

GO VOTE
NOVEMBER 3,
2020

LOS ANGELES
SENTINEL

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2020

VOL. LXXXVI NO. 41, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

Star Power for Taste of Soul Virtual Concert!

By BRIAN W. CARTER
 Contributing Writer

On Saturday, October 17, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. PST, Bakewell Media and the Los Angeles Sentinel will present the Taste of Soul Online and On-time Virtual Concert, sponsored by Hyundai. The virtual event will feature a wide array of talent. Participants can access the Taste of Soul event via livestream at www.tasteof-soul.org.

The anticipated virtual show will be 6pm-8pm PST and will feature musical performances by artists such as: After 7, Anthony Hamilton, Deborah Joy Winans, Doug E. Fresh, En Vogue, Fred Hammond, Kool Moe Dee, MAJOR. and more! The show will be hosted by comedian and actress, Kym Whitley. Local politicians and community leaders will be featured to discuss information about health, voting and current events. There will be celebrity appearances by Darrin Dewitt Henson, Dr. Bobby Jones, Faithe C. Herman, Kim Fields, Lam-

an Rucker, Loni Love, Wendy Raquel Robinson and more! DJ Mal-ski will host the final part of the show: the Virtual Taste of Soul House Party from 8pm-9pm P.S.T.

Kym Whitley

Known from her frequent appearances on Larry David's groundbreaking HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm" or "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," a nationally syndicated radio program, Kym Whitley is a multi-talented comedienne, actress, activist, author and —mother. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Kym has been based in Los Angeles for years. She was a school-teacher in Compton, but always loved performing and, especially, comedy. A chance encounter with the legendary Redd Foxx (who told her she had "the comedic goods") led her to pursue acting more seriously. Her first performance was in the Shelley Garrett play, "Beauty Shop," which started in L.A. and wound up doing a national tour. In the mid-to-late 90s, Kym appeared in



Kym Whitley



Anthony Hamilton



Doug E Fresh



Deborah Joy Winans



En Vogue



Fred Hammond

COURTESY PHOTO

"Married with Children," "Moesha," and "The Wayans Brothers" among others. She is also no stranger to the big screen. Her first big film role was as Aun-

tie Suga in the 2000 film, "Next Friday." Since then, she has appeared in "The Nutty Professor," "Along Came Polly," "College Road Trip" and dozens

of other films. She also voiced the character, Mel-onee in 2011's "Rango." As of late, some of Kym's projects have become more personal. She adopted

her son, Joshua in 2011 when he was just three-days-old. Oprah Winfrey tapped Kym for the real-

{See TOS A-7}

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Newly Sworn in Chairwoman Gloria Gray Shares How Water Equates to Growth; Everyone deserves Safe Drinking Water



{COURTESY PHOTO FROM CHAIRWOMAN GLORIA GRAY OFFICE}

Gloria D. Gray, chairwoman of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors speaks at the Boronkay Ceremony.

BETTI HALSELL
 Staff Writer

Where there is water, there is life. Since human civilization began, it has been within our instinct to build major capitals and cities around great bodies of water. That is why there is immense power in sitting as Chairwoman of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; it holds the key to the growth of the population for over 19 million people.

These seats of authority are critical, the need for equitable representation is a necessary commodity. Gloria Gray knew what

it meant and worked to achieve that goal; she devoted 12 years, eventually shattering the glass ceiling and being the first African American woman to sit on the board in the district's 90-year existence. Gray explains her love for collaboration, the importance of her role for the collective community, and the effects of her decisions on future generations to come.

Gray has always been drawn to collaboration; much like an irrigation system, she believes in a collective of moving parts to work in harmony. The coalition of sharing a com-

{See GRAY A-10}

Report Reveals Alarming Amount of Systemic Police and Prosecutorial Misconduct

By STACY M. BROWN
 NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent

On Jan. 21, 2011, former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison for perjury and obstruction of justice because he lied under oath about his use of torture to extract confessions from numerous criminal suspects, overwhelmingly Black men.

Burge was fired in 1993 and was prosecuted only for lying in a civil case. He served more than four years in prison and died in 2018.

In 1987, when Ken Anderson was District Attorney of Williamson County, Texas, he successfully pros-



COURTESY PHOTO

ecuted Michael Morton for murdering his wife, Christine.

To do so, according to a report from the National Registry of Exonera-

{See REPORT A-10}

Judge Denies Bail for Ed Buck

By CITY NEWS SERVICE/
 SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A request for bail was denied last Friday for Democratic Party fundraiser Ed Buck, who is accused of giving drugs to a



Ed Buck

man who died at his West Hollywood apartment after allegedly being lured across

{See BUCK A-8}



{See FULL STORY B-1}



VOTE By November 3, 2020 **Like Your Life Depends on it...Because It Does**

Harris Statement on Supreme Court Nomination

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on Saturday released the following statement following President Trump's nomination of U.S. Circuit Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States:

"The Supreme Court has a profound impact on the rights of all Americans. As a U.S. Senator and member of the Judiciary Committee, I have a duty to ensure that a Supreme Court nominee will uphold the law and has a demonstrated commitment to equal justice. Americans across the



AP PHOTO/GERRY BROOME
Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., speaks at Shaw University during a campaign visit in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, Sept. 28, 2020.

country are already casting votes, and we will soon know the president and senators who will be sworn in next January. We must respect Americans' voices and allow the winners of the election to nominate and confirm the next Supreme Court Justice.

"From day one, President Trump made clear that he had a litmus test for Supreme Court Justices – destroy the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with preexisting conditions and overturn our right to make our own health care decisions.

"President Trump, Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans will stop at nothing to destroy the

Affordable Care Act's protections for 130 million Americans with preexisting health conditions. The devastating coronavirus pandemic has already killed more than 202,000 Americans, and sickened millions more, yet President Trump is fighting in the Supreme Court right now to strike down the only law guaranteeing Americans can access the health care they need. Republicans are desperate to get Judge Barrett confirmed before the Supreme Court takes up this case in November and millions of Americans will suffer for their power play.

"Just yesterday, I paid my respects to the legendary Justice Ruth Bader

Ginsburg, who devoted her life to fighting for Equal Justice Under Law and a more fair and just world. Her passing is devastating, and it would be a travesty to replace her with a justice who is being selected to undo her legacy and erase everything she did for our country.

"I have been proud to represent the people throughout my entire career. With the next Supreme Court Justice set to determine the fate of protections for those with preexisting health conditions, and reproductive health options, I will continue to fight on behalf of the people and strongly oppose the president's nomination."

Black Lives Matter Leader Endorses Wesson

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Black Lives Matter Los Angeles leader Dr. Melina Abdullah endorses Herb Wesson and speaks out against the smear campaign he is facing in the race for LA County Supervisor.

This week, LA City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson received the official support of Dr. Melina Abdullah, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles. Dr. Melina Abdullah is a professor of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and an outspoken advocate for police reform. Herb Wesson is running to replace Mark Ridley-Thomas on the LA County Board of Supervisors in this year's open election.

Dr. Abdullah released the following statement:



FILE PHOTO
Dr. Melina Abdullah, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles.

"I'm deeply disappointed by the attacks on Herb Wesson. I had hoped that this race for Supervisor in the district in which I live would remain grounded in truth and commitment to the people.

Let me be clear, no elected official in the coun-

ty has been more courageous in the fight for a transformed system of public safety – one that values Black life and by extension, all humanity – than Herb Wesson.

Herb has fought arm-in-arm with organizers on the ground to build towards policies that actually keep us safe by investing in resources for our people rather than over-policing.

It is not often that we have an opportunity to elect someone who places his duty as a Black man, a father, a grandfather, a community member, and a man of the people ahead of a political calculus. I have never been more inspired by the vision, honesty, authenticity, loyalty to the community, and courage of a political leader than I am by Herb's. I am humbled to call him a dear friend and a

deeply valued partner in this work.

Rarely do I offer political endorsements. However, it is imperative in this movement-moment that we elect leaders who will not simply say "Black Lives Matter," but MAKE Black Lives Matter central to their policy work and leadership. I offer my wholehearted, enthusiastic endorsement of Herb Wesson as Supervisor of Los Angeles County's second district."

Throughout his career, Herb has worked tirelessly to dismantle the systems that are designed to harm people of color. That's why he supports reducing the operating budget of the Los Angeles Police Department by hundreds of millions of dollars and investing those funds in essential social programs that support his-



AP PHOTO/GERRY BROOME
LA City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson

torically disenfranchised communities.

Herb has also called for a new, non-emergency response model that will ensure trained specialists, rather than armed police officers, are available to help our homeless community members as well as those suffering from sub-

stance abuse and mental health issues. This proposal has been lauded by leaders of the Black Lives Matter Movement and social justice advocates as a smart, commonsense step to protect communities of color.

To learn more about Herb, please visit: WessonForSupervisor2020.com.

BIDEN HARRIS

BUILD BACK BETTER

JOBS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AGENDA

Joe Biden believes we cannot build back better without a major mobilization of effort and resources to advance racial equity across the American economy

- ✓ Ensure all small business relief efforts are specifically designed to aid businesses owned by Black and Brown people.
- ✓ Spur more than \$150 billion in additional public-private venture capital and non-profit lending programs to minority-owned small businesses.
- ✓ Reform Opportunity Zones to Fulfill Their Promise.
- ✓ Ensure his housing plan makes bold investments in homeownership and access to affordable housing for minority families.
- ✓ Boost retirement security and financial wealth for minority families.

Visit joebiden.com/racial-economic-equity to learn more

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- First Woman Elected as District Attorney of Los Angeles
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- Working to replace the broken cash bail system
- Taking on perpetrators of sexual violence and child abuse
- Reinvigorated the DA's Environmental Crimes Division
- Banning the use and support of private prisons by the County of Los Angeles
- Protecting seniors and immigrant communities from financial scams

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Charles Frazier
Senior Vice President
City National Bank

Why Professional Athletes Need to Think About Money Differently

Black achievement and wealth are hard-won in the best of times. A global pandemic and stalled economy, coupled with the ongoing struggle for social justice, have increased the urgency for a proactive approach to Black entrepreneurship and wealth creation. Opportunities exist, even in the most challenging circumstances.



I coach professional athletes — about their finances. As a banker specializing in sports and entertainment, I’ve worked with athletes on many pro teams. Sports is a career like no other, so if you’re on verge of going pro — or you are the parents of an aspiring pro athlete — keep reading.

The average playing career ranges from nearly six years for Major League Baseball (MLB) and the National Hockey League (NHL) to only three-and-a-half years for the National Football League (NFL). And, with the COVID-19 pandemic, many athletes have had to recalibrate their plans.

A short career is not the only threat to an athlete’s finances. Injuries and an often-lavish lifestyle can drain a bank account quickly. The only way to prevent a financial strikeout is for athletes to arm themselves with as much knowledge, as early as possible, and plan for retirement while they are still playing.

Rookies On and Off the Field

Despite some multimillion-dollar signings, minimum rookie contracts are around \$500,000 for most sports. NFL signing bonuses can boost earnings, but few other sports offer them. Still, a half-million dollars is a lot of money for a young athlete drafted right out of school.

“When you start making decisions very fast, that’s when mistakes happen,” said Todd Burach, manager of sports and entertainment at City National in New York. “Athletes should not rush into financial decisions such as purchasing a home or investing in a side business.”

I always recommend that young athletes focus on the basics — budgeting, spending, taxes and insurance — before investments. An important first task is to create a cash account to cover 12 to 18 months’ worth of expenses in case of an injury or other unexpected scenario.

The next step is to set annual savings targets based on financial goals, such as buying a house or starting a business. Consider investment options, such as blue-chip

stocks, income-producing investments and municipal bonds, with an eye toward life after sports.

Watch Out for Curveballs

An athlete’s career, of course, can be sidelined for many reasons. Players may find their millions disappear quickly if they spend too freely on gifts, designer wardrobes, exotic trips and mansions.

The key is to make sure your spending is within the boundaries of the plan you put in place. Recruit a strong team, including the right sports agent, financial advisor, lawyer and/or accountant to serve as your gatekeepers.

Winning at Retirement

Retirement for pro athletes is unusual because it often happens in their 30’s. They may be winding up their sports careers at the same time their friends are hitting their strides in other professions. An athlete’s goals for life after sports might include paying off all debts and making income-producing investments to cover retirement expenses.

Many players launch second careers in real estate, fashion, broadcasting or restaurants. But for every George Foreman and Venus Williams who’ve been successful outside the sports arena, dozens of players have gone broke or failed in business ventures.

City National serves more than 400 sports professionals across the country, so we understand the unique needs of athletes: The key is to balance your dedication to your sport with a commitment to your financial future.

Charles Frazier, senior vice president, is team lead for entertainment at City National Bank in Beverly Hills. Contact him at (310) 888-6000 or charles.frazier@cnb.com to learn more about complete financial solutions for athletes.

Non-Deposit Investment Products are: ■ Not FDIC Insured ■ Not Bank Guaranteed ■ May Lose Value

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IN 2020 WE MUST PROTECT OUR HEALTH AND RIGHT TO VOTE SO VOTE EARLY. VOTE SAFELY. VOTE BY MAIL.

During this pandemic it’s essential to stay healthy and protect your community from COVID-19. Make sure you and your family know how to vote from home this election. Let’s get Every Vote In.

Make your plan to vote today:
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EVERY VOTE IN





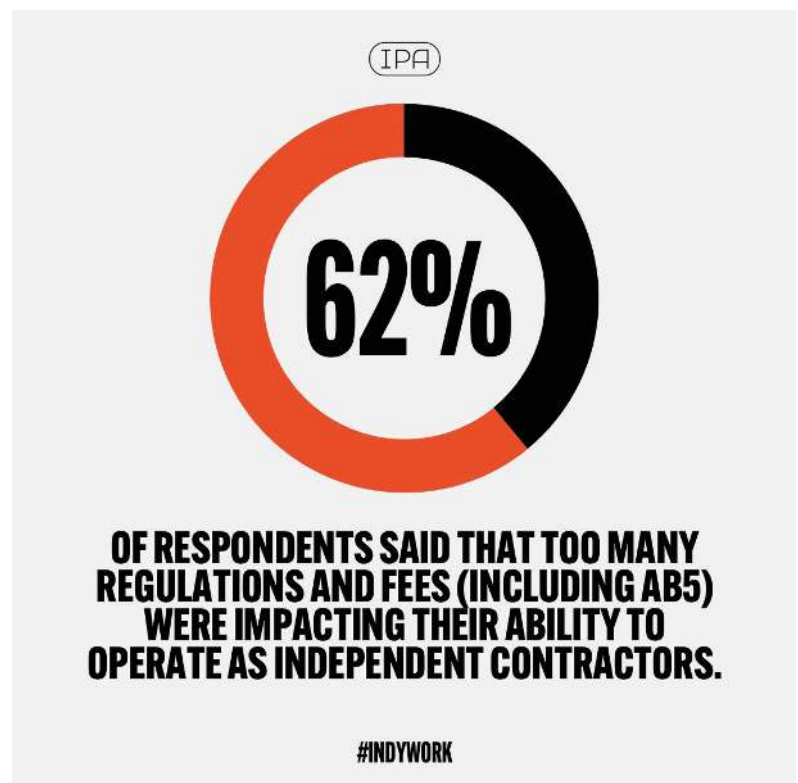
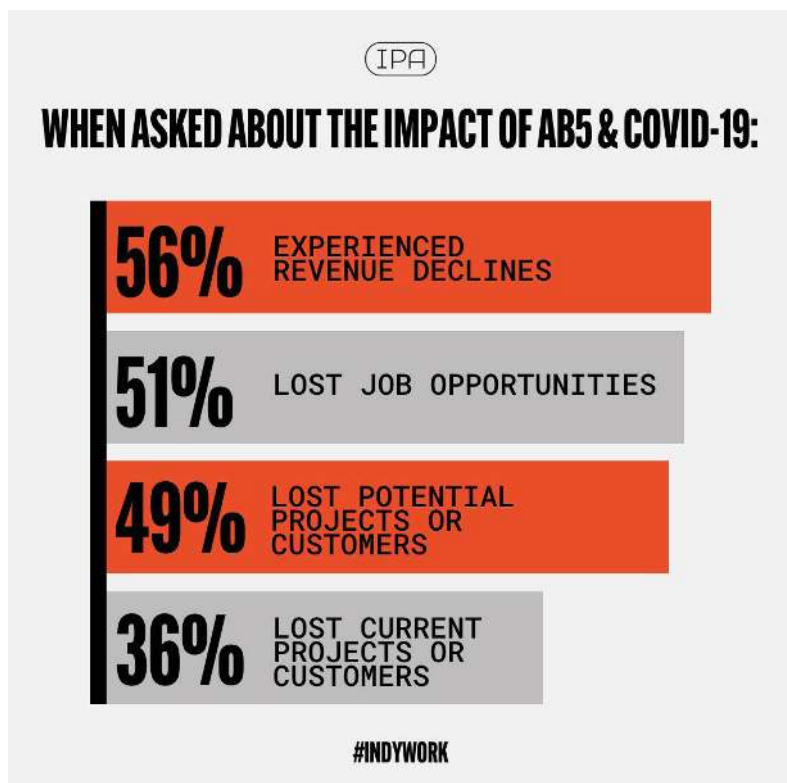
INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

COALITION OF RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS CALL FOR GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO FREEZE AB5.

THE CALIFORNIA ECONOMY HAS BEEN DECIMATED BY AB5 AND COVID 19, A NEW STUDY FINDS.

Whether it's churches, non-profits, small businesses, or independent workers, a new study by Evitarus Research shows that **72% of respondents** rate the overall condition of the California business climate as "fair" or "poor".

POST THESE FACTS TO FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM USING THE HASHTAG #INDYWORK



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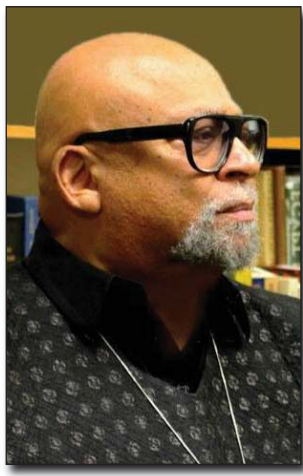
• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Pursuing the Seven-Fold Path of Blackness: Practicing Principles of Life and Struggle

Part 2. Now, at the heart of the pursuit of the Seven-Fold Path of Blackness, i.e., Think Black, Talk Black, Act Black, Create Black, Buy Black, Vote Black and Live Black is the overarching goal to bring good in our lives and the world. It is to remind us of the centrality of ourselves in our own lives, our own history and the ongoing ethical imperative to constantly repair, renew and remake ourselves, our communities, our people and the world, making them all more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited and encountered them.

