public.

"Since I pressed that record button, my life has been turned upside down," said Asia Hall, the Compton resident who recorded the video.

Both she and Price say

they have seen squad cars parked outside their homes and are in fear for their lives.

Compton Mayor Aja Brown and City Attorney Damon Brown sent a letter to Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva outlining what they say are non-negotiable reform priorities.

Among the demands made on behalf of the residents of Compton was that the deputies involved in the beating of Dalvin Price be immediately transferred out of the Compton Station while the investigation is pending.

Other demands include requiring that a majority number of the Sheriff's deputies assigned to Compton have a certain amount of years experience and that the Sheriff's Department stops sending new deputies to Compton and using the city as on the job training. They also want all of the patrol cars in Compton to have the city's seal on them like in other cities the Sheriff's

services are contracted in.

"It's time for the Sheriff's Department to be accountable to the cities that contract their service," said Mayor Brown. "In Compton, we're not even allowed to dictate our own priorities as it relates to law enforcement. The sheriff tells us what the priorities are and it should be the other way around. For far too long the Sheriff's Department has gone unchallenged regarding their accountability to the cities that pay them millions and millions of dol-

our taxpayer's investment in the Sheriff's Department is—especially when the Sheriff's Department is asking for an additional one million dollars."

"Compton residents deserve and demand equitable treatment. We are tired of dodging sheriff's cars that have no regard for traffic laws or personal property, being snatched out of our cars, having our vehicles illegally searched, being threatened and intimidated, beaten and in some cases murdered," said

million but incidents like what occurred with Dalvin Price are unacceptable and we will not tolerate it," said Compton city Attorney Damon Brown. "The taxpayers of this city will not fund our own destruction and dehumanization. We expect our tax dollars to be used for our protection and for law enforcement to work cooperatively with city leadership to improve safety and quality of life. For this relationship between the Sheriff's and the city to continue, there must be accountability."

At Sentinel press time, the Compton City Council was



Compton native Andre Spicer, also known as Hub City Dre, marches with residents against police brutality June 7, 2020.

lars each year. We are their bosses and not the other way around."

Councilmember Michelle Chambers added "We want transparency from the Sheriff's Department. They freely tell us the crime statistics in our city but never tell us how many complaints were file, sustained, or even what the percentage of crimes being solved is. We want to know and we have a right to know what the return on

Mayor Brown. "We demand the same treatment that deputies provide to the residents of Malibu, Rancho Palos Verdes and other affluent communities. And, according to the size of our contract with the Sheriff's Department, we have \$22 million reasons to expect it."

"The City currently contracts with Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services at a price tag in excess of \$22

poised to consider an ordinance to establish a 11-member Law Enforcement Review Board that in alignment with Compton's commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all of its residents and recognizing the need for police reform, would independently review allegations of misconduct and increase accountability and trust with the public, and those that provide law enforcement services in Compton.

Struggle

{continued from Pg. A-1}



Robert Fuller

Malcolm Harsch was found hanging from a tree in the city of Victorville, approximately 80 miles to the east of Los Angeles and 50 miles east of Palmdale.

Harsch was found close to a homeless encampment where individuals attempted to perform CPR on him, as well as deputies from the San Bernardino County sheriff's office. Initial rulings by the coroner have listed suicide as the

cause of death for both men however autopsies have not been completed. Additionally, families of the men say that their loved ones would not have committed suicide and want their deaths to be investigated fully.

Officials from the FBI and the US Department of Justice have announced they will be reviewing the cases.

Suicide was also the initial ruling in the death of 27-year old Dominique Al-

exander of the Bronx. Alexander was found dead near the Hudson River on June 9. Speaking to the New York Daily News Alexander's brother would not comment on the circumstances of his death.

Activists, organizers and people of goodwill have followed up on the momentum of the protests with policy demands for local police departments. In Los Angeles a coalition calling itself The People's Budget-Los Angeles has called for the 50 percent of the general fund that the City of Los Angeles consistently earmarks for the LAPD to be invested in "care not cops". Mayor Garcetti announced on June 4 that \$150 million of the LAPD's proposed \$1.86 billion budget would be reinvested in communities.

According to The People's Budget website the group considered the move to be a victory but that more was necessary.

On June 15 Melina Abdullah, co-founder and organizer of Black Lives Matter-LA, addressed the city council during what turned out to be a very emotional hearing on the

budget.

"Because I'm a mother, and you're a [parent], and we all have children that we are trying to make this world better for. We're all connected to each other. We have an opportunity in this moment, you have an opportunity in this moment to be courageous. You have an opportunity now to not just say 'who am I as a city council member?' but, 'whose are you?' Do you belong to the police protective league. ... to your ambitions ... to your ego, or do you belong to the people."

"Overwhelmingly, the call was that we wanted to invest in universal needs and divest in traditional forms of policing," said David Turner, a researcher with Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles.

"What would it look like if instead of law enforcement shooting people with rubber bullets and tanks, we used some of that money ... to invest in the protective equipment for our city workers and the protective equipment of the essential workers who are on the front line. What would it look like



Malcolm Harsch

if we had that type of infrastructure already in place? Well now is the time to be bold," Turner continued.

Speaking on ABC-7's Eyewitness Newsmakers program LA politicians Karen Bass and Marqueece Harris Dawson had slightly differing opinions on the issue of defunding police.

Bass, Democratic Congressional Representative of the 37th District and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, stated "I will say that I don't support the no-

tion of defunding the police. What I absolutely do support is the idea of putting the investments in communities so the police department doesn't have to pick up all of the problems."

Harris-Dawson, councilman of Los Angeles' 8th District, said "We have some of the lowest crime rates we've ever had. No matter how low crime goes, we give the police department more money the following year. That needs to stop."

Wendy's WINDOW
Forgiving for Living



“America Has Been Proudful - Is a Fall Before Us?”

America exhibits a “haughty spirit” when the military can use tear gas to push back peaceful protestors at the wish of President Trump even though we have the right to protest peacefully, this exhibits a haughty spirit. When the police can enter a (Black) woman’s home without warning and kill her and her family is still waiting for justice, once again this is an example of

a haughty spirit. When a Black man is out jogging, and he is killed because a white man thinks he may be suspicious of stealing something, yet again is another example of a haughty spirit. When police officer Chauvin can put his knee on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds with no regards to his life, America is showing a haughty spirit.

According to the Unit-

ed States Bill of Rights we are all entitled to,” Certain Unalienable Rights” that provides each of us with “Equality Before the Law.” This gives the right for everyone to be treated equally, regardless of social status and yet we are seeing a destruction in society because of a failure in providing these rights to all Americans. America cannot breathe because we are choking and strangling

on the fact that our unalienable rights are not being fulfilled and America has embraced a haughty spirit that will bring about its fall if we do not correct things now.

Our country and the world are currently in discussions around the subject of racism and injustice. According to Webster, racism has been defined as, “a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.” A woman by the name of Kennedy Mitchum in Missouri recently asked Merriam-Webster to update its definition because she did not believe it was inclusive and accurate to the current times. The dictionary officials agreed to do so. The original definition did not consider the systemic racism and oppression that still exists that keeps cer-

tain people (Black) down and oppressed.

If we are honest all of us struggle or have struggled in some form or another with pride. If we want things to get better and change for the best, we must be willing to look within and see what necessary adjustments we need to make. This may even mean we have to put our pride on the shelf and admit that we have been wrong and judgmental in our thoughts and opinions on certain people, places, and things. The question is are we willing to take this step? Are we willing to be the generation that steps up and rights the wrongs our country has made?

We can change laws, but without changing hearts we will be back in the same situation as we are today, it would be just a matter of time. Sometimes the chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they

are too strong to be broken. It has been said that people who are overconfident and arrogant are likely to fail. America must deal with our haughty spirit. We started as a great country and yet we are still confronted with the very issue of human rights. We must deal with the shortcomings of our country now if we want to really live up to our potential. Our generation is the hope for the future. Let’s stand up together!

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Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is an international coach, consultant, trainer, author and speaker. She can also be found live on Instagram @Wendygladney on Wednesdays at 12 noon PST.

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‘The Exaltation of Self-Will!’ Part 3 ‘Get Me Out of This Mess!’

