



Ilyasah Shabazz Talks About 'The Awakening of Malcolm X'
(See page B-1)



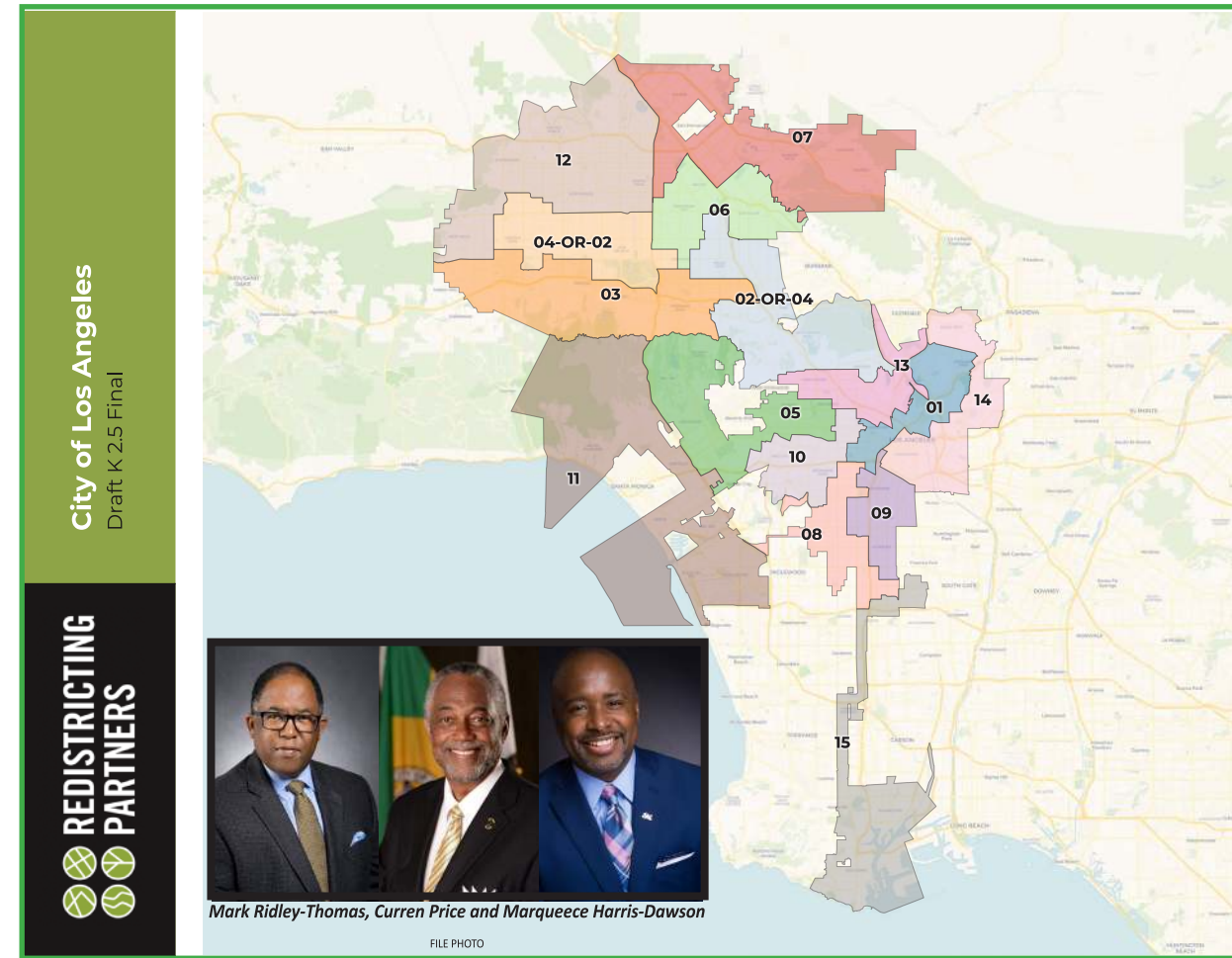
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Dave Chappelle Hits Back at Controversy and Asks, 'Am I Canceled or Not?'
(See page D-2)

VOL. LXXXVII NO. 42, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, the Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

Black Lines Matter: The Fight Over Redistricting Lines in Los Angeles



This map outlines the council district boundaries recommended by the redistricting commission. LACCRC2021.ORG

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Council Districts (CDs) 8, 9 and 10 saw minimal changes in the final draft map to be submitted to the

Los Angeles City Council by the Redistricting Commission.

According to some Black observers, these lines have significant meaning for South Los Angeles and

African Americans who reside and operate businesses within the city of Los Angeles. With Los Angeles' Black population declining, many people are convinced that

it is critical that the lines be drawn to keep African American representation as close knit and unified as possible.

{See BLM A-10}

Kiesha Nix Makes History as First Black Woman VP for the Lakers



Kiesha Nix COURTESY OF KIESHA NIX

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Kiesha Nix has been entrusted with the responsibility to lead the Los Angeles Lakers in public service as the Vice President of Charitable Affairs. When she was Executive Director of the Lakers Youth Foundation, Nix championed many programs centered

around the well-being of the next generation, and now she looks to expand the Lakers' reach in charitable acts.

In many diverse communities, Nix is known for being a resource among the youth. She has been given several awards for her dedication to public service. However, in an exclu-

{See NIX A-10}

Marina Torres Runs for City Attorney

She looks to be the bridge between the law and the people



Marina Torres is looking to improve the quality of life for all people as City Attorney of Los Angeles.

COURTESY OF MARINA TORRES

{READ FULL STORY A-11}

Earl Aims to Transform Lives in L.A. by Tackling Racism in Government

As LADWP Senior Asst. General Manager of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, Monique Earl targets dismantling biased practices and increasing partnerships with marginalized groups

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Monique Earl revealed an ambitious goal – save lives in the city by changing L.A. city government.

Some may consider her aspiration far-fetched, but Earl is serious about this objective and she has the skills, experience and capability to achieve it. Also, her current job positions her to reach that mark.

As senior assistant general manager and chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Earl can begin to realize her vision of "unraveling institutional racism and discrimination where it



Monique Earl is the department's chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. LADWP

lives and breathes in our government institutions."

Earl connects the dismantling of biased practices with fulfilling the city's main mission. As she explained, "The City's primary focus should be saving lives. Saving lives means making sure all people have adequate housing, transportation, jobs, health care, education, etc.

"I know that a government that is working effectively on behalf of the people that need it most can transform lives. That is all that matters to me."

With this philosophy in mind, Earl has committed to give her best effort in carrying out her respon-

{See EARL A-11}

Avan Family Wants DA George Gascon to lead the fight for #Justice4Michelle

BY DR. VALERIE WARDLAW
Contributing Writer

For the past three months, Trevon and Nyah Avan, the young adult children of murdered Bank of America executive Michelle Avan have begun to walk the painful path of living the rest of their lives without their beloved mother. Avan's life was tragically taken on August 3, 2021, when accused murderer and ex-boyfriend Anthony Duwayne Turner entered her Reseda home and beat her to death.

Exacerbating their pain



Nyah Avan, Michelle Avan, Trevon Avan COURTESY PHOTO

are the actions of Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon and his refusal to charge Turner with special circumstances as an enhancement to his current charges of murder and first-degree residential burglary. Even more incredulous is DA Gascon's refusal to meet with the Avan family or permit a member of his team to do so.

A criminal justice reform, Gascon promised sweeping policy changes beginning with the district attorney's office. The much-touted Gascon justice

reform policies have angered families who have lost loved ones to violent crimes and those same policies have ignited a blazing firestorm resulting in a recall movement. Simply stated, there are many who want Gascon gone.

As of this writing, the degree of the murder charge has not been decided nor has a special circumstance charge been added to the Avan case. And DA Gascon has not spoken with or met with Trevon and Nyah Avan.

The Los Angeles Sentinel
{See AVAN C-2}



Wells Fargo Pledges One Million Dollars to Support the Los Angeles Urban League Center for Entrepreneurship

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

The Hot and Cool Café, located in Leimert Park, Los Angeles, was recently the venue for a well-attended press conference where Wells Fargo announced a \$1 Million Dollars investment in the Los Angeles Urban League, the 100-year-old highly respected civil-rights and economic empowerment organization. The five-year investment will enable the Los Angeles Urban League to increase its assistance to small, Black-owned, and other disadvantaged companies in Los Angeles County. The Urban Center for Entrepreneurship provides business consulting, technical assistance, loan and contract facilitation, and emergency pandemic-

ing African Americans and other diverse communities achieve social parity, eco-

of the substantial and long-standing relationship between the Los Angeles

We continue to fight and create opportunities for new entrepreneurs and new

member, Isaac Bryan of the 54th Assembly District expressed that “when COVID-19 hit, it hit us the hardest. We lost our homes first, we lost our lives first, we lost our businesses first. At one point it looked like half of every single Black business in Los Angeles was going to be closed never to be opened again.”

“This transformative award from Wells Fargo will expand the Los Angeles Urban League’s ability to provide best-in-class resources to both start-up and established business

the Urban League. “Our goal is to increase the revenues and net worth of small and minority-owned companies, which in turn will hire more people from the community and stabilize their neighborhoods.”



(left-to-right) Charles Scharf, President & CEO of Wells Fargo; Michael Lawson, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League; Isaac Bryan, California Assemblymember, 54th Assembly District; Holly Mitchell, Supervisor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Second District; Anthony Jolly, Co-owner, Hot and Cool Cafe and Eliot Hinds, Chairman, Los Angeles Urban League Board.

conomic self-reliance, and civil rights,” said Charlie Scharf, CEO of Wells Fargo. “We’ve seen the positive impact the Los Angeles Urban League’s

Urban League and Wells Fargo. We appreciate this sizable grant, because it demonstrates Wells Fargo believes in not only the work that the Los Angeles Urban League is doing, but the impact that this will have on the communities that we serve,” said Michael Lawson, president & CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League. “As we celebrate our centennial, it is noteworthy to have partners such as Wells Fargo who assist us in our mission during these challenging times.”

Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Second District, who was one of the press conference speakers, remarked “it gives me great pride to see this iteration of what Leimert Park has become. I am clear it is a reflection of people like me, third generation Angelenos, who understood the rich history of Leimert Park and we never gave up.

Entrepreneurship Center and small business programs have had on the Los Angeles community, and we are proud to help expand that impact with the commitment Wells Fargo is making today.”

“This grant is evidence



(left-to-right) Charles Scharf, President and CEO, Wells Fargo and Michael Lawson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League.

related financing to hundreds of business owners annually.

“Wells Fargo is honored to be a longstanding supporter of the Los Angeles Urban League and we congratulate the organization on 100 years of help-



COURTESY/LAUL
Charles Scharf, President and CEO, Wells Fargo

The Los Angeles Urban League Board Chairman, Elliot Hinds, commented that “this was an exciting event and announcement. A physical space is very important, we learned that from the incredible year we had this year. That’s why it’s important we are here in Leimert Park. So, I would like to thank our hosts, Anthony Jolly and Nina Amin, for their generosity hosting this press conference today.”



(left-to-right) Michael Lawson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League, Charles Scharf, President and CEO, Wells Fargo and Raphael Henderson, District Manager at Wells Fargo.

investments in this space.” Following her remarks, California State Assembly

owners through our Entrepreneurship Center, said Brian Williams, COO of

Aquarium of the Pacific Launches African American Scholar Program for its Second Year

The program awards funds to students pursuing studies related to careers in the aquarium field and engages them in the Aquarium’s work through initiatives and events

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Aquarium of the Pacific is now accepting applications for its African American Scholar program, which is now in its second year. The program awards funds to support African American students who demonstrate a commitment to studies related to careers in the aquarium field, including ocean education, animal husbandry, water quality, building maintenance or facilities, microbiology, and business management. Through this program, the Aquarium hopes to bring meaningful opportunities in the marine sciences to African American students and to bring diverse minds to solving the issues facing our planet and its inhabitants.

“The Aquarium of the Pacific is committed to creating pathways for African American students to pursue careers in our field, and it has been very gratifying for us to collaborate with the first group of scholars from this program as they engage in the Aquarium’s work. This has included developing new initiatives and serving as a platform for the scholars to connect with other scientists and the next generation of students,” said Anthony Brown, chief financial officer at the Aquarium of the Pacific. “As the African American Scholar program enters its second year, I hope to see an even larger pool of candidates and encourage other zoos and aquariums to undertake similar efforts to diversify our industry.”

In addition to receiving scholarship funds through this program, the recipients are invited to engage in various Aquarium programs. Past recipients have written for the Aquarium’s member magazine and served as judges in an environmental film festival for high school students. At a symposium

this fall, the scholars will have more opportunities to meet with Aquarium staff

program at the Aquarium’s twentieth annual African American Festival on Feb-



AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
Newton Zachary Hood, a recipient of an award from the program’s first year, visits the Aquarium’s behind-the-scenes abalone lab.



AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

members, hear guest scientists speak about their careers, and connect with high school students from the Long Beach Unified School District.



AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
Aquarium CFO, Anthony Brown holds sign with year 1 names of recipients

Applications for the 2022 African American Scholar Program are due by December 31, 2021. Recipients will be notified by February 1, 2022, and awards will be presented to the individuals selected for the pro-

gram details and submission guidelines, please visit pacific.to/africanamerican-scholar.

This program is possible thanks to funding from individuals and corporate supporters, including Aquarium Board members, staff members, The Boeing Company, and Poms & Associates.

“Poms & Associates is delighted to support the Aquarium of the Pacific’s African American Scholar Program, which not only provides opportunities to African American students committed to the marine sciences, but also encourages diversity in the field,” said David Poms, president of Poms & Associates.

The public is also invited to support the Aquarium’s African American Scholar Program. Thanks to an anonymous matching gift, all donations will be matched up to \$10,000 dollars. To make a donation, you can visit pacific.to/africanamerican-scholarfund.

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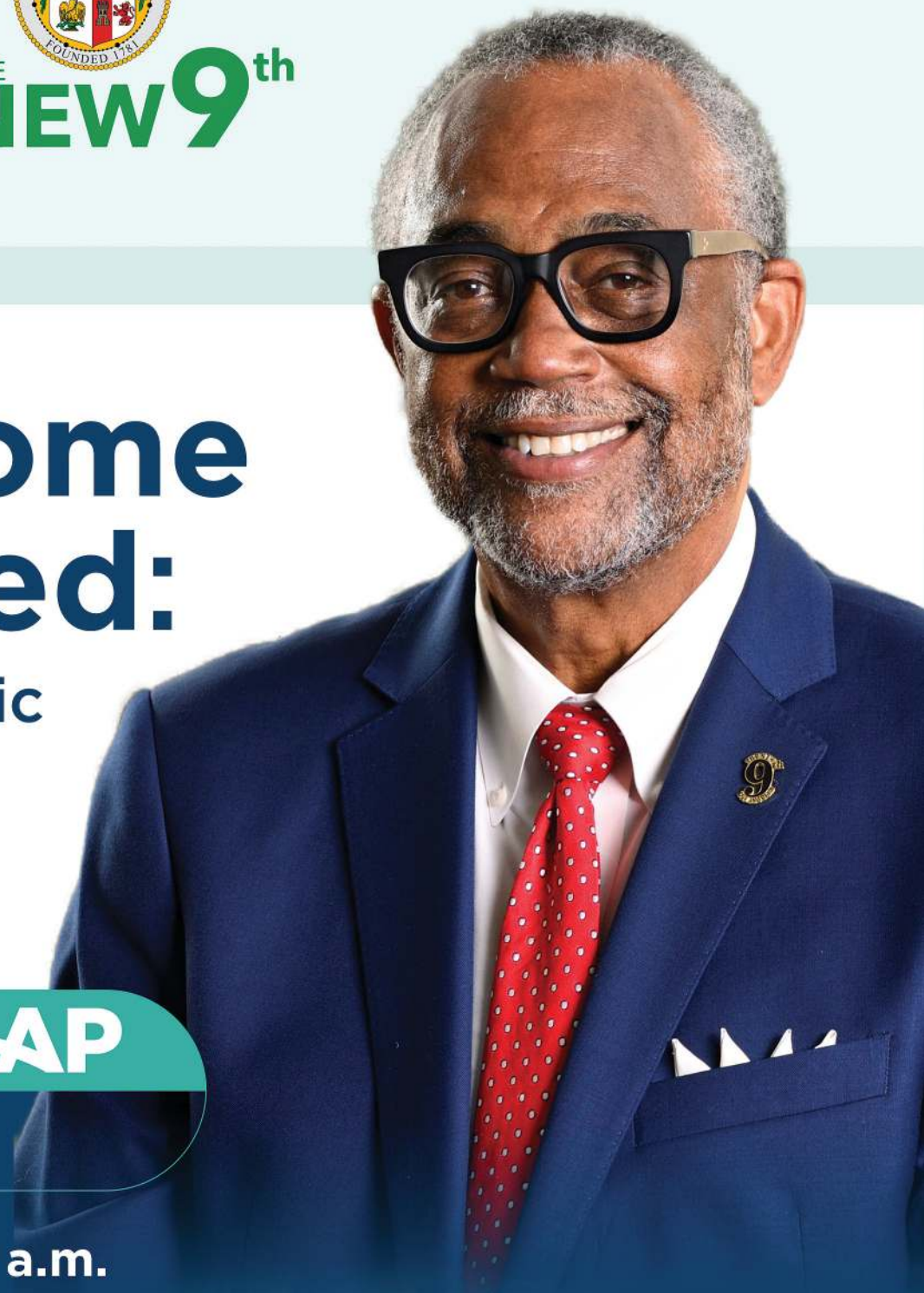


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PRESENTS

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Los Angeles Economic Assistance Pilot (BIG:LEAP)



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APPLICATION PERIOD

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- Closes Sunday, Nov. 7 at 11:59 p.m.

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Basic Income Guaranteed: Los Angeles Economic Assistance Pilot is the largest Guaranteed Income pilot demonstration in America. This pilot program will provide 3,000 individuals chosen at random with \$1,000 per month for 12 months. No strings attached.

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- Must reside in the City of Los Angeles
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- Income level falls at or below 100% of the federal poverty line
- Have at least one dependent child
- Experienced economic and/or medical hardship related to COVID-19

BIG:LEAP is open to all Angelenos that meet the criteria.

Family Size	Poverty Level
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

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bigleap.lacity.org

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Reparations: How ‘Intentional’ Gov’t Policy Denied Blacks Access to Wealth

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, the Black community owned less than 1% of the United States’ total wealth, the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans was told during its fourth meeting.

Mehrsa Baradaran, a professor at the University of California Irvine, School of Law, shared the statistics during the “Racism in Banking, Tax, and Labor” portion of the two-day meeting on Oct. 13.

From her perspective, the power of wealth and personal income is still unequally distributed. And that inequality, in her view, has always been allowed, preserved and compounded by laws and government policy.

“More than 150 years later, that number has barely budged,” Baradaran told the Task Force, tracing the wealth gap from the period after the Civil War when President Lincoln granted formerly enslaved Blacks their freedom to the present day.

“The gap between average White wealth and Black wealth has actually increased over the last decades. Today, across every social-economic level, Black families have a fraction of the wealth that White families have,” she said.

Baradaran has written a range of entries and books about banking law, financial inclusion, inequality, and the racial wealth gap. Her scholarship includes the books “How the Other Half Banks” and “The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap,” both published by the Harvard University Press.

Baradaran has also published several articles on race and economics, includ-

ing “Jim Crow Credit” in the Irvine Law Review, “Regulation by Hypothetical” in the Vanderbilt Law Review, and “How the Poor Got Cut

ties mirror the fact that African American and Latino adults are overrepresented in low-wage jobs and have higher unemployment



Mehrsa Baradaran, University of California Irvine, School of Law.

Out of Banking” in the Emory Law Journal.

A 43-year-old immigrant born in Orumieh, Iran, Baradaran, testified that her work on the wealth gap in America was conducted from a “research angle” and she respectfully “submitted” her testimony “in that light,” she said.

In her research, Baradaran explained that she discovered an intentional system of financial oppression.

“This wealth chasm doesn’t abate with income or with education. In other words, this is a wealth gap that is pretty much tied to a history of exclusion and exploitation and not to be remedied by higher education and higher income,” Baradaran said.