The fifth practice of the Seven-Fold Path of Blackness is to Buy Black. In its simpler form, to buy Black is to use money, means and wealth in ethical and intentional ways to support Black businesses, sustain the Black community, and build the capacity of both in the interest and advancement of our people. However, in a larger sense, "Buy Black" is

a metaphor for engaging economic issues of all kinds and engaging in struggle around those issues. It is using both financial and people power in general to help shape and put in place people-focused and environmentally concerned economic policy and practices. It is to act, not simply as customers, but as conscientious sustainers, investors, builders, and activists and advocates for racial, social and economic justice, for they are all related. To buy Black calls for a disciplined and thoughtful use of our money, wealth and means, avoiding the mindless consumerism of the dominant society, withholding our purchasing from economic and financial policies and practices that promote open and camouflaged racism. It means refusing to finance or support racist capitalist policies that imprison for profit; wage war and occupy countries for domination, wealth and resource theft; privatize public wealth and space; and



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

deny fair and decent wages and workers' rights. And we must challenge and resist corporate capitalism and its plunder, pollution and depletion of the world, and its reckless contribution to climate change and environmental degradation. Likewise, it means raising and pursuing issues of equal pay for women, men and young people; adequate income; expanded economic initiatives and opportunities; the halting of gentrification and community destruction; and

reparations as an ethically compelling and economically urgent debt to be paid.

Indeed, we must also vote Black. To vote Black is to choose the good, the right and the possible and to see electoral politics as a critical ground of struggle. It is to choose to love Black people in practice by choosing good for ourselves, our people and the world. It is another expression of love and commitment to our people. It is to define, defend and to advance their interests, not only at the ballot box, but at every level and site of life and struggle. To vote Black is to choose and vote for our own agenda. The candidates as political figures are at best secondary. It is the policies they propose, pursue, support and oppose that make them worthy of our consideration and vote. We must vote our own vision of the good, the right and the possible. It is not a question of liking candidates as personalities or political fig-

ures, nor a question of party loyalty or the vulgar transactional politics of trading favors. It is about the good of our people, society and the world.

Vote Black then, vote to bring, increase and sustain good in the world. Choose rightfully, choose life and reject death-dealing policies and practices. Choose food security and clean water, healthcare, housing, adequate income, and quality education, indeed, racial justice, as a shared good for all. Choose peace, self-determination and liberation for all over and against war and warmongering, against occupation and suppression and oppression in all its violent, vicious, visible and camouflaged forms.

Finally, the seventh practice in the Seven-Fold Path of Blackness urges us to live Black, bringing it all together in a dignity-affirming, life-enhancing beautiful whole. We must live Black, live African, live a life of good, beauty, right and pos-

sibility. Living Black is living in a culturally grounded, relationally rich, and evolving and flourishing way – rooted in the best of what it means to be African and human. To live a culturally grounded Black life means to live a value grounded life with ethical values at its heart and center, values that affirm, protect and promote African and human life and good and the well-being of the world. Living Black means also recognizing and respecting the reality that we are also a people in oppression and resistance and have become by the development and demands of history and our self-conscious commitment to our liberation struggle, a moral and social vanguard in this country and in the struggle for human liberation as a whole. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune tells us ours is a great and ancient legacy and we must honor it by keeping and caring for it, constantly developing it and

[See KARENGA on A-13]

• JEFF PRANG, LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR •

The 2020 Assessment Roll LA COUNTY PROPERTY VALUED AT \$1.7 TRILLION FOR 2020 Reflects pre-COVID Market Conditions

It's that time again that my office undertakes its most important function of the fiscal year that lays the ground work for the very property taxes that pay for our vital public services: The Assessment Roll.

The Roll for 2020 has been closed and it reflects solid growth for the City of Los Angeles and the rest of the county. However, the Roll is pre-COVID and I will explain that in a bit.

First off, let me say this comprehensive tally values more than 2.5 million real estate parcels in Los Angeles County and results in the very tax dollars that goes to pay for vital public services, such as healthcare, police, fire, schools, and even librarians, to name just a few. I am constitutionally mandated to close the role by the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30.

I am pleased to announce that the 2020 Assessment

Roll has a total net value of \$1.7 trillion, indicating the 10th year of consecutive growth. That value places \$17 billion in the hands of the county to be used for those public services I just mentioned. This year the Roll has an added dynamic, however, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Locally, Los Angeles for 2020 came in at nearly \$696 billion for taxable values, which is a 6.6% increase over last year's numbers. That includes 615,057 single-family homes, 111,862 apartment complexes, 65,059 commercial-industrial parcels for a grand total of 791,978 taxable properties. Growth is steady in the city of Los Angeles.

More importantly, that \$696 billion translates into nearly \$7 billion for vital public services such as public safety, healthcare and public education for Los Angeles.

However, these figures are pre-COVID and here's how that works. Assessments are based on the value of property as of the lien date of January 1, 2020, which was a couple of months prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Next year's lien date of



JEFF PRANG

Jan. 1, 2021, will tell a different story.

We need to be realistic and although we don't know yet for sure how next year will look, the pandemic has devastated the economy to levels only seen during the Great Depression. The reduction in sales tax revenue, housing market slow down and high unemployment is going to most likely have an adverse effect on the economy.

Moreover, when COVID hit and we were all put under quarantine as required by the Safer At Home protocols, my force of nearly 1,400 employees went into a massive teleworking mode of operations. We have 85 to 95

percent of our workforce teleworking on any given day and the transition has proved challenging.

Some basics: The Roll, as it is known, contains the assessed value of all real estate and business personal property in the county's 88 cities along with the unincorporated areas. It also breaks down the number of single-family residential homes, apartments and commercial-industrial parcels.

This year's Roll comprises 2.58 million real estate parcels as well as business assessments countywide. That includes 1,882,121 single-family homes, 250,089 apartment complexes, 247,562 commercial and industrial properties and more than 205,000 business property assessments.

The 2020 Roll also grew by \$95.9 billion (or 5.97%) over 2019. In addition to the values of the county's 2.38 million real estate parcels, this total amount reflects \$87.91 billion in business personal property, which includes boats, machinery, equipment and aircraft.

Since the Roll is the inventory for all taxable property in the county, it can provide some insight into the

health of the real estate market. Although there was a slowdown in sales, there was continued growth in property values. The Roll is also driven in large measure by real property sales, which added \$49.6 billion to the Roll as compared with 2019; the CPI adjustment mandated by Prop. 13, adding an additional \$30.8 billion; and new construction added \$13.4 billion.

Finally, as we move forward during this critical period I hope everybody stays safe and healthy. This is a tumultuous time in our history. No question about that, but to repeat what has been said so many times before during emergencies that demand the best from us, this could be our finest hour.

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has been in office since 2014. Upon taking office, Prang implemented sweeping reforms to ensure that the strictest ethical guidelines rooted in fairness, accuracy and integrity would be adhered to in his office, which is the largest office of its kind in the nation with 1,400 employees and provides the foundation for a property tax system that generates \$17 billion annually.

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TOS

{continued from Pg. A-1}

ity TV series, “Raising Whitley,” which ran on the OWN Network and essentially told Kim and her son’s story. In addition to all her work as an entertainer, Kym is a dedicated activist. Her ‘Don’t Feed Me’ campaign started out as something she did for Joshua but evolved into an ongoing, high profile project to raise awareness of food allergies for children and adults. Kym holds an honorary doctorate from UVa — Lynchburg and serves on the boards of both The Jefferson Homes Adoption & Foster Home and The Special Needs Network.



DJ Mal-Ski

DJ Mal-Ski is a DJ and producer, who crosses musical and cultural genres. He has worked with many artists who include Kanye West, the group Mary Mary, and Stevie Wonder to name a few and has been one of the featured DJs on 102.3 KJLH FM. DJ Mal-Ski has performed at a variety of venues, being the official DJ at the L.A. Coliseum for the L.A. Rams, USC Trojans and at The Staples Center for the L.A. Sparks. He has also been a DJ at The Grammy Awards Luncheon and the NAACP Award Breakfast to name a few venues. DJ Mal-Ski’s current residency is with Morongo Casino in Palm Springs. As a producer, Mal-Ski has worked with R&B artist, Kenny Lattimore on his album “Anatomy of A Love Song,” and singer and actress, Jill Scott’s #1 R&B album, “Light of The Sun.” Mal-Ski released an EP, “Light Show” in March 2017, which he aimed to set a new standard in music. He has also composed and written theme songs for television shows for several networks, composed and written original scores for award-winning independent films such as “In Disbelief” and for award-winning theatrical productions such as “From The Edge.”



Anthony Hamilton

Anthony Hamilton is a GRAMMY® Award-winning singer, songwriter, producer, and actor, who has achieved global sales of over 50 million albums. The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame inductee notably performed for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle, cementing his place in the history books as the “narrator of love.” His raw, awe-inspiring performances garnered the attention of NPR, where he starred in their Noteworthy documentary series. He appeared in “American Gangster” and lent his voice to “Freedom” from the Academy® Award-nominated “Django Unchained.” Additionally, Hamilton became the “first R&B artist to sell an album at Cracker Barrel.”



MAJOR.

MAJOR. is a contemporary R&B singer and songwriter whose work is rooted in classic soul with pop influences. His career took off after he signed with Harmony Samuels’ B.O.E. Music Group. He released his debut album for the label, “I Am MAJOR.” in 2016. The single “Why I Love You,” earned the admiration of legendary artists such as Stevie Wonder and Patti LaBelle and peaked at number five on Billboard’s Adult R&B Songs chart. This success was followed in 2017 with songs, “Honest,” a remix of “Why I Love You,” featuring Shaggy and Rock City, and the artist’s third charting single, “Spend Christmas with You. Major. Is also known for his hit song of consciousness, “Change Right Now.” The song is a call-to-action in response to the police shooting and senseless deaths of two African-American men, Alton Sterling and Philando Castile.



Doug E. Fresh

The first human beatbox in the rap world, Doug E. Fresh amazed audiences with his mouthed imitations of drum machines, effects, and samples of hip-hop classics. He made his first appearance as an artist in 1983 on a single for Spotlight called “Pass the Buddha,” with Spoonie Gee and DJ Spivey. His introduction to most hip-hop fans was with his perfor-

mance in “Beat Street” behind the Treacherous Three. His first solo feature came in 1984, with “Just Having Fun,” waxed for Enjoy, and “Original Human Beatbox” for Vinentertainment. In 1985, he was one of the biggest names in rap music, and his first single for Reality, “The Show/ La Di Da Di,” became a hip-hop classic. His first LP, 1987’s “Oh, My God!” featured most of his showpieces, like “Play This Only at Night” and “All the Way to Heaven,” along with nods to reggae and even gospel. In 1988, he released his second album, “The World’s Greatest Entertainer,” which reached the Billboard thanks to single, “Keep Risin’ to the Top.”



Fred Hammond

Active since the mid-’80s, Fred Hammond is one of the most popular praise & worship leaders in contemporary gospel music. He began singing with his church choir at the age of 12, played bass and sang with the gospel group, The Winans during the early ‘80s, then joined the group Commissioned later in the decade, showcasing his skills in arranging, production, and songwriting. Hammond’s solo career began in 1991 with solo releases or as group efforts featuring the choir Radical for Christ, and has won Dove and Stellar awards. While with Verity, Pages of Life: Chapters I & II (1998), “Free to Worship” (2006), and “God, Love & Romance” (2012) topped Billboard’s gospel chart. Hammond’s “I Will Trust” (2014) hit the Top Gospel albums chart the week of its release. He followed with the live “Worship Journal” in 2016. In 2018, he returned with “Uncle Fred: Texture of a Man.” Hammond has worked with a cross-generational, gospel musicians, including the Williams Brothers, Yolanda Adams, and Israel & New Breed.



Kool Moe Dee

Mohandas Dewese, better known by his stage name, Kool Moe Dee, was one of the first rappers to earn a Grammy Award and was the first rapper to perform at the Grammys. In 1986, he went solo, releasing a self-titled album that ranked 83 on Billboard. Kool Moe Dee released his second album, “How Ya Like Me Now?” which was his most successful album commercially, achieving platinum status. He then went on to release his third album, “Knowledge Is King” in 1989, which went gold.



En Vogue

In an industry full of imitators, En Vogue distinguished themselves as innovators in both fashion and music. Their album, “Born to Sing,” went nearly double platinum and the hits kept coming: “My Lovin’ (You’re Never Gonna Get It),” the Aretha Franklin remake “Giving Him Something He Can Feel” and “Free Your Mind” came from the “Funky Divas,” their 1992 sophomore effort, and “Don’t Let Go [Love]” from the “Set It Off” soundtrack and EV3, their third album in 1996 and 1997 respectively. They also joined forces with pioneering female rappers, Salt-N-Pepa for 1993’s “Whatta Man,” an ode to good men everywhere. To honor En Vogue’s 30th anniversary, Rhino/WMG has released an expanded and remastered digital version of a 21-track collection featuring a selection of rare mixes, many of which are only now available digitally.



Darrin Dewitt Henson

The multi-talented Darrin Dewitt is known for his role as ex-convict and family man, Lem Van Adams, on the hit Showtime series, “Soul Food.” In 2015, Henson was featured in the film “Chocolate City,” an African American version of “Magic Mike.” An incomparable choreographer, he has worked with artists such as Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears and ‘N Sync. Henson got his start with the late legendary Hip-Hop DJ, Scott La Rock of Boogie Down Productions at age 14, when he joined La Rock’s Vermont school tour. Darrin Dewitt Henson has hosted for Taste of Soul’s StarQuest Talent Competition.

The Taste of Soul Virtual event welcomes multi-talented performers and artists: AFTER 7, Deborah Joy Winans, Lamman Rucker, Loni love, Kim Fields, Dr. Bobby Jones, Faithe C. Herman, Wendy Raquel Robinson and Jade Novah.



After 7

After 7 are Grammy and American Music Award nominees with a distinctive R&B sound, that reached a 30-year musical milestone in 2019. In 1988, original members Kevon Edmonds, Melvin Edmonds and Keith Mitchell were brought to Virgin Records by legendary hit-making duo Antonio “L.A.” Reid and Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds. Their self-titled 1989 debut album reached platinum producing two #1 Billboard R&B singles, reaching top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100, and were certified gold “Can’t Stop” and “Ready or Not.” In 1992, their sophomore project, “Takin’ My Time,” was certified gold: reaching #8 on the Billboard R&B Albums chart. In addition, After 7 released 2 singles, “Nights Like This,” used for the film soundtrack, “The Five Heartbeats” and “Not Enough Hours In The Night” for the TV soundtrack, “Beverly Hills 90210.” Their 3rd album, “Reflections,” released in 1995, spawned the lead single, “Till You Do Me Right” another Top 10 hit. Two compilation albums, “The Very Best of After 7” (1997) and “The Best of After 7” (2003), were also released. In May 2019, the group and fans worldwide mourned the sudden loss of original member Melvin Edmonds. In the late summer of 2019, songwriter and vocalist, Danny “SkyHigh” McClain succeeded Jason Edmonds. Recipients of the NAACP Image Award, After 7 has continued to date to be honored with countless awards and accolades.



Deborah Joy Winans

Actress and singer, Deborah Joy Winans, starred in the OWN family-drama series, “Greenleaf” from Executive Producer Oprah Winfrey. Winans and her brother, Juan, starred as their real-life aunt and uncle, Cece and Bebe Winans on stage in the musical “Born for This.” The play, written by Bebe Winans and Charles Randolph-Wright (Motown), was performed in Atlanta and Washington D.C. at The Arena Stage. Winans was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and is part of the renowned gospel Winans family. Contrary to her family’s musical legacy, she was passionate about acting and the singing came later at the age of 18, when she was asked to act and sing in a church theatrical production.



Lamman Rucker

Lamman Rucker made his television debut in the year 2002, when he was cast for the role of T. Marshall Travers in the television soap opera, “As the World Turns.” His most popular role came as Garrett Williams in “All My Children,” in the year 2005. He has worked in many television shows which include “All of Us,” “Law & Order,” “House of Payne,” and most recently, “Greenleaf.” He made his movie debut in 1998 when he was cast for the role of Jimmy Ruffin in the movie,

{See TOS #2 A-8}

TOS #2 {continued from Pg. A-7}

"The Temptations." He is known for portraying the role of Sheriff Troy in the movie "Why Did I Get Married" and its sequel "Why Did I Get Married Too." He is also known for the popular role of Will Brown in the 2008 movie "Meet the Browns." In his career, he has worked in several movies which include "The Bachelor Party," "Black Coffee," and "The Man in 3B" to name a few. He is known for portraying the role of Sheriff Troy in the movie "Why Did I Get Married" and its sequel "Why Did I Get Married Too." He is also known for the popular role of Will Brown in the 2008 movie "Meet the Browns." In his career, he has worked in several movies which include "The Bachelor Party," "Black Coffee," and "The Man in 3B" to name a few.



Loni Love

While in college, Loni Love began dabbling in stand up, loving every minute of captivating an audience with her comedy. When she graduated from college, she took an engineering job in California, which worked for both her chosen vocation and her 'side-gig' as a comedienne. She quickly became a regular at the legendary Laugh Factory, working during the day as an engineer and at night doing her comedy. In 2003, she was a finalist on the revived Star Search, and not long after, Loni won the jury prize for Best Stand-Up. From there, she was invited to showcase on HBO's U.S Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. At this point, it was time to make a career change towards comedy. Love is currently a co-host of "The Real," the one-hour daily talk show on Fox stations. Most recently, "The Real" has received a 2019 Daytime Emmy nomination for Best Talk show, as well as Loni and her co-hosts receiving the nomination for Best Talk Show Hosts. The show was nominated for four EMMY Awards, including Outstanding Talk Show, and won the EMMY for Outstanding Entertainment Talk Show Hosts. "The Real" also won a 2018 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Talk Series.



Kim Fields

Kim Fields is a veteran actress, director, producer and writer. Fields is best known for her starring roles in two iconic shows: "Living Single" and "The Facts of Life." She has also appeared in many other film and television projects, including HBO's "The Comeback," TBS's "Meet the Browns," Lifetime's "The Division" and "Strong Medicine," and A&E's "The Cleaner." Fields joined the cast of Bravo's "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" for one season. She also competed in season 22 of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." Additional recent roles include the television movie "A Cross to Bear," "What to Expect When You're Expecting," and Hallmark Channel's "For Better or for Worse." Fields starred in her third Holiday Love Christmas special, which she also produced, co-wrote and directed. She has directed hundreds of episodes of television on programs, including TV One's "The Rickey Smiley Show," Nickelodeon's "Kenan & Kel," FOX's "Living Single" and BET's "Let's Stay Together." She also directed two of Tyler Perry's TBS series: "Meet the Browns" and "House of Payne." Fields is an award-winning film director and was awarded the honor of Director of the Year for her work on the short film Silent Bomb by the Black American Cinema Society.

Buck {continued from Pg. A-1}

state lines for prostitution.

Over 4,000 people signed a petition that was submitted in court, asking the judge to deny Buck bail in the name of public safety.

Buck's attorneys, Christopher Darden and Ludlow B. Creary II, argued that their client should be released from the downtown federal lockup due to the COVID-19 pandemic currently moving through jails and prisons. Buck, 66, had offered to put up a \$400,000 signature bond and submit to electronic monitoring and home confinement. However, U.S. Magistrate Judge Rozella A. Oliver found that the proposed bond conditions were insufficient to ensure Buck's presence at trial, given the incentives to flee. She also determined that Buck would pose a danger to the community if allowed to leave jail before

his trial in January.