Well, it’s too late now. Adam and Eve stamped their “Self-Will” into the world and gave up our privileges and authority to the adversary! It may be hard to understand, but, it’s true. They poured out their disobedience and rebellion into the entire world. That’s why the scriptures say, the whole world has an infectious disease by the adversary. “For the whole world lies under the sway (influence) of the adversary.” You can’t touch anything without the adversary having dipped his rebellious, jealous finger into the soup of the world. Okay, let’s go on now that I have gotten that off my chest. Last week, I left off answering my own question: “Where was God when Mr. Floyd’s life was being snuffed out?” I an-

swered that by saying, “the 17-year-old who filmed it was “God’s angel”. You know God has His people in the right place at just the right time. I also shared my personal prophetic drawing from my personally drawn art collection in 1992. Oh. The little round circles are the coronavirus germs disease! The name of my piece of artwork is entitled: “Suddenly and Without Remedy!” This piece of artwork, which hopefully will be placed with this article is called: “The Cameraman.” Study it. You will see there is a little girl at the bottom. That’s the 17-year-old who was taking the picture. The piece is called “The Cameraman,” who is God. He sees everything at all times, being omnipresent and omniscient. In the

upper left you see an image of a brown man flaying his arms, his face is pinkish colored. That’s Mr. Floyd and the others are all over him. This is my interpretation of my prophetic piece of art: “The Cameraman.” Let’s move on. Who are the four men involved with the “murder” of Mr. Floyd. The “adversary” is looking straight on into the camera. The adversary is bold, self-willed expecting to escape visibility and punishment as all times, before. BUT, this time the cameraman catches and captures him, takes his picture, seals his identity and incarcerates him! Game over for him. What about the other three immediate onlookers? Who are they? They are the world that has been watching these injustices all along and didn’t make



The Cameraman (Grattan) 1992

any reforms to the systematic-systemic racism. One tried to halt it, but his voice was ignored. That’s the age-old status. People who can do something about the problem have failed to do so, thinking the status quo will remain unchanged. Their actions have been too weak. And the problem cannot actually be blamed on any one person/s or politician. The contributors are not countable! Let us not forget this systemic racism has been alive, living among us for centuries. You may be appalled to learn about the vast land around

and near Minneapolis which is covenanted for the use of “white people” only. Please understand, I have no prejudices against any specific people of any race or nationality or tribe. Timing has elevated systemic racism and its cynicism to boiling! There are some who may not understand how the rules are gripped into the bloodstream of our nation and the edicts, laws and regulations are set that detangling takes great doing. Let’s take education. There is a stronghold grip on education starting at the lowest levels ages through col-

lege and careers. There is a systematic strong-fisted effort in place to prevent our children (Black and Brown) from receiving the best education available and deny parents a better choice. I have gotten a bit carried away with the passion I have for education. Okay. I will pick up on this next time and hope my prophetic artwork, “The Cameraman” will be published this time too. I have some very interesting information to share with you on this same subject of “The Exaltation of Self-Will.” Please stay with me and visit my website: www.askdrjeanetteparker.com Teach the children. Thanks for reading!

Jeanette Grattan Parker, Ph.D., Superintendent-Founder Today’s Fresh Start Charter School www.today’sfreshstart.org All rights reserved copyright: Will You Marry Me; Inquiring Minds Want to Know © ©. www.Askdrjeanetteparker.com tm; email: askdrjeanette@gmail.com askdrjeanette.successontheway@gmail.com askdrjeanette tm

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The California Assembly voted to pass ACA 5

Allows Californians to vote on Affirmative action in the November 2020 general election.

BY CBM STAFF

The California State Assembly voted to pass ACA 5. The bill authored by Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber (D-San Diego), chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, sponsored the bill. This could allow Californians to vote on Affirmative action in the November 2020 general election.

The ballot measure that could overturn Proposition 209 now moves to the state Senate for consideration.

"Today California took an important step toward real change by passing ACA 5. A new generation of Californians is rising," said Chris Lodgson



Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Los Angeles) pats Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) on the back after the ACA 5 vote on the floor of the California State Assembly. (June, 10 2020)



Assemblymember Reggie Jones Sawyer (D-Los Angeles) speaks on the floor of the Assembly on ACA 5 on the measure to repeal Prop 209. (June, 10 2020)

of American Descendants of Slaves (ADOS) Sacramento." One that values the

lives and rights of Black American descendants of Slavery."

Let's use this momentum to get the job done in November," Lodgson went

on. "And let's make sure Black Americans in California benefit significantly."

California voters approved Prop 209 in 1996, a ballot measure that out-

lawed the consideration of race in contracting, college admissions, employment and state data reporting in California.

Juneteenth

{continued from Pg. A-1}

did not immediately free American slaves. In fact, Pres. Lincoln's proclamation freed few slaves. Lincoln's executive order was initiated as a calculated military strategy to remove resources from the confed-

and henceforward shall be free."

Thus, reducing the strength of the Confederate Army by granting slaves in confederate states freedom. Over 200,000 Black soldiers would be recruited to

fifty states received emancipation; freeing a quarter-million American slaves residing in the state.

Commanding Officer from the District of Texas, Major General Gordon Granger, along with two thousand federal soldiers of the 13th Army Corps marched through Galves-

This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, become that between employer and hired labor. The freed are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere." (General Gordon Granger-1865)

The reaction from slaves and indentured servants ranged from pure shock to jubilation. As Frederick Douglass described it, "The

emancipation and remember the long struggle for freedom. The slaves in Galveston were not told they were free until 2 years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. More than 150 years later, our work is far from finished to achieve equality for all."

Today, Juneteenth has an even greater significance than ever before. In the light of recent Black Lives Matter protest, Juneteenth has dramatically risen in prominence to make June 19, a national holiday. A resolution designating June 19 as "Juneteenth Independence Day" was passed by the Senate in 2018; however, there are several online peti-

ate state capital. Williams states, "This year, Juneteenth will look like no Juneteenth before. People of all ages and races, our advocates and allies as well, will be together in solidarity for Black people like never before ... It's already happening in the streets," Williams also said, of protesters. "And we love you for that. I'm grateful for those that are standing with us."

During firestorm of national uprising and protests. The people firmly stand together in an everlasting fight for freedom. This Juneteenth feels different, we must take advantage of this time. It



Three Abyssinian - modern-day Ethiopian - slaves in chains in 1910. The country did not abolish slavery until 1942, during the Second World War.

erate south.

American soil was soaked in the blood of its soldiers, with nearly 620,000 dead soldiers by the time of the proclamation. With the Union Army in need of additional man-power to defeat the Confederate Army; Pres. Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation declaring "that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are,

Union ranks, under the consensus that this was a war against slavery.

Juneteenth, June 19th, 1865 two thousand Union soldiers traveled to Galveston, Texas to make the announcement to residing slaves that they were officially freed. Enforcing Lincoln's proclamation of 1863, two and a half years after the executive order. Juneteenth, a memorable day where slaves and indentured servants in all

ton, Texas where order, No. 3 was read to headquarters at the Osterman Building, 1861 Custom House, courthouse, and then the African American Church on Broadway, known as the Reedy Chapel (AME Church). Order, No.3 issued by General Gordon Granger "19th of June", 1865:

"The people are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.



Above is a picture of American slaves who escaped their imprisonment after fleeing the Confederacy and reaching Union lines in Cumberland Landing, Virginia in 1861 - the same year the momentous Civil War began.

scene was wild and grand. Joy and gladness exhausted all forms of expression, from shouts of praise to joys and tears."

Current (CA) Senator Kamala Harris stated, "On Juneteenth, we celebrate

tions calling for the change nationally.

Well-known musician Pharrell Williams, announced the proposal to make June 19 an official paid holiday in Virginia, in which was once a Confeder-

is great a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future; truthfully, we must celebrate who we are while preparing for the furtherment of equality in America.

<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>	<p>Public Notices</p>
<p>CIVIL</p> <p>ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 20TRCP00100 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petitioner of: Bruce Allen Williams for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Bruce Allen Williams filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Bruce Allen Williams to Yahmel Bruce Allen Williams The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 7-31-2020, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept.: B The address of the court is 825 Maple Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel Date: June 5, 2020 Judge of the Superior Court 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9/20 CNS-3372868# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>	<p>ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 20BPC00132 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Malcolm Rinaldo Tabor Session Sr for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Malcolm Rinaldo Tabor Session Sr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Malcolm Rinaldo Tabor Session Sr to Malcolm Rinaldo Toby Session Sr The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 7/17/2020, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept.: A The address of the court is 300 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91502 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel Date: May 7, 2020 Darrell Mavis Judge of the Superior Court 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25/20 CNS-3369402# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>	<p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2020090456 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. CANNAREAD, 2. NO \$ 4 WALLFLOWERS, 3. 2 FLY OFF CRENSHAW, 3504 W. 17TH STREET, Inglewood, CA 90303 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): FUTURES FLAVORS, 3504 W. 117TH STREET, INGLEWOOD, CA 90303; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A. 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).) FUTURES FLAVORS S/TERENCE LEMAILE, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/29/2020. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.</p>	<p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2020088551 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SWEET TRINITY, 1138 DEL AMO BLVD #462, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): JANICE THIGPEN, 11430 ELVINS STREET, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715 MONIQUE THOMAS, 1908 WEST PIRU STREET, COMPTON, CA 90222 This business is conducted by Co-Partners The registrant(s) started doing business on 07/2019. 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).) S/JANICE THIGPEN, Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/26/2020. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from</p>	<p>the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.</p> <p>FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2020084716 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. JG DESIGN CREATIVE, 2. R3FORM, 417 S HILL STREET SUITE 202, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): JUSTIN GLOSTON, 417 S HILL STREET UNIT 1100, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on 03/2015. 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).) S/JUSTIN GLOSTON, Owner</p>	<p>This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/19/2020. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. 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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

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Student Athlete of the Week: Eric Peacock

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Senior guard, Eric Peacock was part of a transformative era in King/Drew boys' basketball history. During his time there, he helped the Golden Eagles win a City Section Championship in 2018 and make their first Open Division appearance this past season.

As a sophomore, Peacock started playing on the JV team, but was called up to play varsity throughout the season.