According to a January 2020 report, the Public Policy Institute of California said African American and Latino families make up 12% of those with incomes above the 90th percentile in the state, despite comprising 43% of all families in California.

In addition, PPIC reported that such dispari-

ties mirror the fact that African American and Latino adults are less likely to be in the labor force.

Many issues support these activities that range from disparities around education, local job opportunities, and incarceration to discrimination in the labor market, according to PPIC.

“While California’s economy outperforms the nation’s, its level of income inequality exceeds that of all but five states,” the report stated.

“Without target policies, it will continue to grow,” Baradaran said of the wealth gap. “And I want to be clear of how this wealth gap will continue to grow. It was created, maintained, and perpetuated through public policy at the federal, state, and local levels. Black men and women have been shut out of most avenues of middle-class creations. Black homes, farms, and savings were not given the full protection of the law. Especially as these properties were subjected to racial terrorism. The American middle-class was not created that way (to support Black communities).”

A June 2018 working paper from the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute written by economists familiar with moderate-to-weak Black wealth backs up Baradaran’s assessment.

Published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the authors of the report wrote that strategies to deny Blacks access to wealth started at the beginning of the Reconstruction era, picked up around the civil rights movement, and resurfaced around the financial crisis of the late 2000s.

Authored by Moritz Kuhn, Moritz Schularick, and Ulrike I. Steins, the “Income and Wealth Inequality in America, 1949-2016” explains a close analysis of racial inequality, pre- and post-civil rights eras.

The economists wrote that the median Black household has less than 11% of the wealth of the median White household, which is about \$15,000 versus \$140,000 in 2016 prices.

“The overall summary is bleak,” the report states. “The historical data also reveal that no progress has been made in reducing income and wealth inequalities between Black and White households over the past 70 years.”

Baradaran recently participated in the virtual symposium, “Racism and the Economy: Focus on the Wealth Divide” hosted by 12 District Banks of the Federal Reserve System, which includes the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

There are some positives that are not typically

included in discussions about the challenges Blacks have experienced historically in efforts to obtain wealth, Baradaran said. Many African Americans, specifically in California, were able to subvert the systems that discriminated against them.

“Black institutions have

regation, and the historic denial of Black citizens’ constitutional rights.

Fifty years after the federal Fair Housing Act eliminated racial discrimination in lending, the Black community continues to be denied mortgage loans at rates much higher than their White counterparts.



been creative and innovative serving their communities in a hostile climate,” Baradaran said. “I’ve written a book about the long history of entrepreneurship, self-help, and mutual uplift. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have provided stellar education and Black banks have supported Black businesses, churches, and families.”

California’s Assembly Bill (AB) 3121, titled “The Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans,” created a nine-member commission to investigate inequity in education, labor, wealth, housing, tax, and environmental justice.

All of these areas were covered with expert testimony during the two-day meeting held on Oct. 12 and Oct. 13. The task force is charged with exploring California’s involvement in slavery, seg-

“Banks and corporations have engaged in lending and hiring practices that helped to solidify patterns of racial inequality,” Jacqueline Jones, a history professor from the University of Texas told the Task Force.

The Racism in Banking, Tax and Labor segment also featured testimonies by Williams Spriggs (former chair of the Department of Economics at Howard University. Spriggs now serves as chief economist to the AFL-CIO), Thomas Craemer (public policy professor at the University of Connecticut), and Lawrence Lucas (U.S. Department of Agriculture Coalition of Minority Employees).

The Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans will conduct its fifth and final meeting of 2021 on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7.

Cal Warns Businesses, Landlords Using Felonies and COVID to Discriminate

BY EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black

The California state government has been reminding businesses across the state that it is illegal to discriminate against job applicants because of they have committed felonies or misdemeanors in the past. Authorities in Sacramento have also taken steps to make sure businesses do not use COVID-related restrictions to deny entry to customers they do not want based on race or other factors.

So far, the state has sent more than 500 notices to businesses informing them that they have violated protections put in place to protect people seeking work.

“The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) announced a new effort to identify and correct violations of the Fair Chance Act, a pioneering state law that seeks to reduce barriers to employment for individuals with criminal histories,” a statement the DFEH released last week reads.

The Fair Chance act, which took effect on January 1, 2018, was written to increase access to employment for Californians with criminal histories in an effort to reduce recidivism, among other goals. Employers with five or more employees are prohibited from asking a job candidate about conviction history during the hiring process or when advertising a vacancy.

The DFEH says it is implementing new technologies to conduct mass searches of online job applications that include unlawful statements. For example, some businesses explicitly state in hiring advertisements that they

would not consider applicants with criminal records.

“Using technology to proactively find violations of the state’s anti-discrimina-

tion laws is a powerful strategy for our department to protect Californians’ civil rights,” said DFEH Director Kevin Kish. “DFEH is committed to preventing employment discrimination through innovative enforcement actions and by providing clear guidance to employers.”

While businesses have been encouraged to stay vigilant with mask mandates



DFEH also released a toolkit to aid employers in adhering to the Fair Chance Act guidelines. The toolkit includes sample forms and guides that employers can use to follow required procedures; a suggested statement that employers can add to job advertisements and applications to let applicants know that they will consider individuals with criminal histories; answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Fair Chance Act and an informational video that explains the Fair Chance Act.

In addition, DFEH plans to release an interactive training and an online app in 2022.

The DFEH also released guidelines for businesses that will be implementing COVID-19 related entry restrictions to protect against discrimination based on

and vaccination verification for entry, the DFEH says it has also found it necessary to preemptively address refusal of entry that could be racially motivated masked as a COVID precaution.

“As Californians navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing has provided guidance to protect civil rights and mitigate risk of COVID-19 transmission in employment, housing, healthcare, and, in our guidance released today, businesses open to the public,” said Kish. “We can and must uphold civil rights while simultaneously disrupting the spread of COVID-19.”

DFEH encourages individuals to report job advertisements in violation of the Fair Chance Act or other instances of discrimination.

DFEH is also encouraging the public to report housing ads that include discriminatory language that exclude certain racial groups, immigrants, people with felonies, applicants with Section 8 or HUD vouchers; etc.

Visit the DFEH website to file complaints.

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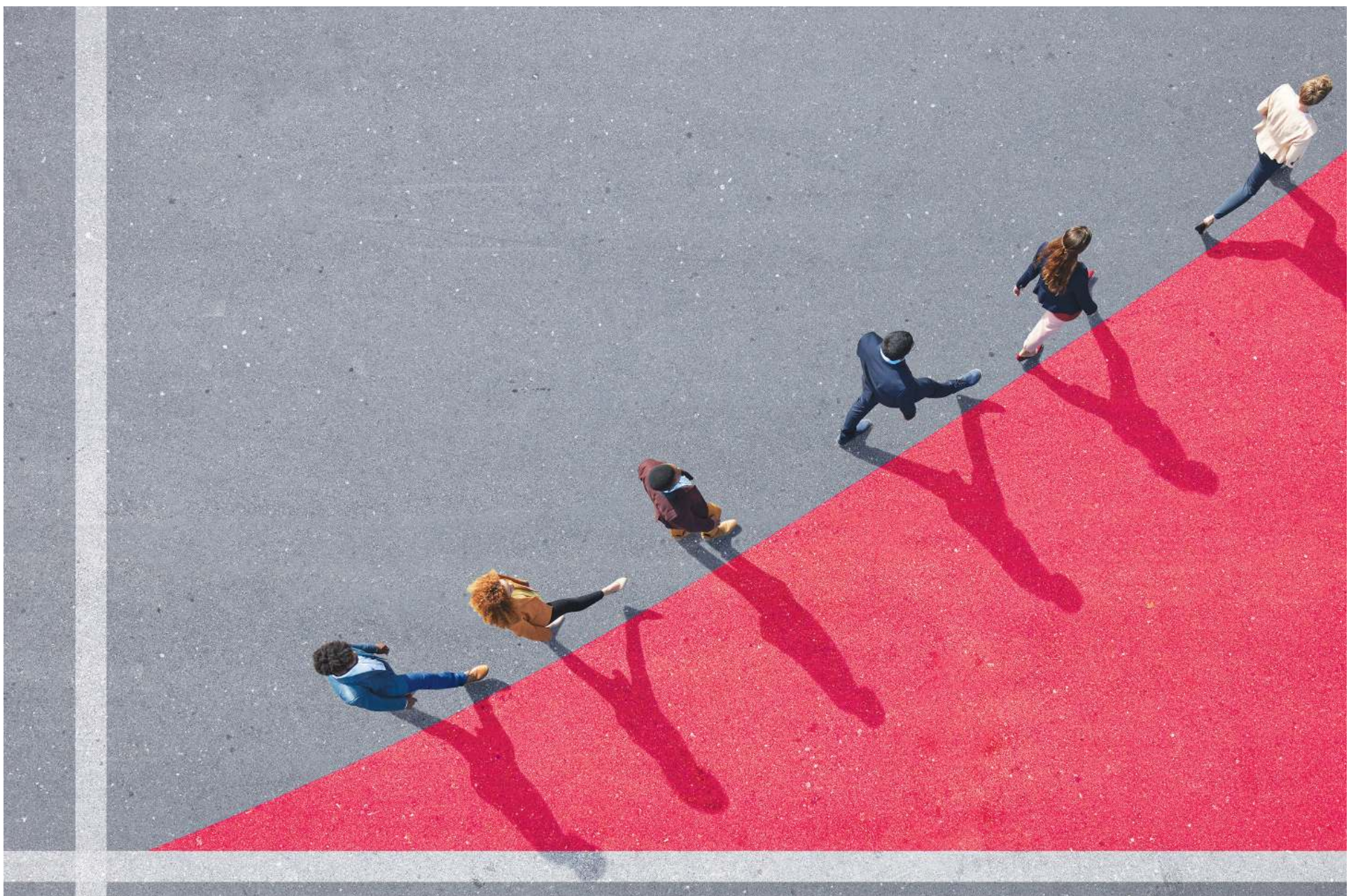
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Los Angeles Community College District Welcomes \$5 Million in New Funding to Support Umoja Programs and Black Student Success

Umoja provides services specially designed for the success of African-American students

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) welcomes the State Legislature's approval of \$5 million in additional ongoing funding for Umoja programs at California's community colleges.

Umoja (a Kiswahili word meaning unity) Programs provide community and critical resources to state community colleges dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of students, particularly those from African American backgrounds. These Umoja programs actively serve and promote academic success for underserved students through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African American diasporas. Umoja seeks to educate the whole student—body, mind and spirit and provides robust wrap-around student

services.

"Equity is at the heart of everything we do at LACCD, and there is no better way to ensure that than by making sure valuable programs like Umoja are adequately funded," said LACCD Board president Steve Veres. "This additional funding from the legislature allows us to invest in long-term planning that will make sure Umoja programs are here as a student resource for many years to come."

"LACCD serves an extremely diverse student body, which makes it important to ensure every student is heard and represented," said LACCD Board Trustee Nichelle Henderson. "Securing this additional funding provides stability for valuable Umoja programs that exemplifies the holistic approach we take to each student's education."

The LACCD colleges with excellent Umoja pro-

grams include:

- Los Angeles City College
- Los Angeles Harbor College



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- Los Angeles Pierce College
- Los Angeles Southwest College
- Los Angeles Trade Tech

"One of the Board of Trustees major legislative priorities was increased ongoing support for targeted student support services," said LACCD Chancellor

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. "Increased funding for Umoja Programs along with other excellent programs such as Puento, and

MESA were at the top of our advocacy agenda this year. We are pleased that the Legislature agreed and funded these and other exceptional programs."

This additional \$5 million in state funding will help shore up resources and ensure the Umoja programs are sustainable at each of these colleges, providing

students with an onramp of support services as they navigate the community college system. Many of these students are first in their families to attend college and programs like Umoja help them to navigate a system that can be unfamiliar.

"The Umoja community is not only a great resource that helps students thrive academically but also gives students the opportunity to connect with one another," said Los Angeles Pierce College Umoja student, Sierra Bledsoe. "Through Umoja I have had the chance to meet amazing professors, counselors, and life-long friends. Umoja has opened the door to new experiences like webinars, porch talks, and other events that have helped aid my occupational goals. Increased funding from the legislature for Umoja programs, LGBTQ+ centers and other important student support

systems is vital to establishing them as a core part of every LACCD campus."

LACCD provides equity-minded, culturally competent resources to all members of its diverse student body, helping students succeed both in their academics and career development. Increased funding from the legislature for Umoja programs, LGBTQ+ centers and other important student support systems is instrumental to establishing them as a core part of each LACCD campus.

The LACCD "Colleges of Los Angeles" include: Los Angeles City College; East Los Angeles College; Los Angeles Harbor College; Los Angeles Mission College; Los Angeles Pierce College; Los Angeles Southwest College; Los Angeles Trade-Technical College; Los Angeles Valley College and West Los Angeles College.

Keep our Shops on the Block Launches Digital Accelerator Program for Diverse Small Businesses

Under Together for LA's initiative, 24 brick-and-mortar businesses to participate in this invite-only program

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Following the success of the Keep Our Shops on the Block grant earlier this year, which deployed financial aid to 481 small brick-and-mortar businesses in the retail and personal care sector, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation Los Angeles (LISC LA) has expanded the program and the services offered and launched an invite-only digital literacy accelerator for diverse-owned businesses. The virtual accelerator program is designed to help Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) owned small businesses in the personal care, retail and food industries utilize digital technology towards business growth. This program was made possible through the Together for LA partnership and the generosity of Wells Fargo.

The Digital Accelerator Program inaugural cohort will consist of 24 local busi-

nesses and will run from October 18 through December 10, 2021. At no cost to



FILE PHOTO
Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director of LISC LA

the participants, each business will have the opportunity to access digital growth strategy plans, one-on-one advising support, networking events and more through a customized program.

"Having a strong online presence has been essential to the survival of small businesses, but many have been left behind," said Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, executive

director of LISC LA. "LISC LA is proud to work with our Together for LA partners to expand the Keep our Shops on the Block program and provide our local diverse-owned small businesses with the digital resources and tools to succeed."

LISC LA will operate the virtual accelerator program under the Together for LA initiative – a strategic partnership with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, The Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society, The Institute for Sustainable Development, the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles – to strengthen women and diverse-owned businesses impacted financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. This collaborative effort, which aims to provide no cost technical assistance and small business resources, was made possible through the support of Wells Fargo.

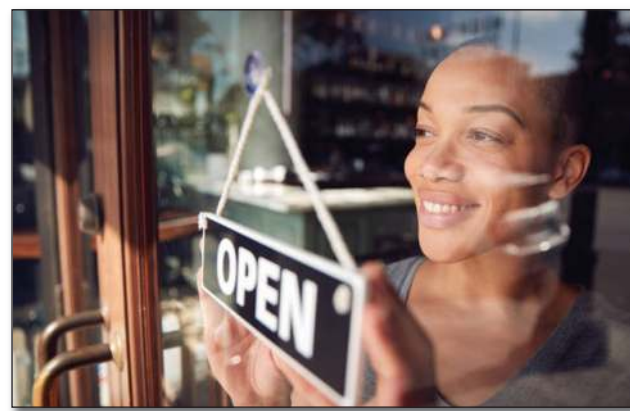
"The pandemic highlighted the lack of digital adaptation for too many of our diverse-owned businesses, said Gregg Sherkin, Wells Fargo senior vice president, Social Impact and Sustainability. "Through the Digital Accelerator Program, small businesses will receive the resources needed to remain competitive in this new digital landscape. We are proud

to support this program and hope it will benefit our community."

"Throughout the pandemic we have found, businesses who were quick to pivot, leveraged technology and had access to resources were those who were resilient through the economic challenges of the past

of LAEDC. "This collaborative program is a critical first step for the Los Angeles region to be a digitally equitable area for anyone to follow their business dreams and build a competitive workforce."

The Center for Innovation, Excellence and Leadership (IXL Center), which



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year," said Maria S. Salinas, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. "Keep our Shops on the Block Digital Accelerator program and services is an effective resource to level the playing field for diverse-owned businesses. When our diverse-owned businesses thrive, so do our communities."

"The Digital Accelerator Program is highly responsive to the needs of our BIPOC-owned small businesses right now as more commerce is moving online every day and LA-based entrepreneurs of color have amazing products and services to offer," said Bill Allen, president and CEO

specializes in management consulting and capacity building, will be working with LISC LA to drive the program forward over the next six weeks. The IXL Center helps businesses build up their organizations through advisory, coaching, workshops, speeches, and training that are customized to achieve innovation and growth.

"IXL Center believes that there is a lot more to be done to really have equity, inclusion, and social justice in our workplace and communities," said Hitendra Patel, managing director of IXL Center. "IXL Center wants to do its part by focusing on reducing the racial wealth gap, by help-

ing BIPOC small business owners grow their businesses and uplift the community. We are honored to partner with LISC LA using our Digital Accelerator. Our unique approach has been successfully implemented in Boston over the last two years, and our methodology for LISC LA will help Main Street businesses grow by 2X. Together we can, and we must!"

For many Angelenos, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a growing divide between small, brick-and-mortar businesses and the e-commerce sector. LISC LA and its Together for LA partners are dedicated to helping diverse business owners adapt to a more digital world and economy – ensuring an equitable road to recovery.

"Being a native Angeleno with a retail shop in the heart of Los Angeles this LISC LA accelerator is the dream program I've been waiting for," said Rheena Mae, CEO of MaeMae Jewelry, one of the businesses in the inaugural cohort. "I have so many aspirations of expanding the love, good juju and reach of MaeMae that I feel this cohort can help me make a reality!"

For more information on the Keep our Shops on the Block Digital Accelerator program and the businesses in the cohort, visit <https://www.lacovidfund.org/digital-accelerator-program>.

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AT&T Dream In Black Launches Rising Future Makers and Partners with HBCU Digital to celebrate Black Heroes

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

HBCU Digital Network and AT&T Dream In Black debut a new video series "Black Heroes."

Each episode showcases some of the brightest HBCU alumni pushing the boundaries in corporate and creative spaces. Inspired? You should be. The future belongs to you – and you could represent the next generation of Black leaders in entertainment, business, technology and more.

"HBCU Digital is excited to partner with AT&T Dream In Black upon the launch of their Rising Future Makers cam-

paign," commented Adam Q. Powell, CEO, HBCU Digital Network. "AT&T's choice, not out of responsibility, to uplift Black Heroes in our communities and to extend their hands to our HBCU community is amazing. Their investment in HBCUs, African American and other underserved communities is not a moment of convenience but a demonstration of their on-going commitment."

Are you an HBCU student making a difference? Shoot your shot and apply for the AT&T Dream In Black Rising Future Makers contest today. An extension of the AT&T Dream in Black platform commit-

ment to celebrating and honoring Black culture and the creators who help shape it. Apply or nominate an HBCU student you know for the chance to become a part of the inaugural Rising Future Maker class. The 25 selected students will receive \$5Gs presented by AT&T 5G, a tech package, access to celebrity advocates and more to power their possibilities.

AT&T Dream in Black is about celebrating the now, the new and the next is Black culture. The platform views the world and creativity through and afro-futuristic lens that is rooted in AT&T's technology and innovation, which connects

them to greater possibilities.

AT&T plans to celebrate and award HBCU students that are driving positive change by providing them with tangible tools that can help them elevate their natural gifts and provide them with a way to tell their story and share it with the world. The goal is to drive new realms of possibilities for HBCU students through advocacy, connection, and support.

To learn more on how to apply or nominate an HBCU student, be sure to visit AT&T Dream In Black and watch the Black Heroes for amazing alumni stories here on HBCU Digital.

Health Officials Recommend Boosters for Vaccinated

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

On Monday, October 25, The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) reported 5 new deaths and stated 679 new cases of COVID-19. There were 610 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 with 15% of nearly 9,000,000 individuals testing positive with symptoms.

“California is leading the nation in vaccinations, with 52 million administered and 86 percent of the eligible population having received at least one dose – today’s Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup recommendation on booster shots will help keep the momentum going as we enter the winter months,” said California Governor Gavin Newsom. “Through our investments in targeted

outreach and robust community-based partnerships, our work continues to reach the hardest-hit communities.



AP PHOTO

Boosters have become available for all three FDA-approved vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson to those that are eligible.