As for the threat of COVID-19, the judge said defense attorneys did not show that the Metropolitan Detention Center was unable to handle Buck's medical needs, and that he didn't have any medical conditions that put him at elevated risk for the virus, beyond his age.

Federal prosecutors allege Buck has a history of injecting men with drugs and paying them for sexual activity, and emphasized in a court filing that a previous judge's ruling denying a pre-trial release on grounds of danger to the community was correct.

Darden, who became a household name prosecuting O.J. Simpson for murder in the mid-1990s, represented Eric Holder, who is accused of killing hip-hop artist, Nipsey Hussle last year.



Dr. Bobby Jones

Bobby Jones is a Grammy Award-winning Gospel music singer and television host from Nashville, Tennessee and the host and executive producer of several cable television's gospel music programs, including "Bobby Jones Gospel." Jones has produced programs for BET since 1980, consistently ranking in the Top 5 of overall BET weekly programming. In addition to his work for BET, Jones produced and hosted a similar half-hour program for WDCN-TV (now WNPT), Nashville's public television outlet, during the early 1980s. Bobby Jones Gospel lays claim to offering the first prime exposure to several Gospel music solo artists and groups including Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, Yolanda Adams, and Smokie Norful. Other artists featured have included Albertina Walker, Patti Labelle, and Dorothy Norwood. Jones also hosts shows for other television networks, including Bobby Jones' Next Generation on the Gospel Music Channel and Bobby Jones Presents for The Word Network. On radio, he is the host of "Bobby Jones Gospel Countdown," in addition to the "Bobby Jones Radio Show," which is heard on Sheridan Gospel Network. Jones also oversees the Nashville Super Choir. The choral ensemble boasts prominent soloists and serves as the vocal collective for his BET series. Jones is also the recipient of a Dove Award, three Stellar Awards, and a Presidential commendation from President George W. Bush. Jones has authored two books, his 2000 memoir, "Make A Joyful Noise" (St. Martins Press). In 1999, Jones released "Touched by God" (Simon & Schuster), a collection of inspirational stories by top Gospel artists about how God has changed their lives. Dr. Bobby Jones, leader of The Nashville Super Choir, has now opened his own production studio, Visions, located in Nashville, TN.



Faithe C. Herman

Faithe C. Herman started working in the Entertainment Industry doing background work with Kids Management. In August 2014, she signed with BMG Model & Talent, going on numerous auditions. Faithe had her big break when she auditioned for her first pilot, then titled, "The Untitled Dan Fogelman Project." After two auditions, Herman landed the recurring co-star role of Annie Pearson in December 2015. Soon after shooting the pilot in January 2016, The Untitled Dan Fogelman Project, became "This Is Us." Faithe is now a series regular on the show. In 2019, Herman starred in the superhero film "Shazam" with Zachary Levi, where her adult version was portrayed by actress, Meagan Good. When Herman has free time, she loves taking ballet classes, dance and art.



Wendy Raquel Robinson

Darden then dropped the case when he began receiving death threats.

In court, Darden bragged about the amount of money Buck was paying him and complained to the judge about having to go down to the Metropolitan Detention Center to visit his client because he was risking catching coronavirus.

Journalist and victim advocate, Jasmyne Cannick, said the judge made the right decision in denying Buck's application for pretrial release and home confinement.

"Home is where his crimes were committed," she said. "Home is where his drugs were delivered to. Home is where he was injecting people and sexually assaulting people. Home is where two Black men died. So, we're excited and happy that the judge saw fit to deny his bail."

Cannick attended the hearing, along with West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath who was concerned Buck might be returning to her city.

Buck is scheduled to go to trial in Los Angeles federal court on nine counts next year. He also faces state charges of running a drug den, but the federal case will proceed first.

Buck was arrested last year after being charged in federal court with providing methamphetamine to a man who died after receiving the drug intravenously. He now faces additional charges, including a count alleging that he enticed 26-year-old, Gemmel Moore, to travel to the Los Angeles area to engage in prostitution. Buck allegedly provided meth to Moore, who overdosed on the drug and died on July 27, 2017.

Wendy Raquel Robinson is a Best Actress NAACP Image Award recipient, known for her groundbreaking roles as ambitious, leading women on television. With a plethora of projects under Robinson's belt, some of her credits include, Comedy Central's scripted Motor City comedy series, "Detroiters." She also has a recurring role on Netflix "Dear White People," and HBO "Insecure." She recently portrayed "Mrs. P" in ABC's bold, provocative drama "Grand Hotel." Her additional film credits include "Miss Congeniality," "Something New," "Rebound," "Two Can Play That Game," ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," Nickelodeon's "See Dad Run," "The New Adventures of Old Christine," "The Parkers," "One on One," ABC's hit animated show, "The Proud Family," "Family Guy," "Cedric the Entertainer's Presents!" and NBC's "Minor Adjustments." Her recent theatrical roles include JeCaryous Johnson's "Things Your Man Won't Do" and "Extremities," directed by Brent Jennings. Her passion for educating youth interested in the performing arts allowed her and the late Tracy Coley to create a platform for youth; they co-founded Amazing Grace Conservatory, a theatrical training institute, that for over 20 years has been servicing at-risk youth, ages 5-18 years old, training and developing them as emerging well-rounded, culturally-aware artists. Notable alumni include: Issa Rae, Ashton Sanders, and Aldis Hodge to name a few. Robinson was honored as one of KJLH 102.3 2017 Proven Achievers, the 2017 recipient of Selective Corporate Internship Program (SCIP) Humanitarian of The Year Award, and Junior Achievement of Southern California's, and a "Spirit of Achievement Award." She was also honored with a Torch Award, "Spirit of Dance Award" for her philanthropic work in the Los Angeles community. In 2019, Amazing Grace Conservatory was named as one of California's 2019 Non-profits of the Year.



Jade Novah

Versatile contemporary R&B singer and songwriter, Lindsay Fields combines her love of both music and acting under the alias Jade Novah. After working as a backup singer and a songwriter-for-hire, she made her recording debut as Novah with the "Shades of Jade" mixtape in 2012. Novah is also known for her musical sketch comedy videos and her fully produced cover videos, including a version of Rihanna's "Diamonds" that got over ten million views on YouTube. After a random meeting with Missy Elliott, she sang backup on her 2003 album, "This Is Not a Test!" Later, Fields earned a spot as a back-ground singer on tour for the Tyler Perry show's "Madea's Big Happy Family." Deciding to focus on songwriting, she began attending writing camps while networking as a songwriter in New York and L.A. She eventually landed a publishing deal, and wrote songs for the likes of Mya, Melanie Fiona, and Christina Milian as part of the writing group the Pen Up Dolls. Over the next few years, Fields continued to find work as a songwriter and touring vocalist (Rihanna, Lady Gaga), all the while continuing to work on her own music. Jade Novah's official debut album, "All Blue," followed in mid-2018 via Let There Be Art/Empire.

Taste of Soul is a community event that highlights So-Cal's Black cultural experience fused with diverse cultures and traditions. The COVID-19 pandemic canceled the street festival due to social distancing guidelines. The 15th Annual Taste of Soul Goes Virtual event will keep the tradition going, keeping everyone safe and bringing the best in entertainment.

For more exciting line-up announcements, go to www.tasteofsoul.org or follow us on Instagram and Facebook! Stay tuned into your weekly L.A. Sentinel (print and digital) for more information on how you can support Black businesses.

Buck is charged with a second count of enticing a man to travel with the intent of engaging in prostitution.

He is also accused of knowingly and intentionally distributing meth, and using his apartment for the purpose of distributing narcotics such as meth, and the sedatives, gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and clonazepam.

Trial is scheduled for Jan. 19.

Federal prosecutors allege that Buck engaged in a pattern of soliciting men to consume drugs that Buck provided and perform sexual acts at Buck's apartment," a practice described as "party and play," according to court papers.

Buck allegedly solicited victims on social media platforms, including a gay dating website, and used a recruiter to scout and proposition men. Once the men were at his apartment, Buck allegedly prepared syringes containing meth, sometimes

personally injecting the victims with or without their consent, according to the indictment.

Buck also allegedly injected victims with more narcotics than they expected and sometimes injected victims while they were unconscious. Another victim, Timothy Dean, also suffered a fatal overdose in Buck's apartment, on Jan. 7, 2019, according to the indictment.

Each of the charges alleging the distribution of narcotics resulting in death, carries a mandatory minimum of 20 years in federal prison and possible maximum of life without parole.

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Jackie Lacey still has not charged Ed Buck in the deaths of Gemmel Moore or Timothy Dean.

Bass Slams Lack of Justice in Kentucky: 'They got away with murder'

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This week, Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement after Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced there would be no homicide charges brought against the police officers that murdered Breonna Taylor and instead, minimal charges brought against one officer for firing bullets into neighboring apartments.

"These charges are an affront to the movement for



Rep. Karen Bass

justice and peace in this country and conveys loud and clear that Breonna Taylor's life does not matter to

the legal system of the United States.

"Police officers are allowed to get away with the murder of unarmed Black people because the law doesn't just allow it, the law ensures it and this cycle – the murder of an unarmed Black person, the outrage in the streets, the lack of action by our legal system – is doomed to repeat itself over and over again until we change those laws.

"The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has been sitting on Mitch McConnell's desk over in

the Senate for exactly 90 days. Today's announcement makes plain that the time to act on it is now.

"We need to ban no-knock warrants for drugs, which takes the lives of many each year and traumatizes many more. We need to ban chokeholds. We need to change the threshold of prosecution for officers so that we don't need to prove what was in the officer's mind when they murdered a defenseless civilian. We need to allow officers to be held accountable by eliminating immunity from lawsuits so

that taxpayers don't keep having to pick up the check for the acts of racist officers.

"Passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act means that when incidents like this happen again, the officers are indicted and convicted for their crimes.

"There will be hundreds of thousands of protesters in the streets tonight throughout this country and it is critical the protests stay peaceful. They want to see an end. They want to see accountability. And they're right."



Breonna Taylor

NO ONE IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR'S MURDER



Breonna Taylor

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Statement by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

A grand jury indicted one former Louisville police detective, Brett Hankison, in connection with the death of Breonna Taylor charging him with three counts of wanton endangerment of someone else – a man, his pregnant wife and their five-year-old daughter in an adjoining apartment. But no officer was held responsible for Breonna Taylor's murder. The two officers who fired the fatal shots that hit and killed Ms. Taylor were not charged.

The investigation took too long, 220 days – justice delayed is justice denied. Police tried to cover up the murder – the police officers lied. All three officers should be charged in this modern-day lynching with guns. The indictment does not "say her name." No knock warrants are dangerous because they allow the police to be judge and jury without trial.

A violent response by the community will only become a commercial for Trump and lead to a negative response by law enforcement forces. The charge listed in the indictment does not fit the crime. The crime was murder. A life was taken. It was "not just reckless endangerment."

Breonna Taylor was asleep in bed with her boyfriend at midnight. It is disputed as to whether the police announced themselves or not, but they shot into Ms. Taylor's apartment and killed her. Her boyfriend thought someone

was breaking in their apartment and using the "Castle doctrine" fired at what he thought was an intruder. The police fired back with many shots and killed his girlfriend with 32 shots and five bullets that hit and killed her. Her boyfriend called 911 for help but a wounded Breonna Taylor did not receive timely medical help.

It turned out that the person they were actually looking for in a drug raid was already in custody. The police initially filed a report that contained lies. They later tried to get a former boyfriend to frame her. It is not reasonable that justice was done because it wasn't.

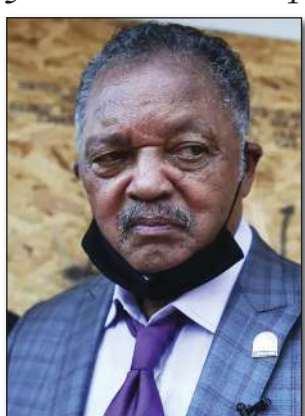
We must use our economic leverage and our political power to respond to this miscarriage of justice. Kentucky must be made to become a pariah state! Economically we encourage all athletes to boycott and not play basketball, football or any other sports for the University of Kentucky or

Louisville University and we urge a boycott in the future of the Kentucky Derby.

Politically, since Senator Rand Paul alone is blocking the anti-lynching bill and Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in the face of a coronavirus that has killed over 200,000 Americans and left many jobless and without health insurance.

He alone is holding up the Heroes bill that will help the American people, refusing to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and over 400 others bill's on his desk, but in a world class act of hypocrisy and raw power – after denying President Barack Obama's appointment to the Supreme Court in an election year – he is rushing to appoint a right wing judge to the Supreme Court.

We must respond with a mass march to the polls and vote in record numbers between now and November 3 and remove Mitch



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

McConnell from office. We must also vote all across the nation for state attorney generals, states attorneys and judges committed to justice. We must hold our elected officials accountable.

Our hearts are heavy but violence is neither the answer nor our agenda. We must use our economic and political power to make the real difference we all desire.

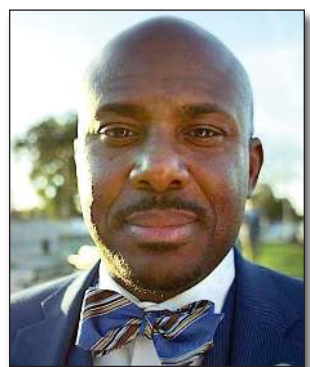
We must turn our pain over Breonna's murder into power at the polls.

The pattern of senseless and unwarranted killing by the police of Michael

Brown, George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Breonna Taylor and hundreds of other unarmed Black people is the result of systemic racism. In Chicago when States Attorney Ed Hanrahan killed Mark Clark and Fred Hampton and when the Chicago Police killed Laquan McDonald we voted the states attorneys out of office and elected Harold Washington Mayor and new states attorneys.

We must keep a watchful eye on what President Trump and AG William Barr do so that they do not try to escalate any protests in a manner that they think will benefit and help to resurrect Trump's current losing presidential campaign. And we must be aware that anarchists and white supremacists will try to infiltrate peaceful demonstrations and create violence. We must not fall for either attempt to interfere with our focus on police violence against unarmed Black people.

Assemblymember Gipson on the Kentucky Grand Jury Findings in the Murder of Breonna Taylor



Mike A. Gipson

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson, chair of the California Assembly Democratic Caucus and Chair of the

Assembly Select Committee on Police Reform responds to the Kentucky Grand Jury Findings in the murder of Breonna Taylor.

"Today's announcement that Louisville, Kentucky Officer Brett Hankison was not charged in the wrongful death of Breonna Taylor, 26, but for 'wanton endangerment in the 1st degree' was the wrong decision by the Grand Jury. Additionally, the other two



Breonna Taylor

officers involved were not

charged at all.

"In the very least, an indictment for manslaughter would have been more appropriate than wonton endangerment which translates into firing haphazardly without a clear path. After all, an innocent life was taken.

"Although the civil lawsuit awarded the family with \$12 million, it doesn't address the failure of law enforcement. Additionally, if this problem is not addressed at the root, more innocent people will die at the hands of law enforcement; settlements will continue to drain cities and the cycle will continue with no real change. This has to stop.

"The Grand Jury decision speaks to the ongoing lack of value of Black lives. Not speaking up for this injustice is the same as being complicit with their decision."

URBAN LEAGUE LEADERS: GRAND JURY DECISION IS AN AFFRONT TO BREONNA TAYLOR'S MEMORY

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, and Sadiqa N. Reynolds, Esq., President & CEO of the Louisville Urban League, issued the following joint statement in response to a grand jury's failure to seek justice for the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Perversion of justice is too feeble a term to describe the grand jury's decision not to file a single criminal charge related to Breonna's death. It is an affront to Breonna's memory, and to the millions of



Marc H. Morial

Americans who have stood in solidarity with Breonna's family and marched in the streets in her name.

The barrage of gunfire that endangered Breonna's neighbors is the very same gunfire that took Breonna's life. It is incomprehensible to suggest that the risk of injuring neighbors is a crime but the actual killing of an innocent young woman is not.

Breonna's family has waited six months for justice, only to be slapped in the face by the grand jury's indifference. Where is the swift hand of the law that took only hours to charge



Sadiqa N. Reynolds

Kenneth Walker with attempted murder for a single gunshot, fired in fear for his and Breonna's lives? Where do the Black victims of police misconduct go to find that kind of justice?

We are a community in despair but we do not seek revenge, as Attorney General, Daniel Cameron so offensively suggested. We seek healing. We seek change. We ask our brothers and sisters to demonstrate with us peacefully in Breonna's name, and we plead with city authorities and police to allow us space to express our grief without provocation.



Breonna Taylor

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PURCELL & DIGGS

Report {continued from Pg. A-1}

tions, Anderson concealed that neighbors had seen a suspicious stranger hanging around the Mortons' house.

After the murder, while Morton was in custody, someone else attempted to use a credit card belonging to his wife and cashed a \$20 check that was in her missing purse.

Further, the Mortons' three-year-old son, who witnessed the killing, told his grandmother that "a monster" killed his mother when "Daddy was not there."

What followed was a parade of horrors, researchers said.

In 2011, DNA testing of a bandana found near the crime scene identified the actual killer.

The District Attorney's Office had successfully resisted testing that bandana for many years. Morton spent 24 years in prison for a crime that he did not commit — a crime that was itself an unspeakable tragedy for him and his family.

The real killer went on to bludgeon another woman to death in 1988. Anderson himself was disgraced. He pled guilty to contempt of court, spent four days in jail, was disbarred, and was forced to resign from the position he later held as a judge.

While researchers of a new report released on Tuesday, Sept. 15, said it's hard to summarize the enormity of the harm Burge and his underlings inflicted their victims, and what Anderson did, they did piece together a critical and comprehensive study on tainted cases that have only underscored why Americans — particularly Black people — have lost trust in the police and prosecutors.

In the report titled, "Government Misconduct and Convicting the Innocent: The Role of Prosecutors, Police and other Law Enforcement," the National Registry of Exonerations examined more than 2,400 cases nationally which measured the role of government misconduct in wrongful convictions and how African Americans specifically suffer from those actions.

The study found that 54 percent of official misconduct involved corruption or negligence by police, prosecutors, lab workers, or other government employees.

The authors — which included researchers from the Newkirk Center for Science at the University of California, Irving, the University of Michigan Law School, and the Michigan State University College of Law — cautioned that "the tally is very likely a vast undercount of the actual number of instances in which misconduct has led to the convictions of innocent people."

They outlined that many who've been wrongly convicted — including those who pleaded guilty to low-level crimes — did not have the necessary resources or legal counsel.

Why did Ken Anderson conceal all that evidence of Michael Morton's innocence?

"We don't know. We could ask, but we wouldn't trust the answer — if any was given — and Anderson himself may no longer know if he ever did," the authors wrote.

They concluded that the most important causes of official misconduct in criminal cases are systemic, "pervasive practices that permit if not encourage bad behavior; lack of the resources needed to train, supervise and conduct high-quality investigations and prosecutions; and ineffective leadership by police commanders, crime lab directors and chief prosecutors," the authors stated.

"If these systemic problems are corrected, misconduct is less likely to occur — and when it does happen, more likely to be counteracted before innocent people are condemned."