"By the time the playoffs started, I was already a starter," he said. "Being a sophomore made me be calm, know what to do, you listen to coach (Lloyd) Webster, what he said to do."

The Golden Eagle's championship run and their long run in the Division IV State tournament taught Peacock the game plan

established during his sophomore year would help him improve.

King/Drew remained a competitive force during the 2019-2020 season and they recognized their talents during the Rose City Roundball Classic tournament.

"We played Fairfax in the championship game, we lost to them by one point," Peacock said. "We assured ourselves that we are an open division team."

Fairfax was ranked 20th in the state while King/Drew was 45th in California. The Golden Eagles finished third in the City Section championships and went deep into the Division II State playoffs.

After their City Section run, they practiced every day; their sessions would last up to four hours. King/Drew changed their offensive schemes and

practiced them intensely.

"Our first state game we played Mater Dei Catholic of San Diego," Peacock said. "They knew our old offense, but we ran a new offense and we just put them under the water because we were prepared."

Doing schoolwork during the pandemic was easy for Peacock, a lot of his classwork was done on computers and he has experience using Google classroom. Learning from home also limited his distractions.

"It was good for me because I have no problem doing work online at home," Peacock said. "I get to choose when to do my work, not being told when to do it."

Having a court at home allowed Peacock to get shooting in during the quarantine. He would occasionally visit his cousin to lift weights to gain muscle.

Balancing academics

and athletics were a skill Peacock learned gradually during his time at King/Drew. Through the years, he improved his grades and found ways to get his work done without staying up late.

"I would do work in class and at lunch, nutrition," Peacock said. "I would try to do a lot of my work before study hall, so I get home, have time to rest."

The Golden Eagles will also take time out to volunteer and help better the community.

"The basketball team, we volunteer at a day care ... we went there and gave bikes out to some schools around the area," he said. "We gave them backpacks, shirts."

Peacock will occasionally go with his cousin to do beach cleanups with Heal the Bay. He was a member of the club Hosa, where he



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
King/Drew senior Eric Peacock became a starter for the boys basketball team during his sophomore year.

learned about corrective exercises and did an internship at Martin Luther King Hospital during his junior year.

"That was a pretty good

experience," Peacock said. "I was in there every Thursday and I would call 30 patients ... It made my speaking skills better over the phone."

Sparks player Tierra Ruffin-Pratt shares wisdom on how to Fight for Social Justice

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Professional athletes have been maintaining the momentum of fighting against police brutality in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Los Angeles Sparks guard, Tierra Ruffin-Pratt endured through the tragedy of an officer involved shooting and is using her personal knowledge to fight.

In 2013, Ruffin Pratt lost her cousin Julian Dawkins in an altercation with an off-duty sheriff's deputy in Arlington, VA. He was shot and killed the same night their family was celebrating Ruffin-Pratt signing a contract with the Washington Mystics. The Deputy was sentenced to jail for voluntary manslaughter.

"The guy who killed my cousin got six years, he's out already," Ruffin-Pratt said.

From the experience, Ruffin-Pratt learned how support and momentum is essential. In wake of her cousin's murder, people in the city of Alexandria, VA showed her family support and solidarity.

"They still with us and that's what helped the most because it wasn't just us fighting and like it isn't now. Everybody's fighting," Ruffin-Pratt said. "Still to this day we get messages and different things about my cousin and people still support the movement."

The hardest part of the justice system during that time was anticipating the arrest and trial of the deputy, according to Ruffin-Pratt.

"You got to wait for them to be arrested then you got to wait for the trial, you got to wait for a conviction and then it's kind of like what now?" she said. "Like for most people, this



FACEBOOK PHOTO
Sparks guard Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (left) marches to protest racial inequality.

will blow over at some point, but for the families they're still waiting."

When Alton Sterling and Philando Castile were murdered in 2016, multiple WNBA teams wore Black Lives Matter t-shirts and hosted Media Blackouts after games to only discuss

social justice issues during post-game press conferences. Ruffin-Pratt was a leader in the effort for the Washington Mystics. Although the WNBA fined the players involved in the demonstrations, Ruffin-Pratt was glad to see the team unify against police

brutality.

"We all kind of stood together as a team, as an organization, and that was what was kind of important to me," she said. "That everybody stood together, it didn't matter where they were from, we all kind of just took that moment and used our platform for what was going on at that moment."

The WNBA announced on Monday that the 2020 season will begin in late July, all games are expected to be hosted at the IMG Academy in Florida. Social justice will be a key component of the season, according to WNBPA president and Sparks forward, Nneka Ogwumike and WNBA commissioner, Cathy Engelbert.

Several professional athletes have participated in and spearheaded marches and public demonstrations to combat racism and

police brutality.

NBA All-Stars Russell Westbrook and DeMar DeRozan marched with protestors in Compton. Golden State Warriors forward, Juan Toscano-Anderson spearheaded two "Walking in Unity" marches early in June, with Steph Curry, Klay Thompson and other Warriors teammates in attendance. Seattle Storm players Jewell Loyd and Breanna Stewart spoke at a rally in Seattle hosted by pro athletes.

"Now we see a lot of athletes, we see actors and actresses, businesspeople even speaking out. Even colleges and universities have put out statements, saying they stand with us," Ruffin-Pratt said. "It's going to take a lot more than that to end something that's going on in the world. Not just police brutality, but racism, and everything that comes with it. But it's a start."

Dodgers Foundation Host Drive Thru to Help RBI Players

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Dodgers foundation (LADF) is aiding the families of their Dodgers RBI baseball and softball players by hosting a Dodgers Day Drive-Thru presented by ARCO. Saturday marked the first of five Drive-Thrus where registered Dodgers RBI players are given food, resources and treats while social distancing.

The first installment was hosted at Alondra Park in Lawndale, the event is

meant for Dodgers RBI youth in the South Bay and LAX regions. Families had to fill out an assessment so LADF could understand their exact needs. In response to the assessment, they provided food, books, shirts, jerseys, books, toys, diapers, baby wipes, catchers mitts, athletic equipment and caps to the players.

"We've pretty much lost baseball for the year due to COVID-19 and they find ways to change it," said Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Carl Cooper. "It's letting

our folks know that the Dodgers care about them more than just out there playing baseball; they're getting great food; they're getting product from the Dodgers."

LADF will provide 132,000 meals and spend \$480,000 to provide to the youth. When the students



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Dodgers foundation volunteer puts box in the truck of a participants' car.

can't compete due to the quarantine, Dodgers RBI provided a virtual program for their softball and baseball players to keep up their athletic skills.

"This is about adjusting



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Dodgers foundation volunteers pose at the Dodgers Day Drive-Thru.

to the needs of those who are struggling during this time," said LADF CEO Nichol Whiteman. "At Alondra Park, we're serving about 800 families."

Volunteers loaded the food and supplies into the cars of families to practice social distancing. The families showed their appreciation by honking while volunteers cheered and applauded them.

"We wave at the kids and let them know that it's okay, let's have some fun for a minute," said Dodgers RBI field champion Carter Kendrick. "The Dodgers

and the Dodger foundation have not forgotten about them."

Several sponsors gave resources to the Dodger Day Drive Thru including the LA84 Foundation, the Los Angeles County of Mental Health, Nike, Dasani, and Baby2Baby.

"The Dodgers foundation contacted us after hearing about our COVID relief program that we're doing, we distributed over 25 million items through our COVID program," said Baby2Baby disaster relief specialist Marisa Muma. "To actually be here with

Dodgers today and to see the smile on kids' faces is awesome."

Later in June, LADF partner with Hunger Not Impossible to give 1,500 meals to Dodgers RBI families who earn less than \$20,000 per year. With the pandemic reducing the incomes of countless families, LADF wants to help the Dodgers RBI youth.

"I say to the team at the foundation this is what we're built for," Whiteman said. "It's our responsibility to the community so I feel very proud of what we're able to do."



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
LADF CEO Nichol Whiteman loads a box into a car of a Dodgers RBI participant.



ENTERTAINMENT



Curtiss Cook – Reprising His Role in Season Three of Showtime’s ‘The Chi’

‘The Chi’ returns on Sunday, June 21

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

I would be as unwelcome as a skunk at a dinner party if I provided any details on season three of Showtime and Lena Waithe’s hit series “The Chi” which returns with a bang on Sunday, June 21.

And stepping back into his breakout role is Curtiss Cook who plays the highly motivated hustler Otis “Douda” Perry.

How best to describe my first impression of Curtiss Cook? I have to ponder for a moment. In reviewing our phone interview a few times, I realized that my face hurt — because — I could not stop smiling and laughing. The first impression is that Curtiss Cook is a grateful man. A grateful father, of three. A grateful actor and I stand on this description, not just based on his sharing about his early struggles (which were many), but more on the sound of his voice. He sounds like an honest man and in Holly-

wood, that’s as rare as finding a Black unicorn stomping around in stiletto high heels.