Vaccines are how we end this pandemic – I encourage all eligible Californians to visit MyTurn.ca.gov to schedule an appointment for their first dose or find a booster shot to keep themselves and their community healthy.”

Public Health identified 1,485,769 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 26,552 deaths. Cases across the Southland: Los Angeles County shows 1,407,489 cases, Long Beach with 64,858 cases and Pasadena with 13,422 cases.

According to race and ethnicity, COVID-19 statistics show: American Indian/Alaska Native with 2,402; Asian with 67,246; Black with 67,650; Hispanic/Latino with 725,845; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander with 5,196; White with 173,714; those of other race and ethnicity with 119,071 and 246,365 under investigation.

“I am grateful that the vast majority of businesses continue to follow the sensible protections in the State and County Health Officer Orders that help ensure our collective well-

being and economic recovery,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “Thanks, as well to the tens of thousands of patrons who are doing their part - getting vaccinated and wearing masks as required. Reducing transmission depends on high compliance with existing safety measures.”

Boosters have become available for all three FDA-approved vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson to those that are eligible. Appointments are not needed at all Public Health vaccination sites where first, second, and third doses are available.

Los Angeles County residents eligible for a booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine include those who received the second of the two-dose vaccine series at least 6 months ago and are either:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18 and older who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18 and older who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18 and older who work or live in high-risk settings

Those who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended

for 18 and older vaccinated two or more months ago.

For more detailed information on COVID-19 vaccination plans in L.A. County and to sign up for a vaccination newsletter, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com

For more information and statistics on COVID-19 in Los Angeles County, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus:

*Los Angeles County Department of Public Health <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

*California Department of Public Health <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> Spanish <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index-sp.html>

*World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

*LA County residents can also call 2-1-1

CDC Study Shows Effectiveness of Pfizer Vaccine for Adolescents

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report has concluded that the two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have proven highly effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalization among individuals 12 to 18.

Earlier this year, federal

officials approved vaccines for children as young as 12. Experts now are closing in on vaccinations for children under 12.

Released on Tuesday, October 19, the report revealed that currently, 46 percent of U.S. children and adolescents aged 12-to-15 and 54 percent of those aged 16 and 17 had received full vaccination against COVID-19.

The study found that recipients of two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine proved highly effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalization among those 12-to-18-years-old.

“The data suggest that increasing vaccination coverage among this group could reduce the incidence of severe COVID-19 in the United States,” officials wrote in a fact sheet.



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

The CDC has released some positive results about vaccine efficacy in adolescents.

Further, as in-person school attendance increases, multicomponent preventive

measures to reduce the incidence of severe COVID-19 among adolescents, including vaccination, are imperative.

Conclusively, the CDC report noted in a real-world evaluation of U.S. pediatric hospitals, about 97 percent of unvaccinated adolescents aged 12–18 years were hospitalized with COVID-19.

The findings are consistent with efficacy data from the Pfizer-BioNTech clinical

trial among those ages 12-to-15.

Finally, in the real-world analysis, in which all case patients were hospitalized, vaccination reduced the risk for COVID-19 hospitalization in persons aged 12 to 18 years by 93 percent.

Moreover, 16 percent of unvaccinated patients hospitalized with COVID-19 had critical illnesses requiring life support.

Moderna Reports Covid Vaccine Safe for Children 6 to 12

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Company officials have announced that Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine generated a robust immune response



ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

Moderna says its Covid-19 vaccines are highly effective in kids.

and was generally well-tolerated in children aged six to 11 years.

The pharmaceutical giant plans to submit its findings later this week to federal

regulators.

Moderna reported that its two-dose vaccine generated virus-neutralizing antibodies in children, and safety was comparable to what was previously seen in clinical trials of adolescents and adults.

“We are encouraged by the immunogenicity and safety profile of mRNA-1273 in children aged 6 to under 12 years and are pleased that the study met its primary immunogenicity endpoints,” Stéphane Bancel, chief executive officer of Moderna, said in a statement. “We look forward to filing with regulators globally and remain committed to doing our part to help end the COVID-19 pandemic with a vaccine for adults and

children of all ages.”

A panel of FDA advisers expects to determine on Tuesday whether to authorize Pfizer and BioNTech’s Covid vaccine for children aged five to 11.

The Moderna vaccine has been authorized for adults over 18, and the company recently won approval for a third dose – or booster shot – in some Americans.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration remains undecided on Moderna’s vaccine for those aged 12 through 17, with the doses reportedly resulting in cases of heart inflammation in young adults in Sweden.

Moderna officials claimed that most of the side effects in the trial for kids

were mild or moderate in severity, with fatigue, headache, fever, and injection site pain the most common.

Approximately 4,753 individuals participated in the trial, and the company

provided each with 50 microgram doses, or half the strength used in the primary vaccine series for adults. The 50-microgram dose also received authorization for use as a booster shot.

“These results demon-

strate strong immune response in this cohort of children one month after the second dose and met the co-primary immunogenicity endpoints for 6 to less than 12 years olds,” Moderna officials noted.

U.S. Details New International COVID-19 Travel Requirements

BY ZEKE MILLER & DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

Two weeks before a new vaccination requirement kicks in for most foreign travelers to the U.S., the Biden administration detailed the new international COVID-19 air travel policies, including exemptions for kids, and new federal contact tracing requirements.



AP PHOTO/ASHLEY LANDIS

Travelers stand in line at a TSA security checkpoint at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

Beginning on Nov. 8, foreign, non-immigrant adults traveling to the United States will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with limited exceptions, and all travelers will need to be tested for the virus before boarding an aircraft to the U.S., with tightened restrictions for those who are not fully vaccinated.

The new policy comes as

the Biden administration moves away from broader country-based travel restrictions and bans toward what it terms a “vaccinations-based” system focused on the individual risk of the traveler. It almost reflects the White House’s embrace of vaccination requirements in an effort to drive more Americans to get vaccinated by piling on inconveniences to those remaining without a shot.

Under the policy, those who are unvaccinated will need to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within a day of travel, while those who are vaccinated will be allowed to present a test taken within three days of travel.

Children under 18 will not be required to be fully vaccinated, given the inconsistency in the global roll-out of shots for their age cohort, but those aged 2 and over will be subjected to the same COVID-19 testing policy as their parent or guardian.

The Biden administration has been working with airlines, who will be required to enforce the new procedures, to explain the new policies so they can prepare for implementation. Airlines will be mandated to verify vaccine records and match them against identify information. They will also need

to make certain that the shots given are on the Food and Drug Administration or World Health Organization’s approved list. Mixing-and-matching of approved shots will be permitted.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s quarantine officers will spot-check passengers after arrival in the U.S. for compliance, according to an administration official. Airlines that don’t enforce the requirements could be subject to penalties of up to nearly \$35,000 per violation.

The administration announced limited exceptions to the vaccination requirement, including children, those who participated in COVID-19 clinical trials, who have medical reasons for not getting vaccinated, or are from a country where shots are not widely available. Unvaccinated residents of countries with vaccination rates below 10% of adults may be admitted to the U.S. with a government letter authorizing travel for pressing, non-tourism purposes, the administration said.

CDC is also requiring airlines to collect contact information for international air travelers regardless of vaccination status to facilitate contact tracing.

When you GET VACCINATED you have greater protection against hospitalization and death.

WEAR A MASK when it can protect you & others.

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More Black Californians Taking COVID Shot as U.S. Reviews Vaccines for Younger Kids

BY ALDON THOMAS STILES
California Black Media

Black Californians have joined Black Americans around the country in closing the COVID-19 vaccine equity gap.

As of Oct. 11, Black Californians were 4.2% of Californians that have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, up from 2.7% in February, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). 5.7% of the state's population of nearly 40 million people are Black.

"Through our investments in targeted outreach and robust community-based partnerships, our work continues to reach the hardest-hit communities. Vaccines are how we end this pandemic—I encourage all eligible Californians to visit MyTurn.ca.gov to schedule an appointment for their first dose or find a booster shot to keep themselves and their community healthy," Gov. Gavin Newsom said last week.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the vaccine equity gap is narrowing across the United States as about 11% of the people who have received at least one dose of the vaccine are Black Americans, a group that makes up 12.4% of the U.S. population.

U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, spoke with California Black

Media last week about the importance of equity in the nation's pandemic response.

"The way we define success with the vaccination effort isn't just how many people got vaccinated,



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ed, but how equitably and fairly we get the vaccine to people across our country," Murthy said.

"We know that there are communities in our country that have been long underserved by the healthcare system and the victims of structural inequities and structural racism that have prevented them from getting the care that they need," he continued.

Murthy spoke about some of the equity challenges leaders faced at the beginning of the pandemic. The approach the feds took to address some of those difficulties was similar to California's strategy.

"Early on in the vaccination effort, we saw those disparities developing in the adult population with Black communities and Latino communities having

lower vaccination rates than White communities," Murthy said.

"But the good news is there has been a lot of effort over the last many months, which included a lot of outreach and partnerships with

communities of color, with leaders and organizations in those communities, working hard to make sure we had mobile units out getting to communities to bring vaccines to where people are and getting vaccines directly to community health centers where we know a lot of folks get their care. All of these efforts together, along with making sure the vaccines are free and making sure as many doctors as possible have the vaccine in their offices, has helped us close a lot of that equity gap," Murthy continued.

Even as vaccination booster shots are becoming more readily available around the country, the COVID-19 Delta variant remains a significant threat in the U.S. and around the world. So, public health

leaders are focused on expanding efforts to get as many people as possible access to vaccinations and booster shots.

"California is leading the nation in vaccinations, with 52 million administered and 86 % of the eligible population having received at least one dose — today's Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup recommendation on booster shots will help keep the momentum going as we enter the winter months," Newsom said last week.

California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington state came together last year and created the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. The group, made up of scientists, medical professionals and public health experts, is charged with reviewing COVID-19 vaccine safety.

Last week, the workgroup recommended booster shots for vulnerable people and those who live or work in high-risk settings — if they have received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine prior.

"Recipients of the Moderna vaccine may receive a booster shot six months after completing their primary vaccination series, and recipients of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may receive a booster shot two months after receiving their first dose," the governor's office said in a statement last week.

The workgroup also recommended a "mix-and-match" method, which means people who have received a Moderna vaccine can get a Johnson & Johnson booster shot and vice-versa.

Earlier this month, Newsom announced that California will be the first state in the nation to require children in middle school and high school to be vaccinated once COVID-19 vaccines for children are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FDA and the CDC will review data from Pfizer during the next two weeks to decide if COVID-19 vaccines are safe for even younger children, ages 5 through 11.

"Right now, what is happening is that the FDA is examining the data from Pfizer about clinical trials that concern kids 5-11 and they're looking for two things: first is to understand if these vaccines work to protect our children from COVID and second, are they safe," Murthy explained.

"Until they complete their review and make a decision on whether or not to offer the vaccine, we certainly won't recommend them to the public or make a move to roll out vaccines. It's all contingent upon the FDA's review and the CDC's recommendation," according to Murthy.

Murthy also addressed the myth that young children

are somehow immune to the effects of COVID-19.

"Even though kids do better than adults when it comes to COVID-19, it is not benign in children. We want to protect our children from the virus, and we also know that COVID has disrupted our kids' lives in terms of making school difficult, interrupting youth sports, and making it hard to see friends and family members. So, getting our kids vaccinated is a big step towards not only protecting their health but helping them get their lives back," Murthy said.

Murthy stressed the importance of equity and said that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will continue to employ the same methods for children as they did for adults if the FDA and CDC approve vaccines for children in the 5-11 age range.

"We will bring the same commitment to vaccinating kids under 12. We are building on the great partnerships we have with community-based organizations and trusted leaders across the country. We are building on the access points that we've set up in the past and increasing those even further so there will be tens of thousands of places where people can get a vaccine for their children," Murthy said.

California Black Media's coverage of COVID-19 is supported by the California Health Care Foundation.

Black Leaders Slam Gov. Newsom for Vetoing 'Major Civil Rights' Bill

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Supporters of a bill that would have increased diversity among civil service employees at all levels across California state government are blasting Gov. Newsom for vetoing the leg-

islation.

Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) introduced the legislation, which would have required all state boards and commissions to have at least one member from an underrepresented community. Called the "Upward Mobility" bill,

supporters say the legislation would have also opened up pathways to Blacks and other minorities for promotions, higher salaries and recruitment for state government jobs.

According to Holden, there is documented evidence that some state agen-

cies -- the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), for example -- have passed over Black and other minorities for promotions.

For Black Californians, Assembly Bill (AB) 105,



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was particularly critical and historic, supporters say.

"We were asking for more diversity in the HR department of our state, which is the largest employer in California," said Betty Williams, a well-known activist in Sacramento.

Williams, who is also a member of the African American Empowerment Community Council (AAEC), a coalition of Black leaders across the state, said she was especially taken aback by Newsom's decision. Governor Newsom was aware of how important AB 105 was to the AAEC, she explained, and they had urged him to sign it.

"Governor Newsom wins 83 % of the African American vote in the recall election, and he vetoes major civil rights legislation in the state right after, is disappointing," she added.

Currently in California, nearly 64 % of all state government employees -- including senior management positions -- are held by Whites, according to data from CalHR. Whites make up only 34 % of the state's overall population of about 40 million people.

Supporters of the bill also explain that, for the first time in the history of the United States, there would have been a law that required state agencies to break down and record the numbers of Black Americans employed in government who are direct descendants of enslaved people.

"I am very disappointed. Look at section six of the

bill. We worked with the bill's author to include language in AB 105 that would have disaggregated the Black or African American category and created a specific way for gathering information on Black folks who descended from U.S. Slavery and who experienced Jim Crow in the Deep South and elsewhere," said Chris Lodgson, a Sacramento-based community organizer for the Coalition for a Just and Equitable California (CJEC) and the American Redress Coalition of California (ARCC).

Lodgson and both organizations he represents have been at the forefront of the political effort in California to study the history of slavery and Anti-Black discrimination and seek reparation for Black descendants of enslaved people.

"Right now, the category of 'Black or African American,' means -- and this is from the legal definition the state uses -- anybody with origin in the Black racial groups of Africa. That doesn't specifically describe me -- whose family comes from slavery in the American South. That definition makes Black descendants of enslaved people invisible in the data. This bill would have changed that."

Like Lodgson and Williams, other Black leaders in the state say they were surprised and let down by the governor's decision.

"Please stop coming into our house asking for bread pudding and then when you
{See NEWSOM VETOES CIVIL RIGHTS BILL on B-2}



MEN OF COURAGE AND BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE PRESENT:

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Ford Fund's Men of Courage Program and Brotherhood Crusade are coming together to celebrate single fathers.

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CELEBRATE A SINGLE FATHER'S FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS TIMELINE:

Submission Period: October 8, 2021 – November 9, 2021
Notification of Winning Fathers: December 1, 2021

Men of Courage is a program of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

Crenshaw's Orthodox L.A. Gallery Hosts Contemporary Art Exhibit

BY CORA JACKON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Orthodox L.A. hosts the creative works of 10 emerging artists in a new exhibition entitled, "What's Your Vibe?" The interactive multimedia installation is on display until November 1 at the gallery, which is located in Los Angeles' Crenshaw district on 54th Street near 4th Avenue.

Produced and curated by Shalandrea Houchen, known professionally as Shay Renee, the exhibit theme is "Back to School" and contains an array of canvases depicting various

encouraging the viewer to cherish their inner child. Many of the paintings were created during the pandemic, which was a pressured-filled time for the world. The fact that these artists were even able to express themselves during that time is really commendable."

The artists are Torin Ashtun, Yedidyah Butterfly, Perri Danielle, Isis Dua, Jonah Elijah, Cortney Herron, Devin Mercadel, Nkechi Odili'Obi and Marley Van Peebles. Some of Houchen's artwork is displayed as well.

Describing the talents of some of the featured present-



Houchen stands before three pieces by the artist N.K. entitled "She Is," "Admire" and "Akoben."

L.A., is "one of the most successful, working painter's in this space right now," noted Houchen. "She's absolutely amazing as well as an all-around beautiful woman." Herron combines different mediums of muted colors to reflect the Black female perspective in portraiture.

Odili'Obi or N.K., uses various fabrics as the foundation for her artwork and Houchen shared, "N.K. says she just likes the texture and the effect of painting on fabric." She also acknowledged the contributions of Dua, who employs acrylic on canvas in the majority of her work. Houchen asserted, "Isis' dedication to unique expression shows through every piece."

Pointing out other works on display, Houchen highlighted that Van Peebles, embellishes his creations with dinosaurs, and defined Elijah's mural, "First Day of School," as an "illustration

of pop culture being recorded." Commending the immense talents of Ashtun



Artist Marley Van Peebles embellishes his artwork with dinosaurs and illustrations of real and imagined animals.

as well, Houchen declared, "Torin is the most prolific artists of her time!"

The gallery is open by reservation via email and every weekend. Also, the venue has sponsored a full moon ceremony, black light yoga classes, and paint and sip events. A free paint and sip session for children will take place on Saturday, October 30, from

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

"We will provide paint, canvases, juice and snacks for kids to enjoy. Adults are welcome too, and can relax on our patio while the kids paint and have fun," said Houchen, who added that space is available for 15 children to participate on a first come basis.

This installation is another component of Houchen's paint and sip combined with pop-up gallery events, which people can commission to celebrate milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries and retirements. In a previous Sentinel interview, she labelled the painting classes as an opportunity for individuals or organiza-

nine children who are students at City Language Immersion Charter on Venice and Crenshaw Blvd.," he said.

"During COVID, I also networked with people in



"First Day of School," acrylic on wood painting by Jonah Elijah.

the community and found an artist to do the mural on the front of the building in early 2021. This past summer, we did a show with four emerging artists and in mid-November, an artist from New York will have an exhibit of water colors paintings. So, it's been really great," said Gabriel, who is also a furniture-maker.

Orthodox L.A. is located at 2712 W. 54th St., in Los Angeles. To learn more about programs and events, visit <https://linktr.ee/what-syavibe> or email artbyallnatural@gmail.com or contact [@artbyallnatural](https://www.instagram.com/artbyallnatural) on Instagram.



Shalandrea Houchen poses outside the colorful Orthodox L.A. gallery on 54th Street in Los Angeles' Crenshaw District.

scenes alluding to absorbing information in a multi-sensory, classroom setting.

As Houchen explained, "These interpretations were created by each featured artist to reflect their ideal learning space, all the while

tors, Houchen said, "Devin Mercadel is an L.A. native who paints, draws and makes furniture." Mercadel is also skilled in creating with acrylic print and clothing.

Herron, also born in

WELLS FARGO

Sharon Murphy on HBCU leaders of tomorrow.

While this is usually the season for homecoming celebrations, most of the in-person festivities have, unfortunately, been cancelled due to the pandemic. Yet, we can still take this time to celebrate, honor and rally around our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

As a Chief Information Officer at Wells Fargo and a member of the board and chair of the strategy committee for the United Negro College Fund, I recognize HBCUs as hallowed halls of academic achievement and trailblazing leadership that not only positively impact the Black community, but every community.

They've produced top-notch graduates in every field — all while operating on minimal budgets. Think of it this way, HBCUs represent only 3 percent of our nation's institutions of higher education, but produce 17 percent of all African American graduates, including a high number of Black doctors, lawyers and engineers. As a former STEM teacher and staunch advocate of promoting STEM for African American students, I'm grateful for the support Wells Fargo is providing these institutions that enroll over 300,000 of our promising young thought leaders.

I think we can all agree college is expensive, and according to the UNCF, approximately 70% of HBCU students are from low-income families. On top of college expenses, COVID-19

disproportionately hit Black communities, threatening opportunities for students to obtain or maintain access to higher education.

To make a more equitable recovery, we all have to acknowledge that HBCUs and students need more support and resources in the wake of financial challenges heightened by the pandemic. Wells Fargo made it a priority to help improve their financial stability and set them up for greater financial success after college.

To provide more scholarships, emergency grants and funding to help students at HBCUs stay in school, Wells Fargo has donated more than \$24 million to HBCUs and organizations over the last ten years. This donation includes a \$1 million grant to Johnson C. Smith University earlier this year for student scholarships and success. Nearly \$2 million was donated to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the UNCF this summer, giving many students the opportunity to apply the funding to STEM programs as well as provide training and resources for new and aspiring teachers.