Overall, Black defendants' exonerations have a slightly higher rate of misconduct than those of White defendants, 57 percent to 52 percent.

But the differences are more significant for murder cases (78 percent to 64 percent) — especially those with death sentences (87 percent to 68 percent) — and



"We know that prosecutors lied in court in 4 percent of exonerations. The real rate may be higher since we only count cases with clear evidence that prosecutors made statements they knew were false," the researchers noted further. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

drug crime exonerations (47 percent to 22 percent).

The study concluded that official misconduct falls into five general categories:

Witness tampering occurred in about 17 percent of exonerations.

Misconduct in interrogations occurred in 57 percent of all exonerations with false confessions or about 7 percent of all cases.

Fabricating evidence happened in about 10 percent of cases, in three forms: Forensic fraud — in 3 percent of exonerations, police officers or forensic analysts lied about forensic evidence.

Fake crimes — in 4 percent of exonerations, police planted drugs or guns on innocent suspects, or lied and said the suspects had assaulted them.

Fictitious confessions — in about 2 percent of exonerations, officers fabricated confessions from defendants who did not confess.

At trial, misconduct occurred in about 23 percent of exonerations, about evenly divided between perjury by law enforcement officers, 13 percent, and trial misconduct by prosecutors, 14 percent (with some overlap).

Misconduct in interrogations occurred overwhelmingly in murder cases the led to exoneration

Concealing exculpatory evidence and misconduct at trial were most common in murder cases, followed by White-collar crimes. Witness tampering was slightly more common among exonerations for child sex abuse exonerations than for murder, and fabricating

evidence was several times more common among exonerations for drug crimes than for any other crime.

Concealing exculpatory evidence contributed to 44 percent of exonerations' convictions, more than any other type of official misconduct.

The rate of concealing exculpatory evidence varies by crime, from 61 percent for murder to 27 percent in child sex abuse cases.

"It is so common and widespread that it happened in 82 percent of all exonerations with any official misconduct," the researchers noted.

Prosecutors concealed exculpatory evidence in 73 percent of cases in which [exonerations] occurred.

Police concealed exculpatory evidence in 33 percent of cases where it occurred (including cases with concealing by more than one type of official), and forensic analysts did so in 6 percent.

In some portion of those exonerations, prosecutors did know about the concealed evidence. Still, the researchers stated that they knew of about 13 percent that included concealed physical objects like clothing and weapons.

The authors conceded that "this gap may in part reflect how effectively objects can be destroyed or hidden, but information may linger in electronic or physical files or the memories of people."

In 63 percent of cases with concealed exculpatory evidence, substantive evidence of the exonerates' innocence was hidden — evidence that in itself helps prove the defendant's inno-

cence, such as an eyewitness who named another person as the criminal, the report noted.

In 80 percent of such cases, impeachment evidence that undermined testimony by prosecution witnesses was concealed — for example, evidence that a witness who identified the exoneree as a murderer told his brother he never saw the killing.

In half the exonerations with concealed exculpatory evidence, both substantive and impeachment evidence were hidden. Often, a single item of evidence serves both functions.

"Substantive evidence may sound more important, but concealing impeachment evidence that eviscerates the credibility of a critical prosecution witness can be devastating to an innocent defendant," the authors stated.

"Predictably, law enforcement officials usually conceal their own misconduct. That's misconduct in itself, derivative concealment," they wrote.

For example, it's misconduct for an officer to plant drugs on a suspect, and it's a separate act of misconduct to conceal the officer's knowledge that the suspect is innocent.

Other notable findings in the report include:

Evidence of other official misconduct was concealed in 26 percent of all exonerations.

Guilty pleas rather than trial verdicts obtain at least 95 percent of criminal convictions in the United States, but 80 percent of exonerations followed conviction at trial.

About 28 percent of those trials (23 percent of all exonerations) included official misconduct in court.

Perjury by all law enforcement officials occurred in 14 percent of the trials at which exonerees were convicted, or 13 percent of all exonerations (including those after guilty pleas).

In about a quarter of those cases, officials lied about forensic testing, or about things the officials themselves claimed to have witnessed the exonerees do or say.

Perjury by police of-

ficers occurred in 11 percent of trials of exonerees. In 9 percent of those trials (7 percent of all exonerations), officers lied about others' information.

Most often, police lied about the investigations' conduct, including what a witness said or how a lineup was conducted.

The most common subject of police perjury was the conduct of interrogations at which innocent defendants confessed.

"We miss a great deal of police perjury," the authors wrote.

"We rarely have access to transcripts or other detailed information about trial testimony, so we only learn about perjury at trial if it becomes a conspicuous issue."

In 1959, the Supreme Court held that a prosecutor has a constitutional obligation to correct perjury by a state witness even if she did not herself offer the false testimony.

However, researchers discovered that prosecutors permitted perjury to go uncorrected in 8 percent of exonerations. In most cases, the perjury was by civilian witnesses.

The most common lies were about the favorable treatment the witnesses receive in pending criminal cases of their own.

"We know that prosecutors lied in court in 4 percent of exonerations. The real rate may be higher since we only count cases with clear evidence that prosecutors made statements they knew were false," the researchers noted further.

They said about half of lies by prosecutors were made in a closing argument with a common pattern of repeating and affirming perjury by a witness that the prosecutor knew about but failed to correct — for example, a lie by a witness who claimed to have no deal with the prosecutor.

Federal prosecutors committed misconduct in exonerations more than twice as often as police (52 percent to 20 percent), while state prosecutors committed misconduct less often than police (29 percent to 36 percent).

Gray {continued from Pg. A-1}

mon goal and working towards it creates a pathway to a consistent flow of equity and growth across all communities.

She stated, "Collaboration is very important to me; I find that being a leader is always important to collaborate with individuals because I found that my success is not dependent on just me, it's really a team approach." Gray continued, "I really do believe in the value of people and what they bring to the process ..." She expressed the importance of building relationships throughout her career.

The Chairwoman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California shared her experiences and the impact that will echo throughout history for generations. One out of many projects Gray had her hands on included "development, adoption and implementation of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan."

She explained the plan's focal point was the allocation of water and conservation. Reflecting on that moment she related back to the energy behind coalition, Chairwoman Gray stated, "It was not just one person or one agency, that made that plan a success." Gray

emphasized, "Although Metropolitan took the lead in bringing people together, it did involve seven states, so it's a great example for collaboration."

The project included a cohesive work effort that stretched across the border into Mexico. The agreement was a response to water conservation and reliability before it reached a critical point where the state would have to get involved. Gray reflected on being part of the signing ceremony for that plan, it left her in admiration of the monumental moment for that day. Chairwoman Gray painted the picture of being on top of the Hoover Dam and she looked around taking in the air of change. She disclosed that it was one of her proudest moments.

Gray disclosed that the representation is a necessity and a level of responsibility that she holds with serious care. There are 38 board members, which represent 25 member agencies. Chairwoman Gray highlighted the importance for representation because water is important to everyone.

"It really is an honor to serve as Chair ..." Gray continued, "It was a memorable moment because it never happened before."



COURTESY PHOTO FROM CHAIRWOMAN GLORIA GRAY OFFICE
MWD Chairwoman Gloria Gray.

The newly pledged Chairwoman brought to light all the new beginnings the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is seeing with having a woman of color for the first time in 90 years.

Gray illuminated one of her goals in this leadership position. She presented a mission at an official board meeting on September 15, "I want to continue working with all of you to advance Metropolitan as a leader. A leader on behalf of our member agencies and the public. And for the employees of this organization, who have shared with us both their pride in working here and their desire to improve Metropolitan, we owe them no less."

Reflecting on the responsibility of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, there is great power in the movement of water. Found on

the Metropolitan website, they described their environmental role as the following, "Metropolitan built and maintains a water supply system that is the cornerstone of the region's \$1 trillion economy. As the nation's largest municipal water provider, Metropolitan owns and operates five separate treatment plants, among the largest in the world."

Chairwoman Gray has a hand in guiding the movement of life. This is an important placement to have, because her footing at the table directly influences the prosperity of many communities across southern California; Gray emphasized the necessity of safe drinking water. She stated, "Safe drinking water is critical, its essential, we must have safe drinking water." She went on to share that people of color do not have very much input on what hap-

pens in communal water policy, until now.

Gray journeyed through her recruitment into the Water sector, but she started within the community, at the L.A. County Health Department. Chairwoman Gray shared, that before being recruited, she never thought about where her water came from. She expressed she came in green, new to the public office of water. But after she felt the first wave, Gray dived right into her role she needed to play for the community.

With her newfound clarity about the water policy, Gray mentioned she spends a great deal educating the community. Chairwoman Gray breaks down the critical role the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California plays in the level of clean water available to multiple areas. She expands the invitation to more people of color to start a career in water policy. Gray broadened her reach along with her dedication when Karen Bass who was Speaker of the House at that time, appointed Gray to a statewide water commission; she was also the first woman of color in that party as well.

Dedicated to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for 12 years, Gray has spent the last two years serving as Chairwoman of the entire

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In full transparency, Gray stated, "What struck me as very meaningful at that moment when I was sworn in, there were people in that room at Metropolitan that have never been there before ..." she elaborated on the significance, "It was an opportunity for people who knew nothing about Metropolitan, who came to that building and saw someone who represented diversity, a woman, a woman of color."

Chairwoman Gray said within her closing remarks, "My work is not done. I have a lot more to do and a lot more to accomplish. And I plan on doing just that." Gray emphasized her newness to the field, which worked in her favor; she came with the heart of community heavily ingrained into her core beliefs. She knew she was not traditional leader; Gray is there for the people. She expressed her passion for the foundation of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and what a proud moment it brought to family. But, on a deeper scale, Chairwoman Gray's present decisions in water policy, benefits the movement of her future lineage alongside the rest of Southern California.

Wendy's WINDOW Forgiving for Living



She Was Notorious and Glorious...Supreme Court Justice RBG!

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stood at 5'1 and weighed less than most of us; yet what she accomplished during her lifetime stands tall against giants across the board. She was given the nickname, "Notorious RBG," and she lived up to that name until the end. People who went up against her eventually came to realize that her quiet nature did not mean

she was a pushover. She was modest, humble, and glorious. How many people can you name that hold these qualities? Her mother told her to always be a lady, which meant to be your own person and independent. No one could ever question if she were a lady in her demeanor or style. Sometimes being a lady has been underrated.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg believed that we should fight for the things we care about, but we need to do it in such a way that encourages others to join in what you are fighting for. During her lifetime, she sacrificed a lot personally to help make the world a better

place. She has been compared to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall who was a civil rights giant. They both demanded equality for all and for America to live up to the promises laid out in the Constitution and Bill of Rights for all its citizens. We are currently living in a time, once again, where America is forced to look in the mirror to see how they are treating all their citizens. If we are going to come out of this on the right side of justice, we must be willing to sacrifice and do our part. Freedom is not necessarily free.

RBG died on September 18, which happens to be my mother's birthday.

Of course, I knew who RBG was and many of the accomplishments she achieved over the years, but upon her death it made me a little more inquisitive to learn more about this small lady of great stature. We can all read about her professional achievements, so I would like to share two things about her personal life that really touched me. I recently celebrated my 59th birthday and with everything that is going on right now, I sometimes have questioned what is next for me? What can I still accomplish during my lifetime? When I read that

{See WENDY on A-13}

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'A LOVE STORY' 'Jacob and Rachel'

It was during the "patriarchal age" or the "age of promise" (starting 1921 B.C.] that this love story took place. The age of promise spans 430 years. Observing the active family lives of the patriarchs is quite exciting. [I will do

my best to make this interesting for your entertainment. For me reading the great stories of the Old Testament and New Testament is entertaining! [Especially now during this coronavirus.] The first we hear of Rachel is when Jacob arrives in a place called Padan-aram. [1759 B.C.] Here Jacob is forced to leave his home and get away from his mother, Rebekah and his father, Isaac, because Jacob's twin brother, Esau, was going to kill him! [that's enough to run away from]. Rebekah experienced a difficult pregnancy while Jacob and Esau were in her womb wrestling. She learned from God that there were two

nations struggling in her womb. WoW! This had to be difficult news to hear and understand! Nevertheless, the sons were born and she was alive along with them. In the process of time, Jacob being a person who was mild mannered would cook and stay near his mother. We also learn he was a thinker and schemer. Esau was a hunter and was preferred by his father, Isaac. Now Isaac you recall was the "chosen" seed that Abraham and Sarah had been waiting for many years. Abraham was 100-years-old and Sarah was 99 years at the birth of Isaac. God renewed Sarah's youth so that she even

nursed Isaac just like a young woman. No wonder there is the bible verse that says, "Is there anything too hard for God?" No, Lord. Nothing." Abraham and Sarah laughed when God told them they would have a child in their old age. So Isaac's name means "laughing." Jacob's name comes from him clinging onto the heel of Esau; so he is called "heel catcher." We learn that Jacob was a scheming type of personality and "a trickster." Basically, he knew how to deceive and that's not complimentary, because when you trick someone, you get tricked somewhere along

{See PARKER on A-13}

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Los Angeles County is now accepting applications for the position of Chief Probation Officer – to lead and direct the nation's largest probation department as it continues to build and innovate its culture and infrastructure. The Probation Department will partner with the newly formed Probation Oversight Commission to continue the department's efforts of transformation in moving toward a caring and rehabilitating department that embraces technology and a commitment to evidence based best practices. The Chief Probation Officer will inspire and influence others to the call for community well-being and safety, reducing recidivism, and rehabilitating at-risk youth and adults.</p> <p>This is a confidential process and will be handled accordingly throughout all phases of the recruitment and selection process. 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Waters Announces Over \$1 Billion in Paycheck Protection Program Loans

PPP loans awarded to 10,750 CA-43 businesses in Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Los Angeles, Playa Vista, and Torrance areas

LAWT NEWS SERVICE

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, released a district data sheet which summarizes Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) data provided by the Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding loans made to businesses in Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Los Angeles, Playa Vista, and Torrance. Over one billion dollars in PPP loans were awarded to 10,750 businesses within Congresswoman Waters' congressional district.

"From the onset of the coronavirus crisis, I have fought to ensure that our



Maxine Waters

communities receive the relief they need to get through this pandemic and as part of the CARES Act, I worked to provide critically needed financial assistance to struggling small businesses," said Congresswoman Maxine Waters. "Following reports that the small businesses most in need could not access Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) lending while big banks were providing the loans to their large business clients, I pressed the Trump Administration to make sure minority-owned businesses and neighborhood small businesses had access to the program, and demanded transparency and accountability. As part of my duty to conduct over-

sight of these funds, I have fought to ensure that we know where and to whom these taxpayer funded loans are going. As more data becomes available following my requests to the SBA and Treasury Department, I will continue to keep a close eye on how the funds, intended to be a lifeline for struggling small businesses, are being dispersed."

The fact sheet outlines loan approvals through August 8, 2020, and PPP loan distribution for California's 43rd Congressional District by city, size, and industry.

On June 13, 2020, Chairs Maxine Waters, Richard Neal, and Nydia Velázquez, sent a letter to U.S. Department of Treas-

ury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and U.S. Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza requesting the names of all PPP loan recipients; for each recipient, the dollar amount of all loans received; and the names of all applicants for PPP loans that did not receive a loan.

On June 22, 2020, Chairs Maxine Waters, Richard Neal, and Nydia Velázquez issued a statement reiterating their demand for full transparency regarding the Paycheck Protection Program following an announcement by the Department of Treasury and the Small Business Administration stating they would disclose certain information regarding PPP loans and recipients.

Chair Beatty Denounces Wells Fargo CEO's Racially Insensitive Remarks

Sends scathing letter following CEO's statement that "...the unfortunate reality is that there is a very limited pool of Black talent to recruit from."

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), Chair of the House Financial Services Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, wrote a letter to Wells Fargo President and CEO Charles Scharf to express her profound disappointment and disagreement with his remarks regarding the false and misguided perception of a shortage of qualified African Americans as an excuse for his failure to meet Wells Fargo's workforce diversity goals.

"Due to historic and pervasive discrimination in this country, many young Black applicants do not have the luxury of having a father who can put their son's resume on the desk of Jaime Dimon in hopes of getting a foot in the door," Beatty's letter reads in part. "Any inability of your

institution to identify Black talent, does not speak to reality, but the failure of your leadership and senior leaders of your institution in this space."

She later writes, "As the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, I am determined to achieve greater accountability from business leaders on their firm's diversity and inclusion performance. While business leaders cannot change past performance, they must make every effort to ensure a more diverse and inclusive culture is fully integrated into the boardroom, C-suite and every facet of the enterprise in the future. I look forward to speaking with you in the future on this issue."

Prior to Scharf's previously unreported remarks, Beatty spoke with him at a March 10 House Financial Services Committee hear-

ing. During their contentious interaction, Beatty questioned Scharf about his commitment to diversity and inclusion and asked him had he read Wells Fargo's self-report on the racial and gender makeup of leadership at the financial institution. In response, Scharf admitted that he had not reviewed the report, struggled to respond to several diversity-related questions, but committed that he would do more to expand opportunities, including in the boardroom, C-suite, and leadership, at Wells Fargo. An archived recording of the Beatty-Scharf exchange can be viewed on YouTube.

Beatty's letter references the recently released House Financial Services Committee's "Diversity and Inclusion: Holding America's Large Banks Accountable" report on



Joyce Beatty

diversity and inclusion performance at the nation's largest banks. According to the report, poorly conceived and implemented business practices are a significant impediment to the financial industry's inability to overcome these systemic failures. Studies have found that the industry has historically failed to engage and recruit students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Further, recruitment efforts in the financial services sector routinely fails to leverage diverse recruiters or require diverse slates of candidates when filling employment vacancies. Finally, overt and unconscious bias impede the ability of senior executives to fully grasp causality and embrace sustainable, long-term solutions to build a more diverse and inclusive workforce.



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Telemedicine Is Transforming Patient Care in California – With Some New Challenges

By TANU HENRY
California Black Media

When Dr. Andrea Goings launched her mobile medical service, offering at-home doctor visits and virtual consultation sessions via video in 2016 in the Los Angeles area, she did not know that just four years later, her business model would be more the norm than not.

Goings, an African American pediatrician, launched her service in West Lake Village, a city about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles near the Ventura County line. She made house calls to patient homes across the metropolitan area.

“Technology has changed the way we approach and experience so many aspects of our lives, so I thought at the time, why not apply it to the work I do,” said Goings, who has been able to provide care to patients in various parts of the country while she is temporarily in Ohio caring for her mom as she recovers from a surgery.

“Being able to save busy parents from long waits in the emergency room or long drives to doctor appointments or giving them around-the-clock access to medical advice from the comfort of their home are all reasons clients have appreciated BabyDocHouseCalls.com over the years. Now, there is an added safety component that makes the



FILE PHOTO
Dr. Andrea Goings mobile medical service Los Angeles area.

service convenient, even necessary, for so many.”

Goings said because her businesses gave her a head start. Therefore, pivoting to respond to the constraints COVID-19 safety measures have imposed on clinical care, has been easy for her.

“Telehealth is a really good option for young adults who have returned to college campuses and dorms,” she says.

