

**REMEMBER THOSE LOST TO
POLICE AND RACIAL VIOLENCE**

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**AND WAY TOO
MANY MORE!**



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WILKINSBURG IN FOCUS



AYDEN AND MADISON GIVNER, both 5 years old, at the Wilkinsburg Strong Peace March, held Saturday, June 20. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



THE FAMILY OF ROMIR TALLEY—Romir Talley, a 24-year-old Black male, was shot and killed by Wilkinsburg police in December 2019, after police were called to a scene where a man was allegedly threatening another person with a gun. Wilkinsburg police say they shot Talley after he fired a shot at them first—the Talley family, however, wants more transparency into all the details that transpired. The Allegheny County DA's office said the case is under review. See more photos on **Page A7**.

Peace March calls for end to recent violence, and transparency in police shooting of Romir Talley



WILKINSBURG MAYOR MARITA GARRETT, at a press conference in front of the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, July 1. (Photo by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

Mayor Marita Garrett: 'I never waved or pointed a gun at anyone'

Mayor speaks out after protesters unexpectedly came to her home on June 30

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Was it a bird? Was it a plane?

Whatever it looked like on Facebook, television or other outlets, Wilkinsburg Mayor Marita Garrett, in an exclusive interview with the New Pittsburgh Courier, Thursday afternoon, July 2, emphatically denied she ever waved or pointed a gun at anyone as protesters descended upon her home on June 30.

"I was never waving a gun," Mayor Garrett said. "I never waved a gun and I never pointed a gun at anyone. What happened was, protesters were at my house, I didn't see any police, there were about, at that time, about 25-30 people already assembled, already screaming, already yelling obscenities, vulgar remarks, and so my mom goes out-(side)..."

Protesters apparently had come to Mayor Garrett's home in Wilkinsburg after a public meeting had been canceled earlier in the evening. Some people are angry at Mayor Garrett because they feel she is not being as transparent as possible pertaining to the December 2019 shooting death of 24-year-old Romir Talley, a Black man who was shot and killed by an unnamed Wilkinsburg police officer. The Wilkinsburg police department said Talley fired a weapon at the officers first, and one of their officers returned fire, striking and killing Talley. Talley, in fact,

was shot seven times.

Mike Manko with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office told the Courier on July 2 the case is still under review.

"As a Black woman period, but especially as a Black woman, being a public figure, an elected official, I've been disrespected, I've felt unprotected for so long...and especially just increased when getting into office, how people approach me, how people will roll up on me, so yes, I do have a license to carry and I am ready to protect my home, myself and my family," Garrett told the Courier. "So my mom had asked me, 'Marita, do you have your gun?' And I showed her my gun, and then I put it back in my pocket. So, again, it was never my intent for anyone to think I was waving or pointing it at them, because I wasn't waving or pointing it at them. I showed my mom, put it back in my pocket, and that was it."

But what about the Facebook photos circulating that show Mayor Garrett sitting in front of her home, with something in her hand, possibly waving it?

"I'm on my phone. You can't text on a gun," Mayor Garrett said. "I was texting on my phone. So, that's where all of that is. But again, I'm ready to protect and defend myself, and as a Black woman, especially in this region, we have reports that show, Black women are not safe in the Pittsburgh region."

Mayor Garrett continued: "I did not wave or point my gun at anyone."

The mayor also told the Courier exclusively, July 2, that she was informed that the family of Romir Talley met with the Allegheny County police department sometime in late June. At this point, Mayor Garrett said, the family actually has more information about the open investigation into the shooting than she does, contrary to reports from those who feel that Mayor Garrett is hiding information.

"These calls for, 'She's covering up, she's hiding this' and all of that stuff, I have less information than the family at this point," Mayor Garrett told the Courier. "I have done what I can do in my role as mayor...the information that they keep trying to seek from me, they (the family) have. I can't provide anything else. I've tried to lay it out many times that when a murder happens or a homicide happens in Wilkinsburg, it automatically goes to the county police department. They are the ones who investigate our homicides."

Mayor Garrett told the Courier she's been wanting to meet with the immediate family of Talley since late December. She told the Courier she had met with community activists who thought they could get the mayor in touch with the Talley family, but it hasn't occurred yet. Mayor Garrett told the Courier she

SEE MAYOR A7

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'I need to know what happened to my son'

Danielle Brown demands answers in 2018 death of Duquesne University student Marquis Brown

by Ashley Woodson
For New Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh Police have said that 21-year-old Marquis Jaylen Brown jumped from a Duquesne University dorm room on the 16th floor to his death in October 2018.

But Danielle Brown, