



Supervisors Vote to Appoint First Inspector General for Skilled Nursing Homes Amid COVID-19 Deaths (See page A-7)



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Social Justice Is Bigger than Basketball (See page B-2)

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Legendary Rapper Ice Cube Discusses the Importance of Black Media

Hip-Hop legend talks new movie 'The High Note' and Black life in exclusive interview



Legendary Rapper Ice Cube

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Black Press USA is the harmonious sound of media publication in America for the Black community; publishers, editors, and journalists of color seek the truth

and highlight what is under-reported in mainstream media. Standing behind the Voice of The Black Community; President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis joined movie mogul

and legendary rapper, Ice Cube to discuss the importance of Black media for the collective, and to highlight Ice Cube's creative projects, such as the Big 3 Basketball League and a recent feature

{See ICE CUBE A-14}

L.A. Faith Leaders Decline to Reopen Local Churches on May 31



Bishop Charles Blake

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Although the California Department of Public Health announced the statewide reopening of places of worship on May 25, L.A.-area faith leaders

are not rushing to resume religious services on Sunday, May 31.

An informal poll of local pastors by the L.A. Sentinel revealed that ministries would continue to operate under the Stay-At-Home orders issued

in mid-March by government officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

In a statement posted {See REOPEN A-11}



Apostle Beverly Bam Crawford

OP-ED

Adopting a People's Budget: Los Angeles Needs Services, Not Police



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Melina Abdullah and Pastor Eddie Anderson

BY DR. MELINA ABDULLAH,
PASTOR EDDIE ANDERSON

On April 15, 2020, just as the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19

crisis and accompanying economic fallout on Black people was coming to light, a set of immediate and long-term demands was issued by a who's who of Black Los

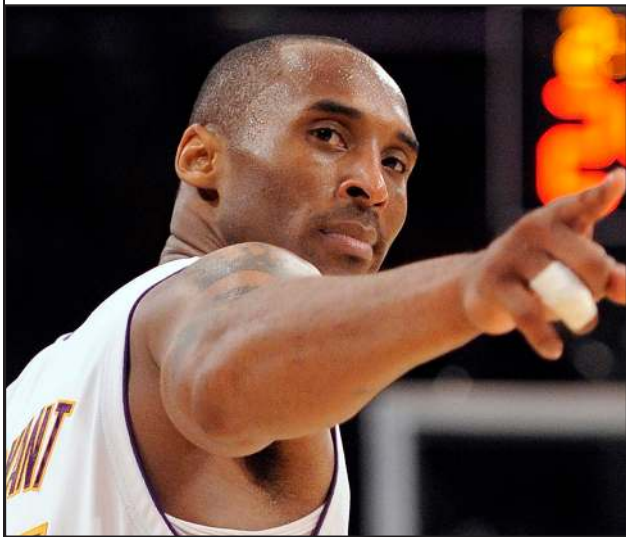
Angeles leaders and organizations – more than 50 in total. The demands were forwarded to nearly every elected official, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who never issued as much as an acknowledgment, let alone scheduling the meeting that leaders requested of him. Five days later, he issued a City budget proposal that stood in direct opposition to the priorities outlined by Black leaders. Garcetti's budget allocates 54% of the City's general fund to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), at a time when crime has plummeted and Black communities, especially, are in dire need of essential services and resources.

If a budget is a statement of priorities, then Mayor Garcetti's are clear: continue Los Angeles' descent into a police state where huge numbers of Black people are deprived of services, even in a city with unimaginable wealth.

Garcetti's proposed budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year makes cuts to nearly every department, reducing vital services and resources, like housing, libraries, and parks, and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 City workers. LAPD, however, gets an even greater share of taxpayer dollars and officers are getting a raise. All told, the mayor is propos-

{See COVID-19 A-10}

A Privacy Bill Kobe Bryant's Death Inspired Moves Forward



AP PHOTO / MARK J. TERRILL, FILE

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant

{See BRYANT A-10}

Brotherhood Crusade Celebrates 38 African American Young Men Heading off to College from Boys and Young Men of Color Program

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Brotherhood Crusade is proud to congratulate



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late 38 student graduates on a job well done! These youth, who have participated in Brotherhood Crusade's Youth Development programs, will be attending four-year colleges, universities and junior colleges.

Learning, Thriving, Connecting, Leading and Working are the pillars from which our youth have grown and are now on a path that will lead them to sustainable jobs and careers that will change not only their life and community but the world.

Brotherhood Crusade President and CEO, Charisse Bremond Weaver said "I am so proud of our young

people graduating from high school and continuing their education. Their book of life is an amazing work-in-progress and we are so excited to see their next chapter unfold. We thank all of our supporters, friends, families and foundations of good will who have supported the Brotherhood Crusade and the success of our future game changers."

Please donate a gift today to help the Brotherhood Crusade continue offering its impactful Youth Development programs. Visit: brotherhoodcrusade.org/donate/

Congratulations to the {See BROTHERHOOD A-11}



E. MESIVAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

Brotherhood Crusade President and CEO, Charisse Bremond Weaver

Cal State LA graduating student strives to help children feel understood

Degree marks the culmination of a 17-year journey

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

As a speech language pathologist, Theora Brown wants to help young children feel heard.

"I want them to be understood and to understand themselves," says Brown, who lives in South Los Angeles. "I want to work to help them know that even if they are different than their peers, they can work through it."

Brown, 34, will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders from Cal State LA's Rongxiang Xu College of Health and Human Services. She hopes to work as a speech language pathologist to help children in schools across Los Angeles.

Earning a degree is the culmination of a 17-year journey for Brown. She first started at Cal State LA right out of high school in 2003. She majored in sociology and wanted to help others, but she was unsure about the professional path she would take.

She saw a pamphlet in the university's Educational Opportunity Program office about the field of speech language pathology. She was immediately fascinated and changed her major to communicative disorders. After struggling academically for a couple years, however, Brown left Cal State LA.

Over the next decade, she got married, had two



Theora Brown

children and welcomed two stepchildren into her home. Then, unhappy and unfulfilled working at a credit union, Brown decided to quit her job and return to school, encouraged by her husband. She applied and was accepted again to Cal State LA.

With a strong support system, she was determined to make her university experience better the second time around—for herself and for her fellow students.

Brown served as a student coordinator for the RISE Peer Mentoring Program, which pairs continuing students with new students to help them successfully settle into university life.

The goal of RISE, which stands for Retention through Interpersonal Student Engagement, is to positively impact the experi-

ence of Black students and their allies, who are either first-time freshmen or transfer students during their first year. The program is part of Cal State LA's New Student and Parent Programs in the Division of Student Life.

Brown's motivation to help new students stemmed, in part, from her own experience years ago. A peer mentor would have helped her navigate challenges as a student, she says. "When you have someone going through it with you, you can relate on a different level," she says.

Brown helped prospective students find their way around campus as a tour guide and worked as an orientation leader for three summers.

She and a fellow orientation leader presented at a regional conference for the Association for Orientation,

Transition and Retention in Higher Education in 2019 on how to help incoming students deal with anxiety. Brown received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leader Award at the conference for the region, which includes students from California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

Through the Mind Matters student video series, Brown shared tips with fellow students about how to manage stress while handling family duties, academics and other responsibilities. The Mind Matters video series uses a peer-to-peer approach to reduce the stigma around mental health and provide strategies for managing stress.

In spring of 2019, Brown served as an ambassador for the Everytable restaurant on Cal State LA's campus. Growing up and living in South Los Angeles, Brown says, she is surrounded by fast-food joints and has to drive to get to the nearest grocery store. She was drawn to the compa-

ny's mission of making healthy and affordable food options available to all.

Initially, Brown returned to her studies believing that she would work with adults recovering with the effects of strokes on speech and cognitive abilities. But through her courses at Cal State LA, Brown realized that her passion lies with helping children.

Brown credits faculty like Erica Ellis, John Gomez, Heather DeFelice and Maureen Jennings with connecting coursework with real-world examples and helping her decide what to do after graduation.

Her dedication to helping young children grew even stronger after she volunteered for the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center in Culver City for several months this semester. There, she worked with 4- to 8-year-olds, some verbal and some nonverbal, on their social skills.

"It was a challenge for me because you never

know what you are going to walk into," Brown says. "But it was a welcome challenge. Seeing the growth of a nonverbal child who starts to vocalize or make the sound of words was just amazing."

Looking ahead, Brown plans to earn a certificate from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association so she can serve as a speech language pathology assistant. She hopes to one day return to Cal State LA to pursue a master's degree.

With her career, she wants to work to help children, especially children of color, in Los Angeles schools and connect their families with the resources they need.

But for now, she is relishing her accomplishment that was years in the making.

"It has been a crazy ride," she says. "I never thought I would be back in school, and now that it is actually done, it's kind of bittersweet. It's the end of a chapter that I really, really enjoyed."

Rep. Maxine Waters Recognizes Los Angeles Southwest College President's Scholars

Delivers Virtual Keynote Speech to 130 Students Earning 3.5 GPAs & Above

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43) joined with Los Angeles Southwest College President, Dr. Seher Ahwan, administrators, faculty, and staff to virtually honor 130 students who earned the 2020 President's Scholars recognition.

Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) President's Scholars are students who have maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average for three consecutive semesters. The virtual awards ceremony and Congresswoman Waters' keynote speech will air on Thursday, May 28 on LASC's YouTube page.

"As recipients of this highly coveted designation, each one of you has proven to your professors, classmates, families, and most importantly, yourselves, that there is no limit to what you can achieve," said Congresswoman Maxine Waters. "I want you to know that I speak on behalf of the leadership of this institution and all of greater Los Angeles in expressing how deeply proud we are of you. I am always bragging about the students who attend Southwest College, and I want you to know that coronavirus could stop me from celebrating you today."

During her speech, Congresswoman Waters told the students that their achievements embody "the vision of Mrs. Odessa Cox, and all of the founding members of this great school, who fought tirelessly for 20 years to ensure that young people like you, who are full of promise and potential, could pursue an affordable, quality educa-



Maxine Waters



tion right here in our own community."

"Many of you came from Los Angeles, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, and cities all across Southern California. Many of you are the first student in your family to attend college. Some of you are parents and are working full and part-time jobs. Your lives have not been easy. You have worked so very hard and sacrificed an incredible amount of time in your pursuit of an education. Whether you are a nursing student, earning your GED, a budding entrepreneur, or a future teacher, I want you to know that the academic excellence that you have already demonstrated will serve you well for the rest of your scholastic careers and lives," said Congress-

woman Waters.

Congresswoman Waters concluded her speech by encouraging the students to dream big and "tune out the haters and naysayers who seek to deter you." She inspired them with one of her signature mantras, "keep fighting and – stay woke!"

Congresswoman Waters is one the foremost champions of LASC. She served as the keynote speaker for the 2017 LASC Commencement, was a speaker at LASC's 50th Anniversary Gala, and regularly visits the campus to speak with students and to host her community town hall meetings. Congresswoman Waters will also serve as a speaker at the LASC 2020 Virtual Commencement Ceremony, which will air on June 9.

An Online Celebration for
Black High School Graduates
around the nation

2020
"Rites of Passage"

Black Graduation
#2020blackgrad

Friday, June 5th • 3-4:30 pm (PST)

Spoken Word
Scholarship Opportunities
Celebrity Performances
Celebrity "Shout outs" to graduates around the nation

Register for FREE laul.org/2020blackgrad/

"Sharing Black Excellence to the World"

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LASC
Los Angeles Urban League

COMMUNITY OUTPOUR IN RESPONSE TO BHERC 'OPERATION LOVE' CALL FOR BLANKET DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS

Angelenos from throughout the southland respond with donations of blankets and monetary support in response to BHERC "Operation Love" call for blankets requested from homeless.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) "Operation Love" volunteer team members welcomed a steady flow of donors Sunday, May 24 from 1:00 to

initiative to serve the seniors, homeless and those with underlying conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic with vital services in any way that is possible, in particular, those in South Los Angeles. To date the initiative has supported the

critical assistance during this COVID-19 crisis, NFDC gladly supports the outstanding leadership Sandra Evers-Manly has provided to the Los Angeles Community and various projects BHERC has done to improve the quality of life for those who need it most in our great city!" stated the Honorable Mike Davis, President, New Frontier Democratic Club.

As more than 25 volunteers hustled and busied themselves organizing the donations, all generations were represented including members of the National Black Nurses Association.

The executive board and members of the New Frontier Democratic Club stopped by with a donation of 200 blankets. Other supporters included Debra Legans, DL Transportation, Inside Out Communications and Jan Perry. Longtime supporter Larry Chatman, production coordinator, Record One Studio, doubled his contribution for this drive. "Once again, Operation received an incredible outpour of love from organizations and individuals. These blankets will go a long way in supporting those in need as the pandemic has created new homeless who are now find themselves without jobs and on the street. We will continue to do our part, however small, to make a difference.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mike Davis and New Frontier Executive Board Club deliver blankets to volunteers.



COURTESY PHOTO

BHERC'S John Forbes collect blankets from donor curbside.

3:00 p.m. Their goal for this day, was to gather 100 blankets that they would in turn distribute to the homeless the following week. What they could not anticipate, was the outpour and steady march of vehicles and face-masked pedestrians that pushed that goal to an unbelievable 1121 blankets. In addition, monetary donations for the purchase of additional blankets were collected as well.

The decision to do a blanket drive is in direct result of the request made by homeless residents that BHERC "Operation Love" has served in prior distribution campaigns. It is also in line with the mission of the

L.A. Union Rescue Mission with a donation of \$15,000, 6000 rolls of toilet paper from the special drive, 500 packets of essential hygiene goods from a special drive; prepared and distributed 3000 essential hygiene kits and Mother's Day gift baskets, lunches and dinners. New Frontier Democratic Club (NFDC) was thrilled to assist BHERC in its city-wide blanket collection project benefiting the Los Angeles Homeless Community during the Memorial Day Weekend. "We understand many of the homeless population are veterans, as well as many of them are African American. Given the need for the homeless to have

We encourage anyone who can to do the same!" remarked Sandra Evers-Manly, President BHERC. Ongoing supporters of BHERC Operation Love" include The Los Angeles Sentinel, Lawrence Tolliver, Tolliver's Barbershop, Mothers in Action, Tracy Mitchell, President and Larry Chatman, Production Coordinator, Record

Although our nation is starting its recovery, there is still a long way to go as the problem of homelessness is large and made more complex by COVID - 19, BHERC "Operation Love" encourages everyone to remember our homeless, our seniors and those with underlying conditions. Any small thing that you can do will help. There are simple

things that each person can do and BHERC suggests that you consider reaching out with love in a way you choose or in one of the following ways:

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

The blankets will be distributed Sunday, May 31,

2020 by BHERC "Operation Love" with a meal by volunteer team members to homeless in South Los Angeles. Email bherc@bherc.org for timeline and locations.

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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers collect blankets from donor.



Helping You Stay Safer at Home

During this uncertain time with the coronavirus, LADWP wants you to know that we are working 24/7 to keep your power on and water flowing.



Your tap water is safe to drink. There is no need to buy bottled water. The coronavirus does not affect your drinking water.



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Dodger Stadium Looks to be the Largest Testing Site in America

Los Angeles City Mayor Announces In-door Shopping Accessibility

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Tuesday, May 26, Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti delivered news surrounding the biggest testing site in America at the Dodger Stadium; the site is equipped to test up to 6,000 people a day. Mayor Garcetti shared updated news from the baseball diamond arena. L.A. County is putting all their efforts into opening the city safely. Public officials are feeling the severity of the current state of the economy, and they are working on the blueprints of conducting business with social distancing.

Last week, bike paths and car parades were made available. The city continues to make their way into a new way of life, a post pandemic era. The mayor emphasized the caution that is still needed. Along bike paths, Garcetti reiterated the guidelines which include bringing your own mask and practicing physical distancing. Gatherings are prohibited on the beach and lounging on the sand will not be permitted. Car parades are available for special events, if there is space to practice social distancing. The Mayor declared, "Keeping a social distance says you want to embrace the future." Garcetti also announced the opening of the largest testing site in America is coming online.

The Dodger Stadium has been described as the



Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti at the Launch of the COVID-19 Testing Site at the Dodger Stadium.

heart of L.A. and where monumental memories were made. According to the mayor, the house for the boys in blue is currently the largest COVID-19 testing site in America, adding to the pillar of hope for many. Garcetti stated, "This builds on the work we been doing for the past weeks and months," he continued, "We want testing to be easy, accessible, and free for everybody here in Los Angeles." Over 60 staff members will be available to conduct tests and big screen TV's will prepare patients and provide instructions. Mayor Garcetti was one of the first people tested at the Dodger

Stadium earlier today at its launch.

Moving on to the driving points of progress, Garcetti disclosed the numbers surrounding the viral outbreak; the mayor affirmed that the L.A. community is doing their job to stop the spread of COVID-19. As of May 26, there were 27 additional deaths; this brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in the L.A. County to 2,143. There were 1,843 new cases reported, bringing the total of positive COVID-19 reports to 47,822. The latest numbers reflect a 4 percent increase since May 25. There is a daily average of 1,200 new cases. Within the

Los Angeles City, there were 748 new positive incidents of COVID-19, bringing the city's total to 22,567 total reports. With the current numbers confirming a

level of stabilization, the mayor announced all retail store businesses are available for in-door shopping.

The state ordinance created guidelines for local

government to meet before bending the Safer at Home initiative. The main factors include hospital stabilization, county case count metrics, and testing capacity. According to L.A. public officials, Los Angeles has met and, in some cases, surpassed the minimum requirements the state has in place for reopening businesses.

Mayor Garcetti stated, "Every decision I've made, and fellow leaders have made here in Los Angeles, have been guided by principles." He continued, "First, that every life is sacred." Garcetti proceeded to outline that community involvement, alongside city leadership, is the formula to a safer future. The three elements of developing a solid livelihood include the mental, physical, and economic health, where the mayor has those in consideration, as well as the data and numbers behind coronavirus.