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) says remote consultations like the kind Goings’s provides should be not be technically regarded as a distinct service, but an “allowable mechanism” through which medical practitioners can provide clinical services.

“The standard of care is the same whether the patient is seen in-person, by telephone, or through telehealth. As a result, DHCS has strongly encouraged all counties to work with providers to maximize the number of services that can be provided by telephone and telehealth, to minimize community spread of COVID-19,” said Ivan Bhardwaj, Section Chief, Community Services Division at the DHCS.

The DHCS has requested that all medical care providers adhere to all federal, state, and local guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights says it will use “enforcement dis-

cretion” and it will not impose penalties for non-compliance with all aspects of the HIPAA rules when healthcare providers use telehealth in “good faith” during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The DCHS has also relaxed some its rules to accommodate telehealth, expanding platforms allowed to include popular video services such as Apple’s FaceTime, Facebook’s Messenger video chat, Google’s Hangouts and Skype.

“So far it’s been great. No problems. We’ve been able to keep all of our doctor appointments and do it safely” said Joe Bowers, a Ladera Heights resident in Los Angeles County who is retired and writes a column on education for California Black Media. Bowers says, “My wife, Margaret and I appreciate the convenience of visiting with our doctors - from the comfort of our home.”

For some critical mental health services that are vital to some of the most vulnerable Californians during the pandemic, like Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for those struggling with opioid use disorder (OUD), DHCS has increased its support.

“The Department of Health Care Services, in partnership with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center), is funding 21 sites to provide telehealth substance use disorder and

mental health services for individuals in counties that have been impacted by COVID-19, or in the case of providers, who have experienced trauma as a result of treating individuals with the coronavirus,” said Bhardwaj.

“DHCS and The Center additionally launched the Behavioral Health Telehealth funding opportunity in 2020 for non-profit behavioral health providers to receive up to \$50,000 each for telehealth infrastructure beginning September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021,” he added. “Providers applied for telehealth equipment, including laptops, desktops, monitors, electronic health record software licenses, internet subscriptions, cell phones for providers, and telehealth training. Providers that were awarded through this opportunity will receive funding in Fall 2020.”

DHCS is also providing Personal Protective Equipment so that facilities that provide in-person mental health services and MAT sessions can continue to do so without interruption.

California’s public awareness campaign titled “Choose Change California” provides information on opioid use disorder and a list of centers across the state where people misusing opioids or other substances can go for treatment and community-based wrap-around services. The cam-

paign is a collaboration operated by Sacramento- and Fresno-based The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and funded through the California Department of Public Health MAT Expansion Project.

DHCS’ efforts have resulted in helping some medical institutions to survive the pandemic and move closer to their pre-COVID levels of clinical care by transitioning to telehealth services, but they have come with some challenges. For example, the DHCS says some providers do not have enough funding to fully invest in telehealth infrastructure. On the flip side, some patients cannot afford or do not have sufficient broadband services and the required equipment to receive services through telehealth. Other patients, depending on their living situations, do not have adequate privacy to engage in telehealth sessions.

Goings pointed out that there are some obvious limitations to telehealth, too. With some conditions involving trauma or physical injury or pain, there is no way around seeing the patient in-person, she said.

“Now, that school has started, it’s difficult because you don’t know if someone has the flu or COVID,” she says. “I can’t give a clearance note, until you’ve been seen, tested and quarantined, if necessary,” she says.

Polls in the Pandemic: What Every California Voter Should Know Before Election Day

By QUINCI LEGARDYIE
California Black Media

This November’s general election is set to be historic, not just because of the presidential race at a time when the American electorate is unusually polarized.



FILE PHOTO
Alex Padilla

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous changes have been made to the voting process. Mail-in ballots are available for all California voters for the first time in history, and the state has also pledged to make safe in-person voting available.

In a press conference earlier this month with Ethnic Media Services, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla spoke about the state’s new voting procedures, and how his office is working to ensure that all communities are able to vote safely.

“In my role as Secretary of State, I also serve as California’s Chief Elections Officer. We work in partnership with all 58 counties in California to administer elections. Usually we want to make sure elections are accessible and secure. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, we also need to make sure that the voting experience is one that is safe and protects health both the voters and election workers,” Padilla said.

Eligible Californians can register to vote online up until the deadline of Oct. 19. After that date, the only option is same-day voter registration in person, either during early voting or on election day. Voters

who use same-day voter registration receive provisional ballots so they can still vote in the election.

Padilla urged voters to verify their voter registration before the Oct. 19 cutoff to ensure that ballots are delivered to the right address.

He also addressed that some previously registered voters may have inactive voter status and need to re-register. Voters are classified as “inactive” when a county elections official receives information that a voter has moved out of state, or if two general elections have passed and the voter has not voted or confirmed their address, according to the California Elections Code. Inactive voters usually don’t receive voter information guides, and their names won’t show up on the voter rolls when they go to vote in person.

“If an inactive voter goes to vote in person, they’ll still be allowed to vote a provisional ballot, their registration will be re-activated, and their ballot will be counted. So, it doesn’t mean that they’ve been taken off the rolls completely. It’s one of the reasons we’re asking people who think they’re registered to verify their registration status. The simple act of verifying your registration status will ensure that you are an active registered voter and will receive your ballot this November.”

This year every registered voter will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot, and all ballots postmarked by Election Day -- and received within 17 days following Election Day -- will be counted. The ballots will be sent out starting the first week of October. Voters who want to drop off their ballot in-person can do so at any ballot drop box or polling location.

Padilla’s office also has an online ballot tracking tool called “Where’s My Ballot,” where voters in every county can sign up to receive auto-

matic email, text message or voice call notifications about their ballot. For those who sign up, the tracker will send notifications when their county sends them their ballot, when the returned ballot has been received and when their vote has been counted.

For in-person voting, each county received guidance from the Secretary of State’s office to keep polling

locations safe from COVID-19. The guidance asks voters to wear a face mask, bring a pen to avoid touching high-contact surfaces, use hand sanitizer after touching doors or voting equipment, and keep a distance of two-arms’ length from other people.

Though the state is encouraging voters to vote by mail, Padilla acknowledged that some voters will

prefer to go in person, possibly to receive help voting or to use accessible voting machines. Padilla’s recommendation is to vote as early as possible, in order to avoid any delays.

“We encourage people to go the first day that in-person voting is available. Yes, you have until Tuesday, November 3, but the more people that we can encour-

age to vote early, whether it’s by mail or in person, we hope helps keep the lines shorter on Election Day, making that a safer experience for voters and poll workers alike,” Padilla said.

The official websites for checking voter status, registering to vote and tracking ballots are VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov and WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov



Parents, child care providers, and businesses can find direct links to state specific COVID-19 state resources at the top of every ChildCare.gov webpage. The page includes:

- The opening status of child care
- Access to emergency child care (for essential workers) child care financial assistance
- Help finding child care

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Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles has provided funding for Essential Child Care Services (ECCS). Enrollment for ECCS will begin September 1, 2020.

Bill Would Allow Real-World Test of Mental Health Alternative to Policing

By QUINCI LE GARDYE
California Black Media

In the wake of recent calls to shift responsibility for non-violent intervention away from police departments, lawmakers and community advocates around California are calling on Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign AB 2054, also known as the CRISES Act.

CRISES is an acronym for Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems.

AB 2054 calls for the authorization of a pilot grant program that would allow community-based organizations instead of the police to respond in emergency situations, including incidents requiring mental health intervention, which often involve people experiencing homelessness.

Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), the author of AB 2054 and a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus, hosted a press conference September 22 featuring community advocates and family members of individuals who were killed by police officers while experiencing mental health crises.

When police officers are sent to de-escalate mental health crises, these encounters sometimes turn violent. A 2015 Treatment Advocacy Center survey found that at least 1 in 4 people killed by law enforcement were suffering from acute mental illness at the time of their death.



FILE PHOTO
Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles)

Also, a 2015 Police Executive Research Forum study revealed that police officers only receive an average of eight hours of mental health intervention training compared to nearly 60 hours of gun training that they undergo.

“Interactions with police can induce terror in many people who historically have been traumatized by law enforcement. Too often, these interactions are deadly. Too often,

people just want solutions to their problems. They just want an emergency or a crisis solved, but they are afraid to call the police because of the potential consequences,” said Kamlager.

Addie Kitchen is the grandmother of Steven Taylor, a Black man who was killed in April 2020 by San Leandro police while going through a mental crisis and experiencing homelessness.

“It took them 40 seconds to kill Stephen, 40 seconds. When that officer walked in and saw he was Black and homeless, he already had in his mind, what he needed to do. He didn't think about, you know, maybe let me step back,” said Kitchen.

Kitchen also spoke about how Taylor's death devastated her family, including his two sons.

“Nobody in the world should have to go through losing someone -- by the police. If he had died because he got hit by a car, that wouldn't have been so hard. But when the police -- they're supposed to protect us -- are murdering us because we're Black, because we're poor, because we're homeless, because we're going through a mental crisis, we need help. We need help and we are praying that the governor will understand what we're going through,” said Kitchen.

Hali McKelvie spoke about her mother, Myra Micalizio, who was killed by a Butte County Sheriff's Dept. deputy in April 2018 while she was going through a mental health crisis. The interaction between Micalizio and the police was only 11 seconds long before she was shot 11 times.

“That law enforcement agency didn't show up to serve and protect that day. That law enforcement agency showed up and murdered my mother, who was in a mental health cri-

sis. They took one look at her, put up a bias, and said this woman is a threat to society and it's my call to kill her,” McKelvie said.

Advocates also spoke about the community groups that have already been providing human crisis response in the state, such as Mental Health First in Sacramento, and their need for more funding.

“This is community response to community crisis, and we are already doing this. We are on the ground. There are grassroots organizations like my own, but we are running these programs on shoestring budgets, out of the

founder of the Anti Police-Terror Project.

Lateefah Simon, Bay Area Rapid Transportation (BART) Board Director echoed that the community groups already doing the work need more funding.

“AB 2054 is truly a love letter to possibility, an idea that communities can keep one another safe. That local community-based organizations and trained professionals in selected communities, if given the resources and the opportunity, can become an additional force to create safety,” she said.

Gov. Newsom has until September 30 to sign AB



COURTESY PHOTO
Lateefah Simon a nationally recognized advocate for civil rights and racial justice in Oakland and the Bay Area.

generous hearts of volunteers, because we're clear that we're tired of our community members dying,” said Cat Brooks, co-

2054, and other bills the State Legislature has passed this year. If not, they automatically become law.

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Black Caucus Member Concerned About How Much Ban of Gas-Powered Cars Will Cost Low Income Families

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Sacramento), who is a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus, says he supports Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order issued last week that phases out gasoline-powered vehicles. The directive requires all new passenger vehicles sold in California to have zero-emission engines by the year 2035.

But Cooper, who is the chair of the Assembly's Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, has some concerns about how the mandate will affect low-income families.

Newsom says his vision is to replace gasoline-powered vehicles with electric vehicles (EV) on California's highways and surface roads.

"The EVs pictured in today's signing of the EO (executive order) cost more than \$50k each. How will my constituents afford an EV? They can't. They currently drive 11-year-old vehicles," Cooper tweeted on Sept. 23.

To comply with the governor's executive order, the Air Resources Board is also expected to develop regulations to mandate that all operations of medium and heavy-duty vehicles be 100% zero-emission by 2045, where feasible. Trucks that tow freight will have to become compliant by 2035.

Recently, Cooper, who

represents California's 9th Assembly District, wrote a two-page letter to leaders of environmental organizations, calling out racism and the lack of diversity.

Cooper said prominent environmental organizations in the state, including the Sierra Club California (SCC), the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV), the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Environment California, "from their leaders to their funders, are nearly all White."

"(And they) attempt to trade on race issues by branding their efforts as 'environmental justice' — for which they do not apologize," Cooper wrote in the letter dated Aug. 3.

Now, the Assemblymember is directing his concern to the high costs of EVs and how their unaffordability will be a burden to lower income, working class Californians.

"I, too, believe we must cut emissions to combat climate change. That's why I've run bills to increase rebates for low-income residents to buy EV's. But we know @AirResources regs benefit the well-off, not my constituents," Cooper tweeted.

Newsom's said his action will "aggressively" move the state further away from its dependence on climate change-causing fossil fuels and, at the same time, retain and create jobs, which will spur economic growth.

The transportation



Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove)

FILE PHOTO

industry is responsible for more than half of all of California's carbon pollution, 80 % of smog-forming pollution, and 95 % of toxic diesel emissions. Communities in the Los Angeles Basin and Central Valley see some of the dirtiest and most toxic air in the country, the governor pointed out in a written statement.

"This is the most impactful step our state can take to fight climate change," Newsom said. "For too many decades, we have allowed cars to pollute the air that our children and families breathe. Californians shouldn't have to worry

if our cars are giving our kids asthma. Our cars shouldn't make wildfires worse -- and create more days filled with smoky air. Cars shouldn't melt glaciers or raise sea levels threatening our cherished beaches and coastlines."

In Feb. 2019, the energy foundation reported that the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) quantified Californians' exposure to dangerous air pollution.

UCS's findings revealed that particulate matter, known as PM2.5, disproportionately affects people of color and low-income communities in

California. PM2.5 is created by automobiles, trucks, and buses.

African Americans are, on average, exposed to 18% higher PM2.5 concentrations than the average Californian, the report stated. White Californians have an average exposure that is 17% percent lower than the average for the state.

"Exposure to PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) is linked to increased illness and death, primarily from heart and lung diseases," the Energy Foundation reported. "These particles are small -

20 times smaller than the diameter of fine human hair - so they can penetrate deeply in the lungs, and the smallest particles can even enter into the bloodstream."

The governor's executive order also sets new health and safety standards that protect workers and communities from the impacts of oil extraction.

However, it does not prevent Californians from owning gasoline-powered cars or selling them on the used car market, Newsom says.

By the time the new rule goes into effect, zero-emission vehicles, the governor's office stated, will almost certainly be cheaper and better than the fossil fuel-powered cars that dominate roadways now.

The upfront cost of electric vehicles are projected to reach parity with conventional vehicles within a few years, and the cost of owning the car — both in maintenance and how much it costs to power the car mile for a mile — is far less than a fossil fuel burning vehicle, the governor's office stated.

"I applaud the Governor's goals, but how will @AirResources develop regulations that will actually benefit the majority of Californians? Last year, (the California Air Resources Board) said the overall mean purchase price of a CA household's main vehicle was \$14,000, which is over half of their yearly income," Cooper tweeted.

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Mightier Than the Sword –The History of the Black Press

BY KIMBERLEE BUCK HAYES
Contributing Writer

From the Freedom’s Journal to the Chicago Defender, and of course, the Los Angeles Sentinel, Black publications and journalists have been on the frontlines fighting for social justice, equality, and basic human rights for Black communities. With the recent killings of Breonna Taylor and



FILE PHOTO
Editors Samuel E. Cornish and John B. Russwurm founded the Freedom’s Journal, the first Black-owned and operated newspaper in America.

George Floyd, Black America is reminded of the power the Black press holds. The rage, the protests, the tears, and the chants screaming, “Black Lives Matter,” inspire Black newspapers and digital media outlets to keep advocating for change. During the March on

Washington Film Festival in Washington, D.C., Black media outlets gathered for a virtual roundtable based on the 1999 film “The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords” by director Stanley Nelson, Jr.

The panel titled “Mightier Than the Sword –The History of the Black Press” was hosted by author Frederick Joseph and featured The Root editor-in-chief, Danielle Belton, publisher and CEO of Afro American Newspapers, Frances “Toni” Draper, New York Times photojournalist, Ozier Muhammad.

One of the topics discussed was Black journalism’s transformation and its impact on historic movements then and now.

“Black journalism has taken a hit because of the age of the Internet. The newspapers that I grew up reading are no more,” said Muhammad.

Belton also shared her thoughts on how Black media has evolved in the Digital Era.

“Around 2007-2008, there was this big boom of African Americans starting their blogs, websites, and



The “Mightier Than the Sword –The History of the Black Press” panel was hosted by author Frederick Joseph and featured The Root editor-in-chief, Danielle Belton, publisher and CEO of Afro American Newspapers, Frances “Toni” Draper, New York Times photojournalist, Ozier Muhammad.

news publications online due to the democratization of the media that happened under social media and the advent of the Internet,” she said.

“Newspapers were really struggling with the heavy costs of printing and the fact that Craigslist has destroyed their classifieds business. If you were starting a digital site, all you really needed was an opinion and some basic understanding of HTML.”

Belton explains how the legacy of past publications has inspired the launch of digital Black media sites.

“There has always been this desire for us to commu-

nicate and tell our story. Even though newspapers have died out in many aspects, their spirit does live on through sites like [The Root], Blavity, the Grio, and so many others,” she said.

Another question addressed was what obstacles does Black media face in comparison to non-Black media?

“A lot of the issues we deal with in the Black press really boil down to access and money,” said Belton.

“Even to this day, I’ve managed to get The Root to the place where we’re part of the conversation and where we’re able to get access to things with some

ease. But, we still run into the same walls where Black talent has a White publicist who doesn’t know anything about the Black press, so it doesn’t even occur to them to reach out to The Root or respond to us when we reach out to them.”

Joseph also asked the panelists about the importance and responsibility of Black people, making a purposeful choice to create Black media.

Draper added: “We have to do a better job with letting people know how to get a hold of us. There are very few Black newspapers left in the country. There [be] about 230 in the entire country. It’s about being intentional, letting our voices are heard, and getting our stories out.”

The March on Washington Film Festival has extended through Sunday, October 4.



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The 1936 Metropolitan News Office.

“You get what you pay for, and if you’re interested in issues that deal with our community and if the provider of that information happens to be Black-owned, it’s very important,” said Muhammad.

To view the upcoming online discussion or watch the recorded conversation of “Mightier Than the Sword –The History of the Black Press,” visit www.marchon-washingtonfilmfestival.org/schedule.

Amid Pandemic Hardship, Two New Laws Expand Mental Health Coverage

BY QUINCI LE GARDY
California Black Media

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two bills into law that expand mental health coverage in California.

“The bills I am signing today will help Californians access the behavioral health services they need to recover,” Gov. Newsom said. “Earlier this year, I pledged to put these critical services within reach of more Californians, through reforming

our Mental Health Services Act and laws that allow loved ones and service providers to ask courts to compel those who need treatment into community-based outpatient care. Today, we do just that.”

SB 855 passed through the state legislature on the last day of the session and was signed into law Sept. 25. The bill requires health insurance companies to provide coverage for mental health and substance abuse treatment deemed

medically necessary.

“It’s time for every Californian to have access to comprehensive and preventative mental and physical health care. SB 855 is a big step toward ensuring that in California, mental health is taken as seriously as physical health. It’s time for insurance companies to fully cover this essential treatment,” said State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

SB 855 was co-authored by Wiener, State

Senator Jim Beall (D-San Jose), chair of the Mental Health Caucus, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters).

This new law comes at a time when many Californians have faced mental health challenges due to psychological stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study, released Aug. 14, found that 40 % of respondents reported struggling with an adverse mental health condition in late June. Out of about 5,400 respondents, 30 % experienced symptoms of anxiety and depression and 13 % had started or increased substance use to cope with emotions related to the pandemic.

