

FREE

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

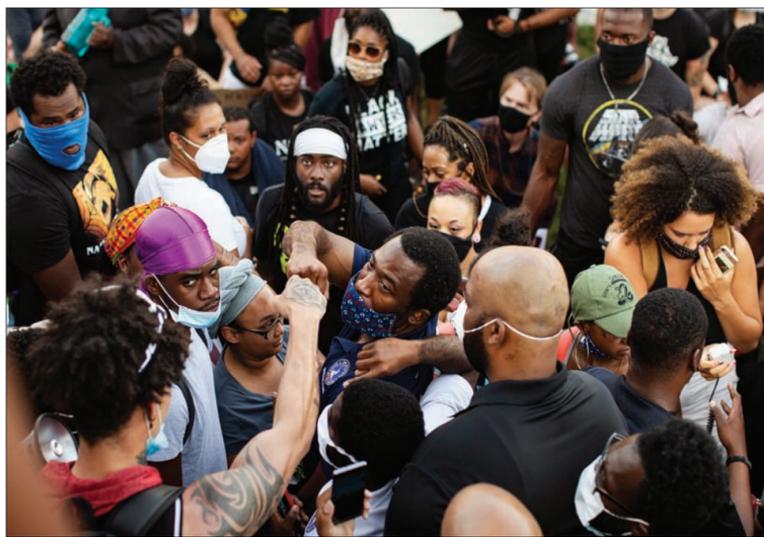
Tear gas clouds the air around the Monument Avenue statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monday evening when Richmond Police scattered hundreds of peaceful protesters by releasing tear gas and shooting pepper spray about 30 minutes before the 8 p.m. curfew was to go into effect. The Confederate statues are headed for removal under plans announced Wednesday.

City erupts

Death of George Floyd in Minneapolis prompts plans for reform by Mayor Stoney and Gov. Northam, including removal of Confederate statues on Monument Avenue



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press



Brian Palmer



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

The statues of Confederate traitors are headed for removal from Monument Avenue — ending their long reign as white supremacist icons of Richmond that extends back to 1890.

The removals now in the works appear to be the first of the reforms to grow out of the seething unrest over racism and police brutality that has led to days of protests in Richmond and other cities.

The Free Press learned that Gov. Ralph S. Northam is to announce Thursday that the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee will be removed from its pedestal — now filled with spray-painted tags — and placed in safekeeping.

Separately, Mayor Levar M. Stoney announced Wednesday that he will join 9th District City Councilman Michael J. Jones

Please turn to A6

Police Chief Will Smith takes a knee at a joint press conference with Mayor Levar M. Stoney on Tuesday outside City Hall where they apologized to the crowd for police using tear gas and pepper spray on a peaceful crowd on Monday night at the Lee statue. Mayor Stoney gives a fist-bump to a protester in the crowd Tuesday evening after walking with the throng from the State Capitol to the Lee statue on Monument Avenue. Nasiah Morris, 4, carries a sign with a powerful message during Sunday's peaceful grassroots march from Brown's Island to the 17th Street Market in Shockoe Bottom. The youngster, kneeling at 9th and Grace streets across from the Capitol, attended the rally with her mother, Toya Morris, and 15-year-old brother, Tye.

Thousands of protesters hit the streets

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

A white Minneapolis police officer's killing of 46-year-old George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for nearly 9 minutes was the final straw.

Outrage over the death May 25 of Mr. Floyd has flowed through the streets of Richmond and cities across the country and around the world.



Mr. Floyd

Huge throngs have turned out for nightly protests and marches — some of which have been marred by violence, looting and battles with police — triggered by fury over the Memorial Day slaying of the club security guard who was arrested for allegedly passing a phony \$20 bill.

It hasn't mattered that the officer, Derek Chauvin, and three fellow officers who did not intervene to save Mr. Floyd were immediately fired and that Mr. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder. The three other officers were charged Wednesday with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

It hasn't mattered that, almost universally, police chiefs, including Richmond Police Chief Will Smith, condemned the actions of the four officers after viewing the viral cell phone video that showed Officer Chauvin kneeling on Mr. Floyd, whose last words included, "I can't breathe."

There has been an outpouring of fury not seen since the 1968 assassination of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led to upheaval in 100 cities. Cries of "No justice, no peace" and "Black Lives Matter" have been heard during the last week in cities in all 50 states and at least 20 cities around the world.

But it was not just black people who responded. The diversity of protesters was noticeable, with white and Latino people making up a large percentage of participants.

"It's all of our fight," said Army Reservist Malachai Johnson. However, some people did not go unscathed. At least 6,000 people were reported arrested during the first six days of protests, at least six people have been killed and dozens of police reportedly have been injured, with at least one death.

Please turn to A6



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Richard Waller Jr. stands outside his family's business on Broad Street that was vandalized Friday and Saturday night.

Business owners sweep up after vandalism

By Ronald E. Carrington and George Copeland Jr.

One of Richmond's oldest family jewelry stores is recovering from late-night looting and vandalism last weekend by rogue elements attached to local protests of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Surveillance cameras showed that Waller & Co. Jewelers at 19 E. Broad St. suffered damage last Friday and Saturday when the shop's front window and inside jewelry cases were broken and merchandise was stolen, said Richard Waller Jr., owner of the 120-year-old business that has been in the family for four generations.

Mr. Waller and his son, David, were busy Wednesday morning taking inventory for insurance claims.

Please turn to A6

Henrico, Chesterfield able to reopen under Phase Two of COVID-19 plan

By George Copeland Jr.

Restaurants in Henrico and Chesterfield will be able to open Friday for limited indoor dining, along with gyms, museums, zoos, botanical gardens and sports facilities as most of the state enters Phase Two of Gov. Ralph S. Northam's reopening guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor announced the progression of the state's reopening during a news conference Tuesday, in which he said Richmond and Northern Virginia will remain under Phase One because of their delayed schedule. Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, he said, has not yet moved to the first phase because of its still high infection rate from the coronavirus.

Phase Two reopening will allow gatherings of up to 50 people, with restaurants able to operate indoor dining at 50 percent capacity, and indoor classes and workouts in gyms and fitness centers at 30 percent capacity. Public places like zoos, museums, botanical gardens and sports facilities also will be allowed to reopen with certain restrictions, Gov. Northam said.

Please turn to A6

Free COVID-19 testing

Free testing for COVID-19 continues by the Richmond and Henrico health districts. The latest testing events are:

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Thursday, June 4 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Tuckahoe Middle School	9000 Three Chopt Road, in Western Henrico
Friday, June 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hotchkiss Field Community Center	701 E. Brookland Park Blvd.

Both events will be held regardless of the weather. To register, call the Richmond and Henrico COVID-19 Hotline at (804) 205-3501 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-up testing will be done at both sites while test supplies last.

Local News



Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Cityscape

Slices of life and scenes in Richmond

It took months of preparation but only 16 seconds for the former headquarters of Dominion Energy at One James River Plaza in Downtown to be turned into rubble at 7 a.m. last Saturday to make way for a possible new office tower. The 21-story building at 701 E. Cary St. was imploded, a method that allows the floors to collapse onto themselves. Nine nearly simultaneous explosions were triggered to bring the 42-year-old building down, leaving the debris for workers and heavy equipment to remove. The implosion was rated a success; there were no reports of damage to nearby buildings or city utilities. Scores of people found vantage points outside the 15-block safety zone to see the event live, while others watched on TV or via Dominion's livestream. Dominion is contemplating plans to construct a new building on the site. Already, the company has erected the first of two towers next door at 600 E. Canal St. and has approval to build a matching tower on the site where One James River Plaza stood.

Black Lives Matter not welcome on billboards?

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Is Lamar Advertising, which owns a major share of the nation's highway billboards, preventing clients from posting signs using the phrase "Black Lives Matter"?

A spokeswoman for the Baton Rouge, La.-based company said the company is not banning the slogan from its signs.

But Brian Robertson of Richmond-based Marion Marketing Global said Wednesday that two businesses he represents who had purchased space on Lamar digital billboards were rejected when they sought to change their message to include the slogan.

Mr. Robertson said the businesses were told that a slogan like "All Lives Matter" would be considered. He did not identify the businesses.

He said he was surprised, noting the company is usually open to allowing controversial messages.

For example, opponents of the proposed Navy Hill development plan in the city's Downtown paid for billboard signs urging City Council to kill the \$1.5 billion proposal.

The company also has allowed billboard signs that urged the firing of the University of Richmond basketball coach.

Allie McAlpin, a spokeswoman for Lamar, stated that the company "has accepted Black Lives Matter copy in the past, and we will continue to accept it. Lamar Advertising supports the First Amendment" and allows clients to convey "political, editorial, public service and other noncommercial messages."

The company, itself, has identified with police and supported the "Blue Lives Matter" movement five years ago by splashing that slogan on 302 billboards across the country. That 2015 campaign led to criticism that the company's action sought to minimize the Black Lives Matter movement that was surging at the time, largely in reaction to a police officer's killing of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

Driving? Only hands-free cell phone use allowed in city

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Holding a cell phone while driving in Richmond could cost you \$125, beginning next week.

The Richmond Police Department announced that on Tuesday, June 9, officers will begin pulling over and ticketing drivers who are observed using a cell phone in their hand while driving.

Richmond City Council passed legislation in December proposed by Mayor Levar M. Stoney that makes cell phone use a primary offense for drivers on city streets, but enforcement was delayed six months to allow drivers to adjust.

The law only applies in the city and is not a state traffic offense, though that soon will change.

For now, the city law will "allow officers to take action ... without having to also observe evidence of distraction," the Richmond Police Department stated.

The fine for a first offense is \$125; it grows to \$250 for any additional offenses, according to the approved ordinance.

The ordinance only applies to drivers who are actually in motion, but not to those who are stopped at a traffic light or stop sign or are legally parked. It also does not apply to those using the phone to dial 911 to report an emergency, the department stated.

In February, the General Assembly followed Richmond's lead and passed an almost identical law. Richmond Delegate Jeff M. Bourne proposed the bill that has been signed by the governor, with enforcement to begin in January 2021.

The new state law authorizes fines of \$125 for a first offense and \$250 for each additional offense and will affect driving records.

Bookkeeping problems plague city operations, budgets

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Sloppy bookkeeping at City Hall led to \$3 million in revenue being squirreled away in unused accounts — and unavailable to pay for schools, tree pruning and a host of other city operations.

That includes a nearly \$1.1 million check for utility sales tax that was credited to the wrong account.

Meanwhile, the same sloppiness led the public law library at the Richmond Public Library's Main Branch in Downtown to fall into a \$324,000 deficit as of June 30, 2019, even as the city was improperly spending \$1.07 million from fees collected from a cable company to redesign its website.

Those and other findings are contained in a newly released audit that is critical of the handling of special revenue funds by Mayor Levar M. Stoney's administration. Special revenue funds include money from grants, user fees, taxes and other money that is set aside for a specific purpose.

The Stoney administration is promising to make corrections in accepting all of City Auditor Louis G. Lassiter's recommendations for improvement.

The findings follow a March audit that found the city was paying penalties to the Internal Revenue Service for failing to issue 1099 tax forms to vendors spelling out how much money the city paid them. The tax forms are used as part of vendors' income tax filings.

Mr. Lassiter noted in the new May 21 audit that Richmond has 95 special funds — or more than Roanoke, Virginia Beach and Chesterfield and Henrico counties combined. Henrico is second with just 24.

Of the 95 accounts, only 34 actually meet guidelines, Mr. Lassiter stated. Of the rest, at least 49 are inactive or should not have been listed as special funds.

In the 2018-19 fiscal year, there were at least 40 special fund accounts that had "neither revenues nor expenditures and 23 that did not have either a beginning or ending balance," the auditor's team found. But approximately \$2 million was still held in those accounts that should have been included in the general fund, the audit states.

According to the report, the audit team "concluded the internal controls over the special funds revenue process are significantly weak and need improvement."

The audit team found that policies and procedures to guide city staff through the process did not exist, that revenues were not always tracked or properly coded or managed appropriately.

In the case of the nearly \$1.1 million check for utility sales taxes, it was erroneously reported in a special fund rather than the general fund.

According to the report, city Finance Director John B. Wack identified the problem in August 2019 in a review of the 2018-19 fiscal year revenues and asked the staff to research it. But that never happened, the audit notes, leaving revenues for that fiscal year understated.

The Finance Department moved the money to the general fund only after au-

ditors conducting their review noted that the money was still in the wrong account, the report stated. One main reason is that no one in the Finance Department was assigned responsibility to follow up on such situations each quarter, the audit found in recommending that change.

Other problems the report noted include misuse of the fund that holds the recurring fee that Comcast pays the city as part of its cable television service franchise agreement.

According to the report, the lack of oversight allowed the city to improperly tap the Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) fund that is supposed to be used to support capital costs for various public cable channels. That includes using the fund to pay for the library's website revamp and to provide \$157,000 to help pay for a \$500,000 renovation of an internal production studio at City Hall.