The progress in moving forward must align with what the state mandates that every store will have to adopt public health orders mandated by the Los Angeles Health Department and fellow city leaders. Starting Wednesday, May 26, all stores will be able to open for in-door shopping. There is a downloadable packet for L.A. businesses to complete before opening their doors. The mayor emphasized to reopen when it is safest for the business and customer; there is no rush to open.



Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti.



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

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More walk-in clinics? More funding for health services closer to home? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform billions in funding for hundreds of services and programs in your community.

Respond online, by phone, or by mail.

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2020

The State of Re-Entry in South Los Angeles



FILE PHOTO

L.A. City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson



FILE PHOTO

Gilbert Johnson



FILE PHOTO

Skipp Townsend



FILE PHOTO

Susan Burton

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In response to public outcry about the safety of low-level offenders during this Coronavirus pandemic, thousands of men and women are being released and re-entering our communities from prisons and jails. They face all of the traditional barriers to re-entry and are forced to navigate a world devastated by COVID-19. Financial stability is always a barrier to reentry and the closure of many government offices has compounded the challenges of obtaining the vital documentation necessary to get their lives back on track. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson hosted a community forum to discuss these challenges and raise awareness about resources available to individuals returning to South

Los Angeles neighborhoods.

“Our community has been disproportionately damaged by COVID-19. There should be a disproportionate amount of resources directed here for recovery,” said Councilmember Harris-Dawson. “Individuals released from jails may unknowingly carry the coronavirus and risk potentially infecting our community or ending up homeless if they are not connected to services. We need to make sure that their friends, family and our entire community know what’s available and actively help them access the resources they need.”

Gilbert Johnson, Lead Justice Organizer at Community Coalition, began the discussion by sharing his experience with navigating re-entry and dis-

cussing what resources he needed to successfully return home, “People need to be connected to treatment and given multiple chances to get it right. I needed treatment and instead I received incarceration,” said Johnson. “Community Coalition gave me an opportunity to work and grow and did not hold my background against me. They gave me the opportunity to be the change my community needed. Now, I’m committed to building up everyday leaders to influence change and public policy.”

California has released thousands of men and women into a global health and financial pandemic where many of the safety nets people rely on for successful reentry are unavailable. The Los Angeles County Office of Diversion

and Reentry’s DOORS Center joined the forum, along with service providers like A New Way of Life and 2nd Call, to discuss the resources available to people returning home from prisons and jails.

“We had to move quickly to respond to the needs of our population in real time and keep our services accessible during COVID-19,” said Tasha Mefashion-Stiger of DOORS. “The only way to ensure our brothers and sisters seeking re-entry can be successful is to do it together. We work with dozens of service providers and county departments to connect these people to the wrap around services and the help they need.”

“We help people get into careers in construction, electric and the building trades, ” said Skipp

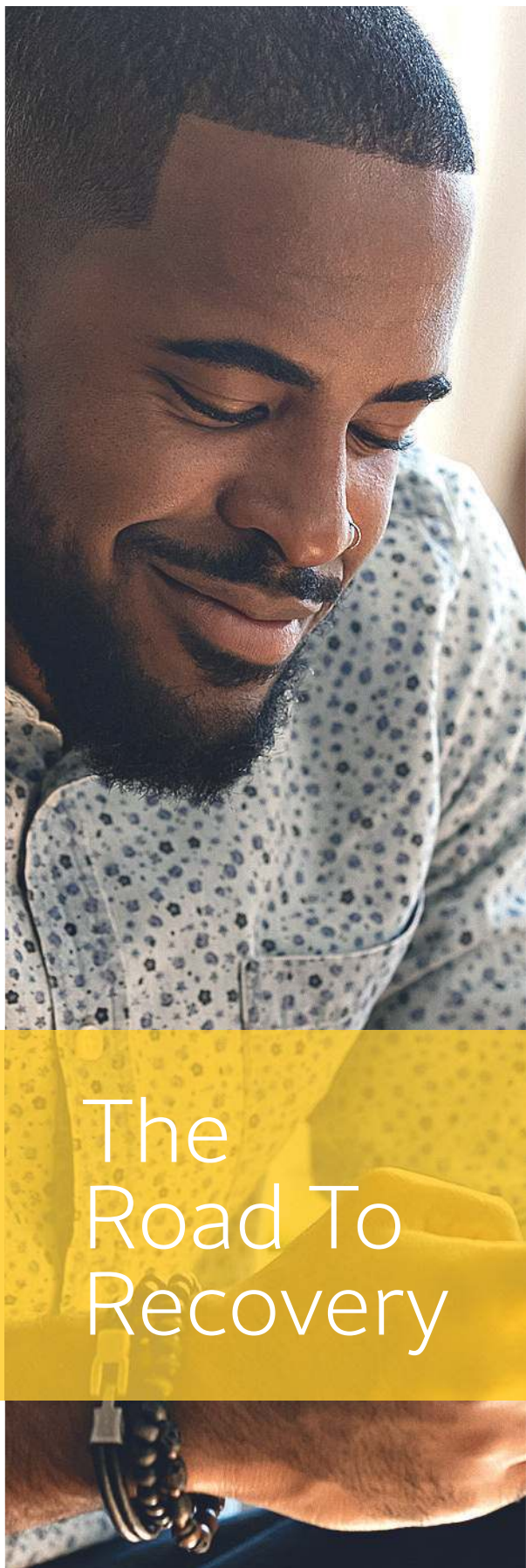
Townsend of 2nd Call. “Most of the people we work with are parolees or ex offenders. The 2nd Call Wolfpack helps people get the community they need and learn how to make healthy choices throughout their lives.”

“We are in the midst of a global pandemic, people are coming out of prisons and jails back to communities that are already hurting,” said Susan Burton, executive director of A New Way of Life. “Our communities never had the privilege to shelter in place safely. Whatever I can do, it’s my responsibility to do that to ensure our people have safety and security.”

Men and women in prison and in jail never had a chance to protect themselves from COVID-19. They could not social distance, and they lacked

access to the supplies necessary to practice proper hygiene. Fearful for the health and safety of our incarcerated brothers and sisters, our community continues to push for their release through local organizing and national advocacy.

Several panelists also spoke out against the Los Angeles City Budget proposed by Mayor Garcetti, which includes an increase to the LAPD budget and cuts to just about every other city department during the current health pandemic. The forum culminated with a call to action where participants heard from Community Coalition about current opportunities to organize around bringing brothers and sisters home and demanding more resources for South L.A. communities.



The Road To Recovery

Relief: Tools And Resources To Navigate Today’s Financial Crisis



In the face of so much uncertainty what many of us need most are answers to our most pressing questions, and a plan to help determine our next moves on the road to recovery. Wells Fargo is committed to providing information necessary to help address your unique financial needs and concerns, starting with the tools and resources to find relief.

How can I protect my credit report if I can’t keep up with my loans?

The best way to protect your credit report is to make arrangements directly with your lender. Try asking your bank/lender about deferring payments and interest on your loans/credit lines and having fees waived. On a case-by-case basis, Wells Fargo is offering fee waivers, payment deferrals, and other expanded assistance for credit card, auto, mortgage, small business lending, and personal lending customers who contact us.

Can I apply for a credit limit increase for disaster relief?

In this time of crisis, increasing the limit on your credit card could be a way to help alleviate some financial strain and increase your purchasing power. We’re currently reviewing credit card line increases on an individual basis over the phone. To find out your options, reach out to your bank directly.

What are some programs that can help me get by?

The government has designed programs to provide support and relief to those in need during this time. Here are some highlights of the CARES Act that may impact your finances:

Unemployment

There have been temporary changes made to unemployment eligibility. Today, workers who are furloughed, but haven’t been fully laid off, are eligible. This special program also extends to those who are typically self-employed and/or part of the gig economy.

Paid Leave

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act is now covering up to 12 weeks of family leave for families who have faced school/daycare closure because of the pandemic and must stay home with their children.

Small Business

Wells Fargo is committed to helping as many small business customers as possible through programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established by the CARES Act. Wells Fargo mobilized thousands of employees and introduced new automation to rapidly process as many PPP applications for submission to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Wells Fargo is with you as you embark on your road to recovery. To learn more about our COVID-19 relief efforts visit

wellsfargo.com/heretohelp.

Message from Minister Malcolm on ALD: Silencing the Guns of Pandemic Oppression

Our annual reflective and resistance-focused celebration of the birth and life of Min. Malcolm X, May 19th and African Liberation Day, May 25th, finds us confronting an especially dangerous, difficult and demanding time. It is a taxing time of dealing with two global interrelated challenges: the pandemic of COVID-19 and the pathology of oppression in which this virus and other natural diseases and social sicknesses are rooted and replicated. Indeed, the pathology of oppression is a pandemic itself, i.e., a world-wide disease or social sickness clearly harmful to human life and even the well-being of the world.

Having this understanding of the interrelated nature of the biological disease and the social sickness in which it takes root and thrives, we know that no matter what vaccines are developed and distributed, the ultimate cure for this disease lies in a radically transformative cure of the sickness of society. Here the teachings of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, Min. Malcolm X, noble witness to the world for our people, honored martyr and instructive model and mirror for us, offer enduring insights on the righteous and effective remedy of resistance on every level.

Malcolm, committed Seba and constant soldier that he is, tells us we must face the fact that in the context of our oppression, “wherever a Black person is there is a battle line,” a site and source of righteous and relentless struggle. He tells us that war is being waged on us constantly and everywhere and that in the context of oppression we are actually “living in a war zone.” Indeed, he says, “Racism involves a war against the dark-skinned people,” against people of color in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Native America and among African Ameri-

cans in the South and North. And we have and are morally obligated to resist and defeat it.

The African Union has advanced the theme for Africa Day 2020 as “Silencing the Gun in the Context of the COVID-19.” It should be noted that the African Union renamed African Liberation Day, Africa Day, sending a signal of the misreading of the meaning and demands of liberation and confusing the trappings of independence with the reality of continued covert control by former colonizers and their co-capitalist allies in America. Thus, the silencing of the gun campaign is certainly a noble and necessary goal of peace for our people. But the call for peace internally should not be promoted or used to misdirect our attention from the overarching oppression we endure and the need for the struggle for liberation from internal and external forms and forces of oppression.

Clearly, we need peace to achieve security, development and prosperity for our people. Thus, there is an urgent need to end the civil wars, the warlord banditry, the mercenaries’ murderous rampages, the collaborators’ plunder of the continent, and the internecine struggles among African peoples everywhere. Indeed, as the Husia says, “exceedingly good is the presence of peace, and there is no blame in peace for those who practice it.” But Malcolm teaches us that peace is impossible without freedom, justice and respect for our human rights by our oppressor. “Everyone craves a world of peace,” he said, but “all agree there can be no peace without freedom from colonialism, foreign domination, oppression and exploitation.”

Thus, there is also a need to silence the oppressor’s guns, his war against



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

us everywhere, his brutal occupation of Haiti and other vulnerable countries, as well as his militarization of Africa with imposed bases, soldiers, mercenaries and killing machines of all kinds. And we must silence the capitalist and imperialist guns held to the head of the people and their righteous leaders, and end the violence of the invasions and political assassinations and the plunder, pollution and depletion of Africa’s human and natural resources. And here in this country and throughout the African Diaspora, we must silence the racist guns of police violence, vigilante violence and systemic violence of all kinds. Therefore, our major oppressors must not escape criticism and active confrontation and resistance by our or their refocusing

on our collaborators who must also be defeated. For the major oppressors are the overlords of the collaborators.

We come to this point, not only as survivors of colonialism, imperialism, the Holocaust of enslavement and centuries of apartheid, racism and White supremacy, but also as seasoned-soldiers resolute, resilient and resourceful. And we are also injured physicians with the knowledge, skill and will, not only to heal, repair and renew ourselves, but also to play a decisive role with other oppressed and struggling peoples in repairing, renewing and re-making the world.

Surely, we cannot minimize the awesome toll this virus is taking on our lives here in this country where we are dying at three times the rate of Whites and also have similar infection rates. Nor do we overlook the pathology of oppression and its impact on the unequal suffering and deaths of African people in Brazil, occupied Haiti and elsewhere in the Diaspora. On the continent, we praise the African people, the doctors, nurses and other health workers, who have held back the expected tide of devastation predicted by those waiting for an opportunity to con-

tinue their racist condemnation and criminal oppression. But we also know the collective strategies and programs being planned and pursued now are necessary to hold the line and ensure the improved health, lives and future of African people.

Malcolm also taught us that we must understand our issues and struggles in both particular and global ways. Rightly conceived, he says, the Black liberation struggle “is international in nature and scope.” This is so, not only because we are a world community of African peoples with particular and global interests, but also because of the nature and scope of our oppression and the system of oppression itself are global. Malcolm taught that our struggle around our human rights to freedom and justice are international issues and an international struggle. “Racism is a human problem and crime. And capitalism, colonialism and imperialism are part of an international system of oppression.” Thus, Malcolm teaches, “we not only see the importance of having an understanding of things local and things national, but (also) we see today the importance of having an understanding of things in-

ternational, (and) . . . where our people fit in the scheme of things.”

This global conception of ourselves, our interests, our oppression and our resistance begins with pan-Africanism, a sense of shared identity and interests of African people and our commitment to discover and pursue ways to work, build and struggle in unity for the liberation of African people everywhere as our organization Us has taught and practiced since our founding in 1965.

In conclusion, in our pan-Africanist strivings and struggle, Malcolm leaves us with certain additional essential insights on meeting the challenge of pandemic oppression. He tells us first that we have no obligation to suffer peacefully and to collaborate in our own oppression. And it is immoral and irrational to ask or expect this of us. And thus, in the context of the pandemic pathology of oppression, there is no real and effective remedy except resistance: righteous, radical and relentless resistance. Moreover, there is no strategy worthy of note or its name that does not prioritize, privilege and promote struggle at every level of life. And there is no righteous and promising way forward except in unity and struggle in the interest of African people, human good and the well-being of the world.

• LARRY FONDATION AND MICHAEL LAWSON •

Covid-19 Is An Urgent Reminder That Food Insecurity Is a Pressing Problem

In many ways, the coronavirus has served as a huge magnifying glass on our society, amplifying issues many of us knew were lurking near the surface but could often ignore during the course of our busy, pre-COVID-19 lives.

We knew many of our fellow Angelenos worked on the margins of the previously healthy economy, but that reality didn’t hit home until we saw reports that less than half of adults in Los Angeles County had a job post pandemic. We all probably had at least heard that minorities had worse health outcomes than White Americans, but perhaps that didn’t really register until statistics about the shockingly high death rates of Black and Latinos from COVID-19 became reality.

And many of us were aware that resources aren’t spread equitably throughout Los Angeles, but it didn’t sink in until we began to see photos of impossibly long lines at food banks throughout the city and country.



LARRY FONDATION AND MICHAEL LAWSON

Now we must decide whether we’ll harness that deepening awareness to help our neighbors in need. If we choose wisely, we’ll cultivate community-wide solutions not just for today but for the years to come.

We can start by thinking about food. The entrenched disparity in resources, particularly grocery stores, is stark. West L.A. counts twice as many grocery stores as South L.A., which is home to many of L.A. County’s 1.7 million food-

insecure residents, according to a 2015 study.

Before the pandemic, this disparity was already literally killing residents. With less access to affordable and healthy food, residents of South L.A. have a life expectancy a dozen years shorter than their counterparts in West L.A. and are at far greater risk for obesity, diabetes and hypertension – all illnesses that seem to lead to a higher mortality rate for COV-

ID-19 victims, incidentally.

But in the midst of a pandemic, residents living in food deserts are at even greater risk. Staples like rice, beans and eggs at their local stores are often scarce. Better-stocked, larger chain stores can often require a long trip on public transportation, something many residents want to avoid.

This often means that residents are having to pay more for food or go to extraordinary lengths to get groceries. Some of their stories:

One single mother of two would travel to Culver City to get affordable, healthy groceries before the pandemic. Now she must travel to stores on foot or by bus, only to find empty shelves.

A single father of five in Inglewood has been forced to rely on fast food for his children because local grocery stores are out of stock

{See FOOD A-14}

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CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN

Mister President, why does America lead in COVID-19 deaths in the world?

OFFICIAL OBAMA PANDEMIC PLAN

I am not responsible this is all Obama's fault!

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Democratic Presidential Candidate Joe Biden Clarifies Message to Black America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
CORRESPONDENT

Presumptive Democrat-
ic Presidential Nominee Joe

November,” Charlamagne
told Biden. “We’ve got
more questions.”

Biden replied, “You’ve
got more questions?” “Well,
I tell you what, if you have a

community up against Trump’s
any day. Period,” Biden’s
senior advisor Symone D.
Sanders wrote on Twitter.

“Vice President Biden
spent his career fighting

Delaware. Remember, he
was speaking directly to
Charlamagne.”

Pressed further, Dr.
Chavis noted that the issue
boils down to the current
administration verses a pos-
sible Biden administration.

“What Black people
have to decide is not all of
the prerequisites, but given
what we know today, what
is our aspirations? Who can
best improve our quality of
life? That’s the issue,”
Chavis stated.

“We can’t get caught up
in personality politics. I
would rather have a presi-
dent who speaks from the
heart, from the gut, than a
president who speaks from a
teleprompter. I want to
know what Biden is think-
ing about. That he’s thinking
about Black, White, Latino,
about the oneness of man.

“I would prefer to hear
what he has to say, rather
than to muzzle him. I tell
hip-hop artists that they
have freedom of expres-
sion, but they have to be
responsible for what they
put out. You have the free-
dom to say what you want,
but after you say it, you
have to be accountable.”

In an interview with
NNPA Newswire in Febru-
ary, Biden said the Black
vote was critical to anyone
with aspirations of winning
in November.

He then laid out his plan
for Black America.

Last month, he called
on the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention, to
collect more data regarding
how COVID-19 is affecting
communities, including
breaking down its impact
by race.

“The data we’ve seen so
far suggests that African

Americans are dying from
COVID-19 at a higher rate
than Whites. Long-standing
systemic inequalities are
contributing to this dispari-
ty – including the fact that
African Americans are
more likely to be uninsured
and to live in communities
where they are exposed to
high levels of air pollu-
tion,” Biden stated.