According to the CDC survey, psychological stressors have a disproportionate effect on Black and Brown people, essential workers, unpaid caregivers and young adults. Also, low-wage earners were experiencing more anxiety and depression than high-wage earners.

“Unfortunately, there are gaps in the law that have allowed insurance companies to deny what is clearly medically necessary coverage for people experiencing mental health and addiction challenges,” said Senator Wiener earlier this month.

There has been a long history of health insurance plans providing better coverage for physical illness than for mental health. According to the American Psychological Association, although federal parity law requires that coverage for mental health and substance-use disorders must be comparable to physical health coverage, the law does not require that all plans include mental health and substance abuse coverage. Also, a health insurance plan is allowed to exclude certain diagnoses.

The same day, the governor signed another bill, AB 1976, into law. That legislation, introduced by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton), expands the use of court-ordered outpatient



FILE PHOTO

treatment at the county level. It also prohibits counties from downsizing those programs.

“The Assisted Outpatient Treatment demonstration project started by Laura’s Law has shown for many years that we have the tools to provide effective, community-based mental health treatment to those with the greatest need. As a social worker I’ve long fought for the extension of these critical services and expanding this program. Finally making it permanent will ensure greater care for the people of California,” said Eggman.

Supporters of both bills praised the governor for signing them. Many of them joined Eggman in pointing out that the new policies are long overdue.

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Beutner: COVID-19 Numbers Still Too High to Reopen LAUSD Schools

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

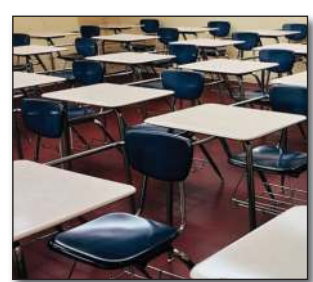
Superintendent Austin Beutner said today that public schools in Los Angeles are not yet ready to reopen for in-person instruction amid the coronavirus, even as he detailed some of the challenges in virtual learning.

“It’s now been more than six months since students were in schools, and the learning loss for some may be significant. But schools have to balance the learning needs of students with the health and safety of all in the school community,” Beutner said, adding “Schools cannot open until the overall level of the virus is much lower.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District superintendent said some of the problems with online learning include difficulties with teachers tracking results and the lack of ability to work one-on-one with struggling students, difficulties on the part of English language learners and those with learning disabilities, technology issues, students not having a quiet space to work at home, and the “summer slide” when students regress during the traditional sea-

sonal break.

Beutner detailed the district’s COVID-19 testing program in advance of the eventual reopening of schools. All students and staff would get an initial baseline test in the next few weeks, followed by periodic tests based on the advice of science partners. Family members of those who test positive or show symptoms of the virus will also be offered tests.



FILE PHOTO

The superintendent also praised the district’s Grab & Go program to provide free meals to families during the pandemic, which he said would likely reach 65 million meals this week. Beutner called it the largest school-based program of its kind in the nation, and called on city, county and state officials to contribute federal CARES Act funds to the program.

Also Monday, a coalition of K-12 public, private

and faith-based school leaders, parents, civic leaders and physicians in Los Angeles County sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors and Department of Public Health urging the officials to create a pathway to safely reopen schools.

The group is seeking the following steps:

- Communicate transparent, data-driven public health metrics to reopen schools.
 - Reopen schools under state elementary school waiver process beginning with grades TK-3, immediately.
 - Phase-in reopening of upper grades (4-8 and 9-12) on two-week intervals based on achievement of public health milestones aligned with the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy.
 - Restore the Department of Public Health’s K-12 working group to provide regular input to department leadership on guidance and protocols from school administrators and local health care experts.
- County health officials have that schools will not be permitted to reopen for full in-person instruction until at least November.

Senator Bradford Achieves First-in-the-Nation Bill to Help Renters Improve Their Credit Scores

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This week, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena). This bill requires landlords managing medium- to large, subsidized, multi-family housing units in California to offer their tenants the option of having their rental payments reported to

a major credit bureau.

"This bill, the first of its kind in the nation, starts to correct the longstanding inequity where those with the least resources have to fight the hardest to establish and improve their credit scores," said Senator Bradford. "Having a good credit score is the first step in helping renters achieve the American dream of homeownership. But, most

renters today do not receive a benefit to their credit scores when they consistently pay their rent on time. SB 1157 changes that for some of our most at-risk tenants. Renters and working families have suffered because of COVID-19 and this bill will provide an opportunity for families to responsibly build their credit after this crisis."

According to the U.S.

Census American Community Survey, just over 45% of Californians are renters. Yet, at the present time, although failure to pay one's rent has a negative impact on one's credit, most Californians who make on-time rent payments fail to receive any benefit to their credit scores for making those on-time payments. This is true because many landlords do

not submit their tenants' "full-file" (positive and negative) rental payment history to any of the major credit bureaus.

Specifically, SB 1157 requires landlords who manage medium to large multi-family units in California that receive federal, state, or local subsidies to offer each tenant in a subsidized unit the option of having their rental pay-

ments reported to a major bureau. By focusing on subsidized housing, the bill is tailored to those tenants likely to receive the greatest benefit from establishing or improving their credit scores.

SB 1157 includes a delayed operative date of July 1, 2021, to allow landlords reasonable time to prepare for implementation.

USC Dornsife Research Reveals Black Low-Income Single Parent Households at High Risk of Critical Food and Security Disparities; Over 800,000 households Affected

BY BETTI HALSELL
Staff Writer

Los Angeles County Officials updated the community with new information surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. There is statistical evidence still pointing in the direction of decline. Although public officials are hopeful, they prepare and stress to the public the need to continue being steadfast in flattening the curve. Los Angeles is making strides in the right direction, due to the unity and understanding of the guidance from community leaders. New evidence revealed current shortcomings of underserved communities, because of COVID-19, Black single parent households that are low-income are at high risk of drastic food and security disparities.

Supervisor Hilda Solis discussed two essential factors for the county to



Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair Pro Tem, First District

immediately respond to. New research released today unveiled by USC Dornsife Public Exchange provided the first comprehensive analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on food and security in Los Angeles County. The study was led by Dr. Kayla De La Haye, her team worked closely with the County's Emergency Food and Security Branch. Solis explained, "Food and Security refers to disruption in food access and reg-

ular eating because of limited money or other resources..."

USC Dornsife research unearthed a disproportionate level of food and security that is happening within Los Angeles. During the fourth quarter of the pandemic, 1 out of 4 L.A. County households experienced a critical level of severity within maintaining Food and Security daily. Numerically, that is approximately 873,000 households that are living

through the disparity.

Los Angeles Public Health Director, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, provided new measurements of coronavirus in the county. The reports shown on Wednesday reflected 31 additional deaths, ten of these individuals were over the age of 80, nine of them had underlying health conditions. 14 people who died were between the ages of 65-79, ten victims had pre-existing health concerns. six individuals were between the ages of 50-64, and five of them had underlying health problems. This brings the total COVID-19 related deaths in L.A. County to 6,423.

There were 1,265 new COVID-19 reports. In summary, there is a total amount of 263,333 coronavirus cases in the Los Angeles region. 11,615 incidents were reported in the city of Long Beach and 2,536 cases in the city of

Pasadena. There is a total amount of 1,742 reported cases among the unsheltered.

The relationship between COVID-19 infection and ethnicity were provided. The racial background collected from 6,044 fatal cases showed 10% were African American, 15% were Asian, slightly less than 1% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 51% were LatinX, 23% were White, and 1% identified as a different race or ethnicity. 92% of those who died due to COVID-19 had preexisting health concerns.

Solis stated, "The majority of adults experiencing food and security anytime between April and July are low-income." She went on to explain the major risk factors in this study reflected those who are unemployed, women, Black or LatinX, single parent households, and the

ages of those affected are between 18-40. Those who are already at a higher mortality rate from the coronavirus, are also feeling the pains of starvation.

'Angelenos' is a general term to identify all people living in Los Angeles, bringing them to equal levels across the county. However, new research about COVID-19 is showing the reality of division living in L.A. Numbers reflect fluctuation in overall wellbeing of the person in the community. No one should feel the aches of an empty stomach, the silver lining is that the study shows a new relationship within an existing condition of underserved communities and compacted neighborhoods. The food banks and financial assistance is helping those facing a reality of starvation, there is an anticipation for the county to act fast to remedy the issue.



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April D. Verrett
President, SEIU Local 2015



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E. Toby Boyd
President, CTA

Learn more at: www.Yes15.org

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Chef Marilyn's Cooking Speaks to the Soul, as Her Beloved Mother Guides Her Through Her Dream from Above

BY BETTI HALSELL
Staff Writer

Cooking comes from the soul; Chef Marilyn has proven that through her adventures of catering to the crème de la crem of celebrities, such as Stevie Wonder, Nancy Wilson, and Isaac Hayes. Through her soul food, one can taste the love and passion of her mother, Olivia Johnson, who passed right before opening her own restaurant.

Chef Marilyn's soul cuisine stands out because of the love and devotion that is put into every bite.



Chef Marilyn proudly points to her sign on the wall of her Black-owed soul food restaurant on Crenshaw Blvd.
Photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis / LA Sentinel

was looking to have.

There were adjustments made to ride the wave of COVID-19, but Chef Marilyn is fighting with all her might. One can indulge in Chef Marilyn's delectable cooking from 11 am to 4 pm, seven days a week.

all the desired social media platforms as well.

Chef Marilyn closed with the following statement, "We are going to get through this together and as long as I am healthy and available, I will continue to come to work and make



Taste of Soul Founder, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. and Chef Marilyn in front of her soul food restaurant.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL



"Support Chef Marilyn, she has been serving this community for 31 years and a part of Taste of Soul from the beginning." - Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., founder, Taste of Soul.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS



(L-R) Sir Gaylon Moore, buying a to-go order from manager, Terri.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL



Chef Marilyn says she has never done away with 99-cent items, so that families have access to well-balanced meals for as low as five dollars.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS



Head Chef, Eric, brings out fresh fried chicken.
Photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis



(L-R) Chef Marilyn poses with Taste of Soul Rep, Lauren Brazil.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL

She describes her journey with such passion, as she explained cooking was her escape out of the tunnel of Corporate America while also standing as a beacon of purpose for her mother's dream to live on.

"It's a blessing," Chef Marilyn stated, "I had no idea 31 years ago, when I decided to just start cooking because I was working



(L-R) Manager, Terri makes a to-go order for actor, Isaac Clay, who comes for the world famous dressing.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL

She explained that she would have dreams of recipes, and when she made the dishes for people to try, they loved it, "Because I wasn't a kid who was brought up in the kitchen," Chef Marilyn explains, the love and passion she has for her mother, guides her hands to make supernatural flavor combinations.

Her dishes are known to take one through a plethora of euphoric emotions. It's not enough to say Chef Marilyn's cooking is good, it's out of this world. "My food is different from a lot of people that make the exact same dishes in their restaurant, because mine is full of love."

The gumbo is one of Chef's Marilyn's favorite dishes to make, because that plate is part of her mother's creole background and its one of the few entrees that Chef Marilyn learned from her mother. The gumbo is a seasonal specialty to catch at Chef Marilyn's place, but that creole cooking is found at the base of all the soul food dishes offered on the menu.

Chef Marilyn's mother taught her the secret to making unparalleled flavors in her gumbo. The passion needed to cook at this caliber was instilled into Chef Marilyn's heart and spills over to her flavor. She shared her belief of her mother living inside of her, and she is fulfilling the vision Olivia Johnson

There are delivery app options, such as Grub hub, Uber Eats, and Postmates. Strictly for take-out, one can peruse the website for a list of her divine dishes and also keep up-to-date with

sure that I have excellent quality food and I can feed people even to the point where we will always have 99-cent items. I made that promise and I been sticking to that."



Customers wait outside of Chef Marilyn's Soul Food Restaurant on Crenshaw Blvd.
PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL

for Corporate America. I would cook at our house and people would come over; everybody loved my food." From there, her name grew through the grapevine and Marilyn started delivering plates around her area and selling dinners from her house.

That is how Chef Marilyn described her origin story, on how she ended up on the path of cooking. As if it were a divine appointment; her mom at the time was acquiring property to open a restaurant of her own. But there was a change in energy when Ms.

Olivia Johnson found out she had terminal cancer. However, the seed for growth was planted in her daughter, Chef Marilyn, to keep that dream alive and thriving.

Located at 2638 Crenshaw Boulevard, in South Los Angeles, CA, one can smell Chef's Marilyn's award-winning gumbo wafting through the air and calling the masses to try the "Queen of Down-Home Southern Goodies." There is care in every bite of her dishes. Her mother died when Chef Marilyn was 19-years-old, but Ms. John-

son had been battling cancer since Chef Marilyn was 15. The picture of her mother opening her restaurant did not come to full color until Chef Marilyn was preparing the same venture.

The power of Ms. Olivia's dream lives on through all the rich and fresh ingredients used to make Chef's signature dishes. But the legacy of community also lives on the same menu. Reflecting on the hardships COVID-19 as brought to Los Angeles, Chef Marilyn made a promise that anyone can afford to have a decent meal at Chef Marilyn's soul food cuisine, there are al carte items that are mostly as low as 99-cents. This is to have a safety net for anyone feeling the financial stress of trying to feed themselves or their family, they always have a way to come get a well-balanced meal for as low as five dollars.

With Chef Marilyn's mother being her Angel, the recipes felt heaven sent.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

Spiritually Speaking: Falling Down is the Easy Part, Getting Up is Something Else

BY JAMES WASHINGTON
NNPA Newswire

I'm convinced that it is a forgone conclusion that I am going to fail miserably in my attempt to be Christ like. It is very much a conscious thing with me as I try to make walking with Jesus habitually normal. However, I know it's my job to humbly and consistently keep trying and striving to emulate my personal Lord and Savior. There are all kinds of expressions to describe my failed efforts; everything from 'backsliding' to simply falling down on the job. In each instance my obligation is to weather the storm and reverse direction, or more aptly put, 'just get back up on my feet and try again.'

One of the hardest things for me to do is to know I've blown it with regard to Christian behavior. I've maintained an unchristian attitude for too long. Or, I've enjoyed someone else's misfortune much too much. You see when this happens, because I profess and believe the good news of the gospel, I know what is supposed to be inherently good and what is not. Yet, I've acted or reacted outside of the parameters of what I know is good Christian behavior. At this point I know I'm in trouble because I indeed do know better. It becomes hard and kind of embarrassing to ask God for forgiveness, when you know He knows that you know better. For me that's pretty

tough. It's like stealing and having to confess to your mother, or, being caught cheating and your punishment was delivering the bad news to your mother by a note from your teacher.

For those of you who have had to carry such a burden, I'm sure you understand that sinking feeling as you have exhausted every excuse possible in a vain attempt to delay the inevitable. You still gotta tell Mom. Stay with me for a moment and relate to having to tell God. You know that He already knows. It is then absolutely necessary and incumbent upon me or you to stand up, 'fess' up and proceed down the only road that makes sense, with the full knowledge that you will be okay.

The Lord still loves you. Getting through that whole process has always been very difficult for me because, I believe what I'm feeling is generally stupid and certainly clear about knowing better. When you're a Christian, you do know better. I don't know which is worse, knowing better or having to tell God that you knew better. The good news is, God knows what's in your heart. It is His measure of who you are and who you are in relation to Him. It's because of that, that God knows you are repentant, just like your mother knew you were truly sorry. It remains the only basis for forgiveness.

For me it still remains an uncomfortable exercise to square my shoulders,



James Washington

assume the position faced down in reverent prayer and enter into the domain of my Father and reveal that kind of failure. Each time it happens, I'm reminded that God did not come to call the righteous, but the sin-

ners of which I am one, regardless of how enlightened I might think I am.

May God bless and keep you always.

James Washington is the publisher of the Dallas Weekly.



Earline M. Gentry

COURTESY PHOTO

POEM 2020 Vision Check

BY EARLINE M. GENTRY

It all happened right before our very eyes allow me to summarize

A lot has already taken place one can never erase
Once the pandemic hit creating fear and devastation
Wreaking havoc across the nation
No business as usual all of a sudden the earth stood still
Everything happens for a reason according to God's perfect will

Plagued by social, economical, and political division
God is calling us into account requires total submission
Whenever controversy erupts we must never give up
How did we get here what started this mess amidst this virus and civil unrest

The world's clearly being put to the test
This is a year we'll never forget 2020 vision check
Hitting us so hard like a ton of bricks let's face it some things only God can fix



Where do we all fit in the scheme of things?

Don't be surprised open your eyes for many confusion and doubts arise

What about all this social distancing how long will it last?

Wondering whether or not should we all wear a mask
Many are angry much of their behavior has gone viral
The world seems to be facing a downward spiral
Climate change, hurricanes this is insane!!!

The economy's shut down homes burned to the ground
Homelessness is at an all-time high why?

2020 vision check look around you we're losing our love ones young and old

Our lives are at risk spreading the virus putting our jobs on hold

Wakeup world make no mistake what a difference a day makes

When we all come together things will get better
Through acts of love and kindness unity at its fineness



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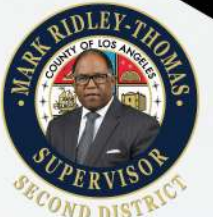
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ENTERTAINMENT

KEEP AN EYE ON ACTOR AARON COBHAM — OVIEDO — in Starz’s ‘THE SPANISH PRINCESS’

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Keep an eye on British actor Aaron Cobham who is knocking it out of the park in the Starz series “The Spanish Princess” playing the character, Oviedo, a striking, regal, and principled African-Iberian cross-bowman who came over in Catherine’s retinue from Spain.

The STARZ Original Limited Series “The Spanish Princess” is the second installment of the limited series follow-up to the Golden Globe® and Emmy® award-nominated STARZ Original Miniseries “The White Queen” and the critically acclaimed STARZ Original Limited Series “The White Princess.” Produced by Playground and All3 Media’s New Pictures, the 8-episode drama is drawn from the global best-selling novels, “The Constant Princess” and “The King’s Curse,” written by Philippa Gregory.

“The Spanish Princess” is the story of Queen Catherine (Charlotte Hope) and Henry VIII (Ruairi O’Connor) and her struggle to produce an heir which places her marriage and position in the court at risk.

In season two, Oviedo has married Lina in a union that crossed class boundaries for love. Oviedo, a devout Muslim with powerful principals grows increasingly uncomfortable with his position in the Spanish court, even as he rises in rank.