There is more good news. After almost two centuries of inequality led by a lack of equitable funding, The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act, the most significant legislation for HBCUs in over a century, is focused on funding the upgrade of HBCU buildings and campuses across the country. I'm proud that Wells Fargo is actively supporting this bill. Not only would it create

infrastructure jobs that are an essential part of our economic recovery, it would also fulfill our commitment to improving economic mobility and investing in racial and social equity. Most importantly, HBCU scholars will have more funds and much-needed resources including new technology, research equipment and greater access to high-speed broadband.

Now more than ever, our future leaders of color will have a stronger foundation for future success. That is something we can all celebrate.

Learn about HBCU leaders of tomorrow: collegesteps.wf.com/impact-for-students/



Meet Sharon Murphy

Sharon Murphy has been with Wells Fargo for 15 years where she has held a number of leadership roles. Currently she holds the title of Chief Information Officer for the Chief Operating Office domain.

Her technology experience spans over 30 years and she is very active in tech-based initiatives within Wells Fargo and the community. Her experience includes early childhood STEM education, co-chairing the Technology Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council and she is a member of Wells Fargo's Environmental Sustainability Council. Since 2018, Sharon has been a member of the board and chair of the strategy committee for the United Negro College Fund.

Black Lines Matter: The Fight Over Redistricting Lines in Los Angeles

{continued from Pg. A-1}



Mark Ridley-Thomas
(CD 10) COURTESY PHOTO

This aspect increases in importance in light of critical factors such as representation and resources, particularly within CDs 8, 9 and 10 as those council seats come up for re-election in future years.

In the opinion of many African American constituents, Black Lines Matter and in order to retain seats and influence within Los Angeles, these lines play more of a influential role in the Black community's everyday lives than most people realize.

After months of meetings, discussions, and public testimony from more than 12,000 L.A. residents, the 21-member body adopted the graphical version of the new boundaries of the city's 15 CDs on October 21. The map, along with the commission's final re-

port, will be submitted City Council on October 29.

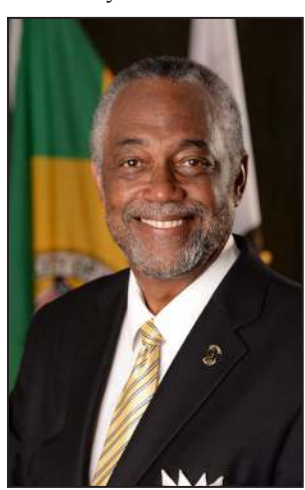
The actions conclude the commission's role in the redistricting process, which calls for city council district (CD) borders to be adjusted after the completion of each census. Under the L.A. city charter, each district must be approximately equal in population size, which is comprised of about 260,000 people based on data from the 2020 census.

With most African Americans residing in CDs 8, 9 and 10, the Black redistricting commissioners — the Rev. Edward Anderson, Charisse Bremond-Weaver and Valerie Lynne Shaw — made a determined effort to make certain that the concerns expressed by the Black community in those areas were addressed.

Anderson, the pastor of McCarty Memorial Christian Church, was the CD 10 appointee; Bremond-Weaver, president/CEO of the Brotherhood Crusade, was the mayor's selectee; and Shaw, a California Community College System governor, and former public works commissioner, was the CD 8 representative.

In determining the final map, the commission weighed in on the discrepancy between economic assets in CDs 8 and 9, deciding to place USC in CD 9, represented by Councilmember Curren Price, and locating Exposition Park

in CD 8, which is represented by Councilmember



Curren Price
(CD 9) COURTESY PHOTO

Marqueece Harris-Dawson. For decades, USC, Exposition Park and Leimert Park were located in CD 8, but in the 2011 redistricting process, Exposition Park and the USC campus were shifted to CD 9 and most of Leimert Park was positioned in CD 10.

Currently, the issue of CD 10 representation greatly concerns many South Los Angeles residents since Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, who was elected to the position, was suspended by the City Council after the U.S. Department of Justice indicted him over allegations of bribery.

Constituents are asking, "Who is going to fight and defend the lines of the 10th district?" Many people, like the Rev. William Smart, conclude that CD 10 is vulnerable with no voice

at the table to defend or accept how the redistricting lines have been drawn.

"As the City Council begins to debate a redistricting plan, it seems to me as a resident of the 10th Council District, that this is a hypocrisy. They just suspended the representative for the 10th, Councilman Mark Ridley Thomas. There seems to be hidden agendas and a serious discrepancy that the very strong voice that is knowledgeable through this process has now been disingenuously eliminated from this process and we in the 10th don't have a voice who will stand and fight for us. We want and need Mark Ridley-Thomas at the table fighting for our district," stated Smart, who is also president of SCLC of Southern California.

Expressing a similar viewpoint, Jacqueline DuPont-Walker, a CD 10 resident and MTA commissioner, said, "As redistricting goes to the City Council, a vacant 10th council seat would be tantamount to a Voting Rights Act violation, thus a denial of our civil rights. Our councilman must be restored to his duly elected post immediately."

Los Angeles is not the only community with valid concerns over redistricting and the possibility of creating concentrations of poverty in certain CDs without providing economic assets to balance the impact on the

L.A.'s most vulnerable residents. City Council Presi-



Marqueece Harris-Dawson
(CD 8) COURTESY PHOTO

dent Nury Martinez was equally critical and alarmed over the lines drawn for her San Fernando Valley district.

"While some areas kept their assets and neighborhoods whole, poverty was concentrated in other communities that have already suffered from disinvestment and neglect for generations," Martinez said.

In a follow-up statement reported by the L.A. Times, Martinez's spokeswoman said the council president was describing two districts — her own, which includes such areas as Van Nuys, and a proposed district that include Winnetka and other West Valley neighborhoods.

"What the [City] Council does after this is up to the Council," said Commissioner Carlos Moreno, a retired judge appointed by

City Attorney Mike Feuer, who is running for mayor. "But, I think no one can really question that each of us, and collectively, we've done our best."

Despite complaints about the final draft of the map, Commission Chair Fred Ali defended the map, saying the commission "is very proud to send the map adopted... to the City Council for its review. Our work has been informed by census data, the federal Voting Rights Act and countless hours of public testimony.

"In the final adoption of the map, the commission took great care to ensure that traditionally disadvantaged districts included critical economic assets," Ali said, adding that it wasn't the commission's job "to protect elected officials, their jobs or their political futures."

The next steps in the process call for the City Council to hold public hearings as well as make changes to the map before adopting the final borders for the 15 districts, which will go into effect on January 1.

Visit laccrc2021.org to learn more or review the redistricting timeline.

Sentinel Executive Editor Danny Bakewell, Jr. and City News Service contributed to this report.

Kiesha Nix Makes History as First Black Woman VP for the Lakers

{continued from Pg. A-1}

sive interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, Nix explained that being a lifeline between sports and charity holds the deepest accolade.

As an executive director, Nix sat at the helm of "programming and funding priorities," for the charitable actions hosted by Los Angeles Lakers. Her role called for laser focus on the mission of the foundation, which is to "assist underserved youth in our communities to develop and recognize their full potential by providing positive experiences and resources in education, health, and wellness and sports."

Within her seat, Nix built a solid foundation around the Los Angeles Lakers and their reach in varying communities. She has remained focused on the continual growth in social responsibility within the sports industry.

Reflecting on her time as executive director, Nix stated, "I spent a lot of my time out in the community. I'm very public-facing."



Nix built a solid foundation around the Los Angeles Lakers and their reach in varying communities.

COURTESY OF KIESHA NIX

taneity of the job, but also, how the collective community anchored her actions, providing an opportunity to show awareness to groups of people that are usually underserved.

Since 1992, the Lakers Youth Foundation support-

make sure we are providing proper resources--making things available for kids or youth." Nix continued, "It all starts with sports, but it doesn't just end there."

As a Los Angeles native, Nix understands the authentic needs of the collective community. She elaborated on the passion that goes into supporting kids that come from familiar zip codes.

Nix is the first woman of color in this position. "I am born and raised in South Central L.A., and it was important for me--when I delivered the check, or when we delivered the resources, that the kids get to see me. Because they get to see a lot of themselves in me, and I see myself in them. I let them know where I grew up and where I went to school because I wanted to give them some inspiration." Nix said.

Earvin Magic Johnson shared his enthusiasm on Twitter. "Congratulations to @kieshanix for being named the VP of Charitable Services at the @Lakers!! She's the first Af-

rican American female to be named Vice President of any department in the history of the organization!" he wrote.

Under Nix's leadership, the organization has empowered a school teaching



Nix considered her new responsibilities and developed a greater force within herself. Nix considered her new responsibilities and developed a greater force within herself.

COURTESY OF KIESHA NIX

garden, 15 Reading and Learning Centers, three STEM Lab projects, and over 40 basketball courts across the nation. In addition, the organization has donated millions of dollars in ticket giveaways, signed memorabilia, and Laker merchandise.

Reflecting on the opportunities in her new role as vice president of charitable affairs, Nix elaborated on how this new level deepened her focus, and that giving back is a necessity, especially throughout these socially distant times. She



"It just takes my work to a whole other level-- that I get to be more involved and ingrained in our entire franchise, and not just limited to our foundation," - Vice President of Charitable Affairs Kiesha Nix.

COURTESY OF KIESHA NIX

stated, "As Vice President of Charitable Affairs for the Los Angeles Lakers, it's really extended my role and I can do even more with the foundation."

"It's really about leveraging the relationships and the platform that I had

already built. Now, I'm really being able to take that to another level." Nix said.

Nix considered her new responsibilities and developed a greater force within herself. Fresh growth happens internally within her

department, and she is focused on leading by example. In reflection, Nix said, "It has definitely made me

ingrained in our entire franchise, and not just limited to our foundation," Nix said.



Nix spoke of the spontaneity of the job, but also, how the collective community anchored her actions.

COURTESY OF KIESHA NIX

realize that I have to learn

longer with us, but they instilled 'community' in me," she said. "At an early age, they instilled family, and giving back in me."

The newly appointed vice president of charitable affairs stated, "I was told the story that my grandparents were not rich in money, but they were rich in spirit and rich in love."

"We grew up in South Central, but you know-- I didn't even know that we were in South Central or that we were considered underprivileged or of low income--they provided everything that I needed, and I watched them help the community," Nix said.

She continued, "I told them [Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation] I'm not the executive director that's going to sit behind the desk and just send out the check--I have to be present, I have to be available."

Nix spoke of the spon-

ed the dreams and aspirations of children across the states, by providing them a safe place to believe in themselves and strive for greatness.

"We have to take that responsibility and we have to pay it forward, and just

Marina Torres Runs for City Attorney

She looks to be the bridge between the Law and the People

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

The City Attorney of Los Angeles represents the collective community, and their right to be heard in court. Looking to embody that civic duty is Marina Torres, by bringing her own experience as a first generation Latinx woman that served the public under President Obama. Torres will champion the needs of the city with a sense of conviction.

Torres has felt the hardships that plague families with incarcerated ties, she faced those emotions head on. This personal look into the judicial system prepared Torres with a unique level of compassion that is shared through various acts of justice.

The City Attorney candidate is in touch with various needs of the community, paying attention to those that are marginalized and grossly underrepresented. Torres is looking to improve the quality of life for all people, as City Attorney of Los Angeles.

The values Torres integrated into her mission include justice, fairness, and the passion to fight for equity. Torres has dedicated over a decade handling civil and criminal cases where she consistently focused on justice as her number one priority.

Through her vulnerability, Torres has been able to connect with the community around her. She has



Vice President Kamala Harris and Marina Torres.

COURTESY OF MARINA TORRES

looked for alternatives to incarceration and been a part of strategies to make the city safer. Torres understands the core values and needs found under the streetlights of L.A.

Torres witnessed a 16-year-old receive two strikes as a first-time offender; this person was a relative within her family. She woke up to the reality of what representation can afford. Torres set her educational path to pursue criminal justice, at 16, she was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley.

As a student, Torres juggled a full class schedule, student-government activities, and a 20-hour workweek to support her family. Torres final year of college was outlined in Stanford. From that point on, she wielded the power and knowledge to serve the public. Torres' mission was to align with the voice of people.

She continued to build a unique perspective by providing litigation services to Legal Assistance

Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, aiding farmworkers throughout the state who were falling victim to unfair treatment from recruiters and employers. Heading west, Torres came back to California to sit on the executive board of the Stanford Law Review and become co-president of the Stanford Latino Law Students' Association.

During her term under President Obama, she assisted with crafting national policies that focused on the concerns of "Dreamers" who lived with the constant fear of being separated from their families. Her role as an advisor on DACA directives provided her with the authority to guide the Obama administration, from a place of transparency.

As a daughter of undocumented parents, Torres shares a narrative that is found at the core of Los Angeles, the pursuit of a better life. Torres was born in Los Angeles County, before moving to the Inland Empire. Heading down the

60-east freeway, one would find her father working at the Sunkist Factory in Ontario, California, while her mother held various jobs to keep the family afloat.

At a young age, she was aware of her family's position and the fear of family separation never left their doorstep. As City Attorney,

The Long Beach Community College Trustee, Sunny Zia supports Torres in her direction to become Los Angeles City Attorney. Zia was captured stating, "As an attorney and proud Angeleno, Marina has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the people of Los Angeles," said Zia.

change. That means the cooperation between city hall and city attorney. I know Marina is up to these complex tasks of teamwork and leadership."

Former Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich was captured stating, "As a federal prosecutor, Marina has proven time and again her commitment to justice and improving the lives of every Angeleno."

Trutanich continued, "She understands the nuanced way of working within the legal system to improve the lives of every citizen. As the former City Attorney of Los Angeles, I know Marina has not only the experience but also the ability to bring change for good for the city of Los Angeles. I am proud to endorse Marina's campaign and vision for Los Angeles City Attorney."

Torres has a mission to be the bridge between the people and law. Through her experience, she has gained a unique perspective that is reliable. Torres revealed pillars that will guide her if given the privilege to represent the City of Los Angeles. She stated, "It's the belief that we can do a lot of good, we can do a lot of change within the office—knowing that I have the experience, as well as the perspective to take the office to another level and make it more responsive to needs and desires of the people of Los Angeles—I'm going to tell that to myself every day."



Marina Torres is looking to improve the quality of life for all people as City Attorney of Los Angeles.

COURTESY OF MARINA TORRES

Torres is looking to be the voice for people who are living in similar situations.

In reflection of what this position means, Torres stated, "I think that most people don't know who the city attorney is, let alone what they do--one of the primary focuses of running is I want to make sure people have an answer to both of those questions."

She continued, "I want them to know who the city attorney is and how important the city attorney is to their lives—a third thing that I want to make a focus is, I want them to know that their experiences, values, and their beliefs are represented in me, because of what I have lived, because of what I have gone through, that I get it."

She continued, "I believe education is the key to success and Marina's story embodies this truth. Marina's experience and vision for a more just society is what Los Angeles needs. I'm thrilled at the prospect of her becoming the next Los Angeles City Attorney."

Public servant, Aja Brown released a statement supporting Torres' journey. The former Mayor of Compton said, "I know Marina has the right values and priorities to serve as a strategic partner for any mayor striving to improve lives."

Brown continued, "As a specialist in economic development and urban planning, I know the importance of creative problem-solving to bring positive systemic

Earl Aims to Transform Lives in L.A. by Tackling Racism in Government

As LADWP Senior Asst. General Manager of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, Monique Earl targets dismantling biased practices and increasing partnerships with marginalized groups

{continued from Pg. A-1}

sibilities, which include developing internal policies that influence recruitment, hiring and training as well as producing external guidelines that impact economic development, supplier diversity and aspects of community engagement.

"The vision of my office is to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion becomes part of the culture and central to policy making decisions at LADWP," said Earl, who added that various audiences, both within and outside the agency, are affected by the actions of her office.

For those who are already employed by LADWP, Earl wants to make certain that workforce initiatives contain provisions for career ladders and upward mobility. This is a critical issue considering that of 11,000 staff, 70% are people of color, but they are concentrated in the entry and lower levels of the agency.

"In comparison to overall employment distribution, African-American and Latino employees' highest percentages are in the lower ranks of job classifications. LADWP wants to ensure that our workforce, across job classifications, is representative of the communities we serve. This also supports our commitment to using dignity-infused community engagement as a guiding principle in interactions with our community partners," said the L.A. native.

"I am also working to help LADWP increase equity in our supply chain by removing barriers for M/WBE (minority or women-owned business enterprise), DBE (disadvantaged business enterprise), and small

business contracting," she said.

Her decisions will also touch people desiring to work for LADWP in the future. With thousands of employees eligible to retire soon combined with the department's infrastructure mandates and investments, the executive noted, "LADWP expects to fill more than 3,000 positions over the next five years. My office has an opportunity to reimagine how hiring can be implemented and streamlined to maximize opportunities across a wide spectrum."

Earl's strategy ranges from designing systems to identify and train potential employees to creating procedures for apprenticeship programs to establishing partnerships with community-based organizations. The alliances encompass such as educational institutions, trade unions, military and veterans' organizations and minority-focused associations.

In addition, LADWP recently joined with Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering (A.M.I.E.) in a drive to increase the number of African American engineers in the department.

LADWP contracted with A.M.I.E., which represents Schools of Engineering at 15 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to directly fund research at various HBCUs that can support the agency's operations, programs, and initiatives.

"Our MOA (memorandum of agreement) with A.M.I.E. would emulate the same MOA contract LADWP currently has with UCLA, while also providing equity for our engagement with HBCUs as compared with the level



Earl is the highest-level African American at LADWP.

LADWP

of engagement we have with other academic institutions," the senior A/GM said.

Engaging and aiding others comes easy to Earl, especially in light of her background. The daughter of city employees, she grew up witnessing public service in action. Her father, who was hired as a LADWP custodian and promoted to storekeeper, retired after 25 years and operated a successful business in the San Fernando Valley. Her mother was a valued deputy in the first administration of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas and later with the office of Councilmember Bernard Parks.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in political science at CSU-Northridge and a Master's degree in public administration at American University in Washington, D.C., Earl joined the city in 2003 as a deputy to Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski. She applied the experience she gained to her next position as budget deputy for Parks, then-chair of the City Council Budget and Finance Committee. Her tenure, recalled Earl, included withstanding one of the most

same time avoiding bankruptcy," remembered the Leimert Park resident.

"It was my job to work with the city's budget staff, union leadership and other elected [officials'] staff members, including the mayor's office, to turn these decisions into budget policy while avoiding some pretty hefty political landmines. After many late-night collaborations, long weekends and marathon budget meetings, we successfully avoided bankruptcy and saved thousands of city jobs."

Earl went on to hold executive positions in the Office of the Mayor and Office of the Controller before serving as executive officer and assistant general manager at the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. As second-in-command at LADOT, she directed financial strategy, managed infrastructure maintenance and project implementa-

tion, and oversaw the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Rising to peak jobs wasn't easy, but Earl conceded that it would have been a lot harder without treasured mentors, who helped her maneuver the intricacies of city government. "I've been blessed to have a number of advocates that have taken a personal interest in my career," she admitted.

"Out of those, if I had to put together my personal board of directors I would include, Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, Councilman Bernard Parks, executive director at the LA 84 Foundation and business leader Renata Simril, former Public Works Commission President Valerie Lynne Shaw, LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds and L.A. City Administrative Officer Matt Szabo," said Earl.

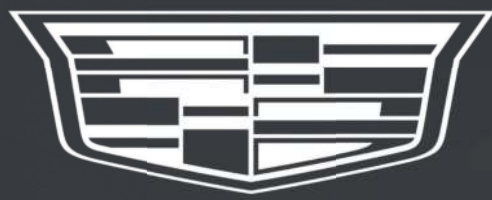
Yet, being LADWP's highest-level African American executive will not dissuade Earl from remembering her journey to the top. In fact, she said the mantra that guides her career - "Leave the window open and the ladder down" - is a phrase she borrowed from her "dear friends and mentors," Bernard and Shirley Kinsey.

"This means that I have a responsibility to ensure that other minorities are provided the same access and opportunities that I have been given," said Earl. "I am intentional in ensuring that I meet with, mentor and advocate for women and minorities at every turn."

Visit ladwp.com to learn more about Monique Earl and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.