Barack Obama’s former
vice president’s plan for
Black America includes:

Advance the economic
mobility of African Ameri-
cans and close the racial
wealth and income gaps.

Expand access to high-
quality education and tackle
racial inequity in our educa-
tion system.

Make far-reaching
investments in ending
health disparities by race.

Strengthen America’s
commitment to justice.

Make the right to vote
and the right to equal pro-
tection real for African
Americans.

Address environmental
justice.

Biden, who this month
fiercely denounced the
shooting death of Ahmaud
Arbery, noted that he spear-
headed the Community
Oriented Policing Services
program, which authorized
funding both for the hiring
of additional police officers
and for training on how to
undertake a community
policing approach.

However, the program
has never been funded to
fulfill the original vision for
community policing.

He said he would rein-
vitalize the COPS program
with a \$300 million invest-
ment.

As a condition of the
grant, Biden stated that hir-



AP PHOTO

“I shouldn’t have been such
a wise guy,” Biden stated
after the comments to *The
Breakfast Club* host, *Char-
lamagne Tha God*, went
viral.

ing police officers must
mirror the racial diversity
of the community they
serve. Additionally, as Pres-
ident, Biden promises to
establish a panel to scruti-
nize what equipment is
used by law enforcement in
our communities.

He said he would invest
in public defenders’ offices
to ensure defendants’
access to quality counsel,
and create a \$20 billion
grant program to support
criminal justice reform at
the state and local level.

Biden pledged to work
with Congress to reform
federal sentencing and pro-
vide incentives to state and
local systems to do the
same.

He said he would end
once and for all, the federal
crack and powder cocaine
disparity, decriminalize the
use of cannabis and auto-
matically expunge all prior
cannabis use convictions.

The Democrat also
promises to end the crimi-
nalization of poverty and
cash bail, which he called
the modern-day debtors’
prison.

“We need a compre-
hensive agenda for African
Americans with an ambi-
tion that matches the scale
of the challenge and with a
recognition that race-neu-
tral policies are not a suffi-
cient response to race-based
disparities,” Biden noted.



SCREENSHOT

Charlamagne Tha God and Former Vice President Joe Biden

Biden clarified his message
to Black America after the
GOP, and others, seized on a
remark he made in jest while
wrapping up an interview
with the famous Breakfast
Club.

“I shouldn’t have been
such a wise guy,” Biden stated
after the comments to
show host, Charlamagne
Tha God, went viral.

“I shouldn’t have been
so cavalier. No one should
have to vote for any party
based on their race, religion,
and background.”

As the Breakfast Club
interview wrapped and a
Biden aide said he was run-
ning short on time, Charla-
magne asked the former
vice president to stop by the
studio when Biden returns to
New York.

“It’s a long way until

problem figuring out
whether you’re for Trump or
me, then you ain’t
black.”

Republicans seized on
the remark, with some send-
ing emails to NNPA
Newswire claiming that
Biden was “race-baiting.”

In response, NNPA
Newswire asked members
of the GOP to address what
many in the African Ameri-
can community believe have
been the racially-charged
remarks and actions of the
president.

There was no response.

“The comments made at
the end of the Breakfast
Club interview were in jest,
but let’s be clear about what
the VP was saying: he was
making the distinction that
he would put his record with
the African American com-

alongside and for the
African American commu-
nity. He won his party’s
nomination by earning
every vote and meeting peo-
ple where they are, and
that’s exactly what he
intends to do this Novem-
ber,” Sanders stated.

In a “Meet the Black
Press” segment of an inter-
view on the web-based
show, “Make It Plain,”
National Newspaper Pub-
lishers Association (NNPA)
President and CEO, Dr.
Benjamin F. Chavis, said
people should react favor-
ably to the exchange.

“Charlamagne always
asks pointed questions, he
takes no prisoners and he’s a
great brother,” Chavis stated.
“But, the vice president
is a street fighter who comes
from Wilmington,

Supervisors Vote to Appoint First Inspector General for Skilled Nursing Homes Amid COVID-19 Deaths

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Acting on a motion by
Supervisor Mark Ridley-
Thomas and Board Chair
Kathryn Barger, the Board
of Supervisors unanimous-
ly voted to appoint – for the

facilities, tragically expos-
ing the urgent need for
stronger oversight across
the industry,” Supervisor
Ridley-Thomas said.
“Now, more than ever, we
must act to address any
questionable operations

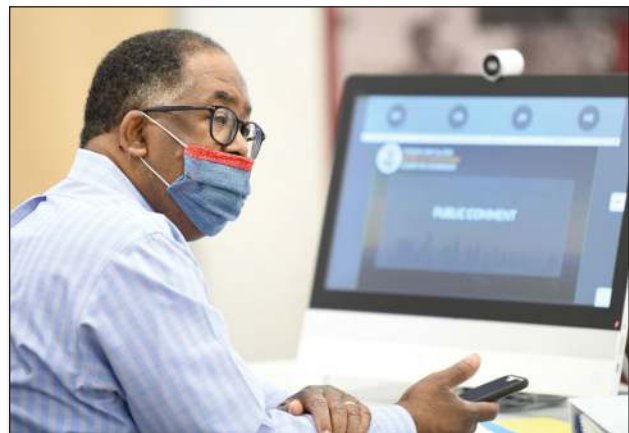
protect and support the
most vulnerable among us.
Prioritizing the health and
safety of those in our Coun-
ty’s skilled nursing facili-
ties is the right thing to do
and will also help protect
the availability of hospital
resources for all those who
need them.”

In their motion,
approved by the Board,
Supervisors Ridley-
Thomas and Barger said it
was critical that LA County
learn the lessons of this cri-
sis; identify the internal and
external factors that have
contributed to inadequate
conditions within skilled
nursing facilities; and pro-
vide oversight, accounta-
bility and resources as
needed.

They described the pro-
posed Inspector General as
a “much-needed accounta-
bility measure” appointed to
conduct an exhaustive
review of L.A. County’s
capacity to regulate skilled
nursing facilities, recom-
mend structural and opera-
tional changes, and outline
a plan for ensuring adequate
and sustainable oversight.

They also called for
charging the Inspector
General with recommend-
ing regulatory and policy
improvements at the local,
state and federal levels,
with the goal of enhancing
quality of care, ensuring
adequate infection control
measures, and supporting
healthcare workers.

To increase transparen-
cy, Supervisor Ridley-
Thomas and Chair Barger’s
motion also called for
directing the L.A. County
Auditor-Controller to take
the lead in designing a pub-
licly accessible dashboard
with information about
their COVID-19 case
totals, testing frequency,
mitigation plan status, and
other information. The
motion also sought to find
ways to enhance L.A.
County’s ability to assess
the adequacy of mitigation
plans and to oversee their
implementation.



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

first time – an Inspector
General to oversee skilled
nursing facilities, which
account for more than half
of all deaths from COVID-
19 in Los Angeles County.
The Board also approved
bringing in the Auditor-
Controller to ensure closer
monitoring of skilled nurs-
ing facilities immediately.

The Board tasked the
Inspector General with
developing recommenda-
tions on how to strengthen
oversight for skilled nursing
facilities, and how to
improve their operations
long-term. Many skilled
nursing homes have a his-
tory of getting low marks for
quality of care, patient satis-
faction, and employee pay.

Last week, an analysis
by the New York Times
found that facilities with a
significant number of
Black and Latino residents
have been twice as likely to
be hit by the coronavirus as
those where the population
is overwhelmingly White.
These disparities are heart-
breaking, and emphatically
underscore the need for
better testing and infection
control.

“While some skilled
nursing homes may be
doing their best to respond
to COVID-19, we’ve seen
hundreds of deaths at these

and substandard condi-
tions in the facilities that care
for some of our most vulnera-
ble residents – the elderly,
the low-income, and the
disabled.”

“Skilled nursing facili-
ties provide critical care
and support for many of
our most vulnerable popu-
lations,” Supervisor Barger
added. “As the County
fights the COVID-19 pub-
lic health crisis, we must
greatly improve our ability
to assess and oversee these
facilities to ensure the safe-
ty and well-being of all
those who have been
entrusted to their care.”

Serving thousands of
residents to who tend to be
older and medically fragile,
skilled nursing facilities
have become the epicenter
of L.A. County’s COVID-
19 epidemic. As of May
22nd, 5,218 residents and
3,140 staff from these facili-
ties have tested positive
for the virus.

Across L.A. County, 53
percent of all deaths from
COVID-19 have been in
institutional settings, par-
ticularly in skilled nursing
facilities.

L.A. County Depart-
ment of Health Services
Director Dr. Christina
Ghaly said, “It is our col-
lective responsibility to



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New Rule Could Deny Black Developers Access to \$4 Billion-Plus in State Housing Funds

BY EBONE MONET
California Black Media

African American developers across California are worried about a rule change the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is considering.

The regulation proposes a new requirement that developers have more experience before becoming eligible for contracts awarded from a \$4 billion fund set up to construct housing for the homeless. The taxpayer-funded project is called the Multifamily Housing Program (MHP).

"We urge the department to not make this change," wrote Kevin Murray, a former California Assembly member who represented the California's 47th district in San Bernardino County from 1995 to 1998. From 1999 to 2006, he was a state Senator, representing the 26th district in Los Angeles.

In the letter addressed to the HCD, Murray, who is African American and a developer, did not refer to the racial implications of the rule change. Instead he pointed out five technical reasons the proposed HCD tweaks would be neither efficient nor advisable. Murray is now president and CEO of the Weingart Center, a Los Angeles-based non-profit that provides services to homeless people, including developing affordable housing.

"This change will further limit the eligible pool of housing providers that can apply for this funding source at a time when affordable housing is most direly needed," Murray's letter contin-



COURTESY PHOTO
Veronica Smith, founder of Smith Impact Brands, Inc. based in Sacramento.

ued.

If HCD applies the rule change, developers and the organizations backing housing projects would have to have previously owned or operated apartments for the population the housing development targets, which, in this instance, are homeless individuals. The guideline changes would apply to Special Needs and Supportive Housing projects such as housing for survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities. HCD's current focus is housing for the chronically homeless.

Under current guidelines, an individual developer can qualify for funding to build MHP projects by employing people who have the required experience.

Murray agrees with the current rules. "An organization is only as good as its staff," he argued in the letter that he submitted to the HCD during the public comment phase for the rule change, which closed on May 5.

Some African American developers say race and gender are factors when it comes to contracting in Cal-

ifornia, and adding more rules could turn off even experienced developers in a state where land-use restrictions are stricter than in most states. Those advocates say minorities and women are often discouraged when they try to participate in programs like MHP even if they are qualified.

"They may say [forget] this affordable housing because it is political. 'Go do other things,'" says Veronica Smith, founder of Smith Impact Brands, Inc, a project management and affordable housing consulting service based in Sacramento. Smith is an African American woman who has development experience.

In California, less than 1% of developers are Black, according to estimates by NewHawk, a Rialto-based consulting firm specializing in demographics and policy analysis. The California Legislative Black Caucus estimates women-owned and minority-owned businesses in the state have lost an estimated \$1.1 billion each year since 1996 when the state passed Prop 209, a law outlawing consideration of race and gender in hiring, awarding state contracts, college admissions and policymaking.

The CHD proposal to update MHP contracting criteria comes at the time when Gov. Newsom has prioritized fast tracking housing for the state's homeless population, which accounts for nearly one fourth of all unsheltered people the United States. African Americans — about six percent of California's population — make up nearly 40 percent of the state's homeless pop-



COURTESY PHOTO
William Leach, founder of Kingdom Development Inc. based in Riverside.

ulation.

Last week, Gov. Newsom announced that he slashed funding for education, public health, and other state programs in his May Revise budget plan for the 2020-21 fiscal year. At the same time, he called for "increased housing affordability and availability," as California struggles to contain financial losses brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

That may explain why the MHP dodged deep cuts that trimmed other parts of the state budget, African American developers say.

Alicia Murillo, Communications Analyst at the DHCD, explained that the proposed amendments are not final.

"The guidelines are still in draft form and are evolving as we speak," she told California Black Media.

"A decision whether to publish any or all of proposed changes will not be made until after consideration of public comments."

Murillo said, adding that the recommended updates to the regulations came from staff and stakeholder feedback as the HCD worked to process applications for the voter-approved Proposition 1 funds.

In 2018, voters authorized \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to kick start affordable housing projects for lower-income households. The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act (Proposition 1) approved \$1.5 billion for the state's Multifamily Housing Program.

According to the CHD, more than 660 homeless Californians will be housed. Thanks to the December release of \$127 million to fund 17 new MHP projects. The next round of Prop 1 funding is \$262 million set to be allocated in June. Awardees will receive, on average, about \$12 million per award with a maximum limit of \$20 million.

Opponents of the HCD rule change say MHP loans are an incentive for developers to sign on to projects for lower-income renters.

"There is no affordable housing that gets built without these capital subsidies," said Riverside-based housing developer William Leach. As the founder of Kingdom Development Inc, Leach has produced about 30 affordable housing projects in the state. Leach says, as California faces a housing shortage, the HCD should not be making "administrative statements."

In Los Angeles County,



COURTESY PHOTO

Kevin Murray, President and CEO Weingart Center, a Los Angeles based non-profit developing affordable housing and other services.

Murray's organization, the Weingart Center is located a mile from Skid Row, a tent city where an estimated 4,757 people lived, according to pre-COVID-19 calculations. Weingart estimates it helps 40,000 people a year, including providing temporary shelter and services. The county also has the highest concentration of homeless people in the state and it is the epicenter of the state's COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Smith says in communities like Los Angeles County, with large numbers of African Americans and other minorities, developers can play a critical role.

"There's power in developers who understand issues, and understand development, and understand how to advance issues that could be getting things done had they not been excluded," Smith points out that it is red tape — not a lack of skill keeping people sidelined. There are "millions and millions of dollars that are wasted because the right people are not at the table," she says.

Students No Longer Need SAT and ACT Scores for Admissions to UC Schools

BY JOE W. BOWERS, JR.
California Black Media

Last Thursday, the University of California's (UC) Board of Regents voted 23-0 to end the use of the SAT and ACT tests in admissions for all California freshman applicants through 2024. The University plans to try to create a new standardized test to use in time for the fall 2025 admissions, but if they are unable to develop one, the standardized testing requirement for California students will be eliminated.

Standardized tests will continue to be used in awarding scholarships, deciding on course placement and the selection of out-of-state and foreign students for admission. Possible options for nonresident admissions beginning in 2025 include having them take the new test required of California students or continuing to use their scores from the ACT, SAT or other approved standardized test(s).

After the Regent's voted, UC President Janet Napolitano said, "Today's decision by the Board marks a significant change for the University's undergraduate admissions. We are removing the ACT/SAT requirement for California students and developing a new test that more closely aligns with what we expect incoming students to know to demonstrate their preparedness for UC."

On May 11, board members were sent a letter from Napolitano urging that this action take place. Her recommendation was based on findings by the Standardized Testing Task Force or STTF established by the UC Academic Senate. STTF investigated the ability of standardized tests to accurately assess academic performance and found that although SAT/ACT scores can effectively be used to



FILE PHOTO

predict student success, they also contribute to underrepresentation of historically excluded groups in admissions decisions.

Since the ban on affirmative action, Proposition 209, was enacted in 1996, Black enrollment at University of California schools has barely risen above four percent, although African Americans make up 6.5 percent of the state's population. California's largest ethnic group, Latinos, are 38 percent of the population but are only 22 percent of students in UC schools.

But as the UC system has struggled to maintain campus diversity, outside pressure has grown for the school system to take action to establish a more equitable admissions process.

The use of standardized test scores in determining admissions have long concerned education reform groups who contend that the tests are a contributing factor in the underrepresentation of African American and Latino students in the UC system.

The recent nationwide scandal involving wealthy families paying for higher test scores in order to gain entrance for their children to prestigious universities and colleges has brought further attention to the unfairness of the use of these tests in admissions.

A lawsuit was filed in December 2019 by the Compton Unified School District and a coalition of students and advocacy groups including Chinese For Affirmative Action, College Access Plan, College Seekers, Community Coali-

tion, Dolores Huerta Foundation, and Little Manila Rising claiming that SAT/ACT tests discriminate based on race and income.

The plaintiffs argue the tests include culturally biased questions that discriminate against multilingual learners and not all tests are conducted at sites that are fully accessible to accommodate students with disabilities.

Micah Ali, Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees President, said of the decision by the Regents, "It is not a coincidence this decision was made. It is a direct result of our lawsuit brought forth to end the inequities caused by the ACT/SAT in the wake of a demurrer hearing last week regarding our filed complaint where we put forth allegations that the ACT/SAT have a discriminatory impact on students of color, and leveled other claims of constitutional violation."

The plaintiffs are planning to continue to pursue their lawsuit. While they acknowledge some progress was made with the announcement that the ACT/SAT will no longer be an admissions requirement, for them other concerns remain unresolved.

They are critical of SAT scores being used to make decisions regarding the allocation of scholarships. They say this is problematic for the same reasons that it is unsound to use these instruments as a basis for admission.

By dropping the use of SAT and ACT tests in their admissions process the UC system joins with more than 1,230 colleges and universities that have also suspended using the tests or have made the tests optional for admission including the University of Chicago and liberal arts colleges such as Smith, Pitzer and Sarah Lawrence.

JULY 1, 2020

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Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority intend to house 15,000 people with COVID-19 recovery plan

BY FAITH PETRIE
Contributing Writer

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) presented its recovery plan to house 15,000 at-risk people experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning.

LAHSA Interim Director Heidi Marston told councilmembers that they anticipate participants of the program will be temporarily housed within the next 30 to 60 days and settled into permanent housing by April 2022.

“We know that homelessness was a crisis long before COVID-19 came into the picture, but COVID-19 has also accelerated not only the speed of our work, but also the need to maintain this crisis response model,” Marston said in a briefing before the board presentation.

LAHSA perceives at-risk individuals in alliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s definition: those who have underlying medical conditions and are over the age of 65 years. According to a 2019 count by LAHSA, there were almost 60,000 homeless people living in L.A. County.

Although 80% of the housing is aimed at those seen as at-risk, Marston said 20% is dedicated to others who may be chronically homeless, but not as vulnerable.