The auditors also found that \$120,000 that was to go into the PEG fund was improperly assigned to general fund accounts.

In other examples of sloppiness, the audit noted that a voided \$14,000 check was credited as revenue to one account, while the Finance Department staff created a deficit in another account by failing to properly record the funds that were to flow into it. In a third account, the finance staff improperly understated revenue by nearly \$558,000.

At least two funds were listed in deficit because of Finance Department mistakes in recording revenue or improperly moving money to the general fund, according to the report.



Mr. Lassiter

June 16 deadline approaching for absentee ballot applications

Free Press staff report

Early voting in the upcoming Tuesday, June 23, primary is underway. Rule changes are making it fairly easy to vote absentee ahead of Election Day in the contests to choose Democratic and Republican nominees to run for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

In Richmond, Democratic primary voters will be choosing a candidate for the 4th Congressional District. The district's current representative, A. Donald McEachin, is facing a challenge from R. Cazel Levine.

In the Republican primary, Alissa A. Baldwin, Daniel M. Gade and Thomas A. Speciale II are vying for the GOP nomina-

tion to challenge incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner in the November election.

People can vote in person from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at their local voter registrar's office in a process that is likely to be even more popular after July 1 when early voting can be done without having to provide an excuse.

In Richmond, the voter registrar's office is on the first floor of City Hall at 9th and Broad streets. Early voters will need an ID and may choose reason "2A My disability or illness" for voting absentee because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who wish to vote by mail have until Tuesday, June 16, to apply for their mailed ballot. The ballots need to be

returned to the local registrar's office by June 23 to be counted.

Registered voters with computers or smartphones can apply online for a mailed ballot at the Virginia Department of Elections website, elections.virginia.gov. People with computers also can print out the absentee ballot application from the elections.virginia.gov website.

Richmonders without printers can email voterregistration@richmondgov.com to request an application for an absentee ballot.

Voters also can call the city voter registrar's office at (804) 646-5950 or the City of Richmond's customer service line at 311 or to request an application for an absentee ballot.

School Board approves new math, language arts curricula

By Ronald E. Carrington

After more than a month of seesaw debating, the Richmond School Board approved new curricula Monday night in two separate votes.

Approval of the math curriculum, Eureka Math, and reading curriculum, E.L. Education, were both passed 8-1, with board member Kenya Gibson, 3rd District, the lone dissenter each time.

The cost for the new K-8 instructional English language arts and math packages is \$1.5 million, which is half the cost of Benchmark Literacy for reading and Envisions for math that are presently used in the district.

Ms. Gibson's dissent hinged on the question of the curricula's cost as well as the learning approach for students.

According to Dr. Tracy Epp, RPS' chief academic officer, the curricula are resources and a common platform for teachers to adopt and then craft for their classes instead of creating teaching tools from scratch.

The math and language programs are written specifically for Virginia to ensure integration, practice and mastery of the state Stan-



Dr. Epp

dards of Learning tests. Both lend themselves to virtual instruction, RPS officials said, a positive if fall school openings are delayed.

However, in the month leading up to Monday night's vote, parents and a few School Board members questioned whether this is the best time to roll out a new curricula. Others were ready to launch it.

According to Dr. Epp, the intent is to fully implement the new math curriculum in the 2020-21 school year phasing in the English language arts curriculum for schools that feel ready.

"Schools can request flexibility to delay implementation for another year if it is better for them," Dr. Epp said.

According to the administration, the last time RPS adopted a new curriculum was six or seven years ago. The SOLs have changed twice during that period and the system does not have a curriculum at the middle school level, officials said.

Board member Elizabeth Doerr, 1st District, supported adoption of the new curricula after learning RPS has not had

a systemwide standard textbook for middle school in 17 years. Officials said Benchmark Literacy and Envisions did not have continuity from elementary to middle school, therefore, over the years, academics tended to slip at the middle school level.

In a previous board meeting, Superintendent Jason Kamras informed the board that Richmond is to receive \$13 million in federal COVID-19 stimulus funding from the U.S. Department of Education. However, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos stipulated that \$3 million of that had to be shared with private schools, which was challenged by lawyers for RPS.

Mr. Kamras told the board Monday that some of the stimulus funding for private schools had not materialized as originally anticipated.

"It is looking like the district will receive about \$13 million being available to RPS," Mr. Kamras told the board. "This means there is an additional \$3 million beyond the original \$10 million we discussed at our last meeting," he said.

The additional money will be used for RPS' coronavirus response if schools remain closed or close again during a fall resurgence of the virus.

Let the summer play.

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Upset, unrest

Free Press photographers Regina H. Boone and Sandra Sellars have been documenting the Richmond protests that began Friday night and continued through Wednesday by thousands of people calling for change following the brutal death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police.

These two pages reflect their photographic views of the unfolding events in the city.

Friday



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Tangelic Ellis holds her sign high as she stands in Monroe Park at the first protest in Richmond over the death of George Floyd. The 20-year-old Northern Virginia resident joined hundreds who took the protest to city streets.



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

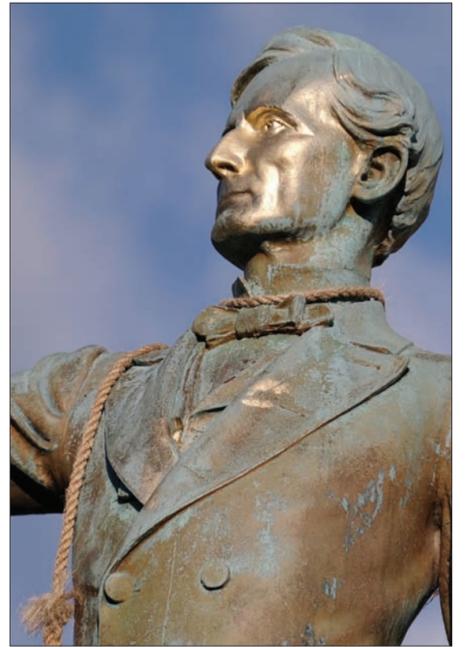
The flood of protesters, most masked against the coronavirus, turned off Broad Street and flow onto 2nd Street on their way to the State Capitol in what was then a peaceful action.



Saturday

Daylight reveals the spray-painted pedestal, left, of the Robert E. Lee statue at Monument and Allen avenues. Just a few blocks away, right, the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis sports a noose, the remnant of a rope someone unsuccessfully sought to use to pull down the statue. Below left, the burned out hulk of a GRTC Pulse bus was still at Belvidere and Broad streets as the sun rose — one of the most visible signs of the violence that took over the protest Friday night. Below right, Paul Tribble, owner of menswear and shirtmaker Ledbury, looks out of the glassless window of his storefront at 315 W. Broad St., one of the Downtown stores that was looted.

Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Sunday



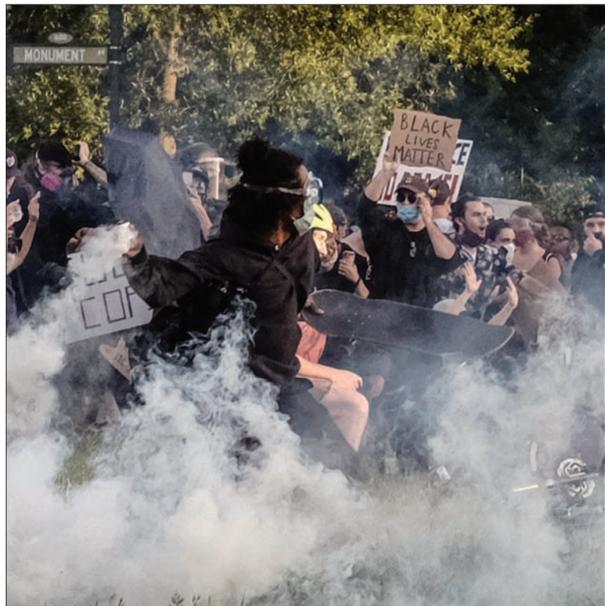
Kenyan Smith speaks passionately about the issues at a protest that brought people to Shockoe Bottom, as one of the organizers, Quiara Holmes, assists with the mega phone. Right, people march peacefully, but with passion, through the city to get to the event.



Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Photo Feature

Monday



Protesters participating in a peaceful demonstration react to being hit by Richmond Police with tear gas and pepper spray on Monument Avenue at the Robert E. Lee statue on Monday about 30 minutes before the city's curfew. Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Tuesday



Left, an angry and frustrated crowd of about 1,500 people call for the resignation of Mayor Levar M. Stoney and Police Chief Will Smith on Tuesday at City Hall despite the mayor's and chief's apology for police actions on Monday evening. Above, in the midst of the crowd gathered Tuesday at the Lee statue, Kyle Rudd paints a picture honoring George Floyd of Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor of Louisville, both victims of police violence. The march and rally around him on Tuesday was peaceful. Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Virginia: Open with care. COVID-19 isn't over.

We're making progress, but we can't leave behind all the safety measures we've been taking. They're working! That's why, when you visit your local stores, restaurants, and places of worship, they'll only allow in half as many people as before. And they need all of us to do our part to keep them safe.

Please continue to:



Wear a mask in public.



Stay 6 feet away from others.



Wash your hands often.



Get tested if you're sick!

More at vdh.virginia.gov, or call **2-1-1** for help with food, shelter or safety.



VIRGINIA'S HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS.
Do your part, stop the spread.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Plans for reform by Northam and Stoney after city erupts

Continued from A1

to introduce legislation to remove the four other Confederate statues on Monument Avenue. Dr. Jones has been the leading advocate on City Council for removing the statues.

The mayor stated that the statue removal legislation, the first of several reform initiatives he plans to undertake, is to be introduced on July 1, the same day a new state law goes into effect allowing localities to take down statues of those who broke with the United States in the 1860s to create a separate nation to perpetually enslave black people.

The other statues include those of Confederate cavalry Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and Confederate Navy officer and renowned oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury.

Based on the work of a commission he formed in July 2017, the mayor previously supported only the removal of the Jefferson Davis statue and urged creation of contextual signage for the others.

However, in a statement released Wednesday, Mayor Stoney said that “times have changed, and removing those statues will allow the healing process to begin for many black Richmonders and Virginians. Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy — it is filled with diversity and love for all — and we need to demonstrate that.”

He noted that the change goes along with demands of protesters who during recent days have ensured the monument pedestals were “thoroughly spray-painted” and used them as launching pads for street marches demanding change.

The announcement of reforms aimed at what the mayor said would improve equity and change policy, were issued a day after Mayor Stoney and Police Chief Will Smith faced a raucous crowd of protesters to apologize for police tear-gassing people on Monday night.

Among the key reforms the mayor announced that he is backing:

- Enacting the Marcus Alert, named for 24-year-old Marcus-David Peters, a naked and unarmed public schoolteacher who was fatally shot when he charged a Richmond Police officer in May 2018 while experiencing a mental health crisis. The alert program that Chief Smith supports would allow city officers to bring in a mental health professional from the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to help de-escalate such situations. The family of Mr. Peters has been advocating for such a policy since his death.

- Taking steps to ensure racial equity is a core component of the city government’s policies and practices, a proposal 6th District Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson put forward. Among other things, the initiative would include racial equity training for staff, departmental action plans and a study to provide a roadmap to improve inclusion and equity in city government, according to the mayor’s statement.

On Monday night, up to 5,000 people gathered at the Lee statue to continue their calls for justice and change in the wake of the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed man who was placed on his stomach, hands cuffed behind his back, in a Minneapolis street by a white police officer who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for nearly 9 minutes.

Despite the protest being peaceful and at least 30 minutes left before an 8 p.m. curfew went into effect, Richmond Police officers without warning began firing tear gas into the crowd and pepper spraying those who did not disperse.

Adding insult to injury, the Richmond Police initially released a statement to justify the action that turned out to be false. That statement claimed that some officers engaged with violent protesters and were separated from the rest of the police force and the gassing was aimed at halting any conflict — a statement that people present told the Free Press had no basis in fact.

Just a few hours later, Chief Smith acknowledged that officers who had fired the tear gas had taken action in violation of department policy and would face discipline.

Mayor Stoney apologized in a tweet and also urged those affected by the tear gas and pepper spray to come to City Hall on Tuesday so he could personally apologize.

Facing a crowd of up to 1,600 people that sprawled across Marshall Street into the plaza of the city Social Services building, the mayor sought to apologize on Tuesday, though he was

often shouted down by the crowd.

“It should not have happened,” Mayor Stoney told the crowd, adding that as a 39-year-old black man, he feels the same pain many do from Mr. Floyd’s death. The mayor said the city and its police department violated its contract with protesters — that if they kept the demonstrations peaceful, the police would not intervene or disrupt the event.

“We violated that contract,” he said.

Mayor Stoney was moved when 8-year-old Raigen Tucker, who was among those tear-gassed, was lifted on shoulders and told the mayor, “I’m scared.” Raigen’s mother, Latisha Carson, added that her daughter is afraid police are “going to shoot tear gas at us.”