L.A. native Monique Earl serves on the board of directors for Coro Southern California and the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. COURTESY PHOTO



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Ilyasah Shabazz Talks About 'The Awakening of Malcolm X'

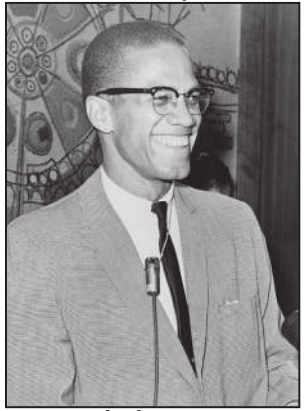
BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Ilyasah Shabazz, the third daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, acknowledged being inspired by the current generation of activists who helped push the Black Lives Matter Movement globally.

She said her famous late parents predicted that young ones in this day would recognize those in power have misused their authority.

"They have to [uncover] the truth, and they are willing to do the necessary work ensuring that it happens," Shabazz told the National Newspaper Publishers Association in an exclusive interview at the Marriott Marquis hotel in New York City.

A role model herself, Shabazz has picked up the mantle from her beloved activist parents and has advocated for youth and



Malcolm X PINTREST

women and girl empowerment.

She has dedicated her life to helping others "find inner strength and purpose," Shabazz, 59, stated.

An Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, Shabazz has written five award-winning books about hers and her parents' lives.

The latest, *The Awakening of Malcolm X*, is described by publishers as "a powerful narrative account of the activist's adolescent years in jail."

"I had the opportunity to work with Tiffany T. Jackson, an award-winning novelist, and it provided the chance to focus on the criminal justice system and humanity," Shabazz noted.

"I discovered that my father was the star debater at an experimental rehabilitation facility which had inherited an enormous number of books," she continued.



Ilyasah Shabazz, the third daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz NNPA

"Malcolm read just about every one of those books, and he read the dictionary so that he could understand the root words to enable him to be his best self by any means neces-

"I remember when I wrote 'Growing Up X' my mother had just passed away, and I recalled attending a town hall meeting with her where everyone got up to speak and ac-

doing," Shabazz insisted. "I didn't think that I was capable, but I wanted to, and so I decided to write a book, and that's when my editor found that my life as the daughter of Malcolm and Betty was not what one might have been expecting. "People were misin-

initiated, revealed that she and her sisters had enjoyed excellent relationships with the families of civil rights icons Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers.

"We are fortunate to have and have had relationships with Aunt Coretta



"I am not a racist. I am against every form of racism and segregation, every form of discrimination. I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their color." - Malcolm X PINTREST

manity," Shabazz declared.

"My father provided the biggest critique of America and insisted that America live up to her promise of liberty and justice for all. Malcolm insisted on the truth.

"I'm optimistic about this generation, and my father recognized that this

"I didn't think that I was capable, but I wanted to, and so I decided to write a book, and that's when my editor found that my life as the daughter of Malcolm and Betty was not what one might have been expecting"

formed, and there were so many false images and information about my father. My father was joy, dignity, and truth. Unfortunately, the images portrayed by

(Scott-King) and Aunt Myrlie (Evers)," Shabazz stated.

"I am also grateful to have [King's daughter] as my sister."

generation of young people would be willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work necessary, and that's what we are seeing.

"After the murder of



Dr. Betty Shabazz and children PINTREST

sary."

Shabazz denounced America's spending of billions of dollars on mass incarceration instead of using the money to address skyrocketing tuition costs and afterschool programs.

She noted that much of her activism and the foundation for her beliefs are addressed in each of her books, "Growing Up X," "Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X," "X: A Novel," and "Before Betty X."

knowledge her," Shabazz remembered.

"I admired my mother because she wasn't there to say something great and leave. Instead, she was there to make a difference. At that moment, though, I also remember thinking what we would ever do if we lost her."

Betty Shabazz died in 1997, slightly more than 32 years after Malcolm X's assassination.

"I wanted to finish some of the work my mother was



Dr. Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X PINTREST

some were absolutely contradictory to all of that, so whenever people would meet my sisters and me, they were thrown off."

Shabazz, who has implemented several cultural and community outreach

Shabazz echoed her father when discussing racism in America.

"If we all believe in the oneness of God, we certainly believe in the oneness of man, the oneness of women, and the oneness of hu-

George Floyd, young people organized these mass movements in all 50 states and in 18 countries abroad where people from every walk of life proclaimed that Black lives matter. I think everyone got it."

Basic Income Guaranteed: LA Economic Assistance Pilot

Economic Justice comes to Los Angeles

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In one of the wealthiest states in one of the richest countries in the world, a \$400 emergency could have a crippling effect on some LA families, leaving them without necessities, such as food, healthcare, or the worst outcome, a home. The city's Basic Income Guaranteed: LA Economic Assistance Pilot (BIG: LEAP) is a pilot program to address economic fragility and help families tackle

unforeseen emergency expenses or address other household needs. Applications for the program will be available on Friday, October 29th, through Sunday, November 7th. Everyone is welcome to apply, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. You can apply at: www.BIGLEAP.lacity.org.

The program will operate similarly to the Angeleno Card program, which offered a one-time \$1000 cash transfer to qualify-

ing families during the pandemic. The funds were unrestricted, and recipients could use the money to address whatever need they saw best.

Michelle G*(we've omitted her last name to respect her privacy), a recipient of an Angeleno card, said, "It was amazing to be able to provide for my family. I used the card to pay for [sic] my bills and buy groceries." When asked how she would use the funds if they were available

every month, she added, "Oh well, they would help me fix my car, keep me out of debt, keep the light bill and the rent up to date." And what do you think was the most significant benefit of having these funds available this way? She took a beat and answered, "Living without the burden of having to worry about how I was going to pay."

When BIG: LEAP was introduced, Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson saw the program's

benefit and invested an additional \$3.4M to increase the number of participants from his District, which has been hard hit by the pandemic. He understood that families with the necessary cash to make ends meet is a first step in creating vibrant, thriving local economies where money circulates and works as a rising tide. To that end, during the pandemic, he developed the Senior Meals program, which was replicated throughout the state to ad-

dress the needs of a vulnerable population and help local businesses survive. This is how governments should work to reduce the strain on our social safety nets.

These programs demonstrate an understanding that residents are best equipped to solve their own problems and restore faith in the community that the government is responding to their needs. Sometimes the best thing government can do is provide resources and get out of the way.

OPINION

It is Time for a Cannabis Intervention

BY COUNCILMEMBER MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON AND COUNCILMEMBER CURREN PRICE

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) has been challenged to address one of its most

providing good paying jobs, social equity applicants struggle to navigate an arduous licensing process while trying to maintain expensive leases and hold on to their investors.

Due to the lack of effective basic licensing servic-

ed changes to streamline the licensing process. Unfortunately, the changes that have been implemented do not go far enough.

“The city needs to create a clear process for potential small business owners. Our current process often leads to financial ruin and broken dreams,” Councilmember Harris-Dawson remarked. “Our motion requires reforms that will create accountability, transparency, and results.”

“As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, I have been a long standing supporter of the Department of Cannabis Regulation and its potential to build a social equity program that would eliminate the stigmas of the past and help support new and innovative opportunities for cannabis businesses in the City of LA,” added Councilman Price. “At this point, the department's ineffectiveness has resulted in detrimental economic effects, which have led to social equity would-be business owners to leave the City in droves, millions of dollars in lost revenue and inhibited the creation of thousands of potential jobs, which our Los Angeles economy desperately needs. An overhaul must be done to remove roadblocks and establish a stronger foundation that is not only fair but truly supports budding entrepreneurs today and into the future.”

DCR's new process addresses some of the problems but falls short on

three main points.

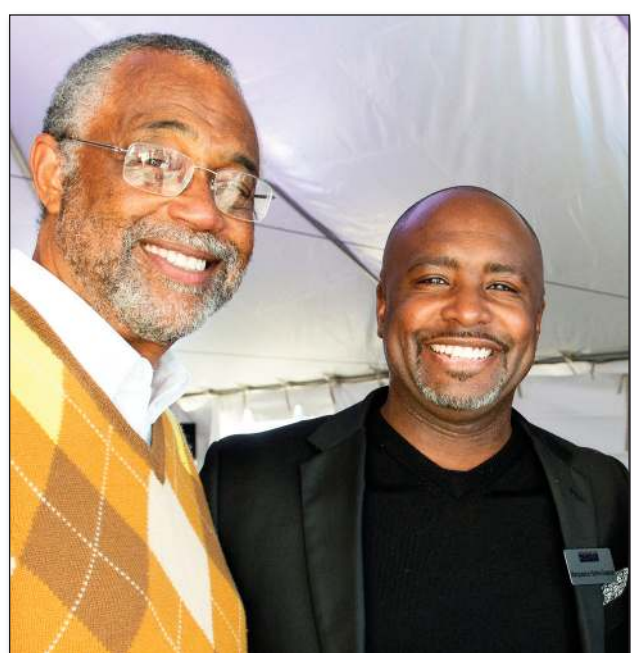
1) Reliable times for licensing processing. Our motion insists that reliable times for licensing processing are embedded in the ordinance. 2) DCR shall rescind its deadline of August 31, 2021, for applicants without Temporary Approval to make relocation requests, ownership modification, and entity changes. 3) DCR shall rescind its deadline of December 31, 2021, for Phase 3, Round 1 applicants to request relocation. Both these deadlines were announced without discus-

sion with Council and gave insufficient notice, resulting in numerous complaints from applicants, business owners, and other stakeholders. Since the motion was introduced, DCR announced in the October 21, 2021 Cannabis Regulation Commission meeting that they are rescinding its December 31, 2021 deadline and plan to adopt some of the other recommendations in the motion. However, they still reject being held accountable to processing timelines.

The time to act is now.

The City has lost tens of millions in tax revenue and thousands of jobs as hundreds of businesses are kept from opening. Legitimate operators and applicants are leaving the city in frustration and social equity applicants are still not receiving the priority they are due.

With this motion, we hope to increase accountability and transparency at DCR. Adopting these measures will support applicants, expand the program's effectiveness, and reduce the number of illegal dispensaries.



(L-R) Councilmember Curren Price and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

significant responsibilities, launching the country's largest cannabis social equity program. A program intended to work as a correction for the decades of injustices suffered by communities of color during the War on Drugs which ushered in mass incarceration.

The lack of transparency and accountability in the licensing process has contributed to numerous procedural lags and caused significant financial hardships that undermine the program's intent. Instead of

es, applicants and stakeholders have increasingly turned to their Council Office to intervene. In addition, the scarcity of legal cannabis businesses is helping the illicit market to thrive, which fosters neighborhood nuisances.

In September, we submitted a motion for DCR to implement common-sense changes to speed up the licensing process. In response to the motion, DCR released an email on Oct. 1, 2021, offering webinars to help applicants learn about recently adopt-

{Continued NEWSOM VETOES CIVIL RIGHTS BILL from A-8}

get it, you don't speak to us, or speak to our concerns, when you don't need us anymore,” said Cynthia Adams, an education and civil rights advocate in Oakland. “This has to stop.”

Adams said government should not just include people who have the right skills set.

“It should level the playing field and reflect, as well as protect, diversity. This is achieved by recruiting and promoting qualified people who look like the racial, ethnic and cultural makeup of people in the state.”

Newsom said he “returned” AB 105 without his signature, because the bill may have had “unintended consequences.”

“While the goals of AB 105 are laudable, elements of the bill conflict with existing constitutional requirements, labor agree-

ments, and current data collection efforts,” the governor said in statement after vetoing the bill. “Furthermore, as AB 105 would cost tens of millions of dollars, these one-time and significant ongoing costs should be considered through the annual state budget process.”

Responding to the governor, supporters say funding for the bill would have come out of the \$42 billion dollar state budget surplus, so cost is not a factor. Lodgson also pointed out that the Office of Legislative Counsel reviewed the bill and found no legal or administrative conflicts.

AB 105 defined the term “board member or commissioner from an underrepresented community” as an individual who self-identifies as Black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Pacific

Islander, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Military veterans with a disability were also included in the definition.

Lodgson says, although the governor vetoed the AB 105, he is still “encouraged” because both the State Senate Assembly and Senate passed the legislation with “solid” two-third majorities.

There was also widespread support among Californians, he says.

“The governor's veto message encouraged the bill's author to work with his team to work through some of the issues during the budget process in January 2022,” said Lodgson. “So, he opened the door for the things in the bill that we are specifically concerned about to possibly be added as early as the first few months of 2022.”


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B-3

Bryant Commits to Up-Building the Kingdom of God

As COGIC's SoCal First Jurisdictional Supervisor, Mother Barbara Bryant leads women in fortifying ministries through prayer and evangelism

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Barbara Bryant truly relishes proclaiming the power of God and she's been faithfully spreading that message for more than 25 years.

An author, evangelist, mentor and motivational speaker, Bryant promotes the cause of Christ in various forums, across multiple mediums, to spiritual babes and seasoned saints, to whoever and wherever - she proudly displays her faith in the Living God.

Her bold confidence has aided many listeners of her speeches, viewers of her videos and readers of her books to embrace their faith and live intentionally for Christ. Now, she hopes to instill that confidence in the Lord in an even larger audience in her position with Church of God in Christ Southern California First Jurisdiction.

In April 2021, Bryant was appointed jurisdictional supervisor/state mother for the Department of Women by Bishop Joe L. Ealy, presiding prelate of the SoCal First. One of her main duties is instructing women in the jurisdiction's 200+ churches to grow

ministries through prayer and evangelism.

"My greatest concern is up-building of the Kingdom of God. I want to assist local pastors by offering training programs that women can implement in the local church, which will help to build the Kingdom of God," Bryant said.

"COVID has given us a new opportunity to rethink church and ministry. To that end, my goals as supervisor are to triple the amount of time we dedicate to outreach to the community, help women continue to grow in spiritual maturity, and develop leaders and have a greater impact on the future generation of female leaders," she noted.

Bryant brings considerable experience in guiding women to excel in Christ. She founded "Prevail," a mentoring program that specializes in leadership and ministry development aimed at empowering women in ministry. One of her five books, "I'm Not Every Woman," tackles issues surrounding identity, self-awareness, self-discovery and uniqueness.

On the global level of her denomination, she works as the administrator facilitator for marketing



Mother Barbara Bryant

and public relations under International General Supervisor of Women Barbara McCoo Lewis. At her local church, Bryant is the president of Women in Ministry at New Antioch COGIC in Los Angeles, California where Superintendent Jeffrey M. Lewis is the senior pastor.

In addition, she holds Associate and Bachelor's

degrees in journalism and a Master's degree in communication.

Most importantly, Bryant possesses incredible faith in God and firmly believes God's word in Jeremiah 29:11 - "I know the plans that I have for you..." She insisted, "I firmly believe God's promise in that scripture and I desire to help others believe and ap-

ply that truth to their lives. My mantra is, 'On the basis of what I know about God, I can trust Him with the things that I don't know.'"

While her schedule is pretty full, Bryant still strives to have a sense of evenness in her life so she can devote time to her children, grandchildren and other personal activities.

To achieve that status, she said, "I don't think balance, I think quality. Balance is like thinking about tipping a scale one way or the other. If I work 40 hours, then I need to give 40 hours to my family too. If not, things are unbalanced.

"So, I don't think about the amount of time I have with your family as much as the quality of the time we share. The Bible says that you are qualified to do ministry based on how well you lead your family (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9).

Part of my job is to make sure that my family is loved, served, and cared for," outlined Bryant.

"If you neglect your family for the good of the gospel, you are doing more harm than good, and your ministry will eventually crumble as your family life

erodes. I also integrate my son's in ministry. One is a musician; the other is a drummer. So, there are times they travel with me and support me using their musical gift," she said.

To others who aspire to dedicate time and talents to a church or ministry, Bryant suggested timeless behaviors to incorporate including be humble, be prayerful, be biblical and be loving.

She also stressed the importance of being gospel-centered since the Gospel is the foundation of ministry.

"I also advise to be gracious because it's by God's grace that you can follow Jesus in ministry and be diligent because ministry is not for the lazy," Bryant recommended.

"Be cautious because the enemy will be sending many temptations and distractions your way, be peaceful with all men, and finally, be joyful. No one wants to hear a depressing minister."

Connect with Mother Barbara Bryant on Facebook: @Barbarabryantministries, on Twitter and Instagram: @BarbaraBryant and on the web at www.motherbarbarabryant.com

Grant AME and Everytown Host Program for Gun Violence Survivors

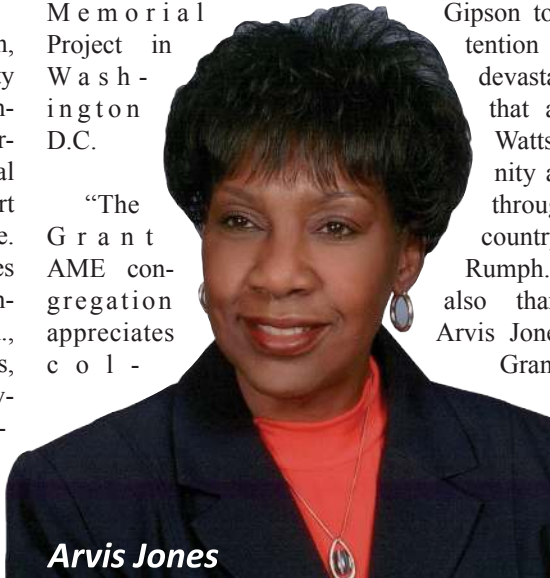
By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Grant AME Church, Everytown For Gun Safety and State Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) will co-host a special program to show support for victims of gun violence.

The free event takes place on Saturday, November 6, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., on the Grant AME campus, 10435 South Central Avenue in Los Angeles, announced the Rev. Dr. J. Arthur Rumph, host pastor. Also, attendees are invited to donate personal items of loved

ones, which will be placed at the Gun Violence Memorial Project in Washington D.C.

"The Grant AME congregation appreciates c o l -



Arvis Jones

laborating with Everytown and Assemblymember Gipson to focus attention on this devastating crisis that affects the Watts community and people throughout the country," said Rumph. "We are also thankful for Arvis Jones, one of Grant's music directors who recommended the partnership

with this highly regarded national violence prevention organization."

Everytown For Gun Safety is comprised of Everytown Survivor Network, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action. More than 6 million people are involved in the movement, whose members include mothers, survivors, students, elected officials and everyday Americans.

Jones, a grief, loss and trauma specialist and member of Moms Demand Action, was personally impacted by gun violence when her son, Damon Jones Sr., was killed by a firearm.

Ironically, she had already begun her grief ministry prior to that tragic incident. Her efforts were profiled in the L.A. Sentinel in September 2018.

In anticipation of the upcoming gathering, Jones said, "This day will be filled with information, resource tables, refreshments, children's activities and loving support for all attendees."

She added that participants include LAPD Deputy Chief Emada Tingrides, Khalid Shah, founder/CEO of Stop The Violence, Increase The Peace; Dr. Aquil Basheer, founder and executive director of Profes-

sional Community Intervention Training Institute (PCIT) and Brotherhood United for Independent Leadership Through Discipline Program (BUILD); Kevin Orange, co-founder of Advocates for Peace and Urban Unity; Shari Farmer, field deputy/community outreach coordinator for L.A. County District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services; and La Wanda Hawkins, founder of Justice For Murdered Children.

To learn more, email Clare Senchyna at casurvivorteam@everytown.org.

LEWIS METROPOLITAN CME HOLDS VACCINATION CLINIC

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Lewis Metropolitan CME Church sponsors a free clinic on Saturday, October 30, offering Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines as well as booster shots.

According to Pastor Travis A. Morris and First Lady Garnica L. Morris, the clinic will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the church, which is located at 4900 S. Western Avenue in Los Angeles. Staff from the California Public Health Department will administer the inoculations to all qualifying individuals from age 12 and above.

"The COVID-19 virus has taken too many lives and the Black and Brown community has not stepped up to accept that this virus must be taken seriously. The vaccination shot is the

way to avoid dying from this virus that has taken too many lives around the world," said Pastor Morris.

"We invite all unvaccinated people to take advantage of our clinic and obtain protection against dire consequences of death by COVID-19," he added.

Supporters include County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer and Coun-



Pastor Travis A. Morris

cilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

To learn more, call (310) 365-4198.