His loyalty to his family

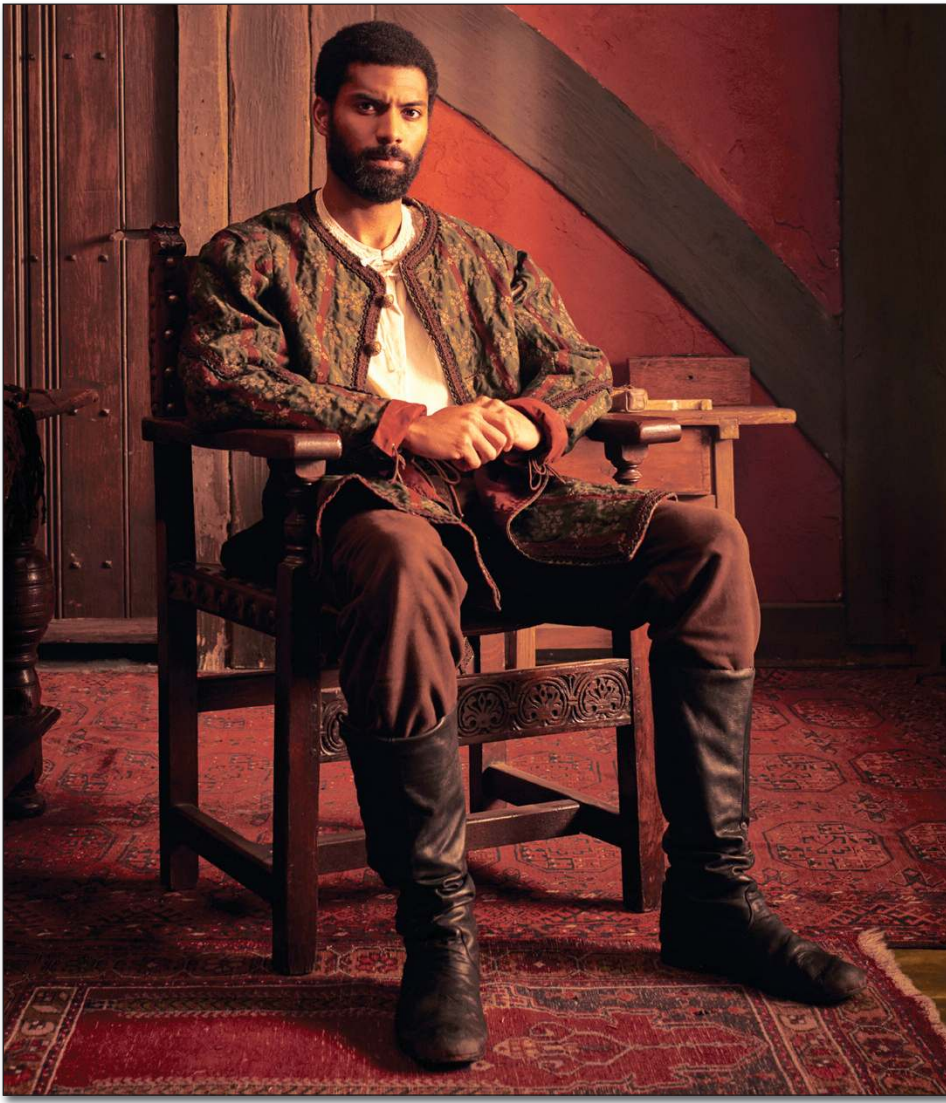
and “Cucumber.” Along with his passion for his art, he is a family man to his bones. He’s also an avid sports lover and fitness enthusiast with an ear for languages.

Here is what the impressive actor Aaron Cobham had to share about living in the character, Oviedo’s skin, family and why his late grandfather is so special to him.

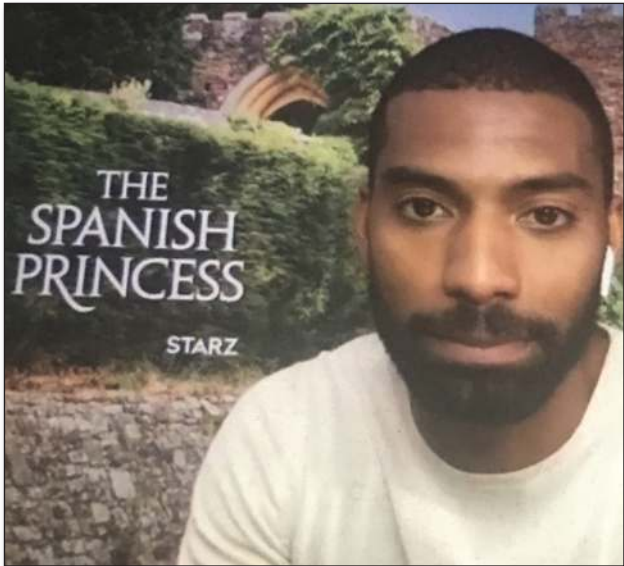
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: I’m enjoying these Zoom press junkets. I’m in New York, Harlem and sitting in my bed interviewing you. Since you can’t see me, I am going to say that I have a full face of make-up on and I look flawless. Where are you?

AARON COBHAM: (laughing) I am here, the sunniest place on earth. Manchester England. I rarely see the sunshine. I’m pretty sure it’s raining outside.

LAS: That’s funny. I’m glad we had an opportunity to chat. I like your work. You are a very good actor



STARZ



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STARZ

and his principles are at odds with the direction the monarchy is heading, and England is becoming an increasingly dangerous place for them to be.

Via Zoom, I had an opportunity to chat with Aaron Cobham about his role as a soldier and all-around hero in the powerful “B” story that keeps the “Spanish Princess” robust and interesting.

Born and raised in Manchester, England the curious and ambitious Cobham studied theater arts and soon racked up an impressive list of credits on stage and screen spanning across comedy and drama. After living and performing in Spain, he gained an array of credits including parts in well-known TV series such as “Midsomer Murders,” “Cold Feet,” “Stella,” “Josh,” “Coronation Street”

and what you have done with your character, Oviedo, is just first-rate. How did you get this juicy part?

AC: Thank you. Like most people, I had to audition for the part. It was an important point in my life. I had different kinds of ideas and plans. Due to personal issues, I was not sure what to do with myself. I thought I would go back to acting, give it another go. I had four auditions in the space of two weeks and one of those was for ‘The Spanish Princess.’

LAS: Wow. I hear this story so often. The never give up part. The darkest before the dawn part. Sorry. Please, continue.

AC: I thought if I could do one part in my life this would be it. It’s not every day that you get to be in a period drama as a Black

person and also get to tell a story from the perspective of a guy who is a positive character.

LAS: Sad but true.
AC: Studying wise. I studied in Manchester in media and performance. I remember watching a documentary about [actor] Al Pacino about how it’s good to understand both sides of things. So, I learned about the camera side and the acting side. I love telling stories, so I thought that I will give it a go.

LAS: Where are your people from?

AC: That’s a complicated and long story.

LAS: Short version.

AC: Well both of my parents are born in England. My mum’s parents are Jamaican and my dad’s parents are half-Nigerian and half-Irish. My grandmother was recently here and she was telling me that her grandfather was from Cuba but that’s all she knows.

LAS: Aaron, you should dig deeper. We have such rich backgrounds and we need to see those stories.

AC: The next time I am in Jamaica, I will dig deeper to learn more about my family’s history and to see who they are.

AC: I agree. I asked my grandma questions but you know, in Jamaica, especially the period that she grew up, a lot of people were given pet names. So [she] gave me the names of the person but not their surname. So much was not documented before. But you are right.

LAS: About?

AC: There are not enough stories about people of color and about where they come from and their history. I’m currently reading a book about Black British history.

LAS: That’s what’s up!

AC: And I was [also] reading a book about

season one] he sells some drugs.

LAS: Are you familiar with the film director Steve McQueen?

AC: Yes.

LAS: Have you seen ‘Lovers Rock’ yet?

AC: No.

LAS: McQueen goes to church! I mean he just goes to church!

AC: Have you ever listened to lovers rock music?

LAS: No. I confess. I didn’t know about it until this film.

AC: I grew up on it. My mum listened to it. Growing up on a British, Caribbean household you get a lot of those influences. I have a little one now and when I’m struggling to get him to sleep, I play [lovers rock music] for him. My grandfather recently passed.

LAS: Sorry for your loss. [God, Bless the dead]

AC: Thank you. He’s been on my mind lately and he loved lovers rock [music] and my son just goes straight to sleep.

LAS: Wait. I thought you were going to say, and my son just starts dancing.

AC: Well, the trick is to get him bopping, and then he goes out like a night. He’s 16-months-old. He’s a whirlwind of energy. It’s the best thing. He’s so much fun. He brings joy to me every day. [He’s] part of the reason [that] I learned to just let go and enjoy the experience. When he came along, I realized that a lot of the things that were [formerly] focused on and worrying about are not important. What’s important is looking after him. Being a good father to him. Being a good role model for him. Being that kind of guy. Appreciating every moment because you won’t get it again. Every stage that he’s going through. Each age. I want to be able to cherish those moments.

LAS: Amen! I’m sorry for the loss of your grandfather.

AC: He was a massive influence in my life. My grandparents taught me that I could do anything that I want. If it wasn’t for him there is no way that I would be where I am today. He was a very positive man. Fun. Full of life. He was one of the most fun and loved persons that I’ve ever met. He taught me to be me. I won a writing competition when I was small. I wrote about my best friend, that was my grand-dad. I am honoring him in the best way that I can. Talking to you about him and him being up there, like this, is a wonderful thing for me and my family as well.

LAS: What is your grandfathers’ name?
AC: Uriel. Uriel Henderson.

LAS: Thank you, and thank you, Uriel Henderson. Join the conversation: #TheSpanishPrincess and #STARZ

LAS: Why, indeed!
AC: Why? What’s the need [to have the Black character] to have him do something bad? I was reading a script once for a popular show and I asked the director why the character was only in season one. He told me that because [in

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

EXCITING NEWS

TASTE OF SOUL 2020 IS BACK ONLINE AND ON-TIME!

LIVESTREAM ON
TASTE OF SOUL.ORG

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OCTOBER 17, 2020
The fun begins at 6pm PST

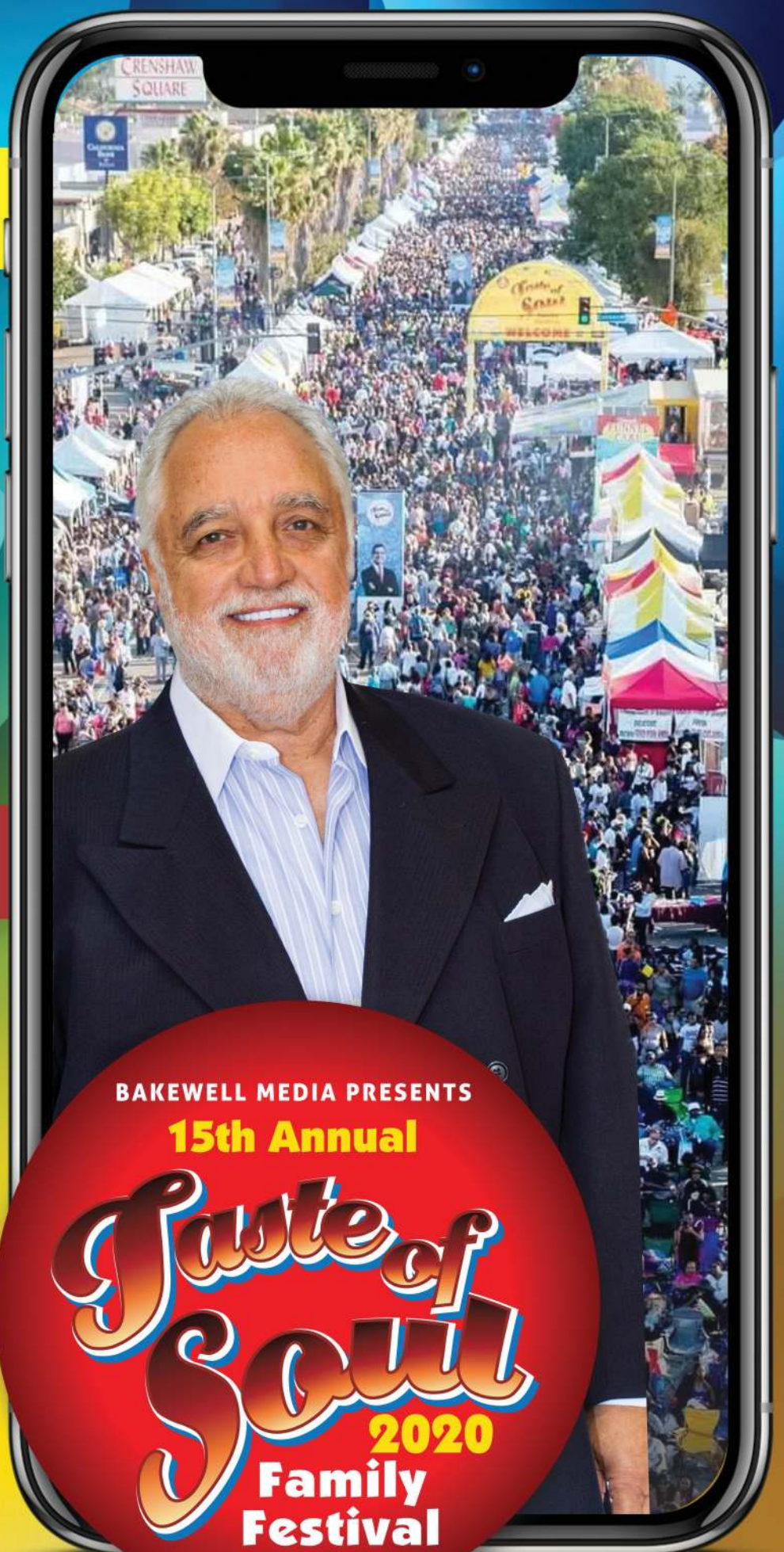
HOSTED BY: KYM WHITLEY

CELEBRITY
APPEARANCES FROM:

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- DR. BOBBY JONES
- FAITHE C. HERMAN
- KIM FIELDS
- LAMMAN RUCKER
- LONI LOVE
- WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON

MUSICAL
PERFORMANCES BY:

- AFTER 7
- ANTHONY HAMILTON
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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

Doc Rivers Out as Clippers Coach Following Disappointing Season

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Following a disappointing end to a season that saw the team fall short of the NBA Finals, Doc Rivers was ousted today as coach of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rivers posted a statement on Twitter confirming his departure, offering thanks to “Clipper Nation for allowing me to be your coach and for all your support in helping make this a winning franchise.”

“When I took this job, my goals were to make this a winning basketball program, a free agent destination and bring a championship to this organization,” he said. “While I was able



LA Clippers head coach, Doc Rivers, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020, in Denver.

to accomplish most of my goals, I won't be able to see them all through. Though it was a disappointing ending

to our season, you are right there and I know what this team is capable of accomplishing with your support.

“Thank you to all the players, coaches and staff for helping us get here. Most importantly, thank you to the fans. We went through a lot, and I am grateful for my time here.”

The Clippers were eliminated from the playoffs by the Denver Nuggets, despite building a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series before falling in three straight games. Denver advanced to the Western Conference Finals, but lost to the Lakers in five games.

It was a bitter end for the Clippers, who were picked by many pundits as a favorite to reach the NBA Finals this year — ahead of the rival Lakers — thanks

largely to the off-season acquisition of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George.

The team issued a statement Monday characterizing the move as a “mutual decision” between Rivers and owner Steve Ballmer.

“Doc has been a terrific coach for the Clippers, an incredible ambassador, and a pillar of strength during tumultuous times,” Ballmer said.

“He won a heck of a lot of games and laid a foundation for this franchise.”

The 58-year-old former NBA player was the most successful coach in Clippers history, posting a record of 356-208 over seven seasons.

Rivers has a career NBA coaching record of 943-681, including five seasons coaching the Orlando Magic and nine seasons at the helm of the Boston Celtics. He led the Celtics to the NBA championship in 2008.

“I am immeasurably grateful to Doc for his commitment and contributions to the Clippers and the city of Los Angeles,” Ballmer added. “I am also extremely confident in our front office and our players. We will find the right coach to lead us forward and help us reach our ultimate goals. We will begin the search and interview process immediately.”

The Lack of Punishment for Breonna Taylor's Killers Leaves the Sports World Reeling

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Last week, a grand jury indicted Brett Hankison in relation to the murder of Breonna Taylor for wanton endangerment. No officers were charged for Taylor's death. The news outraged countless notable athletes and they expressed their sentiments on social media and during press conferences.

The WNBA dedicated their entire season to Taylor and the “Say Her Name”



SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO
LeBron James sent words of encouragement to Black women after Game 4 of the Western Conference Finals.

campaign. Every player wore Taylor's name on their jerseys. NBA players, like Clippers forward Paul George, has talked about Taylor during press interviews.

Pro basketball players did whatever they could to raise awareness from wearing custom shoes with Taylor's face on them to entire teams wearing shirts that demand that Taylor's killers be arrested.

Lakers star LeBron James expressed how he was devastated by the verdict and sent his love to Taylor's family.

“We want Justice for Breonna, yet justice was met for her neighbor's apartment walls and not her beautiful life,” James said. “Was I surprised at the verdict. Absolutely not but damnit I was and still am hurt and heavy hearted!”

WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson noted how she was heartbroken and angry, but not surprised when she heard about the indictment.

“This will never stop my fight, this is making me



SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO
All 12 WNBA teams wore the name Breonna Taylor on the back of their jerseys.

want to push through even more,” Wilson said. “Because Black women deserve so much better than what is going on right now.”

The WNBA and WNBPA created the Social Justice Council at the beginning of the season with New York Liberty guard, Layshia Clarendon as one of the leaders. She referred to the police as “a rotten tree” in a tweet.

“This is why police need to be defunded and ultimately abolished!” Clarendon said. “We time and time again hope for a sliver of justice but why would we get that when the system is designed to pro-

tect the very folks that are murdering and terrorizing us.”

Louisville native, Rajon Rondo took the news hard and other Lakers players are offering him support.

“We feel his pain as well, justice wasn't served in a lot of people's eyes,” said Lakers forward, Anthony Davis. “It's an emotional situation and while we're here fighting for a championship, it's a lot of stuff going on in the real world.”

Yvette Gentry, the executive director of the Rondo Foundation, will become the interim police chief in Louisville on Oct. 1. This gives Rondo confidence that there will be a better

future for the city.

“My Lady that runs my foundation now is about to take over as police chief,” he said. “I'm just talking with her daily to continue to bring awareness and tackle and hold these people accountable.”

When asked about the decision during a press conference, Dallas Cowboys quarterback, Dak Prescott noted how it was “simply unacceptable.” He

we're looking at right now.”

While competing in the NBA Bubble, Utah Jazz guard, Donovan Mitchell sported the message ‘Say Her Name’ on his jersey. On Twitter he apologized to Taylor and changed his profile picture to a photo of her.

“When will being Black stop being a threat?” he stated. “I understand there are good cops in our country. But we have to



SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO
New York Giants linebacker, Lorenzo Carter wore shoes with the names Breonna Taylor and George Floyd on them.

said. “I don't understand that one at all. There's a lot of things in this country that I don't understand that

address that there are also cops who see African Americans as threats and that's unacceptable.”

Rams Partner With Rapper Stix to Promote Social Justice

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Rams partnered up with Watts rapper Stix to create videos to promote the fight against social injustices. Rams Vice President of Community Affairs and Engage-



FACEBOOK PHOTO
Rams players recited Stix's spoken word piece “The Time is Now” for a video that was aired during the Rams' season opener.

ment Molly Higgins want the videos to display the tough reality that Black Americans face.

The organization allowed Stix an abundance of creative freedom when making the two pieces.