While little was settled, the mayor ended up walking Tuesday evening with protesters from the State Capital to the Lee monument. He was joined by Councilman Jones and Henrico Delegate Lamont Bagby, chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus.

Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax also participated, as did Richmond state Sens. Ghazala F. Hashmi and Jennifer L. McClellan, who all stayed after the mayor left to a chorus of boos before the 8 p.m. curfew went into effect.

Mayor Stoney used the moment to begin outlining the reforms on Wednesday.

“Yesterday, I marched with Richmond for Richmond,” the mayor stated in the release. “George Floyd’s death may have happened in Minneapolis, but the shockwaves are bringing very valid pain to the surface in our city.

“Last night,” he continued, “Richmond told me to channel our city’s pain into reform. We have so much work to do to build an equitable city. That entails reforms to address racist systems, combating this public health crisis, addressing health inequities, and remaining committed to my administration’s priorities to lift people up, including affordable housing, strong public education systems, economic empowerment and fast and reliable public transportation.”

Henrico, Chesterfield able to reopen under Phase Two

Continued from A1

Restrictions remain in place, however, with swimming pools able to open only for exercise and swimming instruction, and no shared equipment allowed for outdoor sports.

Businesses seeking to operate under Phase Two must follow a number of social distancing guidelines, including clear signage and communication on physical distancing in areas people may gather, encouraging telework when possible and spreading out workstations when it isn’t, and limiting the length, attendance and amount of in-person gatherings like conferences and training meetings.

In addition, face coverings or masks are still required in public buildings under Phase Two, while Virginia’s state of emergency, which was to end on June 10, was extended indefinitely.

Gov. Northam also cautioned that, at this point in the pandemic, risks from the coronavirus still persist and that isolation remains a valid and valuable option for residents as localities adapt to the newest status quo.

“We are still safer at home,” he said.

On Wednesday, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Virginia had risen to 46,239, hospitalizations to 4,884 and deaths to 1,428, according to the Virginia Health Department.

As of Tuesday, African-Americans made up 14 percent of cases and 20 percent of deaths in which racial and ethnic data was available, while Latinos comprised 32 percent of cases and 9 percent of deaths.

Thousands of protesters hit the streets

Continued from A1

In multiple states, including Virginia, the National Guard was mobilized to support police to quell weekend violence as numerous cities, including Richmond, reported buildings and cars burned and stores looted.

Richmond was among the places that imposed curfews. The 8 p.m. curfew led to 233 arrests in Richmond on Sunday night — at least half of which were of people who reportedly live outside the city. Police backed off making such arrests after magistrates and the Richmond Justice Center were overwhelmed in processing so many. Some detainees waited 15 hours or more to be processed.

The city police also backed off after the curfews failed to deter people from protesting late into the night, keeping more of an eye out for people seeking to do damage. Early Wednesday, police reported arresting at least seven people with handguns and fire-making accelerants who had been part of earlier protest marches. The curfew expired at 6 a.m. Wednesday, and city officials did not seek to extend it.

The protests also brought attention to the deaths of Mr. Floyd and other African-Americans, including Ahmaud Arbery, whom white vigilantes killed on Feb. 23 as he jogged outside Brunswick, Ga., and Breonna Taylor, an EMS worker whom Louisville police officers killed on March 13 during a mistaken raid.

Dr. Stephen Webster, author of a new book, “American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics,”

said in an interview that the time is ripe for rage.

Along with the high-profile killings of black people at the hands of white officers and others, “there are the inequalities in how the pandemic has affected black Americans,” Dr. Webster said. “We’re angry for so many reasons. If you were trying to make a cocktail of anger, this would be the perfect set of ingredients.”

When the protests will end is uncertain, though there appear to be signs that they are waning. On Wednesday evening at Free Press deadline, several hundred mostly young, mostly white, people marched in protest down Franklin Street to the State Capitol — a familiar route for many of the marches.

Whether the protests result in change remains to be seen.

In Virginia, some political leaders, including Gov. Ralph S. Northam, are pushing for new studies and recommendations to root out racist policies. Separately, some members of the General Assembly, including Richmond state Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi, are laying out aggressive legislative agendas that could bring change in laws and policies involving police.

Some are calling for laws to reduce or limit the qualified immunity that largely shields officers from lawsuits.

And the governor and Mayor Levar M. Stoney are announcing plans to remove the Confederate statues — racist reminders of oppression — from Monument Avenue.

Mayor Stoney, 5th District City Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch and other members of City Council,

who, like him, are facing re-election, also are talking up new policies, including support for a civilian review panel to investigate allegations of police misconduct.

Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District, also plans to bring back legislation that would seek “to reform all operations and budgeting to correct the city’s history of disparities.”

Applauding the energy and passion of the protesters, Ms. Robertson urged them to “stay strong” and join the effort to get rid of the “inequities in health care, finances, education, housing, nutrition and other basic necessities.”

What is certain is that the protests and related vandalism upended the attempt to reopen Richmond during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the Downtown area.

Many city business owners, who had welcomed May 29 as their first opportunity to reopen and serve customers again, had customers disappear during the weekend and the early part of the week.

“We started strong,” barber Marvin Smith said Monday, “but all this has made it harder. I haven’t had a customer all day.”

Like in many cities, a big chunk of Richmond’s retail areas looks like it has been hit by a hurricane. Many of the storefronts in Downtown, Midtown and Carytown have boards over their windows, with signs or stickers prominently displaying BLM or Black Lives Matter, to ward off acts of vandalism or looting.

The city protests that began Friday night were initially peaceful, but ended with violent acts,

including the burning of a police car and windows broken at the Police Headquarters on West Grace Street. A GRTC Pulse bus also went up in flames, which led to four days of disruption of the public transit service. Some people were left stranded when GRTC shut down service through Monday night.

The violence also led to the looting of a state liquor store near Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as substantial damage to and closure of the new Whole Foods grocery store and the 24-hour Rite Aid pharmacy at Belvidere and Broad streets.

The Franklin Express convenience store in the 500 block of East Franklin Street was hit on Saturday and Sunday. Owner Shamsun Chowdhury reported that \$10,000 worth of cigarettes, lottery tickets, beer and wine was taken, which did not include the damage from smashed windows, which cost more than \$3,000 to board up.

“Why did they have to do this?” Ms. Choudhury asked.

The damage provided a windfall to carpenters and glass replacement companies, but was another financial hit for owners already struggling to stay in business as a result of the pandemic.

Still, for many, the actions seem like an opportunity to bring a long overdue change.

“I’m here because I see this as an opportunity to start change that will impact my children,” said protester Jessica Swann, a 27-year-old computer technician. “When I see all these people coming out and taking a stand, I think it is a real opportunity for all of us to make a difference.”

Business owners sweep up after vandalism

Continued from A1

Mr. Waller said he is not sure yet of the value of all of the items that were stolen when the store was ransacked.

One family treasure, a 1922 display case, survived with its merchandise intact. He showed it off Wednesday, noting that he cleaned the case as a youngster when he started helping out in the shop that was founded by his grandfather, Marcellus C. Waller, in 1900.

“The family is happy vandals didn’t touch it,” he said of the display case. “We are going to be alright. This is just a bump in the road.”

Mr. Waller recalled surviving past unrest in Richmond following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968.

At the time, “looters came through the back of my store and took everything out of my only showcase,” he said. The store was located north of Broad Street then, in a building rented from Barky’s Record Store.

“We lived through it,” he said.

Mr. Waller said his faith is keeping him strong and optimistic now. On Sunday morning, about 80 members of black sororities and fraternities showed up at the store to help with the cleanup. Mr. Waller said he and his family were surprised.

Because all the glass had been cleaned up, he said, “they helped the store by buying fraternity and sorority merchandise. One of the sorority members built us a GoFundMe page.”

After the second night of vandalism, Mr. Waller posted a sign on the plywood covering the shop’s broken windows. It said: “Waller & Co. Jewelers is a small black-owned business. Please don’t break our windows. Thanks.”

Other small businesses are working to salvage

what remains and continue operations.

“I’m definitely trying to continue to go forward, but it took a toll,” said Leonard G. Blue, president of Experimax of Richmond, an Apple computer sales and repair shop in the 1300 block of West Main Street near Virginia Commonwealth University.

Vandals broke in through the front of his store and stole computers in the shop for repair.

“I’m just taking it a day at a time,” Mr. Blue said.

The destruction and looting have been blamed largely on outside agitators, but nothing further has been confirmed. Some Richmond residents have been volunteering to help clean up and repair the damage where they can.

“I’m truly grateful to the community of the city of Richmond and the surrounding community for reaching out to us and making sure we’re doing OK,” Mr. Blue said.

He suggested people interested in helping donate used electronics for recycling or help replace inventory.

On Friday night, a largely white crowd reportedly sought to burn Jamal’s Hair Salon in the 300 block of North 1st St., only to be stopped by the owner who was sleeping inside on Friday and Saturday night.

A similarly described group tried to burn the 2C Condominium Building Apartments, formerly the Virginia Mutual Insurance Co. building at 2nd and Clay streets in Jackson Ward on Saturday night, according to Wanda Stallings, whose family owns the building.

Ms. Stallings said a resident stopped the group by showing the buildings were owned by Ms. Stallings’ family, pulling up on a cell phone records from the city assessor’s office and a photo of Ms. Stallings. An accelerant poured

in front of the building before the crowd was halted was later washed away by the Richmond Fire Department, Ms. Stallings said.

Barksdale “Barky” Haggins, owner of the Barky’s Spiritual Store at 18 E. Broad St., said people on the streets avoided looting or damaging his business, which was started in 1956 nearby on First Street.

He said he is contributing financially to the repair and restocking of other businesses that weren’t as fortunate.

Mr. Haggins expressed concern about the potential negative impact a focus on the damage and looting will have on businesses that are trying to stay afloat despite restrictions caused by the pandemic.

“They’re a lot of people who would like to come out, but they’re afraid,” he said.

Richmond City Councilwoman Kim B. Gray, vice chair of the council’s Public Safety Committee, was out on Friday, Saturday and Sunday helping businesses clean up and board up.

She held an impromptu 90-minute meeting Monday with Marvin Smith, owner of The Barber Shop On2 at 420 N. 2nd St., and several other business owners, where they vented their concerns and brainstormed solutions to the issues that had sparked the protests.

“They wanted to let people know they are not collateral damage and don’t want to be,” Ms. Gray said.

Ideas from the meeting included more community policing, greater civilian oversight of law enforcement, increased transparency from the police department and more connections between police and community.

Free Press staff writer Jeremy M. Lazarus contributed to this article.



RRHA
Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice to Citizens of Richmond, Virginia

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) is proposing to convey 2124 N. 29th Street, Richmond to Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School in exchange for seven nearby vacant parcels owned by the school. This transaction will serve the goals of allowing the school to continue operating and serving the community and RRHA residents while also creating opportunities to expand services to the community and RRHA residents and assisting RRHA’s redevelopment and community revitalization efforts in the city of Richmond.

RRHA’s Board of Commissioners will consider a resolution approving this transaction at their next regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be conducted virtually using GoToMeeting.

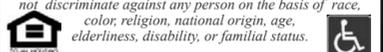
A copy of the proposed resolution will be available beginning **Wednesday, May 26, 2020** on our website at www.rrha.com.

All interested persons wishing to comment on the proposed plan may submit written comments to RRHA, Attention: Office of the Chief Executive Officer, 901 Chamberlayne Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23220, by **Tuesday, June 16, 2020**.

The public meeting will be available in audio and video formats. A sign language interpreter or other accommodations will be provided upon request. To request assistance, please contact RRHA seven (7) business days in advance of the meeting at (804) 780-4276 or TDD – Dial 711.

RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER (M/F/H).

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, elderliness, disability, or familial status.



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As we continue to respond to the outbreak of the coronavirus, Dominion Energy is hard at work safeguarding the well-being of our communities. You depend on us 24/7 to serve you safely and reliably, and it is a responsibility we take seriously. But with a recent increase in scams, it is more important than ever that we look after one another. The following actions can help.

Identify

Signs of potential scam activity include:

- Aggressive threats to disconnect service (usually within an hour or less)
- Insistence on immediate payment over the phone
- Demand for a pre-paid debit card or credit card to be used for payment over the phone.

Verify

If a scammer visits you in person, always ask to see their company photo identification card, and look for a vehicle clearly displaying the Dominion Energy logo. And if you receive a suspicious call, hang up and call us at **866-366-4357**, or log in to your account online, to verify if payment is due.

Report

If possible, collect information, such as phone numbers or names, to help us all track down scammers. Report suspicious calls, texts, and emails to Dominion Energy and to local authorities to help prevent you or anyone else from falling victim.

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Dominion Energy is NOT disconnecting customers for nonpayment right now.

We will never call, text, or email you to request personal information such as your Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account number. Scammers may be trying to steal your identity, your money, or both.

Never purchase a pre-paid card to avoid shut off – we will never insist on just one type of payment. You can pay in-person, online through your account, or at a designated payment center.

And without an appointment, never allow anyone into your home.