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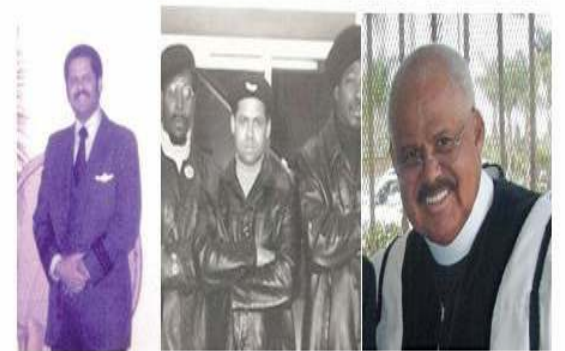
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The Metamorphosis of Frank Benson Jones Pilot — Panther — Preacher



Frank Benson Jones has been a youth who lived in the segregated South, but who was ignorant of racism and accepted it as the norm. He became a military pilot who worked on a top-secret CIA project in Vietnam, a pilot for United Airlines, the managing editor of the Black Panther Newspaper, and the Deputy Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party, an embezzler and a forger, an orthodox Muslim, and now a nonconformist minister of the Gospel.

Book available at Amazon.com

•DR. MAULANA KARENGA•

Manhood, Mission and the Million Man March: Transformative Practice and Policy in Struggle

The meaning and mission of manhood, especially Black manhood, is an ancient and ongoing question, for it is not only about a presence, but also about a process and practice, and not only about just being, but also about constantly becoming. In a word, it is about ever striving and struggling to be our best and come into the fullness of ourselves as men, African men and human beings. Let me also say here that the same can be said about the meaning and mission of Black womanhood, African womanhood with appropriate differences as self-defined by African women in their own unique and self-affirming ways.

Each season and century of our lives poses different problems and challenges for us. And certainly, our violent and death-dealing uprooting from African society and enslavement in U.S. society posed a radically evil context of death and disablement that called on all our internal and collective energies, not only to survive, but also to endure and prevail. For the struggle was, not only to survive, but also to hold on to our humanity in the most dehumanizing context and to retain vital elements of our culture as an African people in the face of the vicious deculturalizing process imposed by our oppressor.

For indeed our oppressor had imposed a social death on us, reducing us as African men, women and children to objects, objects of labor, sex and entertainment. And yet we did not die; we reached inside ourselves, drew on our deep spiritual and ethical traditions, our internal creativity and our communal commitments to care and share and dared struggle to be free

against all odds, but with an ongoing work of faith. And so, we dared to survive, endure and prevail, and thus, stood up in the very coffins the oppressor had constructed for us, survivors of our intended burial.

Even after the Holocaust of enslavement, there was the social savagery of racism called Jim Crow, segregation and other names for White dominance, deprivation and degradation of us as Black men and our people as a whole. And even today, we are marked for disablement and death in various ways – from mass incarceration to public execution by police under the color and camouflage of law. This does not mean Black women are not oppressed also in various, similar and different ways. But it does mean that Black boys and men are singled out in a special, deadly and disabling way with police violence being one of its most visible forms.

Certainly, the Million Man March and the Mission Statement of the March offer us an excellent opportunity to revisit the question of manhood and mission in the context of policy proposals dedicated to self and societal transformation. For clearly, the March and the conversation and activities around it raised the issue of manhood and the responsibility associated with it that offer a model and mirror for us to measure ourselves and ask, “how do we stand today?” For as always, we are confronted with the unavoidable fact that the oppressor is responsible for our oppression, but we are responsible for our liberation. And key to our assuming responsibility for being ourselves and freeing ourselves is holding the oppressor responsible for oppress-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

ing us. And this is not only a question of reparations, but waging a liberation struggle that makes reparations possible in its most expansive forms.

And here in this month of remembrance and reflection, we are clearly confronted as Black men with four major sets of problems initiated and sustained by the dominant society. And we must openly and audaciously engage and overcome them if we are to be the righteous, resourceful and resilient men we ought to be. These problems are: continued indictment and demonization; alienation from ourselves and others meaningful to us; isolation through distancing and incarceration; and continuous elimination, that is to say, erasure from family and social life, the media, and from life itself through continuing and expanded police violence, general systemic violence, and violence turned inward which are interrelated. For as Nana Frantz Fanon noted, our oppressor and oppression, not boldly and constantly con-

fronted, drives too many to misdirect their anger and assaults inward. But in the midst of a real liberation movement, unity and rightful anger against oppression are founded and formed in struggle. The real and relevant focus of our righteous anger becomes clear. It is the oppressor, the system of oppression and the social pathology it generates and represents.

Our challenge, then, as Black men is to regain full consciousness of self, our identity, our purpose, i.e., our mission, and our direction which emerge from this. And it is important to prioritize our liberation as Black men, regardless of the various other identities we choose and have. For other identities we can and do share with others, but we only share Blackness, Africanness with each other.

Moreover, we must avoid letting others convince us to think in the zero-sum ways of our oppressor. We don't have to eliminate standards of manhood to avoid oppressive forms. Nor is it ethical or helpful to call concepts of heterosexual men, toxic masculinity and uncritically privilege and praise homosexual and transgender concepts. We need to define Black manhood in ways that are inclusive and mutually respectful. As always, our oppressor cannot be our teacher and neither can our allies be our tutor. We must practice self-determination, define our own reality, and develop our own unique

and culturally grounded ways forward.

Indeed, we need and must pursue our own language and logic of liberation, as Haji Malcolm taught, speak the truth of our own lives, work and struggle, and resist even so-called progressive attempts to give us words to call ourselves, protocols to introduce ourselves, and false consciousness which make us condemn ourselves as men. Nor can we in good faith and ethical consciousness erase ourselves, mute or mutilate ourselves because others do not approve of the culturally and ethically grounded ways we understand and assert ourselves as Black men in the world.

Also, we must always define and understand ourselves in relation to Black women. For our relationships are not only of intimacy, friendship, and as sister and brother, co-worker, combatant, co-builder, etc., but also our relationship is a species and communal one. And again, this holds true regardless of the kind of relation we have. In a word, on one level, there is not only no species without male/female intimacy, but also important, there is no real community, just society or good world without quality male/female relations of various kinds. This is a central teaching of our sacred texts, the *Husia* and the *Odu Ifa*. Thus, our struggle and our lives depend on quality male/female relations, regardless of what kind, for

there is no justice, peace or promise of liberation and a good life without it. But as always, the call for a good end or a righteous and rightful good is at the same time a call for a commitment to engage in struggle to make it possible and achieve it.

And so, our task, as always, is to wage a comprehensive struggle that heals, renews, remakes and strengthens us in the process and practice of repairing, renewing and remaking the world. And we do this in the context and company of community. We speak here of a life of health and wholeness, of brotherhood and sisterhood in varied forms, and of righteous and relentless struggle, service and sacrifice. And it is in this transforming practice that new men and women bring themselves into being and give birth to a new world rooted in freedom, anchored in justice, and grounded in an ethics of mutual caring and shared good in the world.

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

•JOHN E. WARREN•

Remembering General Colin Powell

By now, we have all relived the life of General Colin Powell. We are reminded that death often creates sainthood for those who pass on. They become larger than life and are often remembered without fault. This was not the case with Colin Powell.

He was known for his professionalism. But that did not stop him from being a real person. At one point he was invited to come to San Diego's American Legion Post No. 310. It was the time that the Post had a woman commander, Verlene Jones. She had the idea of inviting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Post 310.

While everyone laughed at the idea, she sent the invitation.

General Powell, then



JOHN E. WARREN

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, accepted her invitation and came to San Diego American Legion Post 310. We are hearing time and time again that he was never too big for people and little things. He was not only a soldier's soldier, but

a real and sensitive human being. While General Powell shattered many glass ceilings with numerous “first” positions. The one that impressed this publisher the most was that he was the, as far as we know, first to rise to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff without graduating from a military academy like West

Point. He was a Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) graduate. He also was appointed to that position twice. He was also the first African American to rise to Secretary of State after having served as the first African American National Security Advisor to two Presidents. He was an Army Ranger, no small achievement, and he served two combat tours in Viet Nam. He was both a warrior and

a diplomat.

We can honor him and those like him who have given so much by continuing the service and kindness to others that he and those like him gave to others. We can step outside of self, look at what needs to be done and do it.

We don't all have the resources of General Powell, but we all can give of what we have in both attitude and service. We might not have personally known him or met him like the members of American Legion Post 310, but we can learn from him. Let's collectively do so.

Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint

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REALLY SCARY HALLOWEEN COSTUMES



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Avan Family Wants DA George Gascon to lead the fight for #Justice4Michelle

{continued from Pg. A-1}

tinell had the opportunity to speak with Trevon and Nyah as well as family attorney Samuel Dordulian to discuss the actions of DA Gascón and the Justice for Michelle Movement.

LA Sentinel: On August 9, LA County District Attorney George Gascón released a statement where he described the murder of your mom as a “senseless act of violence resulting in a significant loss for us all.” Were you shocked to learn that Gascón decided he would not add special circumstances in her case?

Trevon Avan: Yes, I was. I was extremely shocked to learn that our DA in LA County, George Gascón was unwilling to apply special circumstances to my mom’s case. The case was originally filed



Michelle Avan, her granddaughter and Nyah Avan
COURTESY PHOTO

with special circumstances, but DA Gascón denied the request because he’s following his personal feelings rather than the law of the state of California.

Nyah Avan: Yes, I also was equally very surprised. What he’s doing is really against the law and it’s surprising to my family and that he can blatantly go against the law and get away with it.

LA Sentinel: Attorney Dordulian, can you explain why it is important to add special circumstances to the murder charge that Anthony Turner is facing in the Avan case?

Attorney Samuel Dordulian: It’s important because it really captures the essence of the crime. Without special circumstance being applied, Anthony Turner does not get punished fully. And by that, I mean – no matter what his sentence is, and George Gascón is notorious for highlighting this statement, “if Turner gets convicted of first-degree murder, he will get 25 years to life.” Well, that sounds good but what he [Gascón] doesn’t tell anybody, and the public does not know is that the Elderly Parole Law gives inmates a parole hearing once they are both age 50 and have served 20 years of continuous incarceration. If you are sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, you are not eligible for this Elderly Parole program.

In the Avan case – without the special circumstance enhancement, Turner could not receive a sentence of life without the possibility of parole so when he turns 50 years of age, he would be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole program regardless of how many years are left on his sentence.

In addition, with the application of special circumstances, Turner would not have necessarily been eligible for bail. Right now, Turner is out and about, shopping at the same supermarket and Starbucks where Trevon and Nyah shop. Is it right that they could come face-to-face with the murderer of their

mom because the DA decided that this violent man deserves to be free and out shopping on the streets of LA?

LA Sentinel: To date, DA Gascón has refused to meet face-to-face with your family or allow representatives from his office to meet with you. Was the refusal of your request to meet the impetus for the Justice for Michelle movement?

Trevon Avan: Yes, exactly. Imagine this...our LA County DA - George Gascón, is unwilling to meet with us – the family of the victim, who was my mom, Michelle Avan, a woman brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend Anthony Turner... think about that...yes, it’s very upsetting that he [Gascón] isn’t willing to meet with us to explain why he will not ap-

ply special circumstances to her case.

LA Sentinel: If you could speak directly to DA Gascón, what would you say to him?

Trevon Avan: What I would like to know is why? Why are you refusing to apply special circumstances to my mom’s case and why aren’t you applying California law? Why aren’t you advocating for victims and their families as you were elected to do? And why are perpetrators of crimes as violent as this one allowed bail and being protected? Why DA Gascón are you refusing to allow criminals to face the maximum charges?

Attorney Samuel Dordulian: DA Gascón, you say a lot of things. Your statement about Michelle’s death seemed to be a PR stunt. You wanted it to seem like you were concerned because of the media interest in this case. I was present in court with her children and when we were leaving court, I saw Trevon and Nyah watch the accused murderer of their mom walk out of court with an escort, being protected by the Sheriffs and it was an incredible sight because he’s the guy being accused of murder and yet, he’s the one being protected. Trevon and Nyah did not get an escort. You could see the anger, the frustration in their faces...the frustration of how the system and how you - George Gascón have handled this case. And that’s a level of trauma that I don’t think you understand. Your perspective from day one has always been about the accused and the criminal. It’s never been about the victim and what their rights are, their feelings, and their trauma. I don’t think you understand it at all...you don’t seem to get it.

LA Sentinel: The circumstances surrounding your mom’s death have caused you to become outspoken advocates for your family and families of loved ones who are victims of violent crimes. Can you share your feelings about your fight for Justice for your mom – Michelle Avan?



Michelle Avan
COURTESY PHOTO

Nyah Avan: It is absolutely disgusting that we must fight like this for my mother when something so horrific, so violent happened to her. It’s not like he [Turner] came into our home and shot her. He came into our home and just sat there and literally used his hands to mutilate her face and beat her to death. That takes time.

After the first hit, he could have stopped and left. After the second hit, he could have said let me leave, this is the wrong thing to do. But the fact that he kept going...hitting her over and over and over again shows how aggressive and evil this man is. There is no reason that we should



Michelle Avan and granddaughter
COURTESY PHOTO

have to fight like this to take him off the streets to protect other women.

There is also proof that this is not his first time doing this and that information has just become known to us since my mother’s passing. It’s just disgusting that we must fight like this to make sure this violent offender is off the streets for the rest of his life.

Trevon Avan: It’s ridiculous. You really don’t know what you are up against until you’re in the situation. We are ready to fight, willing to fight and we are not going to give up. We will do what we need to do to ensure that criminals like Anthony Turner face charges that their crimes deserve.

Attorney Samuel Dordulian: I think Trevon’s and Nyah’s advocacy is a testament of their love for their mom. It really shows how much they absolutely love their mom to do all these things. I can’t imagine losing my mom under the same circumstances that they faced especially coming home and finding her body. They have been amazing. They are both incredible adults, the way that they’ve come forward, and how they have held themselves out in public while grieving so painfully for their mom. It’s been amazing to watch. They have been an inspiration to me. And that’s why I said I would happily help them in any way I could. I was very impressed with both of them.

LA Sentinel: The pub-

lic is in awe of how you have shown such bravery and tenacity in seeking justice for your mom against the backdrop of an unimaginable loss. What would you like the public to remember most about her?

Nyah Avan: I want the public to remember my mother’s work within the community and how this not only affects our family but the community. We want people to understand not only are we fighting for our mother because she was our mother but because she was a profound influence within the community.

She did multiple events within the community, across America and she has helped so many people, so

does not get life in prison which...he so clearly...no question...that he should be behind bars for the rest of his life. And that’s what my sister and I are here to do – to make sure that this guy ends up behind bars in a prison cell where he should have been years ago.

Nyah Avan: Justice for me would look like life without parole like my brother said but even outside of that - justice for me would look like more awareness for women that were like my mother in these situations.

I mean a lot of high-profile women can’t come out and aren’t able to talk about the abuse they are going through. There should be more awareness, more programs, just more things set-up to help women of all profiles, all backgrounds, and all standings. Because it can be people that you would never expect to be in such physically, violent relationships. So, I feel like there needs to be more to help those types of people that feel like they are not able to come out and talk about what they are going through because of their standing in their professional lives or in their communities.

Attorney Samuel Dordulian: A proper justice would mean that he [Turner] would serve the rest of his life in custody and never come out for this heinous, inexcusable crime that occurred.

LA Sentinel: What can the public do to support your demand that DA



Trevon Avan, Michelle Avan, Nyah Avan
COURTESY PHOTO

Gascón meet with you and apply special circumstances to your mom’s case?

Trevon Avan: The public can start by following our Mom’s Facebook page. The Facebook address is: <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeforMichelleAvan> and visiting our website: michellemovement.org.

We are using the Justice for Michelle Facebook page and website as a platform to update my mom’s village, family, close friends, her circle, or anyone who wants to know the facts of her case and what events we are supporting and participating in especially this month - domestic violence awareness month. That would be a great start.

LA Sentinel: Final thoughts on helping the public understand the importance of special circum-

stances being applied to violent crimes committed in Los Angeles County.

Trevon Avan: I would love to add something. I’m going to make this really simple. Everyone has a woman in their life that they love. Whether it’s their mother, grandmother, sister, their auntie, their niece - if that woman was beat to death like our mom was – the person who committed that crime would not face life without the possibility of parole and that’s because our DA here in LA County, George Gascón, doesn’t believe in applying special circumstances even if the crime warrants it. So, if the roles were reversed, you could be in a situation where you’re like my sister and I, trying to figure out what we need to do to make sure her killer gets life without parole.

Nyah Avan: We want to make it very clear that because of George Gascón, Anthony is not getting life without parole. So, because of that he will be on the streets again. And the next time it could be someone else’s daughter or someone else’s mother that he goes and kills again. As we said before, this is not Turner’s first time committing violent offenses against women.

Because of how aggressive he is and his rage and demeanor... I mean anybody that can sit there and beat somebody to death is just an aggressive individual who should not freely walk the streets. So, this could be anybody’s brother, dad, mother, auntie, uncle, it can literally be anybody...he could lose his temper and kill again if he is out on the street.

Attorney Samuel Dordulian: The public can make their voices heard – the louder the better. I would encourage everyone to sign the recall George Gascón petition when it comes out. When Gascon came into office, he promised that we would all be safer. But if you look at the crime rates in LA County, I don’t think anyone feels

safer and if we all want to be truly safe, then Gascón must be recalled.

LA Sentinel: Final question, what are the next steps for the Justice for Michelle Movement?

Trevon Avan: We are preparing to organize a Walk for Michelle in November. Please visit our website and Facebook page for more details on all the upcoming activities for The Michelle Movement: Justice for Michelle.

A special request from Nyah Avan:

If you or someone you love are in an abusive relationship, please reach out to the national domestic violence hotline. Help is available every day, twenty-four hours a day. Please call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233).

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Forgiving for Living



Don't Feel Sorry For Me

Although former Secretary of State Colin Powell told Bob Woodward, in a final interview, "don't feel sorry for me," as he shared some of his health challenges, I cannot help but feel both sorry and sad about his passing. Colin Powell died at the age of 84 from complications due

to COVID-19. Although he was fully vaccinated, his pre-existing conditions of battling multiple myeloma and early stages of Parkinson's disease left his body unable to fight off the attack of this terrible pandemic. This amazing man, strong leader, warrior of war and skillful statesman

who had accomplished so many meaningful things during his lifetime but could not avoid becoming one of the 720,000 Americans who have lost their life to COVID-19.