The plan is targeted at immediate, short-term and long-term goals for those affected by homelessness by focusing on identifying available units through “inventory management [systems]” and assigning them to those individuals along with other assistive resources, Marston said.

In the county’s predecessor program, Project Roomkey launched in early

April; 15,000 hotel rooms were leased for temporary housing of homeless people. During the board meeting, director of the county’s Homeless Initiative, Phil Ansell, said that of the more than 30 hotels designated for Project Roomkey, almost 3,000 people have been assigned rooms and 2,500 were waiting and eligible.

“We’re setting really bold goals here and we recognize that, we know that it’s going to take a really big investment of resources and alignment to move our system in a way that’s much faster than we’ve moved before... we have every reason to believe that we can do it and that we should hold ourselves accountable to meeting the needs that we know exist,” Marston said.

According to Marston, units for Project Roomkey were at 87% capacity with a large waitlist and a turnover of over 300 people leaving the housing to either cycle back in or make room for

new people.

To tackle plans on how to efficiently move people out of the units and into more permanent housing, the County has funded a “100-day project” by targeting one Project Roomkey hotel, according to Marston.

The key values provided in the recovery plan presentation created by Marston notes that permanent and immediate housing solutions, homelessness prevention, preparedness for future crises and a “racial equity lens in all efforts” are important to program. The presentation also listed the five pillars of response needed: “unsheltered, shelter, housing, prevention and diversion and strengthening systems.”

“We need to ensure that in any approach that we have, we are valuing all individuals and all populations equally,” Marston said. “That we’re recognizing and rectifying historical injustices and not further perpet-

uating those and that we’re providing resources based on the need of individuals.”

The program has infused new benefits for participating individuals including Department of Public Social Services programs such as Supplemental Security Income and CalFresh, legal aid and DMV assistance with IDs needed to gain access to housing.

Shallow subsidies, rapid rehousing programs and more focused supportive housing including sober living homes and adult residential care facilities are some of the options mentioned in the presentation.

With so many ambitious proposals, funding concerns were brought forward during the board meeting by Los Angeles county supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

“It is very thoughtful, very well put together and gives me real hope that we will be able to help this vulnerable population in ways that we really were not able

to before. I think the real challenge is the budget,” Kuehl said.

Marston sites funding will come from state efforts to aid coronavirus relief and the federal financing including the CARES Act. She also added that FEMA reimbursement will determine if hotels and motels will extend their agreements to accommodate homeless people.

“It’s going to require a lot of hard choices. Everything we fund is really valuable and makes a difference in the lives of people and we can’t do all of it,” Marston said. “There are some things that we need to focus on that permanently resolve people’s housing that might require us to have hard conversations about what we’re going to fund and what we’re not going to fund as a system which again, having these five pillars that we align to will be helpful to guide those conversations.”

Will Effective K-12 Education Survive Gov. Newsom’s May Revised Budget?

BY JOE W. BOWERS JR.
California Black Media

At his presentation of the 2020-21 May Revision budget, Gov. Gavin Newsom testified to the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on California’s economy. He said in a little over 100 days the coronavirus pandemic precipitated a 22.3% reduction in the state’s revenues. As a result of shelter-at-home orders issued to slow the coronavirus spread and save lives, millions of Californians have lost their jobs, schools have suspended classes and businesses have closed.

According to Newsom, the pandemic created a \$54.3 billion gap between projected state revenues and expenses since his January budget presentation. In order to rebalance the budget as required by law, he employs a number of financial maneuvers, including targeted spending reductions, redirecting aid from the federal government, creating new revenue sources, instituting deferrals, and drawing from the state’s rainy-day reserve fund.

There is a possibility that funding could be restored to original budget levels if the HEROES Act, a \$3 trillion stimulus bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, gains Senate and presidential approval.

The projected drop in revenues significantly impacted how Newsom plans to fund California’s K-12 public education system.

General funds for public education are projected to be down about \$12 billion in 2020-21. About \$1.6 billion in budget augmentations the governor proposed in January are rescinded. However, a \$645 million increase to special education funding is being retained. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which awards state money to school districts, is cut by 10 percent or a \$6.4 billion reduction. Career technical education programs are cut in half, saving \$100 million, and the After School Education and Safety Program will be cut by \$100 million.

To make up for the forced cuts in general fund contributions, Newsom is proposing several offsetting mitigating actions. \$4 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and \$355 million from the Governor’s Emergency Relief Fund will be provided to school districts for learning loss mitigation. \$1.6 billion is appropriated from federal Title 1



FILE PHOTO
Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Gov. Gavin Newsom and California Teachers Association (CTA) President E. Toby Boyd.

funds for school programs and another federal program will provide \$714 million for child nutrition. \$2.3 billion is being redirected from state funds to reduce pension contribution rates and deferred payments will be used to make about \$5.4 billion available for school districts spending.

According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO), the actions taken by Newsom achieved overall school funding that is “roughly flat year-over-year.”

Acknowledging Newsom’s efforts, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said, “I want to thank Governor Newsom for working hard to prioritize and preserve public education ... as we weather this economic downturn. Today’s updated budget proposal includes a variety of measures designed to avoid permanent cuts to education, which otherwise could have lasting impacts on a generation of students.”

California Teachers Association (CTA) President E. Toby Boyd said, “Governor Newsom’s leadership and commitment to safety in our public schools and colleges has been clear and much appreciated since the coronavirus surfaced in our communities 10 weeks ago.” He also says, “But the proposed education cuts for the 2020-21 budget will be devastating at a time when students need more support.”

The issues that plague K-12 education in California have only been magnified since the education budget was proposed in January. Then, Newsom expressed a clear intent to address the African American student achievement gap, to promote more diversity among teachers, and improve access to early childhood education programs.

Parents have given school districts across the state high marks for how they’ve responded to the

guidelines across districts, there is a lack of guidelines within districts ... If there are no guidelines ... it’s like we’re going into the Wild West...”

California Department of Education (CDE) representatives responding to Ting at an education budget hearing indicated that it was up to the school districts to determine how best to deliver distance learning. When they realized it was an unacceptable response, they committed that CDE’s Loss of Learning Ad Hoc Committee co-chaired by Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) and E. Toby

Boyd, CTA President, would be providing guidelines sometime in June.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) said about Newsom’s revised budget, “This is a survival budget and that we’re trying to make sure that all of our kids and all of our staff and all of our school districts are kept safe.” He went on to point out that the budget is directing a portion of the \$4.4 billion for learning loss mitigation to go only to districts receiving LCFE concentration grant funds. That deprives money for needy students attending school

districts not eligible for concentration grants, Muratsuchi said.

The academic performance of African American students lags behind their peers under “normal conditions.” While school districts have tried hard to make distance learning equitable, for many students it just hasn’t worked out.

The challenge the Legislature faces as it considers approving the education budget is to assure that enough funds are allocated for school districts to provide safe, effective learning opportunities for all students under current health emer-

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211LA.org

A Privacy Bill Kobe Bryant's Death Inspired Moves Forward

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

On May 20, the California Assembly Public Safety Committee approved a bill that would make it illegal for first responders to take pictures or record video of a deceased person at the scene of an accident or crime.

Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Los Angeles) authored the bill, AB 2655, titled the "Invasion of Privacy: First Responders" act.

AB 2655 is one of the few non-coronavirus-related bills that has moved in the legislature since the global pandemic began. Now that the Public Safety Committee has approved the legislation, it has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for review.

"No person, including our first responders, should ever take photos of a deceased person for their own personal gain," Gipson reacted to his colleagues' yay vote. "I am grateful that the Assembly Public Safety Committee agrees and helped move this bill forward."

First responders like police officers, fire department personnel, emergency medical technicians, and medical examiners have special access to

the scenes of accidents and other incidents involving deaths. Those public employees have many legitimate reasons to capture images of a deceased person, but AB 2655 draws a line, pushing the notion that obtaining photos for personal purposes exceeds the scope of their duties.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is sponsoring the legislation.

"I was very pleased our bill cleared its first hurdle in the Legislature today as it seeks to address a significant deficiency in current law and brings peace of mind to the families of accident victims," Sheriff Villanueva said. "I look forward to its continued success through the process."

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department announced in March that eight of its deputies were responsible for sharing images taken at the site where retired NBA star Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna "GiGi" Bryant died in a helicopter crash.

Seven other people, including the pilot, also died in the fatal accident that happened on Jan. 26 in Calabasas, a city nestled in the hills northwest of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Fire Department also became the focus of the investigation of the



Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers superstar with daughter Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant during an NCAA women's basketball game. Both of them died Sunday morning, in a helicopter crash.

photos that were posted online and in some public places like bars.

Existing law generally prohibits "the reproduction of any kind of photograph of the body, or any portion of the body, of a deceased person, taken by or for the coroner at the scene of death or in the course of a post mortem examination or autopsy, from being made or disseminated."

If passed, AB 2655 would specifically make that prohibition a misdemeanor.

This bill would also authorize a search warrant to be issued on the grounds that "the property or things to be seized consists of evidence that tends to show that a first responder has engaged or is engaging in

the crime established by AB 2655."

On March 2, Sheriff Villanueva went on record to acknowledge that eight of his deputies participated in capturing and sharing graphic photos of the accident scene after the helicopter Bryant, his daughter and friends were traveling in crashed into a hillside on a foggy Sunday morning.

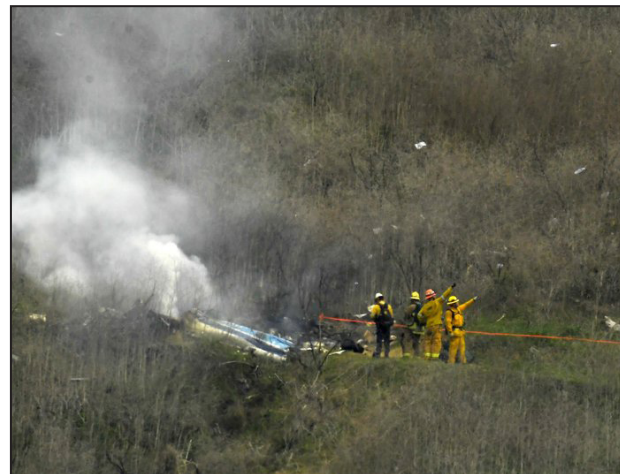
"When I first got word of this information I just felt devastated," Villanueva responded to the allegations in March. "To have any action of our deputies compile (the families') suffering, that breaks my heart. It's a sense of betrayal because these are my own employees."

A few days after Bryant's death, U.S. Rep. Brad

Sherman (D-CA-30) introduced a bill in the United States Congress titled, "The Kobe Bryant and Gianna Bryant Helicopter Safety Act." The legislation proposed tightening federal safety standards for helicopters implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board.

copter did not have this system when it crashed Jan. 26," Sherman stated. "Had this system been on the helicopter, it is likely the tragic crash could have been avoided."

Other Assemblymembers who voted yes on AB 2655 are: Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), who is the chair of the



In this Jan. 26, 2020 file photo firefighters work the scene of a helicopter crash where former NBA star Kobe Bryant died, in Calabasas, Calif.

The legislation would require that all helicopters be fitted with a Terrain Awareness and Warning System. Currently, these systems are recommended by the FAA, but they are not enforced, Sherman said in a written statement. They cost between \$25,000 to \$40,000 per helicopter.

"Kobe Bryant's heli-

Public Safety Committee; Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda); Wendy Carrillo (D-Boyle Heights); Tyler Diep (R-Westminster); Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles); Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles); and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland).

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

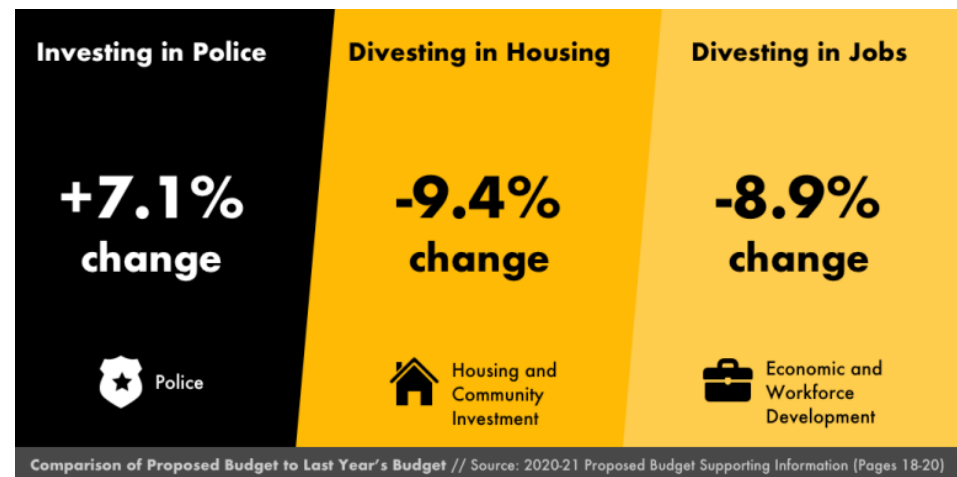
cers are getting a raise. All told, the mayor is proposing to spend \$3.15 billion on LAPD. Compare the meager \$163 million proposed for "Housing and Community Investment," which is roughly just one-twentieth of the money going to the police. Proposition HHH,

which was branded as a historic effort to build homes for unhoused residents, totals just \$1.2 billion over 10 years—versus LAPD's \$3.15 billion for just one year.

In a city and county with the second highest number of people experiencing

homelessness in the nation, this is not acceptable. More money for the police means less money for the kind of human-centered programs prioritized by Black Los Angeles leaders.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "A nation that continues year-after-year to



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50% Area Median Income				60% Area Median Income			
Unit Type	Tenants	Rent*	Income Limit	Unit Type	Tenants	Rent*	Income Limit
Studio	1	\$808	from \$25,680 - \$41,550	One Bedroom	1	\$1,384	from \$43,230 - \$53,820
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				

*Gross Rents, income limits and rents are subject to change based on area median income data when published by HUD (AMI). Income and rent information is subject to change. Additional criteria may be considered for qualification.

To apply for housing, visit <http://www.montairaliving.com>, then download and complete the application. Completed applications can be sent via email to montaira@related.com OR mailed to:

Solaira at Pavilion Park

100 Ridge Valley
Irvine, CA 92618

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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For questions, or if you have a disability that prohibits you from fully participating in this process please call (949) 431-7007. Telephone device for the hearing-impaired is TTY: (800) 735-2929. Equal Housing Opportunity. Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability.

spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift, is approaching spiritual death." The same could certainly be said about a city that pours money into the police rather than the social programs that are sorely needed to recover from moments of crisis.

Funneling ever more money to the LAPD is an outrage, especially because violent crime in our city is already low. "These are better crime statistics than we've seen in decades," Mayor Garcetti said in January. LAPD Chief Michel Moore agreed: "[Today is] one of the safest times in Los Angeles." Under the pandemic, crime is falling even more rapidly. Nonetheless, LAPD has ramped up its race-based targeting, surveillance, criminalization, and abuse. One need only think about the May 16 incident in Jesse Owens Park, where six Black Angelenos were profiled and arrested — three for resisting arrest. Last week, #AJWeber's family home was raided by 20 LAPD officers for the second time in just a few months. Police claimed they were looking for a gunman in the neighborhood and thought he might be hiding in the Weber home, maybe even holding them hostage. No gunman was found. None of the officers wore masks as they forced elderly and disabled residents out onto the sidewalk, ransacked the home and breathed in the face of AJ's 81-year-old grandmother, who was confined to her hospice care bed.

We also know that the

police don't make our communities safer, as evidenced by the more than 600 people who have been killed by law enforcement or while in custody in Los Angeles County since 2012. The LAPD has been involved in scandalous behavior, including recruiting potential officers on Breitbart, an alt-right, White-supremacist "news" outlet; adding the names of innocent Black and Latinx people to the gang database; continuing to stop-and-frisk Black people at five times our population share, searching Black motorists at a rate four times that of White people (even though Black people are less likely to carry contraband items or commit a crime); and using abhorrent violence against the disproportionately Black unhoused community. The City should not reward the LAPD with a boost in their budget for these behaviors.

When deciding how to allocate resources, the question becomes who and what do we value most. Is it investing in our children and providing shelter, food, and medical care? Is it helping our city withstand a global pandemic? Or is it spending on a police state that won't make our communities any safer and will actually bring harm? Los Angeles needs a budget that values and prioritizes services over police—a people's budget.

In response to the mayor's budget proposal, members of the Black Los Angeles Demands coalition have been at the center of building #Peoples-BudgetLA. The People's

Budget is an alternative process and proposal that asks community members to weigh in on their priorities through advocacy and participatory budgeting. City Council has been addressed through direct civic engagement, social media, and public pressure to reject the mayor's proposal. Last week, the people convinced Council to scrap plans to fast-track the mayor's budget. On Sunday, May 24, nearly 4000 Angelenos participated in a "People's Budgeting Session," 1500 completed an accompanying survey built around current Los Angeles spending areas, as well as priorities from Black LA Demands. Almost all of participants prioritized human services over police. Their responses are the basis of the People's Budget Proposal, which will be forwarded to City Council and the mayor. There is still the opportunity to adopt the People's Budget. The City Council can adopt it. Mayor Garcetti can adopt it; it's simply a matter of political will. During this unprecedented moment we must be clear in our priorities and visionary in our approach. The People's Budget does just that.

Melina Abdullah, Ph.D. is Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA and co-founder of Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles.

Reverend Edward L. Anderson serves the historic McCarty Memorial Christian Church located in the West Adams neighborhood of Los Angeles.

L.A. County Renews \$10,000 Reward in Unprovoked Westmont Fatal Shooting

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles county Board of Supervisors renewed a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in an unprovoked attack in the unincorporated community of Westmont last summer that left a 42-year-old man dead.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas recommended extending the reward, which was set to expire May 29, but will now be available for at least another 90 days.

Investigators say Corey Devaughn Pickett was visiting a friend about 11:30 p.m. last July 12 in the 1000 block of West 94th Street, near Vermont Avenue and the border with Los Angeles, when his brother drove up in a new Maserati.