For more information about how to recognize scams, and what to do if you think you have been a victim of a scam, visit **[DominionEnergy.com/scams](https://www.dominionenergy.com/scams)**.



Actions Speak Louder

Martyrdom and change

George Floyd is now a martyr, his death precipitating marches across the nation and around the globe. His picture is a symbol for people of conscience everywhere.

Now, his life and his death stand for something greater than himself — racial justice, equity and reform.

But the same malignant forces of bias and terrorism that allowed a police officer to put his knee on George Floyd's neck for nearly 9 minutes and killing him can be seen in cities like Richmond where, on a lesser scale, police disregarded the law and pepper-sprayed hundreds of peaceful protesters around the Lee Monument on Monday night.

Gratefully, that was a non-lethal action. It should be a wake-up call to Richmond Police Chief Will Smith, Mayor Levar M. Stoney, City Council and all elected and appointed city officials that something is rotten in the police department and that change must be immediate and obligatory.

The apologies of Chief Smith and Mayor Stoney are not enough.

While City Councilman Michael Jones has asked for Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette W. McEachin to investigate the police tear-gassing that occurred roughly 30 minutes before the 8 p.m. curfew, we believe an independent investigation is needed. How can we expect prosecutors to conduct an impartial investigation of police with whom they work closely day by day in the city?

This is another reason why we demand creation of an independent citizen review panel to help ensure those who are sworn to protect and serve the community are held accountable. We are certain that funding such an independent panel with the authority to act would lessen the likelihood of police officers engaging in unlawful actions that potentially could cost the city huge legal payouts.

Our patience has worn thin. Empty rhetoric by elected officials at all levels is worthless. The scale and persistence of protests in Richmond and across the nation signal that people are clamoring for real change. No one wants to live in fear of being harmed or killed by police simply because of the color of their skin. Encounters with police should not become a matter of life or death. We cannot keep praying that a cell phone video will be our savior.

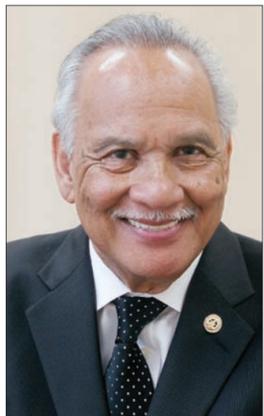
For students, young freedom fighters and OGs alike, this is more than a civics lesson. The haunting video of George Floyd's death pricks the conscience of right-minded people around the globe to take action for change in the face of brutality, inhumanity and injustice. The graphic video demonstrates even to white people the need to dismantle the racist policies and practices within the criminal justice, health care, education, employment and housing systems that were deliberately designed to keep a knee on the necks of black people and from which white people have benefited.

While we welcome the energy and efforts of all people who share our cause, we caution that some people showing up on our city's streets have different motives. Their vandalism and looting are designed to purposely undermine our mission and subvert our interests for their own agendas of hatred. They are spurred by an unhinged president and white supremacist sympathizer who announced this week his intent to turn federal troops against the people of the United States. We have to make sure that their racism doesn't pervert our demand for justice.

Racism is a public health crisis. And racism kills. We must stop it from killing again.

In remembrance

This week, we mark the sixth anniversary of the loss of Raymond H. Boone, the late founder, editor and publisher of the Richmond Free Press.



Raymond H. Boone
Feb. 2, 1938 – June 3, 2014

Throughout his life and on the pages of this newspaper, he battled injustice with an unmatched vigilance. He was unrelenting in his pursuit of truth, justice and equality.

While many listened to him, few acted. The result of that inaction by civic leaders is what we have witnessed in our city and across our nation during the past few days.

With the community's latest awakening, we hope the power of his ideas will continue to ignite the energies of people of conscience going forward.

Colorful cardinal in the West End



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

How we can heal?

Words fail when I try to describe the events of the past few weeks. In the midst of a pandemic that disproportionately kills black and brown people, the pain, suffering and anger over the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd have touched every community in America, including Richmond.



Like so many others, I am overcome by the sheer, utter exhaustion of being black in America. We are exhausted. We are hurting. We are frustrated. We are scared. We are angry. None of these feelings are new; we've seen and felt it all before. We all feel the pain of the endless struggle to make the ideals upon which this nation was created a reality for all, despite a foundation of inequitable hierarchy.

As I reflect upon this moment, I also remember the countless lives lost to racial

terror, police brutality and failures to de-escalate crisis: Marcus-David Peters, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Freddie Gray, Clementa Pinckney and the thousands of victims of racial terror lynchings in this country.

In the midst of this pain,

Sen. Jennifer L. McClellan

my heart breaks again to see incidents of violence in my own community directed toward homes and businesses, including black-owned businesses such as Waller & Company, Richmond's oldest black-owned jeweler and watch repair shop. Today, visiting with community members and black business owners, it is clear that this has only added to the trauma and stress they are already feeling. Yet, they are resilient and remain focused on pushing through the pain toward progress.

Over the past few days I have been pondering the same question Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. pondered during the last year of his life: "Where Do We Go From Here?" The answer in part was answered more than 50 years ago not only in his speech and book of the same name, but in the Kerner Commission's report on the 1967 race riots.

Concluding that "[o]ur nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal," the Kerner report offered many policy recommendations on a wide range of issues, including hiring a more diverse and sensitive police force. Dr. King called the report a "physician's warning of approaching death, with a prescription for life."

But nobody listened. It is time for us to finally fill the prescription.

We must commit to criminal justice reforms that center training in bias, crisis de-escalation and intervention practices for law enforcement and the criminal justice system. We must create and enforce methods of review and transparency in investigations of misconduct

at all levels. We must enact policies that uplift the marginalized and provide the tools they need to thrive in our economic, education, health, justice and political systems.

We cannot let the lives lost be in vain. Only by following the call to action to strengthen our communities and end inequity and injustice in America can we truly heal.

The writer, an attorney, has served in the Virginia General Assembly the last 14 years. She currently represents the 9th District in the state Senate, which includes Richmond and a portion of Henrico, Hanover and Charles City counties. Sen. McClellan also is chair of the state's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission.

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'This must stop!'

In his poem "No Man Is an Island," John Donne wrote, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

I've always been involved in humanitarian issues and the universality of justice. This past week has been exceptionally difficult for me and anyone else with even an iota of human compassion. Two unnecessary murders of black men have monopolized our airwaves and will be the topic of discussion for the foreseeable future. The current social turmoil pushes me to the limits of my endurance.

On Sunday, May 24, readers of The New York Times were greeted with a front page listing the names of 1,000 COVID-19 victims. Following was the announcement that the United States had surpassed the unwelcomed milestone of 100,000 deaths. While shocking and heart-rending numbers, I'm sure others were woefully desensitized to the full scope of loss from COVID-19.

To put these COVID-19 numbers into perspective, a comparison to the Vietnam War isn't unreasonable. By official measure, the number of American deaths in Vietnam was 58,220. That number was matched and surpassed in late April for COVID-19



deaths. Reaching the 100,000 milestone signifies a point of nearly doubling the loss of life in Vietnam. The greater tragedy is that it took U.S. forces 19 years in Vietnam to reach 58,000. We've nearly doubled that number in three months with the coronavirus.

Dr. E. Faye Williams

Arguably, had the Trump administration begun efforts to combat this virus one week earlier, the loss of life could have been reduced by 36,000, according to health experts. Instead, we add those names to the list of those we've lost.

Although not lost to COVID-19, one other name must be added to those we have lost – George Floyd.

By now, most Americans have seen the video of Mr. Floyd being suffocated by a Minneapolis police officer who applied near-total force of his body to Mr. Floyd's neck for 8 minutes. During that time, Mr. Floyd repeatedly begged for mercy and, probably from past life lessons, remained respectful to the police. Mr. Floyd even addressed his assailant as "Sir."

In an MSNBC interview, Princeton University Professor Eddie Glaude Jr. described this problem as one of African-Americans having to live under the "trauma" of the coronavirus and the "terrorism" of lawless policing.

Those who have lost rela-

tives or friends to the coronavirus, or even had relatives or friends contract the disease, understand the trauma and uncertainty of living under the threat of the disease. There is genuine trauma in wondering, "Who's next?" or "How can I avoid it?"

If one cannot understand the terrorism that Professor Glaude describes, imagine being apprehended, tried and executed by a rogue police officer. A store owner called the police with an allegation of Mr. Floyd passing counterfeit currency. Whether he attempted to pass bogus money or not, there is no charge of counterfeiting that results in execution.

George Floyd joins Eric Garner, choked for selling single cigarettes; Ahmaud Arbery, killed for jogging; Tamir Rice, killed for playing as a 12-year-old child would; Trayvon Martin, killed for walking home wearing a hoodie; Emmitt Till, killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman, and on and on.

George Floyd endured suffocation and ridicule to the point of his death. These killings are the result of ideation that denies the humanity of the victims. They cannot be excused because of mental illness. They are deluded expressions of superiority and control over selected victims. This must stop! We need no more names on this list.

The writer is national president of the National Congress of Black Women.

The Free Press welcomes letters

The Richmond Free Press respects the opinions of its readers. We want to hear from you. We invite you to write the editor. All letters will be considered for publication. Concise, typewritten letters related to public matters are preferred. Also include your telephone number(s). Letters should be addressed to: Letters to the Editor, Richmond Free Press, P.O. Box 27709, 422 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23261, or faxed to: (804) 643-7519 or e-mail: letters@richmondffreepress.com.

Letters to the Editor

Reflections on the death of George Floyd

The senseless murders of black people who posed no threat have created the effect of rioting across the country.

Virginia Union University offers condolences to the families who find themselves at the epicenter of this movement to call out the injustices to people of color throughout America. It has been 30 years since we first saw a recording of Rodney King violently beaten by law enforcement in California. The words "I Can't Breathe" are painful as we watched George Floyd's pleas for help and remember the same pleas from Eric Garner and so many others who lost their lives due to excessive force by law enforcement.

To see portions of our beloved city of Richmond burn in protest was jarring. As protests intensify across the country, our top priority is the safety of our students, many of whom live locally. They are our nation's future. This moment in time, and how we address it, will define us for generations to come.

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "A riot is the language of the unheard." Sadly, 53 years later, we still are not listening. Across the country, exhaustion has turned to rage in communities of color. While we strongly condemn any violence that compromises the safety and well-being of our communities, we also acknowledge the despair in our communities that has gotten us to this point. Activists and other concerned citizens continued to speak out against police brutality and demand a more equitable and fair society to no avail, but many people are tired of talk.

At Virginia Union University, education is our social justice. Through education we build up the strength and the belief in each student's limitless possibility despite society's expectations. We are stronger together, as a community and as a nation.

We believe the path forward demands sweeping reform to the systems that consistently oppress communities of color, and we are calling on all of our leaders to learn from this moment and listen to the voices of the unheard.

"Liberty and justice for all" must be the promise of every American. And it is our duty to fulfill it.

DR. HAKIM J. LUCAS

President and chief executive officer
Virginia Union University

The past few weeks have only rubbed raw the visceral, exhausting pain of long-standing and overarching injustice.

I know firsthand the dissonance of a lived experience that does not reflect the inalienable rights every American is entitled to — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

From our country's inception, our history has been stained with blood and trauma endured by African-Americans. Four hundred years later, the nationwide unrest (last) weekend demands that we refuse to sweep it under the rug any longer.

African-Americans live every day in a country that has never fully allowed us to join its lofty ideals and principles. That struggle is real and it is unacceptable.

Our nation must rise to meet this moment together — first with an ear to listen to the pain of those who refuse to lower their expectations to an incomplete American ideal, followed by swift action to protect black lives from violence, whether at the

hands of renegade police officers or renegade vigilantes.

REP. A. DONALD McEACHIN

Henrico

The writer represents Virginia's 4th Congressional District that stretches from Richmond and Petersburg to Hampton Roads and includes portions of Henrico and Chesterfield counties.

We bear witness to the profound outrage, horror and trauma following the inhumane murder of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department on May 25. We recognize that his murder stems from centuries of racial violence against innocent, unarmed black men, women and children in this country to uphold systems of white supremacy.

We recognize that the violence of white supremacy stretches back to the founding of this country here in Virginia. We recognize that the violence of white supremacy began with the genocide of Indigenous Nations inhabiting this land.

We recognize that the violence of white supremacy became institutionalized with the enslavement and exploitation of Africans and people of African descent. We further recognize that the violence of white supremacy continues to be perpetuated in policies and practices that inflict undue suffering and harm on communities of color.

We believe this is a defining moment when we, as people of faith and goodwill, cannot stand by in silence. We must stand up and speak out.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy condemns racial violence and racism in all forms.

We pray for all individuals, families and communities enduring pain, sorrow, rage and shock due to the impact of racial violence.

We add our Virginia voices to the national call for the criminal prosecution in the case of George Floyd's death as the first step to paving the road to justice in Minneapolis. We recognize a responsibility to speak out as we hail from the land that, beginning in 1619, kidnapped Africans and forcefully brought them here.