Where 2020 has been knocking down people, industries, and expectations for Cook, this year, is one filled with bounty and promise. Along with season three of “The Chi” hitting the airwaves (Sunday, June 21) he will next be seen in Steven Spielberg’s “West Side Story,” which is now scheduled to open, wide, on Friday, December 18, bringing to life a new character ‘Abe,’ a mysterious NYC man who has his hands in everything happening in the streets. Based on the adaptation of the 1957 musical, “West Side Story” explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs, one White and one Latino, Puerto Rican to be specific. Other cast members include living legend Rita Moreno, Ansel Elgort, Maddie Ziegler, and Corey Stoll, to name a few.

Now, back to Show-

time’s “The Chi,” which is best described as an invigorating series about a group of African American’s holding it down in their Chicago, Southside neighborhood. Curtiss as ‘Douda,’ is an example of a man who used what was left for him pouring himself into his career as a Southside businessman and hustler with ties to Reg (Barton Fitzpatrick) and willfully sticking his broad hands into different pots throughout his community citing that it’s for the good of “his” people.

Cook got the acting bug while in High School in Dayton, Ohio, and so impressed his theater teacher who passionately encouraged him to seriously apply himself and he did, becoming the first American to receive a full-ride scholarship to London’s prestigious Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Later he relocated to New York and began performing on Broadway, including productions of “The Lion King” and “Miss Saigon.”

As a single father of three children, Cook experienced financial challenges but was assisted by family and loyal friends and finally the auditions and roles in television and films began to happen. Some of those projects include “Arbitrage,” “The Interpreter,” and “Shutter Island,” and on television he secured roles in FX’s “Mayans MC,” NBC’s “Manifest” and Netflix’s “House of Cards,” “Luke

Cage” and “Narcos,” to name a few.

Here is what actor and father Curtiss Cook had to share about his role in Showtime’s “The Chi” and following his dreams.

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: Thank you, Curtiss Cook, for chatting with me about your role Otis ‘Douda’ Perry in Showtime’s ‘The Chi.’ Can you describe him for me?

CURTISS COOK: Sure. He’s a guy who grew up on the South Side of Chicago, and like a lot of guys, he didn’t feel like he had a lot of options.

LAS: Sadly, that’s true to life.

CC: Right. In season three, this year, we will get to see some of Otis’ backstory.

LAS: That’s exciting.

CC: It is because despite having goals he thought he was just going to be another little Black boy from the South Side of Chicago, not going anywhere but because he was different — enough — he was able to move through the oppression, his anger, the gangs and make himself strong.

LAS: That’s a lot of things to build from, I think.

CC: It is. It is. I always say that Otis “Douda” Perry is a smart, caring businessman who for whatever was stopped from being truly successful and so he realized early on that ‘they’ weren’t going to give him a seat at the table, but he decided I will create my own table. He decided he will do whatever

was needed to get ahead.

LAS: Do you like Otis?

CC: Do I like Otis “Douda” Perry. Yes, I do and I admire him, but he’s not the kind of man that I would want to sit down and have dinner with.

LAS: Understood. Can you share with us about your early days? I understand that you struggled and it was not a joke.

CC: I did struggle. It was rough. But I stuck it out. I was doing small auditions here and there while I was eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and Kraft macaroni and cheese with some tuna fish in it, and calling it tuna casserole.

LAS: Tuna fish? You were rich. Just kidding. Please continue because I know that the struggle is real.

CC: (laughing) Let me say this, there were plenty of times that I could not make ends meet.

LAS: Amen. But now, things have looked up. I understand that you met your wife while you both were performing in Disney’s ‘The Lion King,’ is that correct?

CC: It is correct and we did. I played [the character] Banzai, on Broadway, for two years.

LAS: That’s what’s up. Broadway actors are amazing demonstrating solid discipline, creativity, and the stamina of an athlete. I take my hat off to you, and your wife, sir.

CC: (laughing) Thank you, my wife, is a dancer

and she came from that level of discipline and talk about athletes — they are the quintessential athlete in my opinion.

LAS: So. What’s next?

CC: You know what’s great is that when I started in this industry, people who say that Broadway actors would never be cast for television.

LAS: Or movies.

CC: Or movies. Exactly, exactly I mean I could not even get an audition.

LAS: Preach and a little birdy told me that you just finished working with ‘the’ Steven Spielberg in ‘the’ ‘West Side Story’ — am I right?

CC: (laughing) You are right.

LAS: Can we talk again, in November, so you can spill all the beans on working with Steven Spielberg?

CC: Absolutely.

LAS: I’d also like to interview your wife especially since Broadway has halted because of the worldwide pandemic. Will you share that with her, please?

CC: Thank you. I will. Thank you.

LAS: No. Thank you, Curtiss Cook. Thank you.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Showtime’s THE CHI back for season three - June 21.

<https://www.sho.com/the-chi>

INSTAGRAM: @curtisscookjr

TWITTER: @CurtissCook

Review: ‘Miss Juneteenth’ Gives Life to a Modern Young Woman’s Struggles

In theaters and on Digital and On-Demand on June 19, 2020.

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Channing Godfrey Peoples’ first feature (which he wrote and directed) stars Nicole Beharie as Turquoise Jones, a former pageant winner, whose life remained the same despite winning the coveted Miss Juneteenth pageant. Now a hard-working single worker, she dreams of planning a better future for her daughter.

Turquoise Jones, the former Miss Juneteenth, gives life to a modern young woman’s struggles in the predominantly black suburb of Fort Worth, Texas. It’s a slow-moving, but tender drama that leans heavily on this central character who is reminded and humbled by her former pageant queen status as she struggles to insert her dreams into her

teenage daughter.

Again—this is a slow film and not everyone’s cup-of-tea but in its defense, it does present the viewer with a look at a community giving the indie film a strong sense of place.

The holiday for which the pageant is named is made to bring awareness to the 1865 abolition of slavery in the holdout Confederate Lone Star state. These White Texan men cared about money and it took a full two years after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that the slaves were freed. There is an underpinning that Texas is still holding Black people back and making them “as a slave-like” as possible. Here in this community, the American “dream” continues to pass them by.

The story opens with



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK PRENDERGAST
Channing Godfrey Peoples

Turquoise Jones (Beharie) still admiring the tiara and dress she wore, in 2004, when she won was crowned Miss Juneteenth. Here—in the first frames of the film—we understand that Turquoise Jones is stuck and utterly unaware that she’s moving in the same space. Not going backward, but not going forward either.

She’s a hard worker, a hustler without pretense.

Turquoise manages a simple, no-frills barbecue and bar joint, where she has saved just enough in tips to cover an expensive pageant dress for her very reluctant 15-year-old daughter Kai (Alexis Chikaeze) to wear in this year’s Miss Juneteenth contest.

Kai is not interested and is focused instead on perfecting her dance moves at school to join a crew. She’s not that good despite practicing. One of the perks in winning the Miss Juneteenth is receiving a full scholarship to any traditionally Black educational institution of the winner’s choice. It’s a very big win but one that doesn’t seem to have any weight with the teenager.

The story turns quickly into a typical and classic mother-daughter dynamic using the pageant (past and present) to massage the story, inch-by-inch forward. Again—this is a very slow movie.

A rebellious Kai eventually decides to find her way, which includes “dating” a boy that her mother disapproves of and forbids her to see.

Turquoise continues to make bad choices. She doesn’t pay the electric bill to her house because she used it to pay for the pageant fees. Her bad choices continue as she continues to force her dream onto Kai.

Kai has a strange and strained relationship with her father, an auto mechanic



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERTICAL ENTERTAINMENT
(L-R) Nicole Beharie as Turquoise and Alexis Chikaeze as Kai in the drama, “Miss Juneteenth,” a Vertical Entertainment release.

Ronnie (Kendrick Sampson), a gambler who seems broken by the system but all-in-all is a loving man who truly wants Turquoise and his daughter in his life.

The hustle is real and for Turquoise that includes working, part-time, at a funeral home where the owner Bacon (Akron Watson) makes it clear that he wants to marry her as they expand his business. Bacon is a romantic and in one such moment he turns up at her door in a fancy cowboy outfit to take her to a dance on his horse.

What I enjoyed about this very slow movie (it’s a loving warning) is that it presents the rhythms of small-town life and we understand the obstacles in Turquoise’s path some of which she created and maintained herself.

We also get a look at her alcoholic mother (Lori Hayes) who wonders (aloud) and questions if she

was a good mother?

The set up of the pageant is evident from the first frame of the movie and this built-in destination is laced throughout the film but when we finally get there — well—it’s anti-climatic with no surprises at all.

Despite the hiccups of Channing Godfrey Peoples’ first film and it’s snail slow pace (yawn) — there is great promise in Peoples’ ability and desire to share stories about the heroes that live in our ordinary world and I salute the filmmaker for doing just that.

“Miss Juneteenth” stars Nicole Beharie, Kendrick Sampson, Alexis Chikaeze, Liz Mikel, Markus M. Mauldin, Lori Hayes, Akron Watson, Jaime Matthis, Phyllis Cicero

Directed/screenplay by Channing Godfrey Peoples

“Miss Juneteenth” in theaters and on Digital and On-Demand on June 19, 2020 (103 minutes).



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERTICAL ENTERTAINMENT
A still from the drama, “Miss Juneteenth,” a Vertical Entertainment release.