When Pickett and his friend went out to the driveway to check out the luxury car, a four-door sedan coming from Budlong Avenue made an abrupt stop and two young men jumped out and fired about 20 rounds at the



men.

Pickett was struck by eight bullets and died at the scene. His friend took a bullet in the back, but the wound was not life-threatening, authorities said.

The suspect vehicle was last seen heading east on 94th Street toward Vermont Avenue and out of view.

None of the three men who were fired on had any gang affiliation, but investigators believe the gunmen were gang mem-

bers, according to Ridley-Thomas.

Pickett is survived by his mother, brother and adult daughter.

Ridley-Thomas urged anyone with more information on the killing to call sheriff's homicide Detectives Esteban Soliz and Domenick Recchia at 323- 890-5500. Anonymous tips can be submitted through Crime Stoppers at 800-222- TIPS (8477) or lacrimestoppers.org.

Re-Open *{continued from Pg. A-1}*

on the Church of God in Christ website, the right Rev. Charles E. Blake, Sr., presiding bishop, the COGIC General Board and the denomination's COVID-19 Advisory Commission wrote, "We urge you, our pastors, to adhere to the recommendations of the CDC and NIAID and to refrain from prematurely opening your churches and congregating in your buildings before we have credible and substantiated evidence that it is safe to do so."

Pastor Frederick K. Price, Jr., of Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC) in Los Angeles, said, "I believe the work that places of worship perform is essential. However, CCC won't be rushing to re-open. I'm not willing to take chances with the health of our congregation. We can still connect virtually as believers and be safer at home. God's people are the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, so we don't have to be in a building to worship our God."

The safety of worshippers and adherence to all of the State's reopening guidelines were among the factors influencing the pastors interviewed by the Sentinel to decline to immediately restart in-person worship. The directives include establishing COVID-19 prevention training for staff and volunteers, implementing cleaning and disinfection protocols and setting physical distancing limits for the congregation and choir members.

"My desire, as I am sure it is the desire of all pastors, is the protection and care of our congregations. We are prayerfully approaching this holistically - spirit, soul and body," noted Apostle Beverly "Bam" Crawford, founder

of Bible Enrichment Fellowship International Church in Inglewood.

"Holistically, we strongly take into consideration the vulnerable population (including people age 65 or older and those with serious and/or pre-existing underlying medical conditions), which are at a higher-risk of infection. Spiritually speaking, I believe May 31 is too soon for my church to resume worship services, given the time that is required to meet the state compliance measures and make appropriate modifications. My overall decision of waiting is based on further assessment, preparation and caution," Crawford added.

"Not yet," declared Pastor James K. McKnight of the Church of Christian Fellowship in L.A. "We have done a risk benefit analysis and concluded that the benefits of in sanctuary worship do not exceed the risks. Thankfully, technology has allowed us to creatively fulfill a large percentage of our church's mission."

The Rev. Edward Anderson, pastor of McCarty Memorial Christian Church in L.A., stressed, "We will not be opening on May 31 for in-person services out of wisdom and the ministry of compassion for our at-risk members. Our ministry will continue digitally to ensure the whole body is nurtured as the scripture exhorts us in Hebrews. We will await further instruction from the health department regarding guidelines on a slow reopening."

Sharing another perspective, Pastor Mary S. Minor of Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church, asked, "What's changed since the

start of the pandemic? L.A. County still has the most COVID-19 cases and the highest number of deaths in Southern California. The danger is not over. We must take our time with this. Only fools rush in. Every pastor will have to make the decision on their own and do what's best for their own local church. As an AME pastor, I am guided by our Board of Bishops. As for me and my local congregation, we will serve the Lord, but conduct virtual worship services"

In fact, every minister that the Sentinel interviewed insisted that their church remains open and accessible via the virtual worship offered on Sundays and weekdays. Also, local ministries offer a range of activities to maintain communication with parishioners as well as provide outreach services to non-members.

Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer, pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, said, "I've seen God do some amazing things in these last few weeks. We learned, perhaps more than ever before, the church is not the building, it's the people and we have continued to be the people of God in this challenging time of social distancing.

"We are still doing what God called us to do and that is to build up the kingdom for victorious living. We're reaching more people now than we ever did by gathering in this building. We're reaching people around the world and people are still getting saved," Ulmer said.

According to Pastor J. Edgar Boyd of First AME Church of Los An-



Rev Fred Price Jr



Pastor Mary Minor



Bishop Kenneth Ulmer

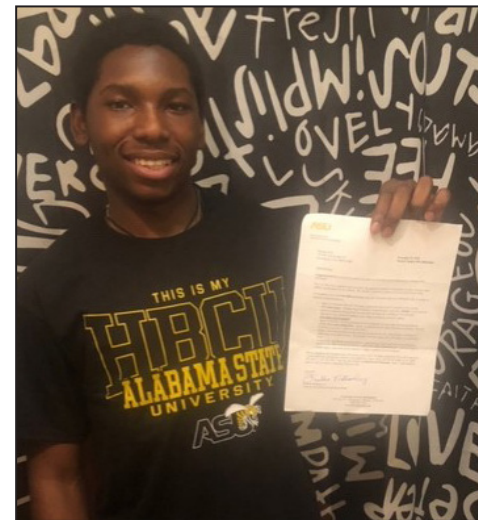
geles, "FAME's full menu of ministries and services has never ceased. Our telephone, email, and social media platforms are managed each day, providing a response to needs and requests. The FAME Food Pantry is operated outside, on-campus each fourth Saturday. All three of our worship services are streamed each Sunday, and our clergy are responding to the spiritual needs of the congregation."

Emphasizing the need to "slow down" when

it comes to reopening churches, Pastor William Smart, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California, commented, "I am concerned if we are moving too fast. The governor has laid out guidelines, but that doesn't mean we should move right into [in-person] worship. We must remember that African Americans are very venerable to this virus. I think we should wait longer to make sure it is safe."

The Rev. K.W. Tulloss, pastor of Weller Street Missionary Baptist Church and president of Baptist Ministers Conference of Southern California, added, "It's going to take churches more than a week to bring them up to code. The lives of my parishioners matter. I can't wait for the day to rejoice with my church family again; however, right now, we're preparing to continue our service online."

Brotherhood *{continued from Pg. A-1}*



COURTESY PHOTO

Delmija Hoff - Alabama State Univ (Crenshaw)



COURTESY PHOTO

ShaDonte Holmes - CSUN (Crenshaw)

Colleges and universities Brotherhood Crusade students will attend this fall (partial listing)

Alabama State University

Antelope Valley College

Cal State University Dominguez Hills

Cal State University Los Angeles

Cal State University Northridge

El Camino College

Graceland University in Iowa

Los Angeles Southwest Community College

Los Angeles Trade Technical College

Ohio Wesleyan University

Oklahoma State

Pierce College

Santa Monica College

Shaw University

West Los Angeles Community College

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability (NOA) of an Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)

I-105 ExpressLanes Project Area
 California Department of Transportation
 District 7, Los Angeles

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED? The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) are evaluating alternatives to convert the existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to dynamically-priced, high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, also called ExpressLanes, in the eastbound and westbound directions of Interstate 105 (I-105) in Los Angeles County from the terminus of the existing HOV lanes west of Interstate 405 (I-405) in the City of Los Angeles to Studebaker Road in the City of Norwalk. The I-105 ExpressLanes Project (Project) limits include installation of a new overhead tolling system and signage. Caltrans, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

WHY THIS NOTICE? Caltrans has studied the effects that the proposed Project may have on the environment and community. The results of these studies are summarized in an environmental document known as a Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). The supporting Draft EIR/EA and Project Report technical studies, as well as printed copies of the aforementioned reports, are available upon request. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of these draft documents to any interested individuals, to provide the public an opportunity to comment, and to notify the public of an online presentation and Q&A (details below). *Note: questions submitted for the Q&A will not be part of the official comment record.* Please submit your comments in writing no later than **Monday, July 6, 2020** to:

Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director
 Caltrans District 7
 Division of Environmental Planning
 100 S Main St, MS-16A, Los Angeles, CA 90012

WHERE AND WHEN? Based on Governor Newsom's executive order, as well as recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to stay at home, except as needed, in-person public hearings will not be held to maintain social distancing requirements. However, you can join a live presentation with Q&A via the web or phone on **Thursday, June 11, 2020, 6pm**. For more details on the live presentation, visit the project website (metro.net/105ExpressLanes) or virtual open house tool (105virtualforum.com). You may also listen live in English by dialing the following number: **213-458-5634, Pin: 433-164-484#**. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Project Team at 213.922.6565 at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled presentation date.

For more information, please contact us at 213.922.6565 or 105ExpressLanes@metro.net. Thank you for your interest in this project!

Honoring Our Fallen by Serving Our Living

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In honor of Memorial Day, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas partnered with nonprofits and businesses to distribute donated groceries, prepared meals, and hand sanitizers to veterans and their families in South Los Angeles.

"This COVID-19 pandemic is greatly impacting our veterans and we are continuing our support of those who have served our country," said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

The event was held at American Legion Chappie James Post 578 and over 60 veterans and their families were given their items by drive-thru.

"This is a very unusual Memorial Day, people are not doing BBQ's and picnics as they would normally do," said General Ruth



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (middle) partnered with nonprofits and businesses to distribute donations to veterans and their families.

Wong, director of the Military & Veterans Affairs at Los Angeles County. "This food distribution is our community giving back to our veterans."

Veterans served have seen a significant reduction in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The veterans who received items today were

so grateful," said Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Second District Appointee of the Veterans Advisory Commission. "Lots are not working during this time and need our support."

Partners included the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Advisory Commission, Kilroy Realty, Fueling the Fearless, CEO Emergency Food Security Branch, LA Regional Food Bank, Chappie James Post, Park



COURTESY PHOTO



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LA Regional Food Bank provided grocery boxes and aided with grocery distribution.

Mesa Heights Community Council, and the Office of LA City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

"I noticed that when resources were coming out there wasn't anything specific for veterans and a lot of our veterans are homeless as well." Latia Suttle of the Jackie Robinson Post

252. "I am glad for the drive thru pick-up today, lots of them don't have transportation and are riding with others to get here."

Fueling the Fearless donated prepared meals from Sweetgreen. LA Regional Food Bank provided grocery boxes and aided with grocery distribution.

CNHF and Councilman Price offer free COVID-19 testing to residents in South L.A.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Central Neighborhood Health Foundation (CNHF) has operated as a designated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) since September 2010. The organization is dedicated to addressing the health care needs of low income, uninsured families and individuals across South Los Angeles.

CNHF has partnered with Los Angeles Ninth District City Councilman, Curren Price to offer free COVID-19 testing to all of the residents in South Los Angeles regardless of their ability to pay. This effort was launched because COVID-19 is infecting and



COURTESY PHOTO

District City Councilman Curren Price (left) to offer free COVID-19 testing to all of the residents in South Los Angeles.

killing African Americans and Latinos at alarming rates.

Kenneth Orduna, PhD,

president and chief executive officer of CNHF said, "The disproportionate infection rate and mortality

among our residents must be addressed that is why I have directed this initiative. And since our community residents are not going to Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City testing stations get tested, we are bringing the COVID-19 testing to the residents. Most of our patients suffer from comorbidities like hypertension, diabetes, obesity and asthma which are tied to COVID-19 complications."

Drive through and walk up testing is being conducted at the parking lots of Second Baptist Church parking lots, 2412 Griffith Ace Los Angeles 90011 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00



COURTESY PHOTO

Drive through and walk up testing is being conducted at the parking lots of Second Baptist Church.

p.m. Monday through Friday. Testing will move to CNHF clinics 2707 South Central Ave LA 90011 and 2619 South Grand Ave, La 90037. Appointments are encouraged. Participants

will not be required to be symptomatic nor will they be required to undergo screening in order to be tested for further information please call (844)-660-9086.

Pepperdine GSEP Foster Grandparent Program Staff Gives Support during Pandemic

BY DR. RENEE DORN, DR. SHANETTA WEATHERSPOON, AND MONICA PEREDA

The month of May is Older Americans Month, and according to the Administration for Community Living, the theme for this year is "Make Your Mark," which was selected to encourage and celebrate the numerous contributions older adults make to our communities. For the Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology's (GSEP) Foster Grandparent Program, the Foster Grandparents who volunteer to be a part of the program have been making their mark for decades supporting the communities in which they live. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a national program which was created in 1965 with over 400 chapters across the United States that

serve more than 250,000 special needs or at-risk youth. Pepperdine University GSEP, led by Dean Helen Easterling Williams, has been a sponsor of FGP since 1972 working with 162 volunteers. All of the volunteers are over the age of 55, with the most senior volunteer at 93 years old. This program partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service and

gives low-income to extremely low-income senior community members within Los Angeles County the opportunity to volunteer with local youth ranging in age from infancy to 21-years-old. Because of the excellent work that the Pepperdine FGP has been doing in the community, the program was recently recognized nationally on the Kelly Clarkson Show. Pepperdine's Foster Grandparents have been so instrumental in working with the local schools and community organizations, that when the grandparents were in need of assistance, the Pepperdine FGP staff were ready and willing to support them.

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) found that older adults were of higher risk of contracting the virus. In order to support the senior population that they work with on a regular basis, the Pepperdine University FGP staff started collecting donations, purchasing cleaning products and food, and distributing these items to their Foster Grandparent volunteers. Under the leadership of Dr. Shanetta Weatherspoon, director of the Pepperdine GSEP Foster Grandparent Program, FGP staff and supporters, including Administrative Assistant Monica Pereda and two graduate assistants, Nazli Bulbuloglu and Miyue Chen, have been making weekly wellness check-ins to all of the 162 Foster Grandparent volunteers. Due to the pandemic, the Foster Grandparents have been social distancing which has caused them to suffer from loneliness and has made it difficult for



COURTESY OF THE KELLY CLARKSON SHOW

[From Left to Right] Grandma Delores, Grandma Karen, and Grandma Pat with Kelly Clarkson featured on The Kelly Clarkson Show!

them to go to stores to purchase items that they need at home.

To alleviate some of these problems, Pepperdine's FGP has partnered with a local organization, True Essence of Love, founded by Charlotte White, and has implemented her initiative of Putting Love to Work during this time of great need. Charlotte White and her team have donated over 140 bags of essential supplies for the Foster Grandparents. Each bag included toilet paper, cleaning supplies, food, and water for each Foster Grandparent volunteer. In recent weeks, Putting Love to Work and Pepperdine's FGP have joined together to coordinate no-contact pick-ups and deliveries to each the Foster Grandparent volunteers.

From May 18 to May 29, Pepperdine's FGP staff will begin its second round of essential supply deliveries to the Foster Grandpar-

ent volunteers. Anyone who is interested in donating cleaning supplies, water, and/or non-perishable food, as well as volunteering to make deliveries to the Foster Grandparents within Los Angeles County can contact the Pepperdine Foster Grandparent Program at (310) 568-5596 or send an email to the FGP Administrative Assistant Monica Pereda (Monica.Pereda@pepperdine.edu). To contribute financially to the Pepperdine FGP Emergency Fund during this crisis, use the link <https://give.pepperdine.edu/gsep/fostergrandparents> and designate "ER Fund" in the notes section. Contributions of time, food, supplies, and financial donations are greatly appreciated to support the Foster Grandparents who have been instrumental in the success of Pepperdine FGP for so many years and are now in need of support themselves.



COURTESY OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Grandma Dorothy McKey volunteering with her mentees at the Girls Club of Los Angeles.

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Confidently Speaking

I am going to be blunt and bold and just ask, how is your confidence factor doing these days? It is okay if it is not where you would like it to be right now. We are all in the same storm. We may be in different boats, but we are all navigating the same storm. We are in uncertain times and no matter how much life we may have lived or how much experience we think we have under our belt, none of us knew this crisis called COVID-19

was coming and how hard we would be hit. Even if you still have your job or if you have a few pennies in the bank, the future may look a bit rocky. With the right tools and information, we can get back up and stand straight with the confidence we need and desire.

We are now in the third month of having to deal with the Coronavirus fallout. I realize that things will never go back to the way they were, but that does not mean we can-

not confidently walk into whatever the new normal looks like with self-assurance. Confidence is about trust. It is about walking boldly in our abilities and qualities. I have put together the following acronym that can help us reach our goal together.

C = Courage. Like the Cowardly Lion in the Wizard of Oz we all could use a little courage. Truth be told we already have it in us. It is up to us to find it. Courage helps us do what

we do not think is possible. **O = Optimistic.** No matter what you may be going through right now it is important to keep your attitude positive and optimistic. Look at the glass as half full not half empty. I believe the best is yet to come.

N = Now. Now more than ever is the time to believe in yourself, your gifts, your talents, and abilities.

F = Forgive yourself and others. Sometimes holding onto unforgiveness can hold us back from walking in our true confidence in life. It is time to let some things go.

I = Intentional. Success does not happen by accident and we will not walk in confidence unless we are intentional about what we do and how we see ourselves.

D = Dream Big. It is good to dream about your goals, where you want to go and how you want to

see yourself. Dreaming is the first step to achieving your goals.

E = Energy. If you are going to feel good about yourself it is important for you to take care of your whole self: mind, body, and soul. This will provide you with the energy you need to do what must be done and get you where you want to go.

N = Negative. No more negative thoughts and self-talk. Also, do not talk negatively about others. We do not have to put others down to build our own selves up.

C = Commit. Commit to yourself and to your goals. Completing projects will help build up your confidence.

E = Enjoy. Now that you have put into place all these steps, it is time for you to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Positive self-esteem and true confidence are your reward.

Lucille Ball once said, "Love yourself first and everything else falls in line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world." I could not agree with her more. When we stop comparing ourselves with others (especially what we see in any form of the media) and realize we were all created on purpose and for a purpose, I believe we will be gushing with confidence that has the power to change the world.

Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on!

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

Success On "The Way"

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"And The Beat Goes On!"
"It's Your Way, Not the Highway!"
Unless You Own The Highway!"