Colin Powell was the son of Jamaican immigrants Luther and Maud Powell. This modern-

day renaissance man was raised in the South Bronx and educated in the New York City public schools. It was at City College of New York, where Powell studied geology, that he found his calling — in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He soon became commander of his unit. This experience set him on a military career and gave him structure and direction in his life. He overcame racism and segregation to become the first Black American to hold several top government positions, including National Security Adviser, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. The four-star general worked alongside four different presidents. Many people feel, along with Dwight Eisenhower,

Colin Powell was the most popular American generals of the 20th century. Colin Powell was truly a family man. His wife Alma was the love of his life and together they have three children and four grandchildren. When Bob Woodward asked him who was the greatest person, he had ever known in terms of having a moral compass and sense of the truth and without hesitation or apology he said, "Alma Powell." Mrs. Powell was not only his wife, his compass, mother of their children, but she was also an accomplished woman in her own right. She graduated from Fisk University and then went on to study at Emerson College in Boston. She is an author and is the chair of America's Promise, which is the nation's larg-

est cross-sector of organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people. She provided her husband with strength and dignity, as well as wisdom and faithful instruction. In the 1990's the Republican Party was interested in having Mr. Powell run for President of the United States. Although many thought he was a man of character, for various reasons, Mr. Powell elected not to become a presidential candidate. Though he decided not to run for President, he still had interest in politics. He was always focused on broad themes of community, tolerance, and personal responsibility. He ran his life based on his values and he did not let

{See WENDY C-5}

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'GOD vs 'the gods' 'God Has a Serious Sense of Humor' Part 2

When the Philistines saw and realized that the misfortunes which came about were not by accident; but they saw the problems repeated and brought on to

themselves by keeping the Ark of the Covenant (The Ark of God), the most sacred vessel of the Israelites, (they thought it was a trophy) they proceeded

to plan what to do in accordance to the best way to get the Ark out of their hands. The Philistines of their five cities: Gaza, Gath, Ekron, and Ashkelon

planned what to do. They saw the destructive things happening to them (1 Samuel 5:6-8) The hand of the LORD lay heavy on the Ashdonites. He wrought havoc on them. What shall we do? (Their god (Dagon) had been crushed. Dagon's head, hands and feet were on the threshold. This was beyond their imagination. How could this be?!?! They had relied on this man-made hand-made "god" for protection ...to grow their grain. As always, the "gods" that many people serve will always fall before the "One True God." Isaiah references this in Isaiah chs. 10 and 41:1-42:17 This lengthy speech speaks of redemption. The nations must show whether their "gods" can match the true deity's power. If one

"god" is destroyed men rush right along making bad decisions one after another to build another new idol and start serving it/them. "Not one of them can predict or respond when I question him." (The LORD says.) They are all as nothing." (Isaiah 41:28, 29) This is further proved when reading 1 Samuel chs. 5 & 6. The Ark is sent to Gath and the hand of the LORD came against them in Gath. Then they sent the Ark of God to Ekron and the Ekronites cried out "they have moved the Ark of God to us to slay us and our kin (1 Samuel 5:10)." Send it away to its own place. There was panic so that in the whole city. Death permeated the whole city. The men who did not die were stricken with hemorrhoids

(bubonic plague). The Ark was in the territory of the Philistines for seven months. The priests and the diviners (soothsayers) were gathered to decide what to do. After a meeting and discussion, they decided to pay an indemnity and not send their trophy (the Ark) away empty handed. Pay an indemnity of five (one for each city) Golden hemorrhoids (shaped like tumors) and five (one for each city) Golden mice. (The mice had been ravaging the land by destroying the grain crops, which showed the nothingness of their "god" Dagon...grain god.) In 1 Samuel 6:20 we read of our awesome LORD when the cart carrying the Ark was touched and 70 men or more died.

{See PARKER C-5}

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Petitioner of: ERIC LENAR HARRISON for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021218657. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GARCOA, INC., 26135 MUREAU ROAD, CALABASAS, CA 91302.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021213226. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BREEZE THROUGH DESIGNS, 2 BT DESIGNS, 1811 S MANSFIELD AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021218657. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GARCOA, INC., 26135 MUREAU ROAD, CALABASAS, CA 91302.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021210897. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: David Di LAc, 714 W Olympic Blvd STE 631, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Petitioner of: Isis Jacqueline Martinez for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS.

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL). CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 56-2020-00539322-CU-BC-VTA. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): ELDON GRUBMO, an individual; SPECIALTY TRUCKS, INC. dba REFUSE TRUCKS, INC., and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021219787. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DC Bartending, 335 E. Albertson St. #200, Carson, CA 90746 County of LOS ANGELES.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021213379. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PURE QUEEN, 713 WEST ROSECRANS AVE, GARDENA, CA 90247 County of LOS ANGELES.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021213226. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BREEZE THROUGH DESIGNS, 2 BT DESIGNS, 1811 S MANSFIELD AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021209992. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Braid Thairapy, 2614 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90305 County of LOS ANGELES.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021210897. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: David Di LAc, 714 W Olympic Blvd STE 631, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. File No. 2021203809. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: M.A.D. DIVA TRAVELS & VACATIONS, 6031 S SHERBOURNE DR., LOS ANGELES, CA 90056 County of LOS ANGELES.

de la corte es): Ventura County Superior Court, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Post Office Box 6489 Ventura, CA 93006-6489. 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):

Celebration of Life

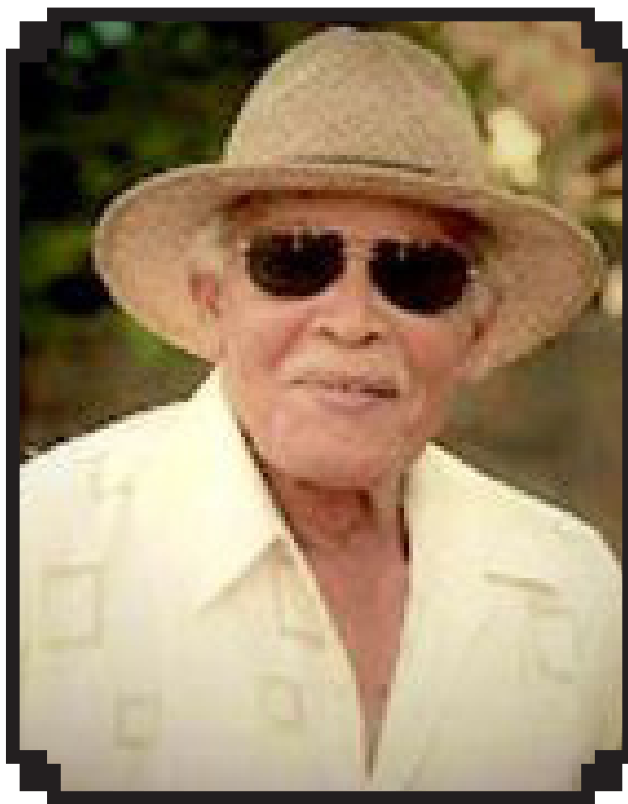
Alvin Atwood Watkins, Jr.,

Alvin Atwood Watkins, Jr., a life-long resident of Los Angeles, California, was born March 7, 1939, and closed his eyes to be with the Lord on August 24, 2021, at 5:00 am Alvin was born, the second child of Alvin A. Watkins, Sr. and Jocelyn H. Watkins, and grew up on St. Andrews Place, with his siblings Mamie Watkins Grant and John Nathaniel Watkins. There, Alvin was lovingly nurtured with quality life skills, values and a love for God, which he carried with him until his very last breath. Alvin attended 24th Street Elementary School, Mount Vernon Junior High School, and Los Angeles High School, where he was a good student, and ran the hurdles on the track team. After graduating, Alvin left for Texas, to enroll at Prairie View University, and earned his Bachelors of Science Degree in Construction. Alvin continued his educational pursuits at UCLA's School of Dentistry, where he earned his degree as a dental technician. Throughout his 30 year career, Alvin became well known for the quality of his workmanship, and was highly sought after by many of the leading dentists in the greater Los An-

geles area. Alvin was gifted with his hands, not only as a dental technician, but also in carpentry, in the design and crafting of jewelry, and as an artist and painter. But, his greatest gifts were yet to come. On April 9, 1969, the Lord blessed Alvin with the gift of a son, Christopher, who he raised in the Windsor Hills community of Los Angeles. Alvin loved and supported Christopher through his schooling, athletics and passed on to him the values, his gentlemanly nature, and his love for God, which helped groom

legacy through his daughter Ashton, her husband Chris, and their daughter Zoe, all of whom Alvin adored and cherished. Alvin met Debbie Farley in 1969, but it wasn't until August 23, 1984, when Alvin took Debbie on their first date, and that's when their dance of love began. They were life partners, avid dancers, and shared a home together for more than 30 years. A home where they enjoyed gatherings with family and a multitude of friends, hosted on the deck he made with his own hands. Inevi-

Alvin A. Watkins, Jr. was the life of the party, and he lived his life to the fullest. Alvin was kind hearted, charismatic, polished, and was passionate about Jazz and Salsa dancing. He was often found at the Hollywood Bowl, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Long Beach Jazz Festival, or dancing and teaching dance at many of the major Salsa clubs in Los Angeles. Alvin Atwood Watkins, Jr. loved his friends, his family, and he loved the Lord. He attended the Church of Christian Fellowship where 3 generations of the Watkins family accumulated more than 100 years of faithful service. Alvin was actively involved with the collection and counting of the offerings, built organs, participated in their Fish



Fries and countless other activities, and was a member of the church choir. Perhaps his greatest enjoyment was being a part of Genesis Da Balm Choir, under the direction of Kay Kelly. Alvin A. Watkins, Jr. lived a good life... a Godly life, and now is at rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Alvin lived a Joshua 1:9 life which says: "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go."



Chris to be the man he is today. Christopher continues to honor his father's

tably, the home where Alvin passed away, the night before their anniversary.

'GOD vs 'the gods' 'God Has a Serious Sense of Humor' Part 2

{continued from Pg. C-3}

For the plague struck all of you the diviners had said. Let us pay an indemnity. The priests and diviners reminded the people of what happened in Egypt...how the LORD made a mockery of the Egyptian gods and convinced them that what happened there was not by chance, but by divine plan. They knew there was something special about the Ark and transported it on a new cart with new cows which were undefiled. The LORD makes a mockery of the "gods." Throughout the

Bible we see contests between our awesome LORD and peoples' "gods." There is no match. God always wins. He says, "Fear not, for I am with you." What then can we say to these things?" One decision made on behalf of ten and one decision made on behalf of millions can devastate or build up our nation. It may take time, but unless we turn to why our nation was created in the first place and stick to its original purpose as a Christian nation, we face consequences which may not be changed. Let's

not forget. Let us do Christian acts. Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is Founder-Superintendent Today's Fresh Start Charter School 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, LA 90043 323-293-9826 www.todayfreshstart.org (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) Askdrjeanetteparker.successontheway@gmail.com Inquiring Minds Want To Know-All articles are copyright. All rights reserved. www.todaysfreshstart.org 323-293-9826. 4514 Crenshaw BL, LA 90043

Don't Feel Sorry For Me

{continued from Pg. C-3}

anything steer him differently. In the end although he was a registered Republican, he crossed the aisle and supported the Democratic party when he could not stand with his registered party. Whatever title you give him, Colin Powell

was a Patriot and loved this country until the end. Though he is physically no longer with us his philosophies are well chronicled in his autobiography, "My American Journey and It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership".

It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on. Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

Healing Without Hate:

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The registrant(s) started doing business on 03/2019. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). M.A.D. DIVA CONCIERGE, LLC. S/ LYNIQUE BROWNING, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/13/2021.

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 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/21 CNS-3518552# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021212162 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: The Styled Zone, 16820 Oak View Dr, Encino, CA 91436 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): Jillian Kert, 16820 Oak View Dr, Encino, CA 91436; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant(s) started doing business on 07/2020. 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/ Jillian Kert, Owner This statement was filed

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with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/24/2021.

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 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/21 CNS-3517646# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021209949 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Karouell Kids Los Angeles, 3417 S Cochran Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): Koree Yancy, 2440 S Dunsuir Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016 Kristyn Yancy, 3417 S Cochran Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016 This business is conducted by a General Partnership The registrant(s) started doing business on 08/2021. 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/ Kristyn Yancy, General Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/21/2021. 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

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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 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/21 CNS-3517635# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Los Angeles County Hearing Officer will conduct a public hearing to consider the project described below. You will have an opportunity to testify, or you can submit written comments to the planner below or at the public hearing. If the final decision on this proposal is challenged in court, testimony may be limited to issues raised before or at the public hearing. Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday December 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Hearing Location: Online. Visit <http://planning.lacounty.gov/hc> and select hearing date for more information. Project & Permit(s): 2017-005500-(2), RPPL2017008452 Project Location: PROW in the southwest corner of the intersection of Sielous Avenue and La Siemega Boulevard, within the Baldwin Hills Zoned District CEQA Categorical Exemption: Class 1, Class 3 Project Description: CUP for the maintenance and use of a 40-foot-tall wireless communications facility on an existing wood utility pole in the public right-of-way with updates to related equipment and construction of a four-foot-tall wall. For more information regarding this application, contact Sean Donnelly, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) via e-mail at sdonnelly@planning.lacounty.gov or by telephone: (213) 974-6411. Case materials are available online at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case>. All correspondence received by DRP shall be considered a public record. If you need reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at

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(213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD) with at least 3 business days' notice. Si necesita más información por favor llame al (213) 974-6411. 10/28/21 CNS-3524470# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for the On-Call Geotechnical Professional and Technical Services for Federally-Funded Projects (BRC0000289) will be received by the County of Los Angeles Public Works as specified in the solicitation. DBE participation is encouraged to meet contract DBE goal of 14%. Virtual Preproposal Meeting will be held on November 8, 2021, at 10 a.m. To access RFP documents visit link at <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities.aspx>. For additional information, call (626) 458-2180. 10/28/21 CNS-3521859# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ALTON DUNKIN CASE NO. 21STPB09602 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ALTON DUNKIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by AUNDR A DUNKIN, SR. in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that AUNDR A DUNKIN, SR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to

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the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/09/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 79 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner AUNDR A DUNKIN, SR. 237 E. 82ND STREET LOS ANGELES CA 90003 10/21, 10/28, 11/4/21 CNS-3520706# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHN ANTHONY SALDIVAR CASE NO. 21STPB09341 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOHN ANTHONY SALDIVAR. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by FRANCES S. SALDIVAR in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

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THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FRANCES S. SALDIVAR be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/17/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and

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appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner WILLIE L. GRANT SBN 143299 LAW OFFICES OF WILLIE L. GRANT & ASSOCIATES 2701 E. CHAPMAN AVE., #110 FULLERTON CA 92831 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/21 CNS-3520112# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION NO. D-202-CV-2020-06976 STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT KIRTLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, v. ERICA J. MUNGOR, Defendant. **THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED OR DESIGNATED DEFENDANT: Erica J. Mungor GREETINGS DEFENDANT:** You are hereby notified that Kirtland Federal Credit Union, as Plaintiff, has filed an action in the Second Judicial District Court of Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and wherein the said Plaintiff seeks to obtain constructive service of process upon you. The general object of said action is: **Civil Complaint for Debt Due** You are further notified that unless you serve a pleading or motion in response to the complaint in said cause on or before thirty (30) days after the last publication date, judgment will be entered against you. The name and post office address of the Attorneys for the Plaintiff is as follows: Aldridge, Hammar & Wexler, P.A., 1212 Pennsylvania, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110. **WITNESS** the Honorable Erin O'Connell, District Judge of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of the District Court of Bernalillo County on 9/9/2021. **Katrina Watson SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLERK OF THE COURT** By: Deputy Clerk [SEAL] 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28/21 CNS-3518662# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



De'Onna 'Tree' Young-Stephens and Phumi Morare are named winners of the 48th Student Academy Awards Competition

Young-Stephens and Morare discuss their film projects and the historic wins.

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

This year, the 48th Student Academy Awards competition received a total of 1,404 submissions from 210 domestic and 126 international colleges and universities but The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences only voted 17 students as winners—17 from 1,404.

I'm not a betting woman but I wager that this is definitely the right road toward winning a future Academy Awards aka an Oscar. That's how Oscar-winner Spike started. He won a Student Academy Awards in 1983, Spike Lee for his short film "Joe's Bed-Stuy Barber-shop: We Cut Heads" and we all know how it's turned out for the prolific, Oscar-winning director, to date.

Two of the 17 winners were women of color: South African Phumi Morare, and African American, De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens.

This year the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medal awards were presented by Oscar-winning filmmaker and 1992 Student Academy Award winner Pete Docter, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, and filmmakers Marielle Heller and Nanfu Wang in a virtual program that highlighted the winners and their films (on Thursday, October 21).

Established in 1972, the international student film competition opens for college and university film students from all over the world. The talent is wonderfully diverse as thousands of gifted storytellers compete for awards and cash grants, with their films being judged in the following categories: Animation, Documentary, Live Action Narrative, and Alternative/Experimental. Past Student Academy Award winners have

gone on to win 11 Oscars, and receive 63 Oscar nominations. Past SAA winners include Pete Docter, Robert Zemeckis, Patricia Riggen, Cary Joji Fukunaga, Patricia

(AAWC).

Currently, Tree works for the Wondaland Arts Society as a producer and helped to produce the Grammy-nominated emotion pic-

ture "Dirty Computer." She has a background in investment banking at Goldman Sachs in London and management consulting at McKinsey & Company in Johannesburg. She currently freelances as a strategist at Statement Films, a company that incubates African women content creators.

Here is what Student Academy Award winners De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens ("Not Just A Name") and Phumi Morare ("When The Sun Sets") had to share about winning this prestigious award.

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: What does it feel like to win a Student Academy Award De'Onna 'Tree' Young-Stephens?

DE'ONNA 'TREE' YOUNG-STEPHENS: Thank you. You can call me 'Tree' and it feels, amazing.

LAS: Tree, why did you decide to make 'Not Just A Name'?

TREE: I think it touches upon a rare form of discrimination in America, and all around the world, and I also have a personal connection with name shaming. I suffered from it as a child, and I thought it would be cool to reach out, to a few people, that have gone through this and kind of bring awareness to the topic.

LAS: What do you do for your day job when you aren't making documentaries and winning awards—like The Student Academy Award?

TREE: My technical term is Lord of Productions and the art stunt gangster for Wondaland Productions.

LAS: Tree, you need an African drum to introduce your job title.

TREE: That's hilarious.

LAS: So what do you actually do?

TREE: I do a lot of cre-

ative development for the company. A lot of research, and reading. What I like about the company (Janelle Monáe Wondaland Arts Society and Wondaland Pro-

ken and I could not wrap my mind around how she had the courage to confront [South African] apartheid Police who are known to be very violent, and aggressive



De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens

COURTESY PHOTO



Phumi Morare

COURTESY PHOTO

Cardoso, and the aforementioned Spike Lee.

Hosted by Amanda Stenberg, the 2021 ceremony is now available to view.

Keeping an eye on the next generation of storytellers, allow me to introduce you to Student Academy Award winner De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens who won for her short doc "Not Just A Name," and South African writer/director Phumi Morare for her short narrative "When The Sun Sets."

"Not Just A Name" by De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens (@timefortree)

De'Onna "Tree" Young-Stephens is a writer, director, and producer based in Los Angeles, California. She is currently a member of Women in Film Los Angeles (WIFLA), The International Documentary Association, The Black Women's Film Network (BWFN), and the African American Women in Cinema Society

ture "Dirty Computer." She most recently received her MFA from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and received a Student Academy Award for her latest short film documentary "Not Just a Name."

"When The Sun Sets" by writer/director Phumi Morare

Phumi Morare ("When The Sun Sets") is a South African writer/director who is passionate about redeeming the African and feminine identity through cinema. Phumi's short films have played at prestigious international film festivals including Telluride Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, and Pan African Film Festival. Phumi's upcoming short film, "Why The Cattle Wait," was selected for the 2021 Berlinale Talents Durban program. Phumi completed her MFA in Film Directing at Dodge College

duction company) is that they like two tell Black stories, specifically that will change the world.

LAS: Congratulations, it's a big deal to win a Student Academy Award, tell us, how did it feel to know that 'When The Sun Sets' accomplished this?

PHUMI MORARE: It was surreal. I could not believe it because it's already an honor being a finalist. I am so honored and I was so surprised and excited.

LAS: Where did the idea for this short film come from?

PM: It's inspired by something that happened to my mother, in the 1980s in South Africa. She saw her baby brother being abducted by apartheid Police, and she had to figure out what to do about it.

LAS: It moved you?

PM: Yes, I was just so moved by [my mothers'] courage and my mom is very reserved and soft-spo-

and it made me think a lot about the quiet heroism of ordinary, African women and how that often that goes unnoticed and unseen. I wanted to take a moment to honor it and acknowledge it. It made me think about how women who are in those kinds of circumstances are not heroes by choice but by necessity, and that was really interesting to me.

LAS: Your background is in investment banking at Goldman Sachs in London and your experience as a management consulting at McKinsey & Company, in Johannesburg, is impressive. I mean, Phumi Morare, you can count.

PM: (laughing) Yes, I can. I always think about how I have a left and right brain, and I am always thinking about how to balance the two.

To learn more about the Student Academy Awards visit: <https://www.oscars.org/saa>



"Dave Chappelle: The Closer"

MATHEU BITTON

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Comedian Dave Chappelle said he's been disinvented to film festivals, and no company or studio will entertain his new documentary because of the fallout from his controversial Netflix special, "The Closer."

And while he's willing to meet with the transgender community and Netflix employees who voiced outrage over his act, Chappelle made it clear that he wouldn't kowtow to anyone.

"To the transgender community, I am more than willing to give you an audience, but you will not summon me," Chappelle said in a

video released early Tuesday.

"I am not bending to anyone's demands," he insisted.

Chappelle double-downed on his remarks from "The Closer" in which many in the LGBTQ community called homophobic. "I said what I said," Chappelle declared.