Yolanda Ross — a Quadruple Threat: Actress/Writer/Director/Producer — Tearing it up as Jada Washington on Showtime's 'The Chi'

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

In interviewing actress, director, producer, and screenwriter, Yolanda Ross is currently holding it down, as Jada Washington, in Showtime's "The Chi." On the phone, I experienced a sense that I was chatting with a woman of power and purpose. It was in the tone of her voice, and in the pauses where space hung like rain clouds over a dry and thirsty stretch of land. And then ... she spoke allowing the rain to fall and I felt myself sitting up — straighter — and engaging in that time-honored tradition (so necessary for a reporter) to listen and to hear. Yolanda Ross demands to be heard and I respect that positive Black female energy. Ross is so gifted that David Mamet, for "The Unit" wrote the part for her himself. Yolanda Ross is a queen, no doubt.

Now back to "The Chi." I choose to live my life in the light of truth as much as humanly possible. To that end, I will admit that I, in 2020, am just getting into the lives of the interesting people that populate the show. Season one and two is chilling and I admit, I watched the advance episodes of season three more than once, hell, more than four times because I was intrigued and downright entertained.

Created and executive produced by Emmy® winner Lena Waithe and executive produced by Academy Award®, Emmy and Golden Globe® winner Common ("Selma"), "The Chi" is a timely coming-of-age story centering on a group of residents who become linked by coincidence but bonded by the need for connection and redemption.

From what I can tell from the aforementioned episodes of season three,

they are roaring back and taking no prisoners. Joining season three is two-time Grammy® nominee Luke James ("Little"), La La Anthony ("Power"), and Lil Rel Howery ("Get Out"). Also, writer Justin Hillian ("Snowfall") has been named showrunner and executive producer. Birgundi Baker ("Empire"), who plays Kiesha, has been upped to a series regular.

Along with Ross "The Chi" also stars Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine ("Queen of Katwe"), Jacob Latimore ("Sleight"), Alex Hibbert ("Moonlight"), Shamon Brown Jr., Epps, and Baker. Produced entirely in its namesake city, "The Chi" is produced by Fox 21 Television Studios.

Back to Omaha, Nebraska native Ross, the quadruple threat: actress/writer/director/producer has slowly been building a reputation and has been recognized by her peers. She is a two-time Film Independent Spirit Award nominee and Gotham Award winner for her feature film debut as a leading actress in HBO's "Stranger Inside" and John Sayles's "Go For Sisters."

In the film world, some of her credits include Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez's "Lila & Eve," Angela Bassett's "Whitney," and Denzel Washington's "Antwone Fisher Story."

In Television, Ross has worked on "24," "Law and Order," and the aforementioned "The Unit" by David Mamet and the two teamed up again on HBO's "Phil Spector." Ross appeared as Claudia on "How to Get Away With Murder," portrayed the memorable Ms. Green, in the Baz Luhrmann/Netflix series, "The Get Down," and played a documentary filmmaker in HBO's "Treme" which inspired her to step



Yolanda Ross

COURTESY PHOTO

behind the camera for her television directorial debut in "Breaking Night" which aired on VHI Classics. In the theater world, Yolanda is a member of New York's famed Labyrinth Theater Company.

This year Ross appeared in the indie film "Bull" — opposite Rob Morgan and as a director she made her feature film directorial debut with her romantic drama, "Scenes From Our Marriage," which was chosen for Film Independent's 2018 Fast Track Lab and the Cannes Marche' du Film Producers Workshop.

Here is what Yolanda Ross had to share about life, working on "The Chi" and sharing with the fans in her series "Talking Back" that will be live on her YouTube channel.

THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us. I understand from your public relations team that you are busy, busy, busy.

YOLANDA ROSS: You are welcome.

LAS: I've just become a fan of 'The Chi' and I am

amazed on how timely the show is, circa 2020.

YR: Yes, it is.

LAS: How has your character Jada Washington transformed from season-to-season?

YR: I think that season-to-season all the characters [in 'The Chi'] have grown. With my own, I feel that Jada she is growing into her own, into herself, learning herself. Coming out of the mother zone and coming into the Jada zone. As a single woman, she is still a mother but now she has to learn herself as a woman.

LAS: That's a great description and I think a lot of the viewers would identify with completely.

YR: She's been a mother so long and being young. Having him at a younger age and having her whole life be about taking care of this young life. Now it's time for her to take care of herself.

LAS: Do the actors have conversations with the executive producers of 'The Chi' to talk about the growth of your characters? Just curious.

YR: No.

LAS: So you are all sur-

prised when you read the scripts?

YR: Well, we don't know details [about the new season direction] instead of the end of the season [the talk] is at the beginning of the season when the writers' room starts. We have conversations with them about where they see the characters going this season.

LAS: Cool. Got it. I've yet to step into a writer's room. I am always curious about how that works.

YR: We really talk before they start filling the characters out. We listen to what they have to say and we share our ideas with them as well. It's still that they are the writers and we are the actors.

LAS: And brilliant actors may I add. Sorry, please continue.

YR: When we start the whole season is not finished but as we are doing these episodes I feel that the writers view the dailies, they see things and network [executives] sees things and they decide what they want to play upon.

LAS: I feel that I was lucky because I got to binge the first two seasons of 'The Chi' and a select episode from season three. I was all in.

YR: (laughing) I understand.

LAS: Listen. I feel that when the full run of 'The Chi' is completed that it will have the same impact as HBO's 'The Wire.'

YR: I would hope so. I love being compared to that show. Thank you very much.

LAS: Now let's talk about your working as a director. That's so exciting. Walk me through this, please.

YR: (deep sigh) I was not really thinking about being a director but after doing a lot of labs with Sundance as an actor, in those

labs you are helping the filmmaker work out the roughest scenes of their film and doing shorts with new filmmakers and a few feature films with first-time filmmakers, I realized that I had experiences that maybe they have not had. I was able to help and fix something and getting to a resolution of a problem that might come up.

LAS: So that was part of your inspiration? Watching other filmmakers problem solve?

YR: I wanted to see if I, myself could communicate my vision to a crew, and to actors in make it come to fruition, and in order to do that I wanted to learn all of the things needed to make a film. A to finish [it] moving. So I knew all of the moving parts and who was moving the parts.

LAS: Yolanda, that's what's up.

YR: I had a great crew.

LAS: That's the key.

YR: It is. It really is.

LAS: What's next?

YR: Well after 'The Chi' fans can go to my YouTube channel for 'Talking Back' because that will be live.

LAS: And what about your directing, writing, and producing?

YR: I can't share details about my new project ... yet but it's coming for sure.

LAS: Bet and I will be there — for sure — to share when the time is right.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. <http://yolondaross.com/blog>

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BHERC BRINGS BACK POPULAR INDEPENDENT AFRICAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL IN VIRTUAL FORMAT STREAMING ON BHERC TV

Fresh from the success of the online debut of the 27th annual "Sistas Are Doin' It for Themselves" film festival in May, BHERC is bringing back the popular and longstanding Indie film festival on its new streaming service BHERC TV.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) announced the revival of "Doin' It The Independent Way" a recurring monthly independent showcase featuring short films by African American filmmakers. The festival will make its return in virtual format, streaming only on BHERC TV, beginning June 13, 2020, thru Saturday, June 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. PST. A question and answer session with the filmmakers will take place online at 6:00PM PST on June 20, 2020.

The "Doin' It The Independent Way" film festival launch follows the successful online streaming debut of the 27th annual "Sistas Are Doin' It For Themselves" film fest that was held in May. A record 1600 plus viewers logged over a two-day period from across the globe to view the 2020 selections that ranged from historical dramas, to documentary to issues of choice and the consequences and horror of infidelity. The event culminated with an insightful Q and A with the filmmakers.

Created over Thirty-three years ago by BHERC founder, Sandra Evers-Manly, the showcase was designed to highlight and

promote to the film industry, the incredible talent in the African American community that exists both behind the scenes and in front of the camera. It began as a weekly showcase at Sony Pictures and during that time, also rotated to Disney, Paramount Pictures, and Universal Pictures, along with several independent production companies.

"We are pleased to announce the return of 'Doin' It The Independent Way' in this monthly showcase format that streams films for a week; followed by a Q&A with filmmakers," stated Evers-Manly, president of BHERC and Founder of BHERC TV. "We look forward to your support as we promote and showcase filmmakers from across the globe. Kicking off this year's showcase in the month June, we will feature films about fathers in celebration of Father's Day!"

BHERC TV is a leading world-wide provider of narrative and documentary short and feature films about the African American experience, as well as content from across the diaspora and diverse populations. Offering an affordable streaming entertainment service with paid memberships in over seven coun-



tries, BHERC - TV members enjoy a wide variety of genres and languages and may watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on any internet-connected screen. Film lovers can play, pause and resume watching without commercials. BHERC - TV has positioned itself and stands ready as the launchpad for a new generation of African American filmmakers who want to share their stories on a larger platform.