Encourage yourself and one another. NEVER GIVE UP! Things are not as they sometimes appear. Personal experience has taught me. Stay in the game. Obstacles, which appear to be insurmountable with persistence can be overcome. It says, "appear to be insurmountable. The way becomes brighter as you continue to move through the continuum. Concentrate. Focus. All the time building up your resistance. Establish a mindset of faith...no wavering or doubt. Stay the course. Do not allow yourself to be derailed from your passion nor your dream. Do not devalue your ideas or yourself. You're worthy. Giv-

ing up is wiped from your vocabulary. Giving up is not for you, a conqueror. Conquerors have vision and hope. The photo is an American soldier keeping an eye out for enemy fighters on rooftops during an operation August 15, 2004 in Najaf, Iraq. In 1946, U.S. Army Sergeant Isaac Woodard challenged a Greyhound bus driver while traveling from Georgia to South Carolina after being discharged from service in World War II. Police officers met him at the next stop, brutally attacked him, leaving him permanently blind. The attack and other problematic stories led to national pressures on racial segregation

and discrimination and to the integration of the armed services in 1948. Isaac Woodard was born in Fairfield, South Carolina...grew up in Goldsboro, North Carolina...enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 14, 1942, at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, and served in the Pacific Theater as a longshoreman in a labor battalion. In February 1946, the decorated soldier received an honorable discharge at Camp Gordon, located near Augusta, Georgia. Along with a contingent of other discharged soldiers—black and white—Woodard boarded a Greyhound bus on February 12 to travel home. The bus driver be-

littled the army veteran for asking to take a bathroom break. At the next stop, Woodard was met by the Chief Linwood Shull of the Batesburg, South Carolina police. While still in his army uniform, the police forcibly removed the sergeant from the bus and arrested him for disorderly conduct. They repeatedly beat Woodard. The next day he was convicted of drunken and disorderly conduct and fined fifty dollars. It took several days for the police to take him

provide assistance to the gravely injured veteran, while also calling for legal action against Chief Shull. By September, NAACP officials met with President Harry Truman who expressed outrage over the assault on a veteran. Shull was tried in federal court for beating Sgt. Woodward, but acquitted. The jury took thirty minutes to acquit him. President Harry Truman heard about it in the news media...created the first President's Committee on Civil Rights (PCCR)

World War II. The public response to the vicious attack on Woodard signaled a major shift in public support for civil rights during the 1940s. These atrocious historical events cannot be overlooked. It's hard. Martin Luther King said, "We shall overcome." I think we should change and give the saying a lift, "we have already overcome." That puts it into a Spiritual prophetic holding a inviolable perspective...knowing that in the Spirit we have already overcome and we stand in that posture of champions and never underdogs or victims. Isaac Woodard died in the Bronx, New York on September 23, 1992. He was 73. (black-past.org) Joe Raedle/Getty Images Teach the children. Thanks for reading!

Jeanette Grattan Parker, Ph.D., Superintendent 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.successontheway@gmail.com askdrjeanette tm



to the hospital. The beatings that he suffered while in police custody caused him permanent blindness. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) took Woodard's case in the spring of 1946, pressing military officials to

which published To Secure These Rights in 1947. This groundbreaking report led to the desegregation of the military in 1948. For many Americans, Isaac Woodard became a sympathetic figure representing the larger conflicts of Jim Crow emerging after

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California Launches CalMoneySmart Program Based on Bradford Bill

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The California Department of Business Oversight (DBO) announced the launch of CalMoneySmart. This \$4 million grant program was set in motion by SB 455, introduced by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) in 2019, which created the California Financial Empowerment Fund to remove financial barriers and improve monetary security.

“Too many Californians are forced to turn to high-cost products and services to meet their financial needs in an emergency,” said Senator Bradford. “The financial market is already a challenging sector to navigate. The COVID-19 crisis has only made things

more difficult. It is my hope that this program will set a framework leading to generations of financial security in our communities.”

According to the most recent Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, approximately 7% of California households are unbanked, and another 18% are underbanked. Even though two-thirds of California’s households are fully banked, only half of California households save for unexpected expenses or emergencies, and many of those who save still lack the money necessary to cover a \$400 emergency expense. Californians, on average, carry \$10,500 in credit card debt, the fourth highest in



Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena)

COURTESY PHOTO

the nation. SB 455 (Bradford, 2019) empowered the Department of Business Oversight (DBO) to direct necessary funds to nonprofit organizations that offer responsible financial products and services to underserved Californians. Specifically, SB 455 created the California Financial Empowerment Fund (FEF) and authorized the Commissioner of Business Oversight to award grants of up to \$100,000 to non-profit organizations that offer financial education, financial coaching, products, and/or services to un- and underbanked individuals free of charge.

The first round of funding for CalMoneySmart will be released on July 1, 2020.

Ice Cube

(continued from Pg. A-1)

film, “The High Note.”

Senior National Correspondent for the NNPA, Stacy Brown and Dr. Chavis virtually sat down with musical icon, Ice Cube, to discuss the significance of Black media and its impact on future generations of color. Ice Cube was asked to give an encouraging word to Black America as we triumph through this viral pandemic. The hip-hop icon stated, “I think it’s time for us to really put our arms around each other.” Ice cube continued, “Everybody has been on their own page for so long, since we had these phones and computers, all this stuff going on. Everybody has forgot to look at the importance of family and supporting each other. We been through tougher times ...” he proceeded to speak about the unity needed within our community to overcome this pandemic; he spoke about respecting the elders and relying heavily within each other for guidance to healing.

Chavis prompted Ice cube to speak on his new projects he’s been work-

ing on through this season. The latest edition to the CubeVision movie collection is “The High Note,” looking to launch on May 29. Cube explained that the movie gives the audience a “behind-the-curtains” view at the livelihood of a music icon trying to maintain relevancy within the music industry, and the struggles of breaking through as an up-and-coming artist. The music was constructed by notable producer Rodney Jerkins; the premise of the story is about a middle-aged music sensation and an overlooked personal assistant who’s stuck running errands, but aspires to become a music producer. There is a fork in a road between the superstar’s career that ultimately requires the talent of her personal assistant. The movie will be available by PPV, the cast includes Tracee Ellis Ross, Dakota Johnson, and Ice Cube, himself.

Additionally, The “Big 3” Basketball League is another project Cube launched with entertainment executive, Jeff Kwatinetz. Founded in 2017, the



Ice Cube

COURTESY PHOTO

league of twelve teams consists of a lineup that includes both former NBA and international players; the game is looking to return in 2021. FIREBALL3 is an entirely new sport created by Kwatinetz and Cube; where part of the main focus is enhancing the experience for the audience. They were also looking to have a spin-off

reality show, “BIG3: Not in My House,” but due to the current pandemic, the production has been postponed.

Ice cube noted for up-and-coming artists to keep creating; he said, “Do ya thang.” Cube elaborated, “Don’t wait for anybody, stay determined, and stay creative. The technology now is perfect for artists

to be themselves, do what they feel, and not have to conform to anybody.” He spoke about the complexity in his day of developing music and being discovered compared to present day. Cube used social media phenomenon, Soulja Boy as a prime example of the power of today’s modern accessibility. Cube specified the art of falling

in love with creative process and the money will follow.

Moving towards the impact of Black media, Ice Cube emphasized the crucial role Black Press and Media plays in reporting for the community and beyond. He stated the Black press is “all we got.” He explained Black media as the last line of defense when it comes to the truth. He stressed the collective value in reporting what is relevant to our community. The hip-hop legend stands behind nurturing and propelling Black press forward. He summarized his affection by stating, “You gotta listen to the people who love you.”

Brown emphasized the points Cube made and why the Black press is needed. “We are relevant, and we are here for you,” he said. Generations to come will appreciate the pioneers such as Ice Cube that paved the way to reach elevated heights of media entertainment and reporting for the community. Black Press USA reaches the ears across the globe, Dr. Chavis stated, “The Black Press of America, is the Black press of resilience. Looking to provide a resource of truth, Black media sees their best days ahead.

Food

(continued from Pg. A-6)

and overcrowded.

A family of five in East L.A. has been unable to find rice and beans and switched to more expensive foods, meaning their weekly food budget has almost doubled even while their father’s work hours have been cut.

Luckily, there have been many efforts to help the

affected families. During the first week of April, the city of Los Angeles’ Angeleno Fund provided grocery vouchers to more than 3,000 families. We have worked with One Family LA, a campaign that has raised \$1.75 million and has helped 2,600 families so far. But these efforts will not

solve the fundamental food security issues in L.A. To make a long-lasting change, the people of South L.A. need immediate reinforcements and creative thinking from L.A. County and its philanthropic partners.

Specifically, we need these entities to develop a \$5 million fund that would provide emergency grocery vouchers to low-income

families. A designated relief fund at the county level would build on the Angeleno Fund, which provided more than 3,000 families with grocery vouchers in its first week alone.

As importantly, the county should create a series of incentives to bring stores that offer healthy, high-quality, and affordable food to South and East L.A.

Similar programs in places like the county of El Paso, which launched a plan in 2019 to help stores that sell healthy and affordable food either expand or locate in high-needs areas by offering \$1 million in low-interest loans and grants.

If the coronavirus is truly a magnifying glass for our society, we cannot afford to continue to look away.

We have to act on the ugly truths that it is showing us. And we cannot afford to wait.

Larry Fondation is the executive director of United Parents and Students. Michael Lawson is the president and CEO of the Urban League.

Public Notices

CIVIL

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 19STCV25066
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): LESLIE NATALIE OLIVOS, an individual; and DOES 1 THROUGH 10, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): BORIS HOOD, an individual. **NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may

want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.legalhelp.ca.gov), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court’s lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación,

pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.legalhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una mediación de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff’s attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no

tiene abogado, es): Michael Ayzén (Bar No. 293063), THETA LAW FIRM, LLP, 15901 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 270, Lawndale, CA 90260. Telephone: (424) 297-3103, Facsimile: (424) 286-2244. DATE (Fecha): 07/18/2019. Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer / Clerk of Court, Clerk (Secretario), by Marita P. Barell, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL). **NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served as an individual defendant. 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4/20. CNS-3364865# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020082682
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MARRIED TRIBE 55+ COUPLES ONLY, 8722 CRENSHAW BLVD, Inglewood, CA 90305 County of LOS ANGELES. Mailing Address: 4261 LEIMERT BLVD 1/4, Los Angeles, CA 90008. Registered owner(s): LINDA MORGAN, 4261 LEIMERT BLVD 1/4, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008; State of Incorporation: CA. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant(s) started doing business on 04/2020. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section

17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). S/LINDA MORGAN, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/15/2020. **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. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Original Filing 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18/20. CNS-3367564# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
RFP No. OP151-21 METROLINK TRAIN OPERATOR SERVICES
The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Authority) is requesting proposals or the provision of rail operator services for its commuter rail service known as Metrolink. Requests for Proposal (RFPs) may be obtained via download at: https://metrolinktrains.com/doing_business. Vendors must register on the website in order to download the documents, but registration is free. Electronic proposal submittals are due at 2:00 p.m. (PT) on July 3, 2020. The Authority will conduct a virtual pre-proposal conference and facilities tour at 8:00 a.m. (PT) on June 4, 2020. Prospective proposers can respond per the RFP’s provisions, in order to receive the invitation to the virtual conference and tour. Any Contract awarded as a result of this solicitation may be funded in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. Proposers will be required to certify that they have not been suspended or debarred from participation in federally-funded contracts. Full compliance with all applicable Safety and Health standards, DBE requirements, Equal Employment Opportunity and Americans with Disabilities Act laws and regulations will be required of the successful proposer. As a condition of financial assistance agreements between the Authority and U.S. DOT, the Authority has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and overall annual DBE goal

in accordance with Title 49 CFR, Part 26. The Authority’s overall DBE goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2019-2021 is 12%. The Authority has established a goal of 1.1% for DBE participation on this project. For further information contact: Angelos Kastrianakis, Principal Contract and Compliance Administrator at (213) 452-0215 or email KastrianakisA@scrra.net 5/28/20. CNS-3367267# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR
Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Aerial Photography and Videography Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Services (BRC0000182) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works, via BidExpress or mail-in electronic proposals via Universal Serial Bus (USB) drive or compact disk (CD) to Public Works Headquarters Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803 until 4 pm. on June 11, 2020. An RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/> or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 300-2325 or TDDat(626) 282-7829. 5/28/20. CNS-3366053# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

www.lasentinel.net

B-1

Pro Football Player Jerimiah Spicer Continues to Bet on Himself

BY LAUREN A. JONES
Contributing Writer

Jerimiah Spicer, a Los Angeles native, has dedicated his life manifesting his dreams of playing in the NFL, a reality. The 29-year-old has overcome his fair share of adversity from experiencing multiple bouts of homelessness and the loss of his grandmother, who was his only stable parental figure. He has continued to defy the odds and bet on himself while he navigates the cut-throat world of being a professional football player.

"It puts a chip on your shoulder," stated Spicer. "You have the one percent that says I'm not giving up no matter what. I don't care if I'm sleeping in my car or sleeping in the park and that's me."

Spicer was born in Skid Row, a neighborhood in Downtown Los Angeles overrun with homelessness, drugs and mental illness. His mother was living on the streets and unable to care for him due to her drug use that ultimately led to her death in 2010. His father was never in the picture.

Spicer.

His older brother and younger sister were all born into similar circumstances and experienced abandonment. When Spicer was three-years-old, he was found in a trash can and sent to live in an orphanage before being turned over to Child Protective Service.

At that point, Spicer's grandmother took him and his sister in and cared for them. Spicer attended eight different high schools, because adversity was never far behind. He found him-



Jerimiah Spicer sits down for an interview about his experience working out for the L.A. Chargers.

self back on the streets when his grandmother passed away in 2008.

gave me what I've been looking for my whole life, a whole family."

Spicer graduated from high school and enrolled in Riverside Community College where he played linebacker for the school. He ultimately went on to play at Bethesda University.

The next stop was the American Arena League based in North Carolina, where he played for the Cape Fear Heroes and led the league in tackles. His play on the field earned him a spot on the league's All-



Jerimiah Spicer is pictured here wearing the #17 alongside L.A. Chargers linebacker Denzel Perryman at the practice field.

further his belief that it will come to fruition.

The XFL was the latest professional football league that had garnered a good amount of press and buzz, even among the NFL community. It was the opportunity Spicer was searching for to put together some quality game footage to land back on the radar of NFL teams.

Spicer was drafted to the XFL's L.A. Wildcats in the fifth round of the league draft in October.

"I was like, this is my chance and I have to take it," he remarked.

With that, he was off to minicamp and had survived the first round of team cuts.

His fortune took a turn for the worst in December as Spicer was going through his normal daily routine. That morning he grabbed breakfast then went to physical therapy when his coach called him over and let him know that he was being waived.

"I had a great practice the day before," Spicer said puzzled. "They did videos on me and all this stuff, so I couldn't believe it happened."

Once more, the wind was knocked out of him just as he was gaining ground.

"I was like, why me?" questioned Spicer. "It was

deep, I was crying."

It took him two weeks to sort through all of his emotions and come up with a plan on how he was going to bounce back this time.

"I kind of went through a depression for a little bit," he said. "I learned from my mistakes."

Over Spicer's career he has been to 10 different states playing arena football, he has had work outs with the Browns and Chargers, been invited to training camp with the Rams and had interest shown by other NFL franchises.

"Sometimes I only had a dollar in my pocket and a one-way plane ticket," Spicer said. "It took me all

ent if you really want something. Not taking no for an answer, no matter what."

How much more does Spicer have to give to the game?

"Everything I got," he says. "No matter where you come from, don't give up on your dreams. My grandma died, my mom died, I haven't seen my dad in 10 years, it's all about how bad you want it. That's what I've been teaching kids. Everybody has a gift, it's up to you to find it."

In the meantime while he awaits his next opportunity, Spicer is focused on giving back to kids, helping the homeless, and motivational speaking.



Jerimiah Spicer runs drills during practice for XFL's L.A. Wildcats in minicamp.

"The adversity I went through growing up on Skid Row, sleeping in shelters, abandoned apartments shaped my childhood and earliest memories," recalled

Along the way, Spicer found the game of football as an escape from his reality.

"Football became my family, a lot of players and coaches," said Spicer. "It

Arena First Team and his first NFL opportunity, a try-out with the Cleveland Browns.

Though nothing materialized from Spicer's work-out, it inspired him to continue fighting for a spot in the NFL. When the Rams first moved to Los Angeles from St. Louis in 2016, he drove to Oxnard where the team was hosting closed workouts with DVDs of his film in hand.

"It's just the drive knowing that nobody is going to help you if you don't help yourself," Spicer exclaimed. "When you're in the streets and you're starving, you can't have any doubts that you're going to eat."

With that mindset, Spicer received an invite to tryout for the L.A. Chargers. He has come close many times, which he insists only



Pro linebacker Jerimiah Spicer led the American Arena League in tackles and earned All-Arena First Team honors.

the way until I was 28-years-old to get an NFL try-out. You have to be persist-

"It's about finishing the race like Nipsey [Hussle] said, it's a marathon."

Student Athlete of the Week: Payshance Walk

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Sophomore guard, Payshance Walk was determined to have a successful season with the Crenshaw girls' basketball team. Her efforts and diligence helped the Cougars to a 22-7 overall record and 10-0 record in the Coliseum League.

This season, Walk made 6.4 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game. During their 66-30 victory over Bishop Conaty-Loretto, Walk contributed a season high of 13 points.

"My role on the team is to be just an all-around player," she said. "To help anybody on the court and off the court."

This past season was not only her first season playing varsity basketball, but her first school year at Crenshaw after spending her first year at Santa Mon-

ica High School. Walk noted how getting acclimated to the school was easier than she thought.

"Nobody feels left out," she said. "When I first got here, I thought I was gonna feel left out because I've never been at a LAUSD [school], but I got here, I felt welcome."

The transition allowed walk to better showcase her skills on the court. It has made her a stronger player, both mentally and physically. However, the transition did not come without disapproval.

"Many people told me that this transfer over here from Santa Monica was gonna be a waste of my time," Walk said. "To keep winning and keep going and pushing towards my goal is to show them my transfer wasn't a waste of time."