We believe that faith leaders have a unique responsibility and a sacred mandate to lift up the dignity and value of all human beings.

We recognize that all faiths believe in justice and, therefore, we call on people of all faiths and goodwill to join us in our work of advocating for systemic changes that would dismantle institutionalized racism.

This tragedy makes it even more urgent for us to draw closer together as partners across all religions, races and ethnicities to fight for justice and equality.

DORA MUHAMMAD

Congregation engagement director
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

The writer asks that people interested in signing VICPP's declaration of commitment to achieving racial justice and equity in Virginia go to www.tinyurl.com/racismstatement. VICPP is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 700 faith communities working for a more just society.

Feelings about the recent protests related to George Floyd's death and the looting miss the point. Feelings don't change the systems and structures that oppress and murder black and brown people. Only actions do.

To comment about the actions of others while doing nothing in your own life to actively dismantle systems of oppression is to be a part of the problem.

Believing your feelings are weighty enough to matter all on their own is part of privilege — a privilege black and brown people in this country don't enjoy. If our feelings were enough, if our anger and sadness and fear were enough, we wouldn't continue to get murdered while we sleep, play, eat, shop, drive, exercise, work, travel and just live.

Take action and support change. Educate yourself if you don't know how. Be an ally if you are white. Take all those feelings and use your power and your platform. Stand between peaceful protesters and police to protect black and brown bodies from batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray. Raise your children to understand they have to work to dismantle racist systems.

When you hear other people sharing their feelings, speak up. Remind them that the number of people peacefully protesting is far and above the small number of people acting out in other ways — and that some of those people are white and deliberately trying to undercut the power of the peaceful protests.

Focusing on your feelings is an out. Don't take the out. Take action. Work to undo the societal injustices black and brown folks live with every day.

Otherwise, please sit down and be quiet so the rest of us can focus on the work of saving our lives.

MICHERA BROOKS

New York

The League of Women Voters of Virginia stands with millions of Americans in grieving the senseless murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed and countless other black lives at the hands of law enforcement officers.

These past few weeks have served as a stark reminder of this country's pervasive systems of oppression and inequality.

It's also worth noting that these protests come in the midst of a pandemic that is affecting African-American communities at a drastically disproportionate rate.

However, it is not enough to simply grieve and mourn. We must all work to remove racist policies and continue to educate ourselves.

We will continue to work to amplify black voices and empower voters. We also recognize that besides advocacy and protesting, voting is a powerful tool that we must exercise. It is our civic duty to vote.

Check Vote411 to make sure your voter registration is up to date so you can vote. It is your voice.

DEB WAKE

President, League of Women Voters of Virginia



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

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

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Sports

Stories by Fred Jeter

VUU football player Emmanuel Antwi earns co-valedictorian honors for Class of 2020

Emmanuel Antwi was No. 53 on the football field and No. 1 in the classroom at Virginia Union University.

Few combine brains with brawn more than Antwi, a senior from Woodbridge who earned co-valedictorian honors with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

He shares top academic honors at VUU with Kyra J. Spaight of Syracuse, N.Y., who majored in biology and aspires to become a physician. Ms. Spaight will be continuing her education at the University of South Florida.

"Emmanuel is a model student-athlete," said Panthers football Coach Alvin Parker. "The distinction of being valedictorian is an accomplishment very few have achieved. I guarantee he will go far in life because he has what it takes to be successful."

Antwi completed his bachelor's degree with a concentration in history and political science. He is taking a gap year and plans to pursue a law degree at Howard University School of Law.

"Emmanuel is the type of student that comes along once in a lifetime. He is a true leader in the classroom, on the field and with organizations such as the SAAC," or Student Athlete Advisory Committee, said VUU Athletic Director Felicia Johnson. "We are



Emmanuel Antwi

proud to say he is a student-athlete and has made a difference on our campus."

Antwi is listed at 6-foot-1 and a muscular 230 pounds. He came to VUU from C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge. He wore No. 53 for the Panthers and was known for his speed and pass-rushing skills.

"There are so many memories that are special to me since I first stepped foot on campus," said Antwi. "I've gained lifelong friends, (been) granted countless networking opportunities and acquired mentors whose lessons I will carry for the rest of my life."

In addition to playing football and making straight A's in class, Antwi seems to have invented the "48-hour day." His extensive extracurricular activities included duties as community liaison for the SAAC. He was a member of the Honda Campus All-Star Team, VUU College African-American Men Mentor, the Pre-Law Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

He also pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

His talents weren't confined to campus. During the 2020 General Assembly session, Antwi interned with the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus under Delegate Jeff Bourne of Richmond.

Caylin Newton transfers from Howard to Auburn

Another quarterback named Newton is on the Auburn University football roster.

Caylin Newton, brother of former Auburn star Cam Newton, is transferring to the Southeastern Conference school from Howard University.

Cam Newton won the 2011 Heisman Trophy at Auburn and later won MVP honors in the NFL with the Carolina

Panthers.

Caylin Newton, listed at 6-feet, 195 pounds, was MEAC Rookie of the Year for Howard University in 2017, and MEAC Offensive Player of the Year for the Bisons in 2018.

He played four games this past season before dropping out of the program.

Newton, who grew up in the Atlanta area, will enter Auburn as a preferred walk-on with two years of eligibility starting immediately.



Where are the African-American catchers in MLB?

African-American baseball catchers are a vanishing breed. It's common during this time of the coronavirus to see black boys and men wearing masks at grocery stores, gas stations, banks, post offices, just about everywhere.

Everywhere, that is, except behind the plate in baseball. With masked attire now prominent in the news, let's review baseball's masked men—the catchers—or more specifically, the rarity of African-American catchers.

The last everyday African-American big league catcher was Charles Johnson, who retired in 2005.

A two-time All-Star, Johnson won four Gold Gloves in a 14-year MLB career with six different teams.

The pipeline that took Johnson to the top of the baseball world would seem to be clogged, however. Baseball has lost popularity among young African-Americans in the United States, with the catcher's position the least popular of all.

At the start of the 2019 major league season, only 7.7 percent of baseball players were African-American, none being starting catchers.

Most of the MLB people of color wearing a mask, chest protector and shin guards are from Latin America, including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and more. There are various rea-

sons suggested for the lack of African-Americans signing up for the position known as "hind-catch" on the sandlots.

Cost: In many cases, catchers have to supply their own gear. A full set might run from about \$135 to \$300. Plus, it's cumbersome to haul around if there is a transportation issue.

Role models: Youngsters like to identify with a pro player they watch on television. Because there essentially are no African-American catchers in the pros, it makes for difficult comparisons.

Ask a young prospect to name a single black catcher in the big leagues, past or present, and he or she may not have an answer.

Speed: Fair or not, catchers often are viewed as the slow kid who isn't quick and agile enough to handle another spot. That doesn't do much for a young man's street cred.

African-Americans signing up for baseball tend to be among the faster kids on the team.

Brain game: Sadly, some coaches may have stereotyped black prospects as too athletic to play catcher, and not cerebral enough to call the pitches from behind the plate. This insult would be similar to how African-Americans were slow in gaining roles as football quarterbacks.

There have been some great catchers in big league baseball, but you've got to turn back the clock to find them.

Moses Fleetwood Walker: He debuted behind the plate with the Toledo Blue Stockings in 1884. **Roy Campanella:** The first black catcher in the modern era in 1948, he won three MVP awards with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Elston Howard: He was a 12-time All-Star, sharing the Yankees' catching spot with Yogi Berra. Howard also played left field.

John Roseboro: He became Campanella's successor as

the Dodgers' catcher. He also was behind the plate for three Los Angeles World Series titles.

Earl Battey: He was a five-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner with the Minnesota Twins.

Numerous other players of color have come from the Caribbean. That group includes Ivan Rodriguez, Elrod Hendricks, Paul Casanova, Manny Sanguillen, Benito Santiago and Tony Pena.

Currently, Yadier Molina from Puerto Rico is the standout catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals and Salvador Perez of Venezuela with the Kansas City Royals. Then there's the Los Angeles Dodgers' backup catcher, Russell Martin from Canada.

Charles Johnson, born in Fort Pierce, Fla., played in 1,160 big league games, all but one at catcher. That one time was when he was the designated hitter with the Baltimore Orioles.

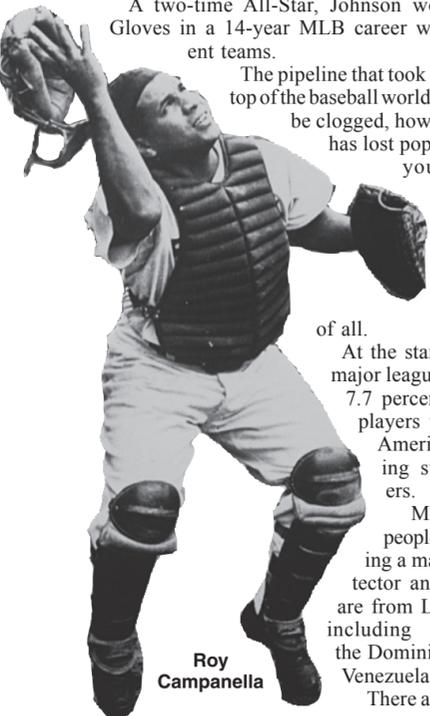
He finished his career with the Tampa Bay Rays in 2005 with the reputation as one of the best defensive catchers in history.

To steal and modify a line from Simon & Garfunkel's song, "Mrs. Robinson," "Where have you gone Charles Johnson? Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you ... woo, woo, woo."

Johnson left a big mask to fill, and so far, no one has.



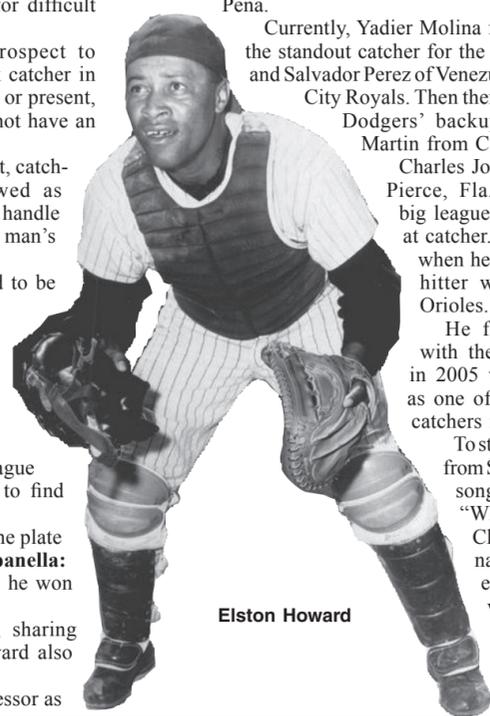
Charles Johnson



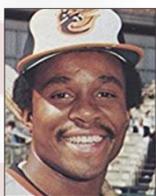
Roy Campanella



Moses Fleetwood Walker



Elston Howard



Al Bumbry



Joe Louis



Jackie Robinson



Willie Mays



David Robinson



Tim James



Pat Tillman

A salute to famous athletes who served Uncle Sam

Al Bumbry was a star in the trenches long before gaining star status on the baseball diamond.

Prior to earning fame in big league baseball, the Virginia State University graduate won the Bronze Star for heroism as an Army tank platoon leader in the Vietnam War.

He always has been more proud of never having lost one of his men in combat than anything he did as a swift outfielder in 14 big league seasons in which he hit .285 with 254 stolen bases.

Known as "The Bumblebee," Bumbry, now 73, is among many professional athletes who served Uncle Sam before, during or after winning headlines on the sports pages.

Here are some military veterans the sports world knows better as famous athletes:

Joe Louis: Before he was the heavyweight boxing champ from 1937 to 1949, "The Brown Bomber" served as a sergeant in the Army, earning the Legion of Merit Award.

Jackie Robinson: In 1942, five years before breaking baseball's color barrier with the Brook-

lyn Dodgers, he was drafted and assigned to segregated Fort Riley, Kan. In 1943, Robinson was admitted to Officer Candidate School and earned the rank of second lieutenant.

Monte Irvin: He and Hank Thompson became the New York Giants' first black players in 1949. Earlier, Irvin served the U.S. Army in England, France and Belgium during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Willie Mays: "The Say Hey Kid" was drafted in 1952 during the Korean War. He served at Fort Eustis, Va., and played on the Army baseball team. Mays, who broke in with the New York Giants in 1951, missed nearly two National League seasons while on duty.

Willie Davenport: Among the world's all-time 110-meter hurdlers, he competed in the 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976 Olympics, winning gold in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Davenport was an Army private in 1964 and had risen to the rank of colonel in the National Guard before his death in 2002.

Ken Norton: Before turning professional and

fighting Muhammad Ali three times — winning once — the Marine Corps radioman was a three-time All-Marine champion. He served as a corporal from 1965 to 1967 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Leon Spinks: Coming from an impoverished area of East St. Louis, the world boxing champion-to-be dropped out of school in 10th grade and joined the Marines. He was on active duty from 1973 to 1976 at Camp Lejeune. He became the undisputed world champ in 1978 after defeating Ali.