Admission is \$10.00 for the festival. Log on to www.BHERC.TV to register for the festival and the ZOOM Q and A. For more information contact John Forbes at John@bherc.org or bherctv@bherc.tv Phone: (323) 957-4777

About this year's films:

A Letter to My Son - Maurice Hicks, Director-Writer; Dave Norris, Producer - A tired and worn, would-be father pens a hypothetical detailing of his

perspectives and fears to his unborn son. Rated G 10m07s

Barbasol - Ralph K. Scott, Director; Kiara C. Jones, Writer-Producer; Sandra Evers-Manly, Executive Producer - A man that desires a bond with his elderly father. He realizes that he is running out of time due to his father slipping further into dementia. He comes to realize he needs to turn his attention toward his own son. Rated PG - 21m39s

Concerned Child - Drew Tank Garrett, Director; Andrew Garrett, Drew Tank Garrett, Writer - As a father, must prepare his son for the cruelty of this world as a young Black male. Rated G 2m15s

Found Dead - Emeka Mbadu, Director-Writer - A young woman's compromise in hopes of making some extra money will lead her to a destination she could never have expected.

Rated PG 15m34s

Harlem Blues - Nicole L. Thompson, Director-Writer; Gabriel Bradley, Producer - Filled with survivor's guilt, a young musician is haunted by the memories of losing his father. He turns to prescription drugs and alcohol to self-medicate, but soon realizes playing music is the only thing that can save him. Rated PG 6m30s

Oops! - Andre' Campbell, Director - This Comedy Award winning film is about a woman, after reading a book about dead spouses, becomes drawn to inquisitiveness one night towards her husband. She hits him with questions after questions. Out of frustration, he ends up giving her an answer that she did not expect. Funny thing, he may not be able to recover from that answer. Oops! Rated G 3m48s

Raising Kings - Lynne Conner, Director; Francisco Cali, Writer; Producers; Lynne Conner, Tony Rutherford, Executive Producer - Released from prison Mark King learns everything has changed. His father has been hospitalized, his estranged son is a police officer with two sons, his bad choices led to ultimately tearing the family apart. Mark seeks to mend his past so he can heal his

future. Unrated 17m26s

Retribution - Benmio McCrea, Director-Writer-Producer - A poignant and timely tale of a father's legacy, a brother's love, and the price we all pay for the choices we make in life. It is the powerful story of two brothers who desperately need each other and who also must come to terms with their own destiny. Rated PG-13 21m13s

Stanford and Son - Moe Irvin, Director-Writer; Roy Vongtama, Charlotte Marie, Producers - An eccentric senior citizen wants to be a rapper but is met with opposition from his aristocratic son. Rated PG 24m49s

Squirrel Man - Jeffrey Lynn Shepherd, Director-Writer; Jeffrey Lynn Shepherd, Jan Johnson Goldberg, Stephen Kamifuji, Sonji Shepherd, Producers - A squirrel bite leads an elderly jazz musician to believe he is a superhero. These powers inspire him to fight crime in his neighborhood, which unexpectedly leads to the mending of his broken relationship with his son. This contemporary dramedy is a slice of life between fathers, sons, and forgiveness. It speaks to the often-unspoken fact that everyman wants to be a hero to someone. Unrated 20m05s



105-Year-Old Compton Woman Celebrates her Birthday with Community

By E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Staff Writer

Matilda Roberts of Compton, CA, turned 105-years-old and celebrated with a social distancing party of well-wishers, some driving, waving and honking their horns in her honor. Miss Roberts was born in Texas on May 31, 1915, the year Billy Holiday and Langston Hughes are born. They were her favorite artists as well as BB King and Louis Armstrong.

She talked about her special day. "I feel good! I feel fine. This my what ... 101 or 105th birthday," she kids. "So, "I'm celebrating and everyone else is celebrating with me. All my friends, family and neighbors are here with me. So, it's a great day."

At 105, Ms. Roberts still maintains a stringent exercise regimen of walking and using the outside



PHOTO BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Matilda Roberts

workout machines at her Will Rodgers Park. She just recently stopped her bowling hobby.

Her Son, Percy Roberts, was happy to give his mother this special day. "We're here today, celebrating my mom's 105th birthday. It's a Blessing; God is good," Roberts said. Roberts, an ex-Inglewood

police captain, wanted something special.

His neighbor, Joanne Cain, contacted the City of Compton Sheriff's Department, Compton Fire Department, and LAPD, who participated in a drive-by parade of squad cars and fire engines, including a special happy birthday



PHOTO BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Compton Sheriffs Department, Compton Fire Department and LAPD celebrate 105-year-old's birthday with a drive-by parade.

wish from an LAPD helicopter flying overhead.

On behalf of the City of Compton, Miss Roberts was honored with a visit from councilmembers Tana

McCoy and Emma Sharif, who presented her with a special happy birthday resolution. "Even though we are quarantined, we just want people to know that we love them and want to celebrate their birthdays, and for you to be 105 is a truly a blessing," Sharif said.

"Thanks to everyone. I think Compton is a great city to live in; I've lived here for years," said Miss Roberts. Her nephew, who grew up on the same street,



PHOTO BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Matilda Roberts with her family, including grandsons, daughters-in-laws, great grandsons, son and nephew, celebrating her 105th birthday.

reflected on her life. "It's beautiful to have a monarch in your life, someone who helped raise you,"

he said. Miss Roberts says her biggest honor is living long enough to vote for a Black president.



PHOTO BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Compton Councilmembers, Emma Sharif (left), and Tana McCoy (right) present 105-year-old Matilda Roberts (middle) with a special happy birthday resolution.

Sneaker Culture is Focus of Outreach to Youth by ArtCenter College of Design

Workshops encourage kids to make dreams come true through education and careers in creative industries

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

ArtCenter College of Design will provide free Sneaker Science workshops to kids ages 11 through 18 to encourage them to pursue higher education and, ultimately careers in the creative economy. Leveraging the tremendous popularity of the sneaker culture, the college hopes to raise awareness among middle and high school students about degree programs and professional opportunities in the footwear field.

"Our goal is to help kids discover the educational and career pathways available to transform their passion for sneakers into a solid vision for their future and a reality that is absolutely attainable," said Roosevelt Brown, an associate professor in ArtCenter's Product Design department's wearables and soft-goods track and a 25-year veteran footwear designer.

An ArtCenter alumnus, Brown is leading the initiative with Aaron Bruce, vice president and chief diversity officer at ArtCenter. Together, the team is working with the



COURTESY PHOTO
Roosevelt Brown, an associate professor in ArtCenter's Product Design department's wearables and soft-goods track, will teach the free Sneaker Science workshops online.

South Los Angeles-based Brotherhood Crusade, a youth development, nonprofit dedicated to improving quality of life and meeting the unmet needs of youth, to enroll students in the workshop series.

"We've all heard the starving artist stereotype," said Brown whose mother would tell him 'you can't just draw your way to a living.' "It's time to move beyond that myth and enlighten the world about economically viable careers in art and design. We know that when a seed is planted for youth to develop a clear vision and they decide to pursue a creative career, par-

ents become energized to support that dream and find the resources and mentors to make that dream come true for their children."

"Brotherhood Crusade is pleased to partner with The Art Center to provide our youth with a tremendous opportunity to be introduced to The Science of Sneaker Design," stated Curtis R. Silvers, Jr., executive vice president of the Brotherhood Crusade. "We're always exploring new ways to engage our youth and offer them ways to explore different ways of learning, that are relevant to them, and what can be more

relevant than, learning how to design sneakers."

The first of two sessions took place virtually, Monday, June 15 for middle schoolers, with over 30 students in attendance and Thursday, June 18 for high schoolers and above.

"This is a great opportunity for our youth to not only be introduced to the Science of Sneaker Design, but to be exposed to Art Center, one of the most prominent art schools in the world, learn from a leader in product design the soft-goods, Roosevelt Brown, and explore the world of innovation," said Leonardo Cablayan, Brotherhood Crusade Program Manager. Cablayan has been working with Aaron Bruce, VP, chief diversity officer, in looking for ways to partner and when the opportunity became available to begin the partnership with the Sneaker Design Workshop.

According to Silvers, "The response to this workshop has been so tremendous that we're already discussing holding additional workshops in the summer and beyond, offering classes in fashion design, animation, toy design,

video game design and more. Our youth are going to be challenged this summer with finding activities to participate in, given the COVID-19 pandemic and this could be a great solution to keeping them engaged."

The events are being organized by ArtCenter's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department. For information on how to enroll, questions or accommodations, please email dei@artcenter.edu.

The workshop is designed to help attendees understand how many viable employment opportunities are available to them along the sneaker supply chain. The curriculum includes sneaker history, the design process of shaping an idea into a product for sale in a retail store, research, ideation, concept and prototype development, packaging, marketing, photography, advertising and more.

"Trust me, if someone had told me in middle school that design was a practical career option, there is no doubt in my mind that I would have continued on that trajectory after high

school," said Brown who loved to draw from an early age. Instead, he pursued a degree in engineering because he excelled in math. It wasn't until he learned about ArtCenter from a professor at California State University Los Angeles that he discovered degree programs in industrial design.

The sneaker culture has long been a destination for ArtCenter grads. Throughout the years, some of the biggest players in the footwear industry have benefited from having ArtCenter alumni leading and contributing to shoe design, including Nike, Adidas, New Balance, Vans, Skechers and Under Armor. Currently, Martin Lotti (BS 97 Product) is Nike's vice president of design Jordan, and Al Van Noy (BS 87 Product) is Adidas' senior vice president in charge of its Future Team. And, before co-founding athletic shoe think tank Speedhack, Product Design alumni Dave Dombrow (BS 00) and Kevin Fallon (BS 96) served as Under Armor's chief design officer and vice president of footwear innovation, respectively.