He also clarified reports that he has sought meetings with transgender Netflix employees angered by his special.

"It's been said in the press that I was invited to speak to the transgender employees of Netflix, and I refused. That is not true — if they had invited me, I would have accepted it, although I am confused about what we would be

Dave Chappelle Hits Back at Controversy and Asks, 'Am I Canceled or Not?'

Addressing the controversy surrounding his Netflix "The Closer" special, Chappelle asked the audience: "Am I canceled or not?"

speaking about," Chappelle remarked in the viral video.

"I said what I said, and boy, I heard what you said. My God, how could I not? You said you want a safe working environment at Netflix. It seems like I'm the only one that can't go to the office anymore."

Chappelle also said he believed any controversy stemmed from corporate interests, and that he's received support from the LGBTQ community.

Washington Informer Editor D. Kevin McNeir, who is openly gay, has said he didn't have an issue with Chappelle's remarks in "The Closer."

"I listened closely to what he said and then listened to his explanation for the subjects he had chosen and his rationale for his perspectives. And he made sense. I understood. And I was not offended," McNeir

wrote in an op-ed for the Informer.

Chappelle admits that when he takes on a group of people, making them the focus of his jokes, that he's also examining himself, seeking the similarities which he shares with the "targets" of his musings and working through the human process of better understanding those who walk along different paths, McNeir stated further.

"I applaud him for that. And I thank him, too," the editor wrote, noting that, as a "same-gender-loving man of color, I have often found myself being unfairly critical of the 'T' portion within the LGBTQ community."

"I cannot understand why those who make up the transgender community would go through so much pain and oppression because of how they feel inside. But I've had my own

pain to address and hurdles to overcome. In addition, I'm still dealing with male privilege notions and my own prejudices. This is my truth and my cross to bear," McNeir insisted.

"Chappelle helped me grow in ways that I believe will remain with me forever. By sharing a brief conversation about a subject that probably confuses a lot of others, he hit a home run."

In his video, Chappelle said he wants everyone to know that even though the media frames it as Chappelle versus the transgender and LGBTQ community, that's not the case.

"Do not blame the LGBTQ [sic] community for any of this [mess]. This has nothing to do with them. It's about corporate interests and what I can say and what I cannot say," Chappelle said.

"For the record, and I need you to know this,

everyone I know from that community has been loving and supporting, so I don't know what all this nonsense is about."

Chappelle also spoke about his upcoming documentary about his summer 2020 comedy tour, claiming that it has now been excluded from film festivals.

"This film that I made was invited to every film festival in the United States and some of those invitations I accepted. When this controversy came out about 'The Closer,' they began disinventing me from these film festivals," Chappelle relayed.

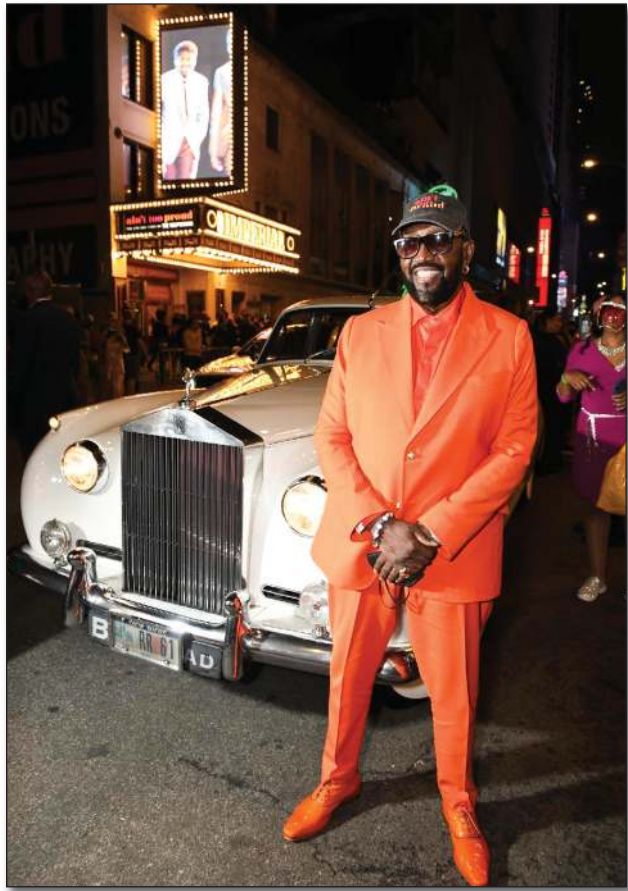
"And now, today, not a film company, not a movie studio, not a film festival, nobody will touch this film. Thank God for Ted Sarandos and Netflix, he's the only one that didn't cancel me yet."

In the video, Chappelle asked the audience: "Am I canceled or not?"

Temptations Legend Otis Williams Give Black Press Unprecedented Access During 'Ain't Too Proud'

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The scintillating Broadway musical "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations" have plenty of highlights — perhaps too many to recount for a review or feature news article.



Otis Williams, the founder and only living member of The Temptations.

The two-and-a-half-hour masterpiece provided a microscopic view of the group from the lens of Otis Williams, the founder and only living member of The Temptations.

And for those who may have seen the 1998 television miniseries "The Temptations" and believe you already know the story — you may have to reconsider and take in the Broadway show that reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered production.

Perhaps the one line in the Broadway production that best sums up the global impact of the Temptations come near the end when Nik Walker, who portrays the legendary Williams, reflects that "The only thing that lives forever is the music."

Indeed, the music has lived on, even as Williams has gone through 24 mem-

'Oh, this is getting ready to be real,'" Williams recounted.

"Then when the director said that they were only going to let Otis see the first part and not the second part, I said 'Oh, I'm getting ready to lose people.'"

Williams spent much of the week with the NNPA, beginning with a star-studded Red-Carpet event on Saturday, October 16.

On Monday, October 18, Williams invited the NNPA for a chat on stage, and on Tuesday, he took in the show seated alongside NNPA staff, including NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Williams and Temptations manager Shelly Berger, who has been with the group since its inception, shared insights.

The pair shed light on the group's formation and how they became the biggest R&B act in music history.

"I knew what was going to happen to the Temptations before anyone," stated Berger, who also managed The Supremes.

"I saw them, and I said they were beyond words. They've got to be the biggest stars in this business," Berger recalled.

The Brooklyn, New York-born Berger, and the Texarkana, Texas-native Williams, hit it off almost instantly.

Berger remembered that he only received static from David Ruffin.

The musical reveals substance and other problems that sadly would lead to his demise.

Ultimately, the focus is Williams. And if honesty qualifies as a prerequisite for a Tony Award, then "Ain't Too Proud" should score dozens of more nomi-

nations.

Williams opens up about his late son, Lamont, whom he spent little time with



PHOTO CREDIT: SHAHAR AZRAN

Temptations Legend Otis Williams and NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., walk the Red Carpet for the re-opening of Broadway and the musical "Ain't Too Proud."

because of his dedication to the Temptations.

Constantly on the road and in the studio, Williams neglects to spend time with Lamont.

When Lamont grows up, the young man explains to his dad that the time lost cannot be returned. Tragically, Lamont died after an accident at the construction site he worked.

Still, it's the Temptations' story that packed the Imperial Theater on an idyllic fall Tuesday night in New York.

With a demanding but genius boss, Berry Gordy, an unassuming and dedicated manager, Berger, and what Williams called "the five most singing brothers ever," the Temptations came of age during the volatile 1960s.

Staring down racism, Berger and Williams recalled how the Temptations had written in their contract that they wouldn't perform to any segregated crowds.

"Not only would the Temptations not go on stage, but the contract stipu-

lated that you still had to pay them," Berger stated.

Williams recalled playing in the South circa 1965

said.

Adding to the sting of Dr. King's death was that an assassin murdered the civil rights icon at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis and in the same room Williams regularly stayed while touring.

"I saw on television that it was the Lorraine," Williams remarked.

"We stayed there all the time because it was the only hotel in Memphis where Black people could stay, and that room was where I would stay. We could no longer stay there; we'd only drive by and look."

Throughout their record-setting career, the Temptations released such transformative hits as "My Girl," "Get Ready," and "Just My Imagination."

The musical reveals that another global hit, "Papa Was A Rolling Stone," hit too close to home for some members.

The Norman Whitfield-Barrett Strong produced song struck a chord, particularly with Dennis Edwards. After a near four-minute instrumental introduction, Edwards sings, "It was September 3/That day I'll always remember/cause that was the day/that my daddy died."

Edwards objected because he said his father died on September 3.

"Ain't Too Proud" handles that scene in a humorous but sensitive manner.

The musical will tour the country, while The Temptations have again hit the road with the Four Tops and others to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

And at 80-years-old, Otis Williams remains music's most dynamic force.

He isn't showing signs of slowing, either.

"Let's do it," Williams exclaimed.

Grammys CEO on a Mission to Regain Music Community's Trust

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

When Harvey Mason jr. took the helm at the Recording Academy, the Grammy-nominated producer knew there would be an uphill climb. He's heard firsthand from some in the music community that the academy wasn't a fit for them, the award voting process was ineffective, and that the organization lacked diversity.

Those critical responses have fueled Mason's mission as the academy's CEO to right the wrongs and listen to the voices of the unheard. He's already replaced the nominations review committee with a new member peer-driven voting system, overhauled the leadership with two co-presidents, increased membership and committed to hiring more diverse candidates with an inclusion rider for next year's Grammy Awards.

So far, Mason feels like the academy — which annually produces the Grammys — is moving in the right direction to regain the trust of the music community.

"We're learning and we're changing," Mason said in an interview at his studio in Burbank, California. He's a successful producer who has worked with Beyoncé, Chris Brown and Whitney Houston. He was elected president and CEO of the academy in May after holding the interim title last year, becoming the first Black person to hold the position. He was previously

chair of the academy's board.

Mason succeeded Deborah Dugan who was ousted five months after she took the position — just days before the 2020 Grammys. She claimed that the awards are rigged and filled with conflicts of interests in the nomination process, then reported sexual harassment and pay disparities.

After taking over, Mason soon faced Grammy backlash from The Weeknd who angrily slammed the awards, calling them "corrupt" after the pop star received zero nominations despite having last year's biggest single, "Blinding Lights." The singer says he will boycott future Grammys and not allow his label to submit his music.

Other artists have called out the Grammys including Drake, Frank Ocean, Nicki Minaj and 50 Cent, who said the award show was "out of touch." Others took aim at the transparency of the "secret" review committee, which selected the eight nominees for each of the Grammys' top four awards.

Some claimed committee members favored projects based on personal relationships, promoted projects they favored and worked on.

In April, the academy eliminated its anonymous nominations review committee — a group that determined the contenders for key awards at the prestigious music show.

Mason said he's gotten his "butt kicked" during conversations with artists who

have vented frustrations. But he's continuing outreach efforts across all genres to build a strong partnership



AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO

Harvey Mason jr., CEO of The Recording Academy, poses amongst commemorative records he has worked on during his career, at Harvey Mason Media music production studios, Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, in Burbank, Calif.

with the music community, promote the academy's initiatives and programs and to stress the importance of becoming a member.

"I don't do it because I want them to love the academy, and I guess partially I do," he said. "But I do it because what we're doing is really important and partnership with the artist community is something we rely on."

Despite the academy's turbulent past, Royce da 5'9" has been a supporter of Mason's direction.

"(Harvey is) a good addition to the Grammys," said the rapper, who was nominated for his first Grammy in his nearly two-decade career last year. "I think just adding more Black people to the board in different states would really help. I think that's key."

With the new peer-driven

system, Mason instituted the 10-3 initiative — which allows the academy's nearly 12,000 members to



AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO

the music footsteps of his father, Harvey Mason Sr., a 10-time Grammy-nominated jazz drummer of the group Fourplay.

"If you're not here and you're not in with us, we can't count on you to vote accurately," he continued. "We can't count on you to determine who the best nominees and winners are. Of course, it's subjective. But we got to have the right people voting, the right people nominating, the right people deciding who the winner should be."

Mason said the academy recently had a breakthrough when 83% of the 2,710 music professionals asked to join the academy as new members in June did so. The makeup of this year's class of invitees: 48% women, 32% African American, 13% Hispanic and 4% Asian or Pacific Islander.

Strides are being made, but some want more from the academy's programs such as Women in the Mix — a 2019-launched initiative that spotlights female producers and engineers. The program aims to facilitate mentorship among women in the industry.

Only 2% of music producers and 3% engineers/mixers across popular music are women, according to a study by the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative.

"We hope to see the numbers improve," said Stacy L. Smith, founder of the inclusion initiative. She wants to make sure that programs like Women in the

Mix meaningfully "increase participation throughout the industry."

"For women, this includes improving nominations and wins in critical categories, including producer of the year," she said. "For women of color, this means seeing the numbers increase across all the major categories. For people of color overall, this includes recognizing their accomplishments, artistry, and vision across categories and major awards."

Smith said the biggest challenge for Mason is to ensure that inclusion consistently goes beyond "making statements and is a central part of the academy's work."

Mason believes he and the academy are doing just that. He said he'll be the "meanest and toughest one" when holding people accountable for the inclusion rider, which will ensure equity and inclusion in hiring at all levels of production for next year's Grammys. The 64th Grammy Awards telecast is scheduled for Jan. 31.

The academy released the rider requirement Oct. 19. "We've been functioning under the idea of making sure we're inclusive and really diverse and equitable," he said. "We are holding each other accountable to make sure this stuff is done right. You're not going to find an organization that cares more about diversity and changing and heading in that direction than us."



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

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D-3

Student Athlete of the Week: Malike Simpson

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Los Angeles High School junior, Malike Simpson is a key contributor for the football team. In their 44-0 win over Roybal on Friday, he made nine rushes for 119 yards and two touchdowns along with four catches for 104 yards. His efforts earned him Maxpreps Offensive Player of the Game honors.

This marks his first year playing on the varsity level, he was too young to play as a freshman and COVID stole his sophomore season. During the quarantine, Simpson and his friends would practice at Rancho



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Malike Simpson's favorite school subject is history.

Cienega Park and his uncle took him to the Culver City stairs to train. Simpson enjoys the

onus of being a wide receiver as he wants to make a difference on the team.

"I like having the ball in my hands," he said. "Whenever I touch the ball, I get to make a play."

A challenge for Simpson is playing at the cornerback position; it isn't his primary position, but he gets better at being a corner through reps.

"I was a little bit worried," Simpson said. "I've been working on it and varsity, they got some big dudes. But I had to overcome that and I've been doing pretty good."

Through football, Simpson learned the impor-

ance of persevering through challenges.

"Say if we lose a game, never give up. There's more games," he said. "You can carry that over into life."

Simpson also works hard to balance his academics and athletics as he endured through Zoom learning last year and the transition back into in-person learning. His favorite class is history.

"It seems like every year, I do good in history," Simpson said. "I don't believe I've ever failed history or had a bad grade in history throughout these high school years. Right now, I'm taking world history."

Simpson also enjoys exercising and has an interest in boxing. Being an upperclassman, he is a leader to the younger players in the team. He knows how to get the best out of his teammates.

"That's why building a bond with your team is so important," Simpson said. "Once you build a bond with them, you'll know how they will respond and how they will act."

Simpson aspires to play in the NFL and has a career managing talent like recording artists or professional athletes. A short-term goal of his is to compete in Track and Field later in the school year.

Rams Partner with (AVP), Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Pepsi

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Rams recently partnered with Albertsons/Vons/Pavilions (AVP), Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Pepsi to host a mobile food distribution event at Compton College. Defensive lineman Sebastian Joseph-Day

The Rams want to tackle food deprivation issues among college students and other underserved communities. For Joseph-Day, issues like this hit home.

"Both of my parents are from Haiti, third-world country, when they came here in this country, they gotta work really hard for everything that they got," he

and always finding a way to help those in need."

The Rams has partnered with the L.A. Regional Food bank for several years. They are hosting their sixth annual Taste of the Rams event on November 8.

"Obviously the Food Bank, I think what they're doing is attacking a huge issue here that we have in L.A. County residents," Joseph-Day said.

Residents can support these efforts by redeeming offers on Pepsi products at Vons, Albertsons, and Pavilions up until December 28. Pepsi intends to donate the financial equivalent to 10 meals every time an offer is purchased.

"As a food and beverage company, PepsiCo feels a responsibility to help support those who are facing food insecurity in our communities," said PepsiCo Beverages vice president of marketing Claudia Calderon. "When you join forces with other likeminded organizations, the impact to our neighbors in need can be far greater, that's why we

teamed up with Sebastian Joseph-Day, the Rams

throughout the Southern California region. On Octo-

turkeys, produce and non-perishable items.



AMANDA SCURLOCK
Rams defensive lineman Sebastian Joseph-Day loads food into the cars at food distribution event.

was in attendance to help serve the hundreds of people that benefited from the event.

said. "Haiti obviously isn't doing too hot right now, my parents always raised me in a way of always giving back

to our neighbors in need can be far greater, that's why we



PHOTO BY L.A. RAMS
Rampage (right) assists Joseph-Day and volunteers at distribution event.

organization, and our valued customers from Albertsons/Vons/Pavilions to support more than 800 Angelenos struggling with food insecurity. We are looking forward to hosting three additional events throughout the remainder of the year, continuing to fight food insecurity in LA, Orange, and Ventura counties."

The Rams and AVP are fighting food insecurity

ber 28, they will partner with the Second Harvest Orange County Pantry program and give out meal kits to college students. The kits will include eggs, milk, produce, and nonperishable items.

On November 22, the Rams, AVP, and Pepsi will partner with Food Share Ventura County to host a Thanksgiving food distribution. They will be providing

During their fourth annual Community Blitz Day of Service, the Rams will host a holiday food distribution.

"It's about the people and providing services to our people, to our community," Joseph-Day said. "Me happening to be a Ram helps do that, then I'll just keep using that platform to help better our community in any way I can."

Dymally Tops Metro League in Win Against Washington Prep

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

After nine games, the Dymally Challengers remain perfect. They handed the Washington Prep Generals their first loss this season after defeating them 50-14 on Friday. Dymally now sits at the top of the Western League.

Dymally has a strong rushing game that allowed them to dominate the matchup. Sophomore Mi'Taevionne Reynolds noted how the linemen complemented the rushers.

"Our linemen blocking and getting us to the right hole and our running backs exploding through the

hole," he said.

This was the fourth game of the season for

Sentinels 66-0 on October 1. Junior Ja'Deon Polk noted how teamwork



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Dymally sophomore Mi'Taevionne Reynolds (21).

Washington Prep, they had not seen competition since they defeated the Belmont

helped the Generals secure wins.

"It's teamwork everyday, we're working hard at practice. It is not really about competition, it's about the sport," Polk said. "Everybody here loves to play sports. There wasn't no hate on the field. It was straight sportsmanship."

The game was delayed by 30 minutes due to CIF officials having to work games that were scheduled at 4pm due to a shortage in LAUSD bus drivers.

The Challengers scored on their first possession

depending on their rushing game. Washington Prep responded quickly when senior Jordan J. Jackson completed a 63-yard passing play for a touchdown. This tied the game at six points.

Challenger's runs, their offense battled hard and found one more touchdown with seven minutes left in regulation.

"When it's that second half, it's 0-0," Polk said.

in our division."

Polk has been playing football since he was six-years-old and was eagerly anticipating the return of football through the quarantine last year. His favorite



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Washington Prep and Dymally came into this matchup with an undefeated record.

Dymally found their stride on offense and defense, edging the score up to 28-6 by halftime. Dymally head coach David Wiltz encouraged them to keep their foot on the gas.

"He was just happy for us," Reynolds said about Wiltz. "He told us to keep doing what we were doing in the first half."

While the General defense struggled to stop the

"You got to play like how you start off, you got to play to the end like that."

During this season, Dymally defeated the likes of Gardena, Marquez, and Morningside. No team has scored over 21 points when they played against the Challengers.

"It's really good," Reynolds said. "I like how the team put in effort and how we can be number one

part of the season was when he first walked on a football field with pads.

"I missed it, I just got that feeling, that rush," he said. "It puts butterflies in your stomach, that feeling when you walk on the field, it brings life to you."

Washington Prep will host New Designs Watts at 7pm on Friday and Dymally will travel to battle Belmont at 4pm on Friday.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Dymally senior Emmith Horton (4).

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