David Robinson: "The Admiral" was actually a lieutenant (junior grade) in the Navy after starring for the Naval Academy. He served on active duty as a civil engineering officer at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga. He became a 10-time NBA All-Star.

Tim James: The 1999 NBA first round draft choice by the Miami Heat enlisted in the Army in 2008 and served as an Army specialist at Camp Speicher in Iraq.

Roberto Clemente: The Puerto Rican native served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958

to 1964 while starring as an outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Clemente was named to the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

Archie Williams: While Jesse Owens earned top billing at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Williams wasn't far behind. He won the 400 meters, setting a world record of 46.1 seconds. Later, he served as a combat pilot during World War II, earning the rank of lieutenant colonel and becoming an instructor for the Tuskegee Airmen.

All of the above survived their military stints. Others weren't so fortunate.

Pat Tillman: He retired from the NFL Arizona Cardinals in 2002 to enlist in the Army. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan until 2004, when he was killed by friendly fire. Posthumously, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

Tillman was the first athlete from a major pro sport to die in combat since **Bob Kalsu**, an NFL Buffalo Bills lineman who lost his life in 1970 in Vietnam.

Section
BRichmond Free Press
Happenings**Personality: Dr. James J. Fedderman**
Spotlight on the incoming president of the Virginia Education Association

When Virginia schools return to some kind of normalcy in the future, its education system will be facing a bevy of challenges. With the effects of the coronavirus resulting in cuts in state education spending, localities have turned to cuts in expected pay raises, salary freezes and furloughs that have and will produce struggles for teachers, staff, parents, students and others.

For those navigating this aspect of a tumultuous period in Virginia, the Virginia Education Association is working to create a path forward alongside its president-elect, Dr. James J. Fedderman.

When Dr. Fedderman takes over the helm of the VEA on Aug. 1, he will be the first African-American man to lead the education union. It is the largest union for educators in the state, with 40,000 members and a focus on educators that extends beyond solely teachers and aims for a wide breadth of inclusiveness.

While others might be daunted by the challenges created by the pandemic, Dr. Fedderman sees it as an opportunity "to redefine the direction of public education for our students and employees who have been the most vulnerable."

"COVID-19 has magnified many of the inequities that must be addressed to ensure education equity is guaranteed," says Dr. Fedderman, a choral music teacher in Accomack County. "Whenever a crisis arises in the Commonwealth, education funding is the first to be cut and the last to be restored."

A native of Nassawadox on Virginia's Eastern Shore, Dr. Fedderman was elected May 6 to a two-year term. He has served as the VEA vice president since 2016. He says he's ready to meet the challenge of leading the orga-

nization through this time.

"In uncertain times, only effective and experienced leadership will demonstrate how being tested will become our testimony," he says. "I will work tirelessly to empower every one of our members with a voice and a platform."

Currently, he is part of the VEA's live presentations, held twice every week on Facebook, talking with special guests and answering questions from VEA members on "technology and equity, safety" and other matters.

VEA staff members, meanwhile, are in contact daily with officials in the governor's office, the Virginia Department of Education and other state agencies as plans are being made to reopen schools and virtual education continues during the pandemic.

Dr. Fedderman first became involved with the VEA through his work with the Accomack Education Association, which led to an earnest commitment to the organization. He also represented Virginia at the national level as a National Education Association director.

"It's been a great run and it's been amazing traveling the entire Commonwealth fighting for right," Dr. Fedderman says.

Dr. Fedderman is gearing up to hit the ground running when he fully assumes his new role with the VEA. In addition to building his operational framework, he wants to "level the playing field" for individual members who contribute to the VEA, giving them the ability to self-nominate rather than solely relying on the recommendation of local presidents as to who should serve on VEA committees.

He also wants to continue the VEA's effort to keep public school funds from being diverted



to private schools, and has an eye toward policy changes, including collective bargaining; a return to a three-year probationary period for new teachers in school districts; and LGBTQ protections for all.

"Collective bargaining is one of our best ways to advocate for children and for public education," he says. "Educators deserve a seat at the table when public education policy is made."

Meet a committed advocate for educators and education and this week's Personality, Dr. James J. Fedderman:

Occupation: Educator. I am a choral music teacher in Accomack County.

No. 1 volunteer position: President, Virginia Education Association.

Additional community involvement: Trustee and minister of music at African Baptist Church in Cheriton; Virginia High School

League volleyball official; and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Date and place of birth: Sept. 23 in Nassawadox, which is in Northampton County.

Current residence: Painter in Accomack County.

Education: Bachelor's in music education (choral music), Longwood College; master's in education in administration and supervision, University of Virginia; Ph.D. in organizational leadership, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; and post-graduate studies, Harvard University.

Family: Daughter, Jordan Alexandria Fedderman, a senior at Nansemond River High School in Suffolk, who will attend Clark Atlanta University in Georgia to study early childhood education, and son, Jaylen Alexander Fedderman, a junior at Nansemond River High School, who plans to go to college to study kinesiology or medicine.

Virginia Education Association is: The largest union for educators in the Commonwealth.

Number of VEA members: 40,000.

VEA's mission: A great public school for every child in the Commonwealth.

Services VEA offers: Professional development and leadership development to rank and file educators across the Commonwealth.

Role of teachers in organization: We are NOT just teachers. We are a wall-to-wall union.

What needs to be done: Give a platform for educators to use their voice about decisions that impact working conditions and

learning conditions.

Why VEA is needed: VEA is the pre-eminent union leading teaching and learning across the Commonwealth, ensuring educators have a seat at the table.

Challenge of assuming presidency during the COVID-19 pandemic: I believe I have more of an opportunity versus a challenge to redefine the direction of public education for our students and employees who have been the most vulnerable. COVID-19 has magnified many of the inequities that must be addressed to ensure education equity is guaranteed. Whenever a crisis arises in the Commonwealth, education funding is the first to be cut and the last to be restored.

Role of VEA during the COVID-19 pandemic: We've been hosting twice-weekly Facebook Live presentations. They are broadcast each Monday and Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m. and also are available for viewing later on VEA's Facebook page. So far, I've had some great special guests, and we've answered members' questions and concerns regarding technology and equity, safety and a host of other issues.

Across the state, local leadership has stepped up to ensure members are informed and protected, too. Some are holding their own Facebook Live updates. Others are communicating with members by email, and many local unions are meeting with school division leadership remotely. Working together, in solidarity, we WILL get through this.

How VEA is assisting members who may not have access to the internet: We are conducting needs assessments to determine which educators are connected and who may require additional support. When possible, some divisions have provided Wi-Fi hotspots, webcams and extended

the Wi-Fi capabilities within certain communities.

Three important things parents/guardians should do to prepare their children for future online/distance learning: Be willing to learn together; communicate cares and struggles with the teachers to minimize frustration; and have fun by loving each other.

Important lessons beyond the "Three Rs" (reading, writing and arithmetic) during the COVID-19 pandemic: How to respect boundaries of social distancing; creating a family plan of staying healthy; and what the implications could be for future generations. Kindness and respect, with good hygiene, will help flatten the curve.

Favorite subjects in school: English and music.

Outlook at start of the day: Another opportunity to empower and engage an educator or student to realize their potential.

How I unwind: Pray – no TV – and read motivational passages that speak to my existence.

A quote that I am inspired by: "Children are like a credit card. We can pay now or pay later."

If I had more time, I would: Build a support system for the marginalized across the Commonwealth to address the social and emotional learning need that will make teaching and learning new skills and concepts more meaningful.

Person who influenced me the most: My Uncle Arlie.

Book that influenced me the most: "The Color Purple: A Novel" by Alice Walker.

What I'm reading now: "Voices of Labor: History of the Working Class" by Steve Sears.

My next goal: Become a principal at a school with major opportunities for change.

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Happenings

Oprah donates \$12 M to combat coronavirus

By Stacy M. Brown

During a recent virtual address to the class of 2020 college graduates, Oprah Winfrey spoke of the need to provide for those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"What this pandemic has done is made me think about giving differently — how I give and who's on the receiving end of that, and how do you do that in such a way that sustains people? I've ultimately always believed that you teach people to fish. But sometimes people just need fish and a piece of bread," the media mogul stated. "Sometimes you need some fish, OK? Sometimes you don't have time to learn to fish. I just need some fish today!"

Ms. Winfrey made sure that there was plenty of "fish" in the places she has called home. Through the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation, the OWN Network boss announced she was donating \$12 million to organizations dedicated to helping underserved communities in Chicago, Baltimore, Nashville, Milwaukee and Kosciusko, Miss.

Born in Kosciusko, Ms. Winfrey has lived in each of the cities where she's donating money.

"This thing is not going away. Even when the virus is gone, the devastation left by people not being able to work for months who were holding on paycheck to paycheck, who have used up their savings — people are going to be in need," Ms. Winfrey



Oprah Winfrey is shown in a screen shot from her recent virtual 2020 commencement address to college graduates.

told the Associated Press.

"So, my thing is, look in your own neighborhood, in your own backyard to see how you can serve and where your service is most essential. That is the real essential work, I think, for people of means."

Of the \$12 million, Ms. Winfrey gave \$5 million to Live Healthy Chicago, which provides immediate support to seniors and high-risk residents affected by the coronavirus.

She gave \$2 million to Nashville Nurtures, a collaboration with Mount Zion Baptist Church and Tennessee State University. Ms. Winfrey graduated from TSU and began her career in Nashville. She later lived in Milwaukee, where she announced a \$100,000 gift to SaintA and the Nia Imani Family, which assists those in need of housing and mental health care.

In Baltimore, where she once worked, Ms. Winfrey is donating money to Living Classrooms Foundation and Center for Urban Families. She also said she's giving \$115,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi.

"I want to be able to reach people who have been incarcerated and are coming out of prison," Ms. Winfrey noted.

"I want to reach mothers of domestic violence. I want to reach people. I want to feed people. I want to help people get access to testing.

NNPA Newswire

Class of 2020 gets virtual graduation send-off from Virginia celebrities

By Ronald E. Carrington

Olympic gold medalist Angela Hucles Mangano inspired the Class of 2020 with stories of overcoming challenges and having hope for the future last Friday during "Virginia Graduates Together," a virtual celebration hosted by Gov. Ralph S. Northam and First Lady Pamela Northam.

The 30-minute celebration, held in the absence of in-person ceremonies because of the coronavirus, featured a number of noted Virginians who have excelled in sports, music, entertainment and politics who offered messages of prosperity, good health and safety to graduates as they pursue their hopes and dreams during this extraordinary time.

Ms. Mango, a Norfolk native and 2000 graduate of the University of

Virginia, is a two-time Olympic gold medalist — in 2004 and 2008 — and a two-time World Cup bronze medalist for the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.

She previously served as president of the Women's Sports Foundation and was a regional director of Up2Us Sports.

"The act of donning a cap and gown, while receiving their diplomas, is truly momentous. This is not just a milestone of crossing a stage. It's the journey getting there."

To bring her point to life, Ms. Mangano recounted the U.S. women's team and the personal and professional challenges they faced and overcame as they entered the Olympics with two of their key players — the captain and the team's highest scorer — injured and out of the game.

As the team adjusted, she moved from a bench player to a starter in a new position.

She said of herself and teammates, "We let doubt and fear fester in our minds and infiltrate our locker room."

"However, as we remembered who we were, individually and collectively, we chose another path, a path that ultimately led us to the gold medal in Beijing, China," she said.

Ms. Mangano encouraged Virginia's graduates to meet future challenges because they can lead to great opportunities and growth.

"We can pursue our passions and goals. We can make future breakthroughs," she said encouragingly. "We can serve the greater good. We can do whatever seems to be unimaginable."



Two time Olympic gold medalist Angela Hucles Mangano

Among the Virginia celebrities offering their well-wishes to the Class of 2020 were Seattle Seahawk Quarterback Russell Wilson; Megan Walker, WNBA player with the New York Liberty; Houston Astro's pitcher Justin Verlander; Dave Matthews, leader of the Dave Matthews Band; former Virginia Tech football Coach Frank Beamer; actor and comedian Jay Pharoah; U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine and 7th

District Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger.

Collectively, they exalted the 2020 Class and urged them to celebrate themselves and their peers in today's strange and unique climate.

Gov. and Mrs. Northam thanked graduates across the state for personal videos and photos making the virtual celebration exciting, while showing the talent and diversity of the Commonwealth's students.

Black artists alliance to hold benefit online auction for COVID-19 relief

Members of the Black American Artists Alliance of Richmond are holding an online art auction from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 6, to benefit CultureWorks' COVID-19 Arts & Culture Relief Fund.

According to organizers, BAAAR's artists have been inspired by CultureWorks' dedication to supporting artists during the pandemic and are creating original works to be auctioned to support the relief effort.