NIH study links cigarette smoking to higher stroke risk in African Americans

Smoking cessation could be a path to fewer strokes, researchers say

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

African Americans who smoke are nearly 2.5 times more likely to have a stroke than those who never smoked, while former smokers show a similarly lower risk as never smokers, according to a new study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The findings from the Jackson Heart Study suggests that even after years of smoking, African Americans—who as a group are twice as likely as Whites to have a stroke and die from it—could significantly reduce their risk if they kicked the habit. The study's findings, funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute for Minority Health and Health

Disparities (NIMHD), both part of NIH, will appear online in the Journal of the American Heart Association. Numerous studies have shown the link between smoking and stroke, but few have directly assessed the relationship solely in African Americans. This new study did that and also analyzed traditional risk factors for cardiovascular diseases and inflammation.

"This study provides further strong evidence of the link between cigarette smoking and stroke in African Americans," said David Goff, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at NHLBI. "We know that quitting smoking is one way to lower the risk for stroke, which is particularly important for the most vulnerable populations during this pandemic."

The study included 4,410

Black men and women without a history of stroke and who were enrolled in the Jackson Heart Study, the largest study of cardiovascular disease in African Americans. Researchers classified the participants, who were 54 on average, into three groups based on their self-reported smoking history: current smokers, past smokers who smoked at least 400 cigarettes in their lifetimes, and never smokers.

The researchers further classified current smokers based on smoking intensity. One group included participants who smoked up to 19 cigarettes a day; another included those who smoked 20 or more cigarettes a day. Researchers followed participants from their initial evaluations beginning in 2000 through 2015.

At its start, the study included 781 past smokers, 546 current smokers, and 3,083 never smokers. By 2015, 5.2% of past smokers,

6.6% of those were smoking up to 19 cigarettes a day, and 7.2% of those smokers smoking more than 20 cigarettes a day had experienced a stroke, compared to 3.4% of never smokers.

After accounting for multiple risk factors for stroke, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high "bad" cholesterol levels, and older age, researchers calculated that current smokers carried a risk for stroke that was more than double the risk for never smokers. And, the risk nearly tripled for those smoking 20 or more cigarettes each day. But past smokers showed an almost identical risk as never smokers.

"The bottom line is the more a person smokes, the greater their chance is of having a stroke," said Adebamike A. Oshunbade, M.D., M.P.H., the lead study author and postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "It's important to communicate

this risk to vulnerable populations, especially with the growing popularity of new tobacco products."

Michael E. Hall, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, and corresponding study author, agreed. He noted that while smoking has been shown in major studies to raise the risk of stroke 1.5 times for the general population, "these adverse health effects seem to be magnified in African Americans."

In their analysis, the researchers also looked more closely at the already-established link between inflammation and atherosclerosis and smoking. They measured for C-reactive protein (CRP), a marker of inflammation, and carotid intima-media thickness, or CIMT, to assess the buildup of fatty plaques in the carotid arteries that supply blood to the brain.

The researchers found that African American smokers

who smoked 20 or more cigarettes a day had higher CIMT compared to never smokers. Researchers said this suggests that the buildup of plaque in the major blood vessels of the brains of African American smokers could play a role in the development of stroke.

The Jackson Heart Study is supported and conducted in collaboration with Jackson State University (HHS N268201800013I), Tougaloo College (HHSN268201800014I), the Mississippi State Department of Health (HHS N268201800015I/HHSN26800001) and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (HHSN268201800010I, HHSN268201800011I, and HHSN268201800012I) contracts from the NHLBI and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Study: Cigarette Smoking and Incident Stroke in African Americans of the Jackson Heart Study.

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RELIGION

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Faithful Central Streams Live Service on 'Pain and Power of Fatherhood'

Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer joins Bishop T.D. Jakes, Priscilla Shirer, Kirk Franklin and more to share messages of hope for Father's Day

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

The important role of fathers takes center stage as "Daddy Changed the World: The Pain and Power of Fatherhood," an online event sponsored by Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer and Faithful Central Bible Church.

The program will stream live on FCBC's YouTube channel on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, at 3 p.m. Several guests will appear including Bishop T.D. Jakes, Kirk Franklin, Priscilla Shirer, Tyrese Gibson, Sugar Ray Leonard, Dr. Eric Mason and Hillsong United.

Ulmer said the service was inspired by the words of George Floyd's daughter,



Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer



Bishop T.D. Jakes



Priscilla Shirer



Kirk Franklin

ter, who made the comment, "Daddy changed the world," after witnessing the international outrage sparked after the killing of Floyd by a White police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25.

"The gathering is an expression of the biblical truth of Proverbs 17:17 - 'A friend loveth at all

times, and a brother is born for adversity.' The guests were chosen based on my personal friendships with them and respect for each other that would be the context of my comments, complaints, anger and questions. I wanted to be a conversation among friends about an issue that is seldom discussed among

friends of different races," said Ulmer.

Noting that the event occurs as the nation reexamines racial injustice and police brutality, he said that he hopes the program's multi-ethnic guests, as well as the viewers, will appreciate the value of conversation and dialogue to change society in America.

"I wanted my White friends and the viewers to understand that Black people can not end racism. It will require the involvement and commitment of White men and women - especially the White church - to stand with us in protesting injustice as they are willing to stand with us to sing songs and say

prayers," insisted Ulmer.

With the event occurring on Father's Day, Ulmer said he wanted to remind people and especially fathers that everyone is needed in the battle against racism and the fight starts with voting.

"We must stand against injustice; we must stand for our children and we must stand against institutional racism and systemic racism at the ballot box," he declared. "We must engage the political system that allows racism and oppression within the fabric of its institutions.

"After we march in the streets, let's march to the ballot box and demand the long awaited changes that are mandatory for progress, freedom and equality!"



Pastor Shep Crawford welcomes the crowd.



LAPD officers met one-on-one with young community members.



Councilmember Curren Price, left, attended the meeting

ECM Hosts Young African Americans and LAPD in One-on-One Conversations

By KHARI JONES
Contributing Writer

"It's time for people to get comfortable with being uncomfortable," said LAPD Sergeant Kenji Inaba at the meeting on June 10 between young Blacks and members of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Twenty-five LAPD officers and 25 young African Americans in South L.A. held an hour-long, one-on-one conversation to get different perspectives on their relationships. The goal of this event was to bridge the gap between officers and community members.

The Rev. Shep Crawford, event host and pastor of Experience Christian Ministries (ECM) said, "We are here to build communities the way we know how and that's through

conversation and understanding from each side - young adults from the African American community, along with the LAPD community - to come together and get different perspectives of each other. We have to make sure we can unify and start understanding and walk in other's shoes."

Dr. Shalonda Crawford, his wife and co-pastor, shared, "Whenever you deal with different people, you are also dealing with different perspectives, different experiences. If we can come together, talk about it, hash them out and gain understanding, [then] iron sharpens iron."

According to participants, the event was a great starting point to have real dialogues. While admitting that decades of built-up frustration will not be

salvaged overnight and that police officers need to be held accountable, many young people acknowledged that it was great to hear some of the officers' point of view.

Inaba said, "This event here, Pastor Shep and I got together and we decided that we need to get the community together, law enforcement and have real conversations in a group setting. We decided to arrange one-on-ones so they can have real talks."

Crawford indicated that when planning the event, one of the questions that came up is should officers dress in plain clothes to make people feel comfortable. He recalled, "We decided to let the officers dress up in regular uniforms because that's how we see them. If anyone feels in-

timidated, I want them to come together and don't feel intimidated anymore."

Another young member commented, "It seems as if it is the complete opposite. Seems police officers are afraid of the community members. Every time someone is approached by an officer they already have their hand on the gun. It is hard to ignore the fact that there is some level of intimidation."

Inaba told the L.A. Sentinel, "We believe better communication needs to happen between law enforcement and the community. I was born and raised in this community. I was afraid of the police myself and I remember seeing the police car lights. I had this little feeling inside my heart and stomach."

Inaba is contributing his

efforts to the community by being a part of a program called Community Service Partners (CSP). "I know for a fact that I've been doing change because I'm a part of CSP where we go out in the community. That's our job. We try to help and educate instead of writing that ticket," he remarked.

L.A. Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., showed his appreciation and support for ECM on organizing this event and mentioned that it will impact kids positively.

"I'm enthusiastic about the prospects of the future. This exemplifies community-based policing. We are excited because CSP is not a new program. This community knows police, we worked with police before. It's an ongoing opportunity to have discussion to move

our community forward," Price said.

"We've been going through turmoil and tension these last couple of weeks but I think the mandate is clear - they want to have more accountability of the police and they want to see a greater distribution of resources. As a member of City Council, I hear that. Also, as a 69-year-old man, I hear that."

What Inaba aspired to gain from this event is change, not to be on TV just to say this is what they are doing, but actual change. Inaba and his fellow officers plan to continue these community events and have follow-up conversations with these individuals. "It's a mindset that I would like to change throughout our department and the nation," he noted.