A defining moment for Walk was when she had to battle against her former



Crenshaw sophomore, Payshance Walk made 6.4 points per game this past season.

high school last November. She kept a strong focus on defeating Santa Monica, giving 11 points, four rebounds and two steals to help the Cougars secure a 50-44 victory.

"I really shut out that game and I played well,"

Walk said. "I like that game, that was one of my favorite games and one of my hardest games."

The Santa Monica Vikings showed hostility towards the Cougars, Walk learned how to be persistent and stay out of her head

because of that game.

"When I kind of sat back and the coaches were in my head, my coach told me to get out of my head," she said. "Soon as I got out of my head, I played a better game."

Walk has been follow-

ing the Los Angeles Sparks since the age of nine; she looks up to WNBA All-Star forward, Nneka Ogumike.

"She basically plays how I am," Walk said. "She could be down in the post, sometimes she helps guards. She's one of my favorite players."

Finding a balance between academics and sports can be arduous at times, but Walk found a way to fulfill both obligations.

"I can do my homework when practice is over," she said. "I've been able to balance it."

Her favorite class is Chemistry, she enjoys conducting science experiments. Along with being a competitor in basketball, Walk also volunteers to help at basketball tournaments. She has experience working the scoreboard and at the concession stands.



ENTERTAINMENT

Social Justice is Bigger than Basketball

BY KHARI JONES JR.
Contributing Writer

Arguably the biggest controversial moment in NBA history happened in 2014, when then Clippers owner Donald Sterling's phone conversation was leaked. He stated racist comments, telling the world his disdain for Black people and disrespected the Hall of Famer, Magic Johnson. No need to repeat his ignorant statements, but along with his hateful words, there was a remark Sterling said that sparked dialogue. "Who makes the game? Do I make the game, or do they make the game?"



COURTESY PHOTO

DeAndre Jordan

The players make the game. Fans from all over the world do not travel to see the team's owners. Half of the fans do not even know who the owners are. So, questions about who makes the game should be rhetorical.

"Blackballed" is a documentary that allowed the Clippers players to speak their truths. The director, Michael Jacobs, did an amazing job of gathering



COURTESY PHOTO

witnesses during this time, to share their side of the story that was never told. Jacobs says, "'Blackballed' offers a stranger than fiction narrative, a larger than fiction narrative, and larger than life subjects, but also something unique; the opportunity to listen to unheard participants in history and hand narrative control back to the most immediately affected by events."

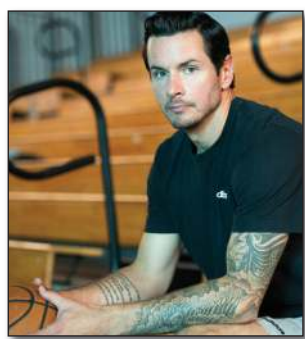
This race issue caused the Clippers to come together as a team and become brothers. "One of the worst and best worst times to be a Clipper said," Matt Barnes. It woke up everyone that thought racism did not exist anymore. Players had no choice but to become activists and show the Black community what they stand for, even if it cost them their careers. When you are in sports or entertainment, your mainstream success is conditional.

The Athletics' writer, Jemele Hill, pointed out, if athletes are entertaining people and staying apolitical, they can sell as many shoes as they would like. "Nobody knows better than Black athletes that their rela-

tionship with the mainstream is conditional. The moment that they cannot entertain you, is the moment you see them as the transcendent Black person," says Hill.

Many players are aware of this notion, but they are getting paid millions of dollars, so they stay silent on political issues. The biggest basketball icon of all time, Michael Jordan, even separated himself from matters concerning the Black community.

In "Blackballed," Chris Paul mentioned that they were aware of Sterling being a racist before everything blew up. "We knew he felt that way but he writes the checks, so that's cool." That said, it is shocking that this did not get swept under the rug. Hill said there is a his-

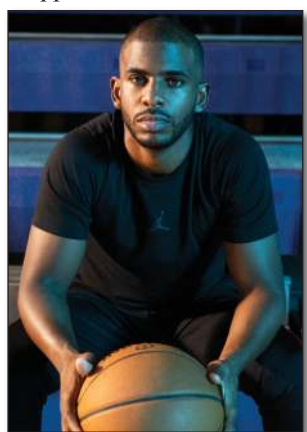


COURTESY PHOTO

JJ Redick

tory of racism that is out there about Sterling. "I truly believe as much as [he] had already gotten away with; this would be swept under the rug."

More players need to investigate the history of the owners. The news is out there on how much racism Sterling exhibited over the years. If Paul and the other Clippers knew about Ster-



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Paul

ling, how many other players are aware of racism in their organizations?

Doc Rivers and the Clippers did what they needed to do to make sure their voices were heard. Rivers's leadership ability to handle controversy played a crucial role in handling this situation.

NBPA President Chris Paul deserves a lot of credit for leading the movement to remove Sterling as the owner of the Clippers. The behind the scenes, efforts from Paul showed leadership. He proved that social justice is more significant than basketball.

In the documentary, Paul talked about how he stepped up for his kids.

And he did not want them to look back and see their father did nothing.

But it does come to mind, if players had not stepped up, would anything be done about Sterling? If that recording did not get leaked, he would still be an owner today. This turmoil brought light to other questions, such as who governs the owners and who holds them accountable.

Adam Silver felt pressure from leaders, Chris Paul, Matt Barnes, and NBA fans from around the world to make a change with Sterling. "This is much bigger than anything I had ever dealt with before. Players were threatening to boycott the playoffs. LeBron James spoke for Black America in a post-game interview when he said, "He has no place in our league."

Silver was three months as the NBA commissioner and had to make the biggest decision in sports history. No way he can silence bigotry of an NBA owner when most of the players are African Americans.

During the documentary, ESPN's Stephen A. Smith touched on the fact that Adam Silver answers to the



COURTESY PHOTO

Matt Barnes



COURTESY PHOTO

Donald Sterling

owners and they have the authority to remove Silver. While the world was watching Silver banned Sterling from the NBA for life. This was the first owner to have



COURTESY PHOTO

Doc Rivers

ever been banned. Silver's career was put at risk. He made a bold move that will forever be respected by the players but will leave a bad taste in the owner's mouth.

Athlete empowerment was in full effect after the Sterling remarks. Paul, Barnes, JJ Redick, and Deandre Jordan played pivotal roles in voicing their opinions, making sure they never played the game for Sterling. They had to show they were united as a team and stood for social justice.

TNT's 'SHAQ'S LIFE' — nine episodes of fun learning about NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal — take notes!

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Most people give me a song and dance about how to pronounce my name — Lapacazo. Not NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal, not Shaq. The first time we were introduced, he extended his gigantic hand and pronounced my name, perfectly. I was the unit publicist on the film "Kazaam" and during the filming, I learned some important facts about Shaq, like he's a regular dude. Yes, a rich, regular dude and a legend but still, a regular dude.

During our lunch breaks, the crew would invite their kids to play hoops with him and he always played with them. He even stepped in a few times to make sure that the crew treated me with the respect that a Black woman



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE DIETL

Shaquille O'Neal

deserved. I will always love him for that. He treated me like a Queen — no gas. A class act from start to finish.

Now to TNT's "Shaq's Life" — nine episodes of fun with narrator Samuel L. Jackson. Do you hear his booming voice of a funky "God" sharing details on the legend's life? It's glorious fun!

"Shaq Life" is addictive,

equivalent to trying to eat just one potato chip.

Episode 1 — 'You Don't Know Shaq' begins with a bang, narrated by the aforementioned Samuel L. Jackson. The question is, who is NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal? He's a big man who towers (literally) over most people and his heart, his empathy, are equally as massive much like his shoe size, which is on record as being a size, 22. I once stood in his shoes, they were in the costume shop for the film "Kazaam" — it was a humbling experience.

Here's what we learn about Shaq, he is just a man with a large heart who wants to live life to the fullest with a single regret, that there are only 24 hours in a day.

Since retiring from his legendary basketball career, he's been keeping busy and churning money. He's on the board of Papa John's Pizza, and he keeps his hands in the world of music working as DJ Diesel.

Here's the point, whatever Shaq puts his hands on, he brings his A-game, and then some. And he doesn't choose the easy stuff, that's not a Shaq move. He loves challenges.

As much as he appreciates his status he makes it a point to help others much less fortunate. One example — and I return to the size of his shoes (22) is helping an eighth-grade young man



COURTESY PHOTO

with a size 19 foot get shoes for his prom and beyond. He even offers to take care of the young man's suit.

Always looking to keep a positive spin in a world that offers bleak facts, Shaq keeps moving through his challenges using humor, an important weapon (I believe) when confronted with a barrage of negative information (constant) and images. It's also interesting to watch his work ethic in full force, meaning he is one of the hardest workers despite having achieved his status (legend) and building his financial empire (substantial).

Shaq remembers his own youth which he admits was tough. It serves him well as he finds the challenges of corporate America. An example is his role as a board member at Papa John's, the Pizza empire, that hits a major roadblock when the founder John Schnatter, used the N-word on a conference call in May.

Shaq has made it known in the media, almost from day one, that he only represents brands that he believes in and was reluctant to take the step with Papa John's. When it did become public that Shaq was on board, strong opinions were expressed toward him by the public. His answer is worth a visit to the series, alone.

Now to his DJ Diesel career, which has an interesting history through-line which began, Shaq says when he attended The TomorrowWorld EDM concert in Atlanta. Following the spell, his DJ career began. What determines if a DJ is a success or a bust? If the people don't groove to the DJ's tunes it's a wrap and that's Shaq's biggest challenge.

I admit. Shaq drops a lot of words of wisdom in the TNT series "Shaq's Life" so much I'm almost to the point of suggesting that young high school kids should

watch and takes notes.

As an example, I offer one of Shaq's mantras: "While you sleep, I'm practicing. When you wake up, I'm still practicing..."

And the takeaway? He takes everything he does to the heart. Giving his very best isn't an option. It's a fact of how he lives his life, period—end of the sentence.

The take away from the series — Shaquille O'Neal is fun, committed, generous, hard-working, and gives as much respect as he expects (and gets).

TNT's docuseries "Shaq Life" is narrated by Samuel L. Jackson and produced by Steve Michaels, Jodi Flynn, and James Macnab of The Content Group. Michael Bloom for Bongo Pictures, Perry Rogers, Colin Smeeton, Mike Parris, and Rory Karpf serve as executive producers. Karpf is also the showrunner.

<https://www.tntdrama.com/shaq-life>



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN MAZUR

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Alonzo Mourning, David Robinson, Bill Russell, Shaquille O'Neal, Dikembe Mutombo

RECORD ATTENDEES STREAM 2020 BHERC SISTAS ARE DOIN' IT FOR THEMSELVES FILM FESTIVAL AT BHERC TV

Popular signature BHERC "Sistas" Film Festival makes its successful debut to online at BHERC TV to record global viewing audience citing flexibility and ease of use as well as superb and thrilling content.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) BHERC TV streaming service is fresh off of a successful 27th Anniversary of the "Sistas Are Doin' It For Themselves" Short Film Festival streamed online at BHERC TV May 23, Noon to May 24, 5:00 p.m. with a vibrant and interactive Q&A ZOOM session that followed the end of the festival with the filmmakers at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday May 24.

More than 650 national and international viewers logged in at their leisure to enjoy the seven films selected for this year's event. Many commented in the Q&A that one of the key benefits of the festival was the opportunity to watch the films "on demand" and multiple times. Others indicated that they had not been able to travel to Los Angeles in the past. Having it online, allowed them the opportunity to participate as well as to meet the filmmakers. "I had a phenomenal experience participating in the BHERC Sistas Are Doin' It For Themselves Film Festival. My film 'Blackbird' is a proof of concept for a feature script I wrote that is seeking funding. As a filmmaker, I felt very supported and I am grateful for an opportunity to share my film with the world and reach a global audience," stated Nicole Thompson director of "Blackbird."

The Q&A was exceptionally informative. Moderated BHERC President Sandra J. Evers-Manly, the session moved amongst the filmmakers attempting to answer the overwhelming number of questions from the audience. Delving into the motive, inspiration, budgets, practical and technical aspects of the making of each of the films. Allowing also to display some of the personalities and backgrounds of filmmakers. Each were able to provide insight and advice about their process and what to do to get started as well as what projects they are working on next. The 2020 filmmakers consist of emerging directors who are students,



Top row Left to right: Jabree Webber, Director/Writer "It Happened One Night", Sandra Evers-Manly, BHERC President and Moderator, Zoe Malhotra, "God Bless the Cook"; Middle row: Alycia Cooper, Director/Writer, "Trade"; Lenore Thomas Douglas, Director/Writer, Cheray O'Neal, Writer "Weep Not"; Wanjiru Njendu, Director/Writer/Producer "Boxed"; Bottom row: Nicole L. Thompson, Director/Writer "Blackbird" and Dezmyre Volmeus, Director/Writer "Lost and Found."

actresses, even a long-time comedienne who is now a director. All who have a unique voice and story that was told with many more to come. "This year's festival was a little different from our past festivals. It was our first time going virtual and it was great. The response from both the filmmakers and the audience was overwhelmingly positive," remarked John Forbes, executive director, BHERC. "The audience was able to watch the films at their leisure and streaming films gave the filmmaker a wider audience base, not only locally but globally. We had viewers from the state Washington to Washington, D.C., from California to New York and beyond."

"I am so honored to have 'It Happened One Night' selected as a part of the 2020 Sistas Are Doin' It Themselves Film Festival. BHERC consistently supports us filmmakers. We had an extraordinary weekend of screenings and a fantastic panel discussion," stated Jabree Walker, director, "It Happened One Night." "SISTAS..." began twenty-five plus years ago as a call to the entertainment industry to acknowledge the grand talent among African American women filmmakers. What

began as a simple screening and discussion became one of the most recognized inspirational and emulated events of the Black filmmaking community. This is the only program that has consistently promoted and supported the work of African American women in film for more than two decades. A clear concept: a screening of short films written and/or directed by some of the nation's top filmmakers with a dialog following. "Now more than ever the Black female perspective is needed in filmmaking, and we cannot deny their power. Moreover, the community needs to know and support our "Sister Sheroes" as they tell our stories. This is an opportunity, and a platform to do just that," states founder Evers-Manly. Past Sista filmmakers and participants have included Gina Prince-Bythewood ("Love & Basketball," "Shots Fired"), Kasi Lemmons ("Eve's Bayou"), Yvette Freeman ("ER"), Dianne Houston (first Black female to be nominated for an Academy Award / Short Film category) and the Oscar-nominated Dee Rees ("Mudbound") just to name a very few. Many of these filmmakers have received high honors

and recognition for their achievements and breakthroughs in filmmaking.

assaulted.;

"Lost and Found" – director/writer Dezmyre Volmeus: A successful fashion editor recently got engaged to her ex-con lover. She used her connections to get him a hotel manager position, only to find out he got an employee pregnant. Should she fight and make it work or can love conquer all?

"Trade" – Alycia Cooper, director/writer: After being released from prison, a married father of two must protect his family from the cellmate he crossed a line with.;

"Blackbird" – Nicole L. Thompson, director/writer: A young woman is torn between two worlds: her day job cleaning planes and her dream of becoming a pilot. When she takes steps to pursue aviation, she is met with resistance, and must fight against the odds to get her wings.;

"Weep Not" – Lenore Thomas Douglas, direc-

mailed himself to freedom in 1849.;

"God Bless the Cook" – director Zoe Malhotra, Annalise Pasztor: Roslyn Spence, a Cordon Bleu-trained chef, introduces her greatest mentor and challenge: her mother. At 94 years old, Edith Bell is still cooking, dancing, and sharing stories of when she cooked for Hollywood's biggest stars. When the two are in the kitchen together, sparks fly between the two big personalities with very different life experiences. Through their shared language of food, this story reflects on that special bond shared between mother and daughter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the BHERC "Sistas Are Doin' It For Themselves Film Festival" this 27th year was an opportunity for participants to screen the films online at BHERC TV. A new streaming service launched in February 2020 that provides short



2020 BHERC Sistas Are Doin' It For Themselves Films.

Guests have a rare chance to have an open dialogue and hear the awe-inspiring stories of how these Sistas did it for themselves.

The 2020 class of Sistas Short Film filmmakers included:

"It Happened One Night" – Jabree Webber, director/writer: In 2022, after Roe v. Wade is overturned, a woman struggles to find the care she needs after being sexually

tor/writer, Cheray O'Neal, Writer: Journey Gordean, a successful journalist gets to cover a story of a lifetime, but her ambition is tested when that very assignment is the man who assaulted her when they were children.;

"Boxed" – director/writer/producer Wanjiru Njendu: Boxed is a fictionalized short film based on the true story of Henry "Box" Brown, a slave who

film content — from comedy to drama, narratives to docudrama — produced and directed by Black filmmakers. BHERC TV is a leading worldwide provider of narrative and documentary short films about the African American experience as well as content from across the diaspora and diverse populations. For more information about BHERC TV log on to www.bherctv.com.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT: As COVID-19 Disproportionately Impacts African Americans, Leading Health Groups Warn Smoking Causes Underlying Health Conditions That Increase Risk

National action needed to stop tobacco companies from targeting vulnerable communities and help smokers quit

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

As African Americans and other communities of color suffer shockingly high rates of illness and death from COVID-19 and health experts warn that smoking can worsen COVID-19, leading health groups are calling for immediate action stop the tobacco industry from targeting these communities and to increase the availability of proven smoking cessation treatments. These actions to reduce smoking can protect lung health and reduce the risk of life-threatening complications from COVID-19.

Health experts have identified a number of fac-

tors that are contributing to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among African Americans, including high rates of underlying health conditions like heart and lung disease and diabetes, which increase risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Smoking is a major cause of these underlying conditions.

“To reduce health disparities amid the coronavirus pandemic, shift your focus so that you begin to think like an advocate, not a victim,” said Dr. Oliver Brooks, president of the National Medical Association (NMA). The NMA is the largest and oldest national organization representing African American physicians and their patients in the United States. “Current data indicate that people of color suffer a disproportionate burden of illness and death due to COVID-19 and we know that African Americans experience high rates of many chronic conditions

linked to COVID-19. The CDC warns that people with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, cancer, severe obesity, diabetes, kidney failure and liver disease are at higher risk for severe illness. Smoking is a major risk factor for many of these conditions.”