BAAAR's artists who are participating in the auction are Jowarnise Caston, Unicia R. Buster, William E. Johnson, R. Vashti Woods, A. Yhayha Hargrove, David Marion, S. Ross Browne, Philip Muzi Branch, Barbara Hobson,

Dennis Winston and Kyle M. Epps.

The artists will post an original piece for auction on social media platforms during the auction hours on Saturday. Bidders may either post their bid for the piece on the site or via private message with the artist.

Bidding for each piece starts at \$100, with the highest bid winning. There is no reserve.

Winners may arrange pickup or delivery of the artwork with the artist.

For details on the auction, go to BAAAR's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BAAAR/, For details on CultureWorks' COVID-19 Arts & Culture Relief Fund, go to richmondcultureworks.org/relief-fund.

Trump refuses to hold official White House portrait unveiling for President Obama

Free Press staff, wire report

WASHINGTON

President Trump is showing his true colors again.

The 45th president will not be unveiling the official White House portrait of his predecessor, former President Barack Obama.

NBC News reported recently that the event, a tradition held by the sitting president for his predecessor, wasn't on the Trump calendar and may not occur while President Trump holds office, even through a potential second term.

"It could be 2025" before President Obama's portrait unveiling happens, the report stated.

The official White House portraits are different from the portraits that hang in the National Portrait Gallery. The portraits of former President Obama by artist Kehinde Wiley and former First Lady Michelle Obama by artist Amy Sutherland that were unveiled in February 2018 at the National Portrait Gallery prompted a record number of visitors.

The White House unveiling ceremony tradition dates back decades and represents a moment of harmony and camaraderie among the exclusive group of former chief executives who occupied the White House.

Former President Jimmy

Carter requested not to have a ceremony for the unveiling of his portrait.

During Mr. Obama's presidency, he hosted former President George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush for their official portrait unveilings. Mr. Obama said at the time, "We may have our differences politically, but the presidency transcends those differences."

President Trump, however, has difficulty transcending differences and repeatedly has tried to dismantle many of the laws and gains made under former President Obama's administration. Recently, President Trump accused President Obama of unjustly targeting his associates in what he called "Obamagate" and called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to call the former president to testify in hearings about the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

But President Trump has yet to explain what crime he thinks former President Obama committed despite claiming it the former president "committed the biggest political crime in American history."

For his part, former President Obama reportedly has "no interest" in taking part in the portrait tradition while President Trump occupies the White House.

Since leaving office, the former president usually remains mum about President Trump. But in a mid-May virtual commencement address for the Class of 2020, former President Obama criticized President Trump on his mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis without specifically naming him. Mr. Obama said many U.S. leaders "aren't even pretending to be in charge" during the pandemic.

Additionally, in an earlier phone call with 3,000 people who served in his administration, the former president called the response to the coronavirus pandemic an "absolute chaotic disaster."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, said former President Obama "should have kept his mouth shut" over the current administration's handling of the pandemic, adding that he thinks "it's a little bit classless, frankly, to critique an administration that comes after you."

According to reports, presidents 44 and 45 have met only one since President's Trump inauguration day, and that was at the funeral for former President George H.W. Bush in 2018.

During a Fox News town hall, President Trump said of their interaction, "Sat next to him, and I said, 'Hello.' And then I said, 'Goodbye.' That's about it."

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Faith News/Directory

Shorter services, less singing and no dinners for churches during pandemic reopening

By Reginald Stuart

For more than a quarter century, Dr. James L. Sailes knew that every Sunday morning around 10:30, he would be proudly walking the aisles of Antioch Baptist Church in Varina, greeting scores of his 500 or so members with handshakes and hugs.

Until mid-March, that one-to-one, face-to-face rapport was a familiar sight for many Richmond area congregations for decades. The reality of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic ground this centuries-old tradition to an abrupt halt.

Today, the pastor said one can count on Antioch Baptist being almost an empty shell for a while until the airborne virus — passed person-to-person by unknowingly breathing the disease — subsides and stops infecting people and taking lives.

Antioch is among hundreds of Richmond area congregations that have collectively responded to public officials' calls to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus by not gathering in crowds.

Although Gov. Ralph S. Northam's latest executive orders allow churches statewide to reopen at 50 percent capacity, many people continue to stay home. Some churches, cognizant of the age and health conditions of their congregants, remain closed while livestreaming Sunday service via the internet.

"I'm not sure we have any Saint Paul's, Luke's, James or Saint Peter's walking the Earth today," said Dr. Sailes, referring to the icons of biblical history who may have challenged the strength of COVID-19. "To cast caution to the wind would be testing God," he said, noting recent media reports of crowds rushing to beaches, waterfront cafes and sidewalk eateries across the country, ignoring health warnings that the return to "normal" may be moving too fast for the disease to subside.

"That may be stretching it," he said, echoing others citing scientific evidence that COVID-19 strikes at will with little notice.

Dr. Sailes, a Chattanooga, Tenn., native who has led the Henrico County church for 39 years, said Antioch quickly shut down its building when the governor and state health officials in March appealed for help in curbing the virus' spread. Sunday worship shifted to virtual programs on social media.

Since the state's limited reopening allowance on May 15, attendance at Sunday services has not exceeded 15 people, he said. The congregation is honoring health guidance also by making sure people are spaced apart.

In the process, Dr. Sailes also has made some adjustments, including cutting the Sunday service to about 45 minutes from the usual hour and a half, and singing fewer verses of songs.

"I sing too many songs," he said with a chuckle.



Dr. Sailes



Dr. Lawrence



Dr. Walton

One sign congregants are taking virus mitigation seriously is no reported deaths among the church's members, although the relative of one has died of COVID-19, he said.

Dr. Sailes said he doesn't expect attendance to bounce back for a while, even if health officials continue to roll back the public health alerts and appeals.

"We'll stretch as long as we need to," Dr. Sailes said. "The goal is to sustain this church in the midst of the virus."

Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church has recorded the deaths of six members who had COVID-19, said Dr. Alonza L. Lawrence, the church's pastor.

"I'm surprised by the number of deaths in our church," said Dr. Lawrence. "We got hit hard," he said. "Hit very hard."

He said the coronavirus has required creativity by the church "that we were not aware of — the creation of methods for sustaining the church other than meeting and gathering."

Congregations are learning slowly that regular worship services will change, church assembly will require distance worship and the music ministry will be different, as will seating, Dr. Lawrence said.

"As a community of people," he said, churches will be the standard for health care, having hand sanitizer and personal protection equipment for the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions in the congregation. Churches will need to be sanitized before and after services, and the familiar tradition of church banquets and dinners during and after services will shrink, if not disappear, he said.

"Most pastors I've talked to are thinking along the same lines," he said.

Moore Street moved its Sunday services to Zoom videoconferencing and continues to conduct many of its regular activities during the week, including its knitting and crocheting group, on Zoom.

"It yields itself to a need for social interacting," said Dr. Lawrence, who has led the Carver area church for 25 years.

He said it probably will be July or August before the church resumes its traditional gatherings. He echoed others in asserting

the virus has no timeline and in stressing his concern about signs of people taking the virus risk too lightly.

He noted that 60 to 70 percent of his congregation would be considered "senior citizens," one of the high-risk targets of the virus.

Still, he said, "I think people will want to come to church even with the added requirements" that went into effect on a two-week delay in Richmond on May 29 under the state's reopening plan. "Where there's a will, there's a way."

Getting members connected with a virtual church service via the internet, Zoom connection, Facebook or YouTube has turned a new page in pastors' worship planning books.

"Since we've been doing the virtual church," Dr. Lawrence said, "we won't be able to stop doing it. We've been drop bucketed into 2020. We (many congregations) wouldn't have done this had it not been a COVID-19."

As for those short of patience during this pandemic, Dr. Lawrence said, "I try to share with them that they may be on their way to the biggest party there will ever be — the party in Glory."

Dr. Kirkland R. Walton, a petroleum geologist who went on to earn several divinity degrees at Virginia Union University before becoming the first full-time pastor of St. Peter Baptist Church in Glen Allen, said the pandemic "teaches us the value of being connected."

Dr. Walton, who had led the 1,700-member congregation for 35 years with the help of his wife, Brenda, a retired public schoolteacher, said that joining forces to mitigate the spread of the virus has brought people together in the process. The church has shifted gears, not closed its mental nor spiritual doors, he said.

"We still have buildings and the mission of the church has to be done," the 68-year-old clergyman said. Everything has been scaled back or changed, he said, from reduction of the number of people physically present for Sunday services to "abbreviating" funeral services to gravesides for 12 minutes.

The church's annual spring revival was postponed, and Vacation Bible School has been rescheduled to later this month.

"It clearly shows us a church is a family, causing persons to have more quality time, people having meals together" and discovering the value of virtual meetings for keeping people connected, he said.

The Henrico County church has not had a full Sunday worship since the third Sunday in March, yet continues to function, Dr. Walton said. "We're erring on the side of caution right now."

He said the virus compelled changes to the church as an institution and brought to mind a frequent reminder by his late mother: "You don't have to entertain to be effective."

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Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church

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 (804) 358-6403
 Dr. Alonza L. Lawrence, Pastor

Attention church members and friends

All church activities are canceled until further notice.

Follow us on Facebook for "A Word from Moore Street's Pastor" and weekly Zoom worship info.

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 8:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer

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Obituaries/Faith News/Directory

NBA legend Wes Unseld succumbs at 74

By Fred Jeter

The basketball world mourns the loss of a legend. Westley "Wes" Unseld, among the most powerful inside forces in college and NBA history, has died.

Mr. Unseld was 74 and had been in failing health for several years, said his family who announced his death on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

The Louisville native averaged 11 points, 14 rebounds and four assists per game during a distinguished playing career from 1968 to 1981 that included five seasons with the Baltimore Bullets followed by eight seasons in Washington.

A five-time NBA All-Star, Mr. Unseld was both Rookie of the Year and MVP in his rookie season in 1968-1969, averaging 14 points and 18 rebounds.

In 1978, Mr. Unseld earned MVP honors during the NBA playoffs for guiding Washington to its only

NBA championship.

At 6-foot-7 and a broad, muscular 245 pounds, he never backed down from taller centers. He was known for his bone-jarring picks and powerful outlet passes to start fast-breaks.

Mr. Unseld was the epitome of a team player.

Following retirement, he later served as the Bullets' coach, going 202-345 in seven seasons. He also had a stint as Washington's general manager from 1996 to 2003.

As a teenager, Mr. Unseld led Seneca High School of Louisville to the Kentucky state championships in 1962 and 1963. He was offered a college scholarship by Coach Adolph Rupp at the University of Kentucky, but chose to stay in his hometown at the University of Louisville.

Had he chosen Kentucky, he would have become the first African-American to play in the Southeastern

Conference.

In three seasons on the Cardinals' varsity team, he averaged 17 points and 21 rebounds.

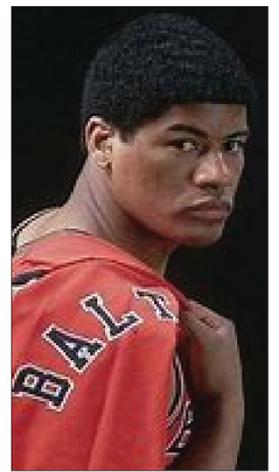
During the 1966-67 season, Mr. Unseld made the Associated Press' first All-America team, along with Clem Haskins from Western Kentucky, Elvin Hayes from Houston, Jimmy Walker from Providence and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar from UCLA. It marked the first season in which any African-American made the AP first All-American squad from a Southern school.

Mr. Unseld was named again to the All-American squad for 1967-68.

Mr. Unseld was selected by Baltimore as the second overall pick in the 1968 NBA draft.

Both his No. 31 jersey for Louisville and his No. 41 jersey for the Bullets are retired.

Mr. Unseld was inducted in both the College and the Naismith Memorial Basketball halls of fame.



Wes Unseld

Former NFL player Roosevelt 'Rosey' Taylor dies at 82



Roosevelt Taylor

Roosevelt "Rosey" Taylor, who played on championship teams in college and with the NFL, died Friday, May 29, 2020. Mr. Taylor was 82.

The New Orleans native was a star defensive back at Grambling State University in Louisiana before going on to a 12-year career in the NFL, mostly with the Chicago Bears.

At Grambling, Mr. Taylor helped Coach Eddie Robinson to his first SWAC title in 1960. Other members of that championship squad included Willie Brown and Buck Buchanan, now members of the NFL Hall of Fame, and Ernie Ladd, an NFL All-Pro pick.

Mr. Taylor helped the Bears to the 1963 NFL title with a victory over the New York Giants at Chicago's Wrigley Field. That same season, Mr. Taylor led the NFL with nine interceptions and was named the All-Pro first team.

He made 23 of his career 32 interceptions with the Bears, three of which he returned for touchdowns.

Mr. Taylor played with the Bears from 1961 to 1969, the San Francisco 49ers from 1969 to 1971 and the Washington NFL team in 1972.