More Than 2,000 Attend COR Church's Unity March and Rally

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

More than 2,000 people came out to the Unity March and Rally sponsored by Christ Our Redeemer AME Church (COR) on June 13.

The event, which focused on eliminating injustice and encouraging voter registration, featured a multicultural and ecumenical crowd of all ages led by COR Pastor Ralph E. Williamson. Also, Pastor Jason Aguila of Arise Church in Irvine, Pastors Chad Halliburton and Brian Hill of Rock Harbor Church in Mission Viejo, Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes and Irvine Police Chief Mike Hamel were among the participants.

"The purpose was not



Pastor Ralph Williamson speaks during the event.



A huge crowd participated in the march and rally on June 13.

to march just to be marching. This was a mobilization to bring people together for a common cause in the interest of injustice and change," explained Williamson. "Change comes about when you educate, mobilize and get people registered to vote."

Along with voting registration, said Williamson, people need to converse with one another, understand the issues facing the community and develop strategies to change policies and laws. He successfully implemented this approach during his 16-year

tenure as pastor of First AME Church in Las Vegas before being assigned to COR.

Williamson led the Faith Organizing Alliance, a group that aimed to improve the lives of minorities through voting education and engaging people

to unite to change policies that had a negative impact on the community. He applied that knowledge at COR to address similar concerns in that city.

"It was a natural transition for me and what I do for a living. I'm a pastor and I believe in the Gospel

of Jesus Christ, which is the gospel of liberation. Jesus came to liberate those who are oppressed and empower them through the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

As for the next steps, Williamson will work with other Black pastors, law enforcement and community leaders, to form ways to initiate positive change in race relations and policing.

"We will look at what is missing and what are the issues and policies. We will see how we can implement those changes and hold people accountable to ensure that justice is served," he explained.

"This is the role of the church - to be out in the community to meet the needs of the people!"

COMMUNITY ICON ESO WON BOOKSTORE RECEIVES OVERWHELMING SUPPORT ON BHERC 'OPERATION LOVE' DAY

As part of its continuing effort to support the revitalization of the Black community BHERC rallied support for ESO WON Bookstore a business critical to the Los Angeles area that provides access to Black literature of all genres.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) "Operation Love" assembled along with many of its followers Saturday, June 6 to demonstrate community support of African American businesses in South Los Angeles. On this particular sunny afternoon, they came in force to patronize the beloved icon ESO WON Bookstore. "We were very pleased with the turn out," stated Tom Hamilton, co-owner of ESO WON Bookstore. "There were new and regular customers of all races looking for a variety of subject. The most popular being tiles about race relations and activism. As Los Angeles turns its focus toward economic recovery, BHERC believes this effort



William and Helen Young support BHERC at ESO WON Day

ical to the revival of the South Los Angeles. The event took place in historic Leimert Park, while the city was still gripped with protests calling for peace and justice for George

the BHERC "Operation Love" event. While the pandemic has severely impacted all business however, just as the virus has physically disproportionately impacted African Americans, so has the impact on business. Resources that have not reached minority businesses to the type of businesses owned have played a part in the problem. Some organizations and celebrities have stepped in to try to provide grants and loan programs, however, this problem will be long lasting and will take the efforts of everyone to make the African American business community economically stable. "BHERC'S Operation Love in support of ESO WON Bookstore was a phenomenal success! We were honored to join with Sandra Evers-Manly and others to celebrate business-

es in the heart of the Black community in which we live. We stand with BHERC in supporting Black businesses, promoting economic development and positive social change in our community," explained actor-director, William Allen Young and wife, Helen P. Young, project director, CA Community Colleges Transfer Guarantee Agreement to Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

ESO WON Bookstore is a rare gem of a store that still offers the buyer a personal shopping experience, a diverse selection of books from all genres, personal recommendations from the store owners, music, book signings and lectures, custom orders, online shopping and is a place where, "everybody knows your name." ESO WON has been a solid,

vital business member of the community for more than 28 years. BHERC continues to encourage consumer to choose to shop at ESO WON instead of the big online giants. June represents a great month for Los Angeles consumers to shop ESO WON for the many offerings of books, music and gifts for Graduation, June Black Music Month, Juneteenth Celebration, Father's Day Gifts or to pick up something for someone who is sheltering in place. Make at least one purchase, take a picture, and post it on the BHERC face book and/or #BHERCSupports-BlackBiz and tell us about your purchase or experience.

"We are asking individu-

be emulated throughout the community with other businesses."

Shop BHERC "Operation Love" all month at ESO WON at 4327 Degnan Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Phone: (323) 290-1048 website: www.esowonbookstore.com, email: esowonbooks@yahoo.com. Shoppers may also choose to browse online, place their orders online and select pick up in store. Regular store hours are Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is encouraged share this message with their friends and networks and to visit during the BHERC "Operation Love" month to show strength and solidarity. Please wear your mask and practice social distancing.



COURTESY PHOTO

Happy customers

to spotlight Black Businesses and their need for continued support from their community consumers is essential and crit-

Floyd, who had been murdered by police in Minneapolis. Several powerful and peaceful protests left from the same area during



COURTESY PHOTO

Customers wait patiently

als and organizations to join us in supporting ESO WON bookstore. I believe if everyone in the community made a purchase in June, the impact would be immeasurable," stated Sandra Evers-Manly, President BHERC. "Then that example could

For more information about BHERC and its programs log on to www.bherc.org or email bherc@bherc.org or call 310.284.3170 or 213.400.3489. #BHERC-OperationLove #BHERC-StrongerTogether

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Giving Options: Online at www.bcamechurchla.org, Tithe.ly at Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church, or Mail to: 3719 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: (323) 296-5610 (leave message and staff will respond)

Rev. Dr. Mary S. Minor
Pastor/Senior Minister

WEST ANGELES
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

westangeleschurch.org | 3600 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018 (323) 733-8300

RT. REV. CHARLES E. BLAKE

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
Sundays at 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM at westa.tv
Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 PM
Website: westa.org
Giving Options: Online at westa.org, Text WestA to 41444 or mail to: Tithes and Offerings, 3045 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Williamson

Ph: (949) 955-0014 Fax: (949) 955-0021
KJLH-FM Broadcast Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

Live Worship Service - Sunday at 9AM at corchurch.tv
Re-streams on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 1:30PM
Pastor's Daily Prayer Line: Weekdays 6AM to 6:15AM Call: (701) 801-1211, Code: 636-074-192 Website: corchurch.org
Giving Options: online at www.corchurch.org or mail to: 45 Tesla Irvine, CA 92618

Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church

Virtual Worship Service
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Call: (605) 475-6333, Access Code 34516#
Website: grantamechurch.org
Giving Options: Online at www.grantamechurch.org or Mail to: 10435 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002
Phone: (323) 564-1151

Rev. Dr. James Arthur Rumph

faithdome.org

CRENSHAW CHRISTIAN CENTER FAITHDOME

323-758-3777

Live Worship Service - Sunday at 10:30AM and Tuesday at 11AM and 7:30PM at faithdome.org, Facebook, Roku, YouTube and the EFM app (download in Apple Store and Google Play). Website: faithdome.org
Giving Options: Text to 28950, type EFM0 and amount you wish to give (ex., EFM0 50) or mail to: P.O. Box 90000, Los Angeles, CA 90009
7901 South Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044
Phone: (323) 758-3777 (leave message and staff will respond)

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF Christian Fellowship
REV. JAMES K. MCKNIGHT, SENIOR PASTOR

Virtual Worship Service: Sunday at 10AM
on Facebook @ The Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship

Pastor's Daily Prayer Line: Weekdays 6AM, (310) 372-7549, Code 342408
Giving Options: Givently or mail to: 2085 S. Hobart Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018
Phone: (323) 731-8869 (leave message and staff will respond)

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
2412 Griffith Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90011
SecondBaptistChurchLA.org
Ph: (213) 748-0318 Fax: (213) 748-1015

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND STUDY
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PHONE: (323) 735-0044 FAX: (323) 735-0219
Email: trinitybaptistc@sbcglobal.net Website: trinitybaptistchurchofla.org

Virtual Worship Service
YouTube at tv: trinityBaptist.cloud, sermon podcasts on website
Giving Options: PayPal or mail to: 2040 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018
Phone: (323) 735-0044 (leave message and staff will respond)

REV. ALVIN TUNSTALL, JR. ~ PASTOR

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Pastor J. Edgar Boyd, Senior Minister
2270 S. Harvard Boulevard Los Angeles, CA
(323) 735-1251 (www.firstamechurchla.org)

Crenshaw United Methodist Church
3740 Don Felipe Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90008
(323) 292-0141

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 a.m.
Word on Wednesday 7 p.m.

Rev. Royce Porter, Senior Pastor

Truth and Love Christian Church
1129 E. Dominguez St., Suite C, Carson, CA 90746

Virtual Worship Service on Facebook www.facebook.com/walter.tucker.56
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Encouraging Videos - Daily at 12:00 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer - Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. call (781) 399-5774; pin#: 79511
Giving options: Cash App: \$truthandlovecc Or mail/drop off offering to our physical address