“I want someone who is of the community, from the

community who's to be the voice, to be the person that writes the piece,” Higgins said. “I wanted people to feel the pain and frustration of the Black community and I didn't want him to sugar coat it.”

Stix wrote a spoken word piece called “The Time is Now” that 13 Rams players recited for a video that was shone during the Rams season opener against the Dallas Cowboys.

The video included quarterback Jared Goff, safety John Johnson III, offensive lineman Rob Havenstein, and wide receiver Robert Woods. Their words were paired up with footage of recent protests and of Rams players engaging in community outreach activities.

“The Time is Now” talks about the importance of having an equal playing ground for youth in education, improving the criminal justice system, and building positive bonds between law

enforcement and citizens. The poem is a message that anyone can say, implying that social justice issues can be solved if everyone gets involved.

“These are the things that need to be addressed, it isn't even about gender or race, it's about right, reality, and truth,” Stix said. “It feels like it's comfortable for everyone to talk about because it is the uncomfortable that isn't talked about.”

The Rams player leadership group, a group of approximately 15 players, decided they wanted to rally behind the slogan “It takes all of us” and put the phrase on their helmets. Stix wrote a Rap song for the Rams using the phrase as the title. He, along with the franchise, collaborated to make a video for the song.

The music video for “It Takes All of Us” has cameos of many notable places in Inglewood and Watts, including in Sofi Stadium, The Miracle Theatre, the

Forum, and the Mafundi Institute.

The venues have a symbolic purpose for being in the video, the Mafundi Building is a historical staple in Watts.

“The Mafundi building is home of legendary eras like the Watts Writers Workshop, the home of the Watts Prophets,” Stix said. “They're trying to sell the Mafundi building right now and there's a campaign that stated ‘Save the Mafundi Building.’”

Parts of the video were also shot at the roof top of the L.A. Police Department (LAPD) office, which symbolized how civilians and police officers must create more positive bonds between each other.

Stix took a knee in Sofi Stadium and acknowledge the efforts and sacrifice of Colin Kaepernick. Rams staff members, including Higgins linked arms in front of the Miracle Theatre.

Stix also wanted the players and coaches of the

Watts Rams organization to be in the music video. Last year, Stix wrote and narrated the poem in the video “What's Watts – A Story of Transformation” for the Watts Rams that was shone during a Rams game.

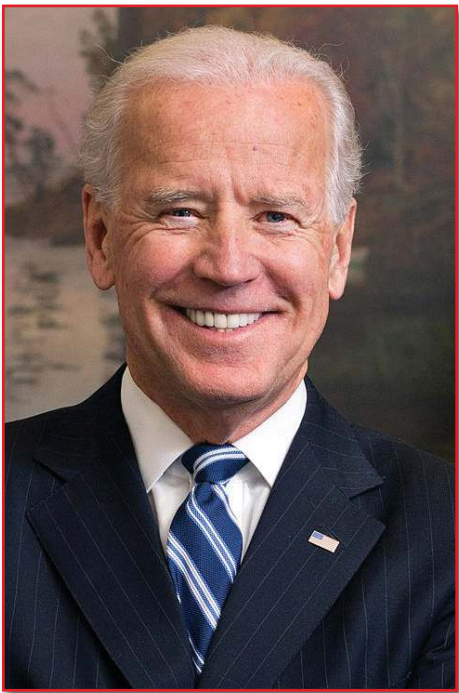
“They spent a lot of time in the neighborhood I grew up in and has changed a lot of lives,” Stix said. “They've given back to a lot of families and really are here to protect.”

Inglewood native artists Yannick “Thurz” Koffi and Damani Nkosi along with pro skateboarder, Paul Rodriguez were featured in the video.

Stix is the founder the Think Watts Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial literacy, food security, and housing security. Rams tight end, Tyler Higbee donated \$5,000 to the foundation to help with their food delivery ventures and their resource hub for professional development.

SENTINEL SLATE 2020

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Joe Biden/Kamala Harris

Congressional District



Maxine Waters
CA - 43rd Congressional District



Karen Bass
CA - 37th Congressional District



Nanette Barragán
CA - 44th Congressional District

Senate District



Steve Bradford
CA - 35th Senate District



Anthony Portantino
CA-25th Senate District

LA County Supervisor



Herb Wesson
LA County Supervisor – 2nd District

LA County District Attorney



Jackie Lacey
LA County – District Attorney

LA City Council



Mark Ridley-Thomas
LA City Council – District 10

Assembly District



Reggie Jones Sawyer
CA-59th Assembly District



Autumn Burke
CA - 62nd Assembly District



Chris Holden
CA - 41st Assembly District

LAUSD Board



George McKenna
LAUSD Board – District 1

LAUSD Community College



Tori Bailey
LA Community Colleges – Seat 1

Carson City Council



Jawane Hilton
Carson City Council



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
CA - 54th Assembly District



Mike Gipson
CA - 64th Assembly District

Mayor – City of Pasadena



Terry Tornek
Mayor – City of Pasadena

Inglewood – City Clerk



Aisha Thompson
Inglewood – City Clerk

Judges



Myanna Dellinger
LA Superior Court – Judge 72



David Berger
LA Superior Court – Judge 80



Scott Yang
LA Superior Court – Judge 162

PROPOSITIONS

- Proposition 14 – Yes
- Proposition 15 – Yes
- Proposition 16 – Yes
- Proposition 17 – Yes
- Proposition 18 – Yes
- Proposition 19 – Yes
- Proposition 20 – No
- Proposition 21 – No
- Proposition 22 – No
- Proposition 23 – Yes

COUNTY MEASURE

Measure J – Yes



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Presents \$150,000 Grant to Lula Washington Dance Theatre; The Dance Company Celebrate Their New Outside Foundation

By BETTI HALSELL
Staff Writer

There has been a lot of movement this season, Los Angeles has increased their push for social change and community building as residents face multiple disparities together. Public officials like Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas have been on the forefront promoting the power of unity among neighbors. There are many ways to express harmony in the city, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas saw a need for assistance at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT), he presented \$150,000 grant to create an outdoor dance class and performance space. This was designed with the youth at heart, giving a place for inner city children to get their bodies moving every Saturday morning.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre is an oasis, founded in 1980 by Lula Washington and her husband Erwin Washington. Their focus in opening this performance studio is to "provide a creative outlet for minority dance artists in the inner city." Their story grew and the Lula Washington Dance Theatre is now world renown. The company has danced in over 150 cities in the US, Germany, Spain,



PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas being presented plants as gifts of gratitude.

Kosovo, Mexico, Canada, China, and Russia.

The seed of dance was planted while Lula Washington was in college, she began to study and master modern dance. Washington wanted to pass that passion on and keep the desire of movement alive among the youth. During COVID-19, children have less encouragement to go outside due to the severity of an airborne virus meeting them out there. With this new outdoor performance space, children will be able to stretch, grow, and develop their artistic abilities in a socially distanced compound of LWDT.

The LWDT Company are known for their "unique, risk-taking, and experimental works" they also focus on merging African American Dance styles in with free self-

expression of movement. LWDT has been providing low cost and free dance classes to neighborhood children through an afterschool program called "I Do Dance, Not Drugs!" since 1983. Washington always kept in mind that she came from humble beginnings and wanted her business to align with the core belief of giving everyone the resource to move and express themselves. LWDT has taught and worked with over 45,000 inner-city students.

With new guidelines on gathering in place, LWDT is looking to create a safe environment for creativity. Dance is not only good for the soul; it is good for the body. The youth need a place to start thinking how to move forward, even when there is a lot of uncertainty in the air.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas shared his thoughts on the new edition to the performance theatre, "We cannot underestimate the power of the arts to not only connect us during these times, but also to heal ourselves and communities," he continued, "Equitable access to safe outdoor space and activities help communities express themselves and promote healthy activities when our individual and collective health is of utmost concern, as well as nurtures a sense of community. With the help of this grant, the Lula Washington Dance Theater can lead by example for finding innovative ways to continue safe programming during this pandemic."

On Saturday, September 26, the community gathered to celebrate the growth at LWDT. Greeted with smiles and laughter from children dancing gave a sense of much needed hope, there will be better days. The Washington family talked about their turbulence through COVID-19, Lula's shared words of encouragement and support, "Today, to have this wonderful stage because the belief and support of my Brother Thomas," Lula continued, "Because of this stage, now we can do outdoor classes...we are coming back, so we want to say this is a joyous occasion."

The rededication started with audience interaction, as the company dancers: Kozue Kasahara, Danny Gurrero, Ongelle Johnson, David Avraham, Glen Rodriguez, and Quron Clarks led a powerful chant and praise for new beginnings at LWDT. Hope filled the air as the audience clapped and stomped their feet. They raised their voice as a sense of release from everything that has been bleak in this season.

A subsector of the LWDT is the URITHI F.A.C.E. group. This youth group is aligned with a mission of "Legacy Freedom and Change Every Day."

Supporters of the event included Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, California Arts Council, Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, LWDT, Japanese American Community and Cultural Center, Great Leap, Inc. Artivist Entertainment, and Sustainable Little Tokyo. Join the movement from 9am-1pm, LWDT will offer "Free Community Moves" classes, they accept all seeds of appreciation and one can sign up for class by contacting school@lulawashington.org. There was indescribable flow



PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL
LWDT Dance Company performing, Dancers starting with dancer in fore front: Kozue Kasahara, Danny Gurrero, Ongelle Johnson, David Avraham, Glen Rodriguez, and Quron Clarks.

Urithi is a Swahili term that stands for legacy or inheritance. They presented Supervisor Ridley-Thomas with plants of Aloe vera, repre-

sents the new beginnings at this dance theatre. LWDT will be looking into the future, with the same fulfilling passion to continue the movement.

VOTE NO ON PROP 21

We need real housing solutions, not the same flawed initiative year after year.

Californians are experiencing a severe housing affordability crisis in the most devastating economic and public health emergency of our lifetimes. The last thing we should do is pass an initiative that will stop new housing from being built, cost jobs, and hurt our communities' economic recovery.

PROP 21...

- Allows landlords to raise rents on low-income Californians by 15%
- Penalizes homeowners of color
- Contains no protections for seniors, veterans or the disabled
- Has no plan to build affordable housing, stop evictions or deal with homelessness
- Is supported by the CEO of a billion-dollar pharmacy and real estate empire who's been accused of being an anti-housing "slumlord"
- Is opposed by a broad bipartisan coalition, including the California State Conference of the NAACP, Disabled Veterans of America (Department of California), LA Metropolitan Churches, Minority Apartment Owners Association



"As a nurse who has been on the front lines of this pandemic, I have extreme empathy and compassion for those who are impacted by COVID-19. But it is simply not fair to create laws that will make it harder for small landlords like me. Prop 21 will cause us to lose our life savings in our homes, while corporate landlords stand by waiting to pounce. It will hurt my family, but it will also change the heart of our communities."

Kimako D.
Nurse, Single-mother, South Los Angeles Resident & Landlord



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Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Does it Again and Raises \$1 Million in Support of HBCUs



AKA International President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Glenda Glover (second from right) is joined by (l-r) former Bennett College President Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, Jennifer King Congleton, AKA Mid Atlantic regional director and Erika Everett, executive director, Education Advancement Foundation at Alpha Kappa Alpha International Headquarters in Chicago for grant presentations to 32 HBCUs during Black History Month in 2019.

Online donations help Sorority to exceed its goal

SENTINEL NEW SERVICE

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is proud to announce that for the third consecutive year, the sorority has successfully raised \$1 million in 24 hours for the benefit of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The sorority's annual HBCU

Impact Day on September 21 exceeded its \$1 million goal in online donations alone from local AKA chapters, private donors and corporate matching dollars from across the globe.

"We did it, we did it again!" Dr. Glenda Glover, AKA international president and chief executive officer shared with excitement in a

video message to sorority members. "The online receipts alone totaled more than \$1.3 million. We can now continue to provide endowments to our treasured HBCUs."

HBCU Impact Day is one part of a four-year \$10 million fundraising goal set by Dr. Glover, who has challenged the women of AKA to lead the charge in helping to secure

fiscal sustainability and success for accredited HBCUs around the country. The sorority was successfully able to reach the \$1 million goal consecutively in 2018 and 2019, supporting the organization's HBCU for Life: A Call to Action platform, which aims to promote HBCUs by encouraging students to attend and matriculate through these institutions.

Last year, AKA gifted \$1.6 million to the first 32 of 96 HBCUs through the AKA-HBCU Endowment Fund. Each HBCU received \$50,000 in unrestricted endowment funds as part of a phased approach to help schools reduce student debt through scholarships, fund industry-specific research, recruit and retain top faculty, and other critical operations especially during this global pandemic.

On Sunday, September 20, the sorority held a virtual brunch to launch the next round of 32 HBCU endowment recipients. Four more recipients were announced: Delaware State University, Lane College, St. Phillips College, and Medgar Evers College. Four additional grants were announced on Friday, September 25, the last day of HBCU Week. The sorority announced 24 more recipients -- six schools every Thursday for the next four weeks.

"These institutions continue to make a powerful impact in our communities and throughout our country, graduating 22% of all African Americans with bachelor's degrees, nearly 80% of all African American judges and 50% of all Black lawyers," said Dr. Glover, who is also the president of Tennessee

State University and an HBCU graduate. "It's gratifying to know that funds raised will establish endowments, providing sustainability to our historically Black colleges and universities."

Dr. Glover thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the 2020 HBCU Impact Day and notes that the \$1.3 million raised online does not include checks in the mail and other contributions. Although HBCU Impact Day has passed, individuals or organizations interested in supporting the effort can still make contributions by texting AKAHBCU to 44321, giving by mail or online at <http://aka1908.com/hbcus/donate-hbcu>.

For more information on the sorority's commitment to HBCUs, visit www.AKA1908.com.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE FUND ANNOUNCES FIRST GRANTS

Launched at the Orange County Community Foundation, funding will support three organizations serving Orange County's African American community

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The African American Alliance Fund has awarded a first round of grants to 100 Black Men of Orange County (100 BMOC), Community Action Partnership of OC (CAP OC) and The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation (TGF). The Fund was launched at the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) in celebration of Juneteenth this year to raise awareness about systemic racism and support programs that advance African Americans within Orange County and surrounding communities.

"I launched this Fund to go beyond what I have done in the past, and with a vision to support the African American community in a thoughtful and deliberate way," said Tammy Tumbling, founder of the African American Alliance Fund and OCCF executive vice president and COO. "I am humbled by the outpouring of support from the community, and thrilled to partner with the selected nonprofits to advance their mission-critical work for African Americans in Orange County and beyond."

Tumbling launched the

Fund with \$25,000 of her own resources. It has since grown sixfold with contributions reaching \$150,000 and counting. With a focus on programs designed to improve outcomes in the areas of education, health, human services, economic development and civic engagement, the fund is already driving tangible impact in the community.

The first round of grants will specifically support:

- 100 BMOC's Passport to the Future program, which serves African American males from 6th through 12th grade, providing mentorship, cultural

appreciation and college preparation with an emphasis on STEM.

- A civic engagement initiative at CAP OC in partnership with the Nu Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American Men, intended to increase voter participation and empower underrepresented communities to make a difference.

- TGF's continued efforts to ensure that African American citizens complete the Census and understand its role in secur-



Tammy Tumbling

receive an inaugural grant from the African American Alliance Fund," said Gregory C. Scott, president & CEO, CAP OC. "CAP OC and our partner, OC Alpha Phi Alpha, believe that we must capitalize on the national spotlight and rally around the political process now. By increasing voter registration in the African American community by 25%, we can help create long-term systematic changes within our community."

To support the African American Alliance Fund and learn more about its impact in the community, visit oc-cf.org/AAAFund.

We're here to help

Readjusting: Best Practices For Managing Your Business's Finances In Today's Economy.



As a small business owner, the effects of the pandemic may have taken a tremendous toll on your financial picture. Now, as you continue down the road to recovery, you can count on Wells Fargo for the information you need to make more informed and confident decisions.

What are the benefits of developing a relationship with a banker?

One of the best perks of getting to know your banker is the ability to get help tailored to your business as your needs continue to evolve over time. Whether participating in a government loan program or deferring payments on an existing loan, having someone who knows your business and understands your goals makes all the difference. And in times of crisis a dedicated banker helps ensure you're up to date on changes as quickly as possible, addressing your individual questions and concerns.

What are my options in terms of Federal loans and grants?

There are many newly developed programs for businesses to access much needed financing. The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers many options to help businesses through COVID-19, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). If you received a PPP loan, keep tabs on how you spent the funds. This will make it easier to sort out potential loan forgiveness or repayment terms when the time comes. Other loan options offered by the SBA include Debt Relief, Express Bridge Loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) designed to help you through economic challenges. You can also review options through the Federal Reserve. Their Main Street Lending Program offers various high-dollar loans with deferred interest.

How can I access additional capital?

Our new Open for Business program supports Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) nonprofits to provide support to small business owners who were hit hardest by the pandemic. Through this program, we're donating \$400 million in PPP processing fees to support minority-owned small businesses. CDFI's are the fastest solution to getting funds in the hands of small businesses who need it most. Contact your local Small Business Development Center to find out more options for grants at the city and state level.

What can I do to pivot my business to maintain cashflow?

You've most likely already made some modifications to how your business operates. We suggest identifying new revenue streams and adjusting your services based on your customers' current needs. Consider expanding your online footprint to be more accessible, or cut unnecessary costs. It's wise to prepare for unpredictability by staying in touch with trends that will impact your business. It's also helpful to measure and track the effectiveness of any operational changes.

To learn more ways we can help you stay Open For Business, visit the Wells Fargo Small Business Resource Center at: smallbusinessresources.wf.com

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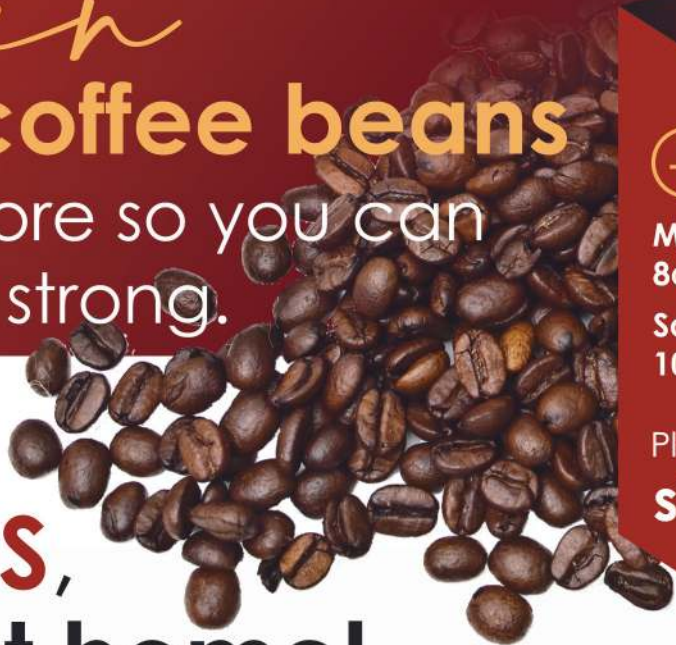
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