The 1972 Washington team reached the Super Bowl under Coach George Allen. In Chicago, Mr. Allen was Mr. Taylor's defensive coordinator.

Mr. Taylor's son, Brian Taylor, starred at Oregon State University and played in the NFL from 1989 to 1992 with the Chicago Bears and the Buffalo Bills. — FRED JETER



Bishop Budde

Free Press wire report

The bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington sharply criticized President Trump on Monday for staging a visit to the historic St. John's Church across from the White House, where he held up a Bible after authorities had cleared the area of peaceful protesters using tear gas.

Bishop Mariann E. Budde, whose diocese St. John's Church belongs to, said in a statement that she was "outraged" by President Trump's visit and noted that he didn't pray while stopping by the church, a landmark known for its regular visits from sitting presidents since the early 19th century.

"He took the symbols sacred to our tradition and stood in front of a house of prayer in full expectation that would be a celebratory moment," Bishop Budde said in an interview after her statement on President Trump's visit was posted to the diocese's Twitter account.

"There was nothing I could do but speak out against that," she added, calling for a focus on "the deeper wounds of the country" amid ongoing demonstrations against racial injustice.

Bishop Budde said the church was "just completely caught off

Episcopal bishop 'outraged' by Trump church photo op



Patrick Semansky/Associated Press

President Trump holds a Bible on Monday outside St. John's Church across Lafayette Park from the White House. Part of the church was set on fire during rioting Sunday night.

guard" by the visit, with "no sense that this was a sacred space to be used for sacred purposes."

In order to facilitate President Trump's photo op there, she said, she believed tear gas was used in the area between the White House and the church.

As protests and riots na-

tionwide flared following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, St. John's suffered minor damage Sunday night from a fire in the church basement. Bishop Budde said "our suffering was minimal" compared with businesses that were destroyed by recent looting, even as she defended the goals of peaceful protesters responding to Mr. Floyd's killing.

"We can rebuild the church. We can replace the furnishings of a nursery," she said, referring to the damaged area. "We can't bring a man's life back."

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael Curry, issued his own statement saying that President Trump had "used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes."

"This was done in a time of deep hurt and pain in our country, and his action did nothing to help us or to heal us," added Bishop Curry, the first African-American to hold that leadership post for U.S.

Episcopalians.

Bishop Budde took her position at the church in Washington in 2011 after spending 18 years in Minneapolis.

"I want to build up the liberal church again so we can be a legitimate conversation partner in the public arena," she told The Washington Post at the time.

The bishop, who last year joined other Washington National Cathedral leaders in a statement that excoriated President Trump's "racialized rhetoric," firmly aligned her faith with the goals of peaceful protesters driven by Mr. Floyd's death to decry systemic racism.

"In no way do we support the president's incendiary response to a wounded, grieving nation," Bishop Budde said in her statement. "In faithfulness to our Savior who lived a life of non-violence and sacrificial love, we align ourselves with those seeking justice for the death of George Floyd."

St. Peter Baptist Church

Dr. Kirkland R. Walton, Pastor

Worship Opportunities

Sundays: All Sunday services have been suspended for the remainder of the month. Join us for online streaming this Sunday at 10 AM. Visit our website, look under "Online Services," and access the "Pastor's Message."

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Legal Notices/Employment Opportunities

Continued from previous page

COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,
v.
MOSES C. MBAGWU, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-914 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1710 Dinwiddie Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number S0000395006, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Moses C. Mbagwu.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, MOSES C. MBAGWU, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action; that NATIONS CREDIT FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, which may be a creditor with an interest in said property, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; that NATIONS CREDIT FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, Beneficiary per a Notice of Assignment of Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 367 page 2143 on October 18, 1993 for a Credit Line Deed of Trust, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; that JOSEPH MILLS, JR, Beneficiary of a Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 426 page 2199 on January 12, 1995, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that MOSES C. MBAGWU, FEDERATED FINANCIAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, NATIONS CREDIT FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, Beneficiary per a Notice of Assignment of Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 367 page 2143 on October 18, 1993 for a Credit Line Deed of Trust, JOSEPH MILLS, JR, Beneficiary of a Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 426 page 2199 on January 12, 1995, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
ABC HOME SERVICES, INC, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-998 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1325 North 28th Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E0000623027, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, ABC Home Services.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, ABC HOME SERVICES, INC, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that ABC HOME SERVICES, INC, an entity listed as inactive in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street

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Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
LEONARD L. PRESCOD, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-1590 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 2606 1st Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number N0000803017, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Leonard L. Prescod.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, LEONARD L. PRESCOD, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that LEONARD L. PRESCOD, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
VANESSA MOORE, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-911 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1100 Hollister Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number C009-0093/026, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Vanessa Moore.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, VANESSA MOORE, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to her last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that VANESSA MOORE and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
TARA JOHNSON, TRUSTEE OF THE GAYMON FAMILY LAND TRUST, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-624 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1423 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-0768/031, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Tara Johnson, Trustee of the Gaymon Family Land Trust.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, TARA JOHNSON, TRUSTEE OF THE GAYMON FAMILY LAND TRUST, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his/her last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that TARA JOHNSON, TRUSTEE OF THE GAYMON FAMILY

Continued on next column

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LAND TRUST, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter.

An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
KAMAU ISLAM, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-622 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1401 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-0768/020, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Kamau Islam and Arnell Powell.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owners, KAMAU ISLAM and ARNELL POWELL, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to their last known address, have not been personally located and have not filed a response to this action; that CLIFFORD L. HEWLETT and ALICE H. PURYEAR, both upon information and belief deceased, BENEFICIARIES of a Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 352 page 382 on June 28, 1993, said deed of trust per its terms maturing on June 22, 1999, or their heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that KAMAU ISLAM, ARNELL POWELL, CLIFFORD L. HEWLETT and ALICE H. PURYEAR, both upon information and belief deceased, BENEFICIARIES of a Deed of Trust filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Deed Book 352 page 382 on June 28, 1993, said deed of trust per its terms maturing on June 22, 1999, or their heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
BENJAMIN EDWARDS, SR, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-903 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 2000 Ingram Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number S000-0861/010, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Benjamin Edwards, Sr.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, BENJAMIN EDWARDS, SR, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that BENJAMIN EDWARDS, SR, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
BERKLEY SQUARE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, et al,
Defendants.

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Case No.: CL20-963 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1101 Judson Road, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number C007-0261/002, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Berkley Square Limited Partnership.

An Affidavit having been filed that said any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
SALLIE VERNELL MYERS, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-1322 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 405 Hunt Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number N000-1554/003, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Sallie Vernell Myers, William S. Davis, Edith D. Booker, Myron Isaac Davis, James T. Davis, Carlton E. Davis, Annie Bell Davis, Wayne Howard Myers, Langston R. Davis, Adelaide D. Farmer, Carolyn D. Harris, Kermit F. Davis, Nancy D. Elam, Anna D. Hudson, Deborah N. Davis, Leon H. Davis, Sonya Davis and Cleopatra Davis.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owners, SALLIE VERNELL MYERS, WILLIAM S. DAVIS, EDITH D. BOOKER, MYRON ISAAC DAVIS, JAMES T. DAVIS, CARLTON E. DAVIS, ANNIE BELL DAVIS, WAYNE HOWARD MYERS, LANGSTON R. DAVIS, ADELAIDE D. FARMER, CAROLYN D. HARRIS, KERMIT F. DAVIS, NANCY D. ELAM, ANNA D. HUDSON, DEBORAH N. DAVIS, LEON H. DAVIS, SONYA DAVIS and CLEOPATRA DAVIS, are to be proceed against by Order of Publication pursuant to Section 8.01-316(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that SALLIE VERNELL MYERS, WILLIAM S. DAVIS, EDITH D. BOOKER, MYRON ISAAC DAVIS, JAMES T. DAVIS, CARLTON E. DAVIS, ANNIE BELL DAVIS, WAYNE HOWARD MYERS, LANGSTON R. DAVIS, ADELAIDE D. FARMER, CAROLYN D. HARRIS, KERMIT F. DAVIS, NANCY D. ELAM, ANNA D. HUDSON, DEBORAH N. DAVIS, LEON H. DAVIS, SONYA DAVIS, CLEOPATRA DAVIS, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
JANICE M. WOOTEN, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-123 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1810 North 22nd Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-1080/006, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Janice M. Wooten, Kirkland Jones and Ricardo Lee Jones.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, JANICE M. WOOTEN, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; that said owners, KIRKLAND JONES and RICARDO LEE JONES, who have been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to their last known address, have not been personally located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that JANICE M. WOOTEN, KIRKLAND JONES, RICARDO LEE JONES, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
MARY M. HARRISON, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-910 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 2015 Gordon Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number S000-0547/017, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Mary M. Harrison, Asberry Harrison, Jr, and Yvonne Bank.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, MARY M. HARRISON, upon information and belief deceased, or her heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action; that said owners, ASBERRY HARRISON, JR, and YVONNE BANKS, who have been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to

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their last known address, have not been personally located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that MARY M. HARRISON, upon information and belief deceased, or her heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, ASBERRY HARRISON, JR, YVONNE BANKS, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
JUNIOUS LEE SMITH, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-843 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1323 North 30th Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-0625/031, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Junious Lee Smith.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, JUNIOUS LEE SMITH, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that JUNIOUS LEE SMITH, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
JANICE M. WOOTEN, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-123 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1810 North 22nd Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-1080/006, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Janice M. Wooten, Kirkland Jones and Ricardo Lee Jones.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, JANICE M. WOOTEN, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; that said owners, KIRKLAND JONES and RICARDO LEE JONES, who have been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to their last known address, have not been personally located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that JANICE M. WOOTEN, KIRKLAND JONES, RICARDO LEE JONES, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
RONALD R. SEABORNE, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-941 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 812 North 21st Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-0327/015, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Ronald R. Seaborne and Roswell E. Friend.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, RONALD R. SEABORNE, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action; that said owner, ROSWELLE FRIEND, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

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et al, Defendants. **Case No.: CL20-941 ORDER OF PUBLICATION**
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 812 North 21st Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E000-0327/015, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owners of record, Ronald R. Seaborne and Roswell E. Friend.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, RONALD R. SEABORNE, who has been served by posting and by mailing a copy of the complaint to his last known address, has not been personally located and has not filed a response to this action; that said owner, ROSWELLE FRIEND, upon information and belief deceased, or his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, have not been located and have not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that RONALD R. SEABORNE, ROSWELLE E. FRIEND, upon information and belief deceased, or her/his heirs, devisees, assignees or successors in interest, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
PEAK FOUNDATION INVESTMENT CORP, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-901 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 1806 North 19th Street, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number E012-0282/021, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Peak Foundation Investment Corp.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, PEAK FOUNDATION INVESTMENT CORP, an entity not existing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action, and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that PEAK FOUNDATION INVESTMENT CORP, an entity not existing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING CITY OF RICHMOND, Plaintiff,

v.
REALTY EQUITY LLC, et al,
Defendants.

Case No.: CL20-909 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to subject the property briefly described as 3109 3rd Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, Tax Map Number N000-0992/016, to sale in order to collect delinquent real estate taxes assessed thereon in the name of the owner of record, Realty Equity LLC.

An Affidavit having been filed that said owner, REALTY EQUITY LLC, an entity not appearing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; that HOME IMPROVEMENT FINANCIAL SERVICE, an entity not appearing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, BENEFICIARY per Certificate of Assignment filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Instrument Number 14-2116 on February 7, 2014 has not been located and has not filed a response to this action; and that any heirs, devisees, assignees, successors in interest, successors in title and/or any creditors with a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that REALTY EQUITY LLC, HOME IMPROVEMENT FINANCIAL SERVICE, an entity not appearing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, BENEFICIARY per Certificate of Assignment filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Instrument Number 14-2116 on February 7, 2014, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

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a current or future interest in said property, have not been identified and/or served despite diligent efforts to do so and are defendants to this suit by the general description of "Parties Unknown."

IT IS ORDERED that REALTY EQUITY LLC, an entity not appearing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, HOME IMPROVEMENT FINANCIAL SERVICE, an entity not appearing in the records of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, BENEFICIARY per Certificate of Assignment filed in the records of the Richmond Circuit Court at Instrument Number 14-2116 on February 7, 2014, and Parties Unknown, come forward to appear on or before JULY 16, 2020 and do what is necessary to protect their interests in this matter. An Extract, Teste: Edward F. Jewett, Clerk Gregory A. Lukanuski, Esq. City of Richmond, Office of the City Attorney 900 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 804-646-7949

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned songwriter/executor, desiring to engage in business under the following art/fictitious name FREDERICK JOHN ANDREWS® has registered the said name with the VIRGINIA STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION. Frederick- John: Andrews 5517 Noble Avenue Richmond, Virginia Republic 23227

CUSTODY

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX ARTHUR D. WHITE, JR., AND ANITA T. WHITE, Petitioners,
In re: Jahon Lynnwood White
White
Born: February 7, 2014
Birth Certificate Registration No. 145-14-009005
Registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia
CA1900002-00 ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of the above-styled suit is