Smoking has a devastating impact on the health of African Americans and is the number one cause of preventable death, killing 45,000 African Americans every year. This is no accident. For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted African Americans with marketing for menthol cigarettes. Menthol cools and numbs the throat and increases the addictiveness of cigarettes, making it easier for kids to start smoking and harder for smokers to quit. As a result, African Americans quit smoking at lower rates than other racial and ethnic groups and suffer high rates of tobacco-



COURTESY PHOTO

National action needed to stop tobacco companies from targeting vulnerable communities and help smokers quit

related diseases, including lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema and diabetes.

Now health experts are warning that smoking and vaping can increase risk of severe complications from COVID-19. Smoking increases risk of respiratory

infections, weakens the immune system and is a major cause of underlying health conditions. There is growing evidence that vaping can also harm lung health.

“Smoking is a major contributor to health disparities in our country, and now there is growing

evidence that it can worsen the effects of COVID-19,” said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. “As policy makers work to address the COVID-19 crisis and the longstanding health disparities it has exposed, it is critical that they take bold action to reduce smoking and other tobacco use.”

To reduce the harmful impact of smoking on African Americans, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the National Medical Association and other leading health groups are calling on policy makers to ban flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes. The groups are also advocating for expanding the availability of smoking cessation treatments in communities of color.

Smokers can get free help quitting by visiting smokefree.gov or calling 1-800 QUIT NOW.

Access Care When Needed

Cedars Sinai, Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, Keck Medicine of USC, Providence and UCLA Health Launch BetterTogether.Health “Life may be on pause. Your health isn’t.” Educational Campaign

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Six of Los Angeles County’s largest nonprofit health systems with hospitals, clinics and care facilities across the region have come together united in a mission to encourage community members to put health first and access care when needed.

Cedars-Sinai, Dignity Health, Providence, UCLA Health, Keck Medicine of USC and Kaiser Permanente, have launched public service announcements called BetterTogether.Health with themes that include “Life may be on pause. Your health isn’t,” “Thanks L.A. for doing your part,” and “Get care when you need it.”

Among issues the educational campaign is addressing are the growing concerns by health professionals that many people

are not seeking needed medical advice and assistance when critical to do so. Health care providers remain committed and available to serving the community’s health care needs – including emergency, primary, specialty and urgent care.

Rather than each health system individually addressing what medical professionals increasingly call a “silent sub-epidemic” of those requiring but instead avoiding timely medical services, they came together to tackle head on what could become, if not curbed immediately, the next public health crisis, resulting in serious and avoidable health consequences. Today, the six health systems are joined for this purpose, believing it is their duty to reach out and let people know they are open and committed to maintaining

the health of the communities they serve – and saving lives.

“We are grateful to those who did what was asked – stay home, safe and healthy,” says Erik Wexler, chief executive, Providence Southern California. “We are confident these efforts are making a positive difference in the health of Californians. This collaboration of health systems is not only extraordinary, it provides meaningful information in meeting a challenge beyond anything any of us ever experienced.”

The BetterTogether.Health public service effort will include messages on multi-language television and radio, as well as billboards, newspapers, magazines, digital, social media, online information, links to vital health care resources and more. Combining resources demonstrates

the organizations are in this together, will accomplish more together, and will get through this together.

“Those caring for patients in our hospitals, urgent care centers, clinics, testing centers and through telemedicine have responded with remarkable dedication, resilience and skill,” says Johnese Spisso, president, UCLA Hospital System and Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences. “The health of our community continues as our number one priority, and we’re prepared to address all health care needs.”

Emergencies don’t stop and neither do the hospitals providing emergency care 24/7.

“We know many patients who in the past dialed 911 for life-threatening emergencies are now not accessing these vital services quickly,” says Julie Sprengel, president, Southwest Division, Dignity Health Hospitals, CommonSpirit Health. “We are instead seeing patients that delayed, postponed or cancelled care coming to emergency departments

with serious conditions that should have been treated far earlier.”

Getting to a hospital quickly for heart attacks and strokes is critical and saves lives. Those exhibiting serious symptoms like chest pain, shortness of breath, numbness in one side of the body or severe headache should seek medical attention immediately.

“There is concern that patients with serious conditions are putting off critical treatments,” says Tom Jackiewicz, CEO, Keck Medicine of USC. “We know that seeking immediate care for heart attacks and strokes can be life-saving and may minimize long-term effects. Our hospitals and health care providers are ready and open to serve your needs.”

Scheduled vaccinations for children are part of the important medical care that needs to take place to ensure everyone is protected from infectious diseases. Staying current on your children’s immunization schedule protects them from potentially deadly diseases.

“It is critically important for children to stay on schedule for vaccinations for the protection of their health and others as well, including the measles and whooping cough vaccines,” says Julie Miller-Phipps, president, Kaiser Permanente Southern California, Health Plan and Hospitals. “These highly contagious diseases could become a public health issue if not addressed. Immunizations help protect children and those around them from diseases caused by bacteria or viruses.”

Patient health and safety are top priorities for every health care provider.

“Receiving timely treatment by skilled medical professionals is essential to helping us achieve for our patients and communities the best possible outcomes,” says Tom Priselac, CEO, Cedars-Sinai Health System. “Please do not delay getting your health care. We encourage you to call a trusted health care provider like your doctor’s office, hospital or urgent care center.”

CDPH Announces Most Counties Can Reopen Barbershops and Hair Salons with Modifications

Modifications required to protect californians against COVID-19

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The California Department of Public Health recently announced that counties that have attested to meeting the criteria for accelerated re-opening may re-open hair salons and barbershops with modifications such as mandatory face coverings for both barbers or stylists and clients. State public health leaders noted that Californians staying at home and exercising caution when out helped flatten the COVID-19 curve. Public health leaders acknowledge that

the new announcement is also possible based on statewide indicators such as PPE, testing capacity, hospital surge capacity and hospitalizations.

Permitted activities include services that can be provided with both the worker and customer wearing face coverings throughout the service. These include haircuts, hair coloring, blowouts, weaves and extensions, braiding, lock maintenance, wig maintenance and hair relaxing treatments.

Salon activities that cannot be done with face

coverings on both the worker and client – or that require touching the client’s face – such as shaving, facial waxing, threading, eyelash services and facials – remain prohibited at this time in all counties. Likewise, nail salons remain closed.

“Together, Californians have limited infections in our state, and because of that work, many counties may make a decision to restart modified hair and barber services,” said Dr. Sonia Angell, State Public Health Officer and Director of the California De-

partment of Public Health. “However, COVID-19 is still present in our communities and we are still at risk. As we venture outside our homes, it is critically important to keep physical distance, wear face coverings in public, and wash hands frequently to help protect yourself and those around you.”

Under the new guidance to reopen, salons and barbers must:

Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between and among workers and customers, except when

providing haircutting and other close contact services.

Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift and any vendors, contractors, or other workers entering the establishment.

Encourage workers and customers who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home.

Screen customers upon arrival and be prepared to cancel or reschedule customers who indicate they have any signs of illness.

Require workers and customers to use face coverings during the entire haircutting and other close contact hair services.

More information about the state’s COVID-19 guidance is on the California Department of Public Health’s Guidance web page.

More information about reopening California and what individuals can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is available at covid19.ca.gov.



Above, store managers and owners are individually introduced to the content of the Stay Well booklets. At center, Angelenos pull over to ask for copies of the Stay Well booklets. At right, volunteer ministers at a dry cleaners in Inglewood, one of hundreds of local businesses making How to Stay Well prevention resources available to their customers.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY VOLUNTEER MINISTERS SHARE PREVENTION RESOURCES WITH L.A. COMMUNITIES

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Guided by the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure, Scientology volunteer ministers have visited Los Angeles emergency facilities, essential businesses and shops of every kind, delivering more than 100,000 educational booklets as the city reopens.

The booklets – “How to Keep Yourself & Others Well,” “How to Protect Yourself and Others with a Mask and Gloves” and “How to Prevent the Spread of Illness with Isolation” - provide effective prevention measures and educate individu-

als on what they can do to keep themselves and others well.

Volunteer ministers introduced owners and managers of local enterprises to the booklets and offered them, free of charge, to make available to those they service. Materials were also offered to churches of any denomination for both their clergy and parishioners.

“We wanted to do our part to address the uncertainty out there,” said Stormy Stokes, Church of Scientology Inglewood community center director. “There are a lot of things we as a community weren’t thinking about before that

we need to know and apply now to stay well. After distributing the booklets, I can feel the difference — people are less afraid and more confident once they have more knowledge. It’s calming down the situation.

“It’s also helping the community care for one another by giving store owners a way to help their customers, making all of us safer. We’re all in this together and we want everyone to stay well.”

As stay-at-home orders begin lifting in countries around the world, Los Angeles’s distribution activity is part of a global effort to provide communities from Harlem to Johannesburg to

Taiwan with prevention resources.

In preparation, the Church of Scientology International Dissemination and Distribution Center in Commerce, California saw to the printing of five million copies of Stay Well booklets in 20 languages, including Gaelic and Zulu. Outfitted in protective jumpsuits, jackets, hats, masks and gloves for the safety of all, volunteer ministers have provided these booklets to their communities across the globe.

“I have been wanting to do something to help,” said Cindy Moore, a volunteer minister and native Angeleno. “As a mom of a three-

year-old, anything that keeps our environment safe also keeps my daughter safe. Everyone’s actions affect everyone else’s in this pandemic, so it’s important that every person understands that, knows that they can do something about it, and knows exactly what it is they can do about it.”

For decades, Scientology volunteer ministers have been working in Inglewood, South L.A. and throughout the greater Los Angeles area, and continue to stand ready, as does the Church, to provide assistance — whether voluntary work, disaster relief or donations to emergency personnel.

Among the many actions the Church of Scientology has taken to do its part in addressing this global pandemic, the Church created an online How to Stay Well Prevention Resource Center at scintology.org/staywell to make basic information broadly available.

The Church produced more than a dozen PSAs, available on the site, where booklets and signs for social distancing, hand washing and other measures recommended by health authorities are available for free download in 20 languages.

To learn more, visit scintology.tv.

Pugh and Douglas Reunite for New Top 10 Song

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Gospel star, Earnest Pugh, has reunited with Blacksmoke Music Worldwide CEO, Kerry Douglas, on the soul-stirring Billboard Top Ten Gospel Airplay chart radio smash, “God Wants to Heal You.”

Over a decade ago, Pugh and Douglas created a string of hits together such as “For My Good,” “Every Promise,” and the No. 1 smashes, “Rain on Us” and “I Need Your Glory.” Pugh’s five-octave vocal range and Douglas’ guerrilla marketing tactics have made them an unbeatable team, according to admirers.

After years apart, they have picked up where they left off to release Pugh’s tenth album, “The Outpour Experience Live” (Blacksmoke Music Worldwide), which is now available everywhere music is

consumed.

The 14-track album was produced by Keith Williams, Michael Bereal and Marque Walker. It opens with the ballad, “Your Glory,” which begins as a jazzy conversation with God and morphs into a majestic worship anthem that displays Pugh’s five-octave range on the climax.

However, it’s not all balladry. There are up-tempo singalong tracks such as “Thank You So Much,” “The Grace Dance,” “Grateful,” and the Go-Go rhythm, “Awesome God.” It closes with the current, soul-stirring Top ten single, “God Wants to Heal You.”

“I think ‘Outpour’ will be my last full album,” Pugh said. “In the future, I think I’ll concentrate on singles and tracks because that’s where the industry is right now. In addition, I want to broaden my horizons beyond merely sing-

ing.

“I want to expand my philanthropic endeavors to do more charity because the needs are so great right now. I also want to finally finish my doctorate in theology at the Dallas Theological Seminary so that I can become a professor at a university. It’s also my aim to begin to get film and television placements for my music.”

The film and television placements have already begun. Under the guidance of Pugh’s manager, Vanzil Burke (of Burke Management), he’s already bagged a couple of big looks. His 2009 recording, “Praise Break - The Sundae,” has been featured on the CBS sitcom, “The Neighborhood.” His 2017 hit, “Trade It All,” was recently featured in the BETH movie premiere of director Coke Daniel’s

film, “His, Hers and The Truth,” which stars Brad James and Ashley A. Williams.

“After the movie made such a major impression at the Black

Festival in Miami last year, the producers called and asked me for a song that would go with a certain scene in the movie,” Pugh recalled.

“Because my

repertoire is mostly gospel music, I felt that the only song I had that would be fitting and proper would be my remake of Joe Cocker’s ‘You Are So Beautiful.’ They never replied to my email when I sent that song, but instead, they called and said they were going through my body of work and found ‘Trade It All.’

“I called the CEO of Blacksmoke Music, Mr. Kerry Douglas, and he said by all means we should give clearance for the song to be on the soundtrack and the rest is history.” With the release of “Outpour,” it appears that Pugh has more history to make.

To listen to Earnest Pugh’s new track, visit <https://lnkfi.re/The-OutpourExperience>.



Film

COURTESY PHOTO

A Courageous Mind is A Healthy Mind

BY DR. BILL RELEFORD
Contributing Writer

If there is one recurring theme surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that of fear.

Twenty-Four-hour news feeds on coronavirus cases have many people continually harassed and tormented by fear, anxiety, and uncertainty; the real weapons of mass destruction.

It was once said: “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” I would like to proclaim that your mind is the most important asset that you possess, and protecting it from fear and cultivating courage should be your daily assignment.



Dr. Bill Releford

With a fearful mind, you will never have the tools to overcome and thrive during life’s turbulent events.

You must have a courageous mind. Why? How can you serve yourself or mankind with a weak,

flimsy mind? How can you fulfill your life’s calling or ministry when you pay all of your attention to the outer self and neglect the inner self, which is where the mind resides? More importantly, your mind is where God resides within you, according to 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Fear can really jack you up if you let it. Remember, fear has always been used as a tool by our oppressors to control, manipulate, and snuff out progression.

A feeble mind is an undisciplined mind, and an undisciplined mind is a reckless mind that clings to unhealthy habits. All these open up the door to fear, which has the potential to:

- Impair the immune system.
- Prevent you from having a restful sleep.
- Trigger mental health disorders, such as PTSD, fatigue, and clinical depression.
- Cause forgetfulness by damaging parts of the brain responsible for forming long-term memories.

What is courage anyway? Quite the opposite of fear; courage is the ability to act, plan, and strategize boldly during times of adversity and uncertainty.

A courageous mind is a calm and resolute mind. Regular meditation and prayer feed the courageous mind with the spiritual nutrients required to plan and

conquer.

Unlike fear, which is paralyzing, courage can liberate the mind and set the stage to overcome. I know first hand what courage can do - how it can calm the mind, how courage and faith synergize to unleash the miraculous!

- Courage can:
- Help you to have a more restful sleep
 - Dispel feelings of low-self esteem and build confidence
 - Establish healthy neurological connections in the brain
 - Lower blood pressure by reducing anxiety

To keep our minds courageous and healthy, we should practice the follow-

ing habits:

- Focus on positive thoughts
- Practice daily affirmations of faith rooted in the word of God
- Minimize news watching to spend more time with loved ones

As a popular writer once wrote: “Fear is a reaction, but courage is a decision.” Moreover, the Word of God instructs us to be bold. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “God hasn’t given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.”

Make a decision to be courageous.

Dr. Bill Releford is the founder of The Black Barber-shop Health Outreach Program, @blackbarbershop-health and @drreleford.

Rep. Maxine Waters, Janelle Monáe, Jidenna, Angela Rye, Wondaland & Inglewood Unified School District Invite You to 'Wondalunch' in Inglewood

Event will provide free meals to thousands of local families

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Maxine) invites her community to receive free, pre-packaged lunches at the "Wondalunch" in Inglewood event on Friday, May 29, 2020, from 12-3pm at Crozier Middle School (120 West Regent St, Ingle-

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (aka Auntie



JOIN JANELLE MONÁE, JIDENNA, ANGELA RYE, WONDALAND & CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS FOR:

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Early arrival is highly advised. Current COVID-19 social distancing ordinances allow for drive-thru or walk-up service only.

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!






THE BILLUPS FOUNDATION **#INGLEWOODGIVES**

wood, CA 90301).

The event is being hosted by singer, songwriter, actress, and producer, Janelle Monáe, Jidenna, Angela Rye, Wondaland, Congresswoman Waters, and the Inglewood Unified School District in an effort

to provide thousands of meals for families that have been impacted by COVID-19. Other event partners include KJLH Radio, Project Isaiah, the Billups Foundation, and the Social Justice Learning Institute. All residents of the

community are welcome. Please wear a mask. Drive-thru and walk-up service will be provided in accordance with local public health guidance. All families are asked to pre-register by visiting: tinyurl.com/wondalunchonus.

L.A. Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson to Host Veterans Grocery Giveaway

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson will host a Veterans Grocery Giveaway at his district office on Friday, May 29 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Veterans, current military members, and their

immediate household family members are invited to sign-up online to attend the drive-thru grocery giveaway at <https://forms.gle/onVPE2odkZx1bfbK8>

If selected, individuals will need to show proof of service in order to participate (i.e. DD 214 or active duty service card, retire-

ment card also accepted) Family members and friends are encouraged to provide a ride for selected veterans who may not have the transportation or means to otherwise attend this event.

Selected participants will be notified via email on how, when and where to



Herb Wesson

pick up their groceries. Groceries are given away while supplies last and on a first-come, first-served basis for those selected through the sign-up process. One entry per household.

Attendees are required to wear face coverings and observe 6 feet of social dis-

tancing guidelines at all times.

This event is sponsored by Councilmember Herb Wesson to provide groceries to local veterans and military families during the current COVID-19 crisis, which has created an even greater need than ever before.

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Website: bcamechurchla.org

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
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Giving Options: online at www.corchurch.org or mail to: 45 Tesla Irvine, CA 92618

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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



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Pastor's Daily Prayer Line: Weekdays 6AM, (310) 372-7549, Code 342408

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Phone: (323) 731-8869 (leave message and staff will respond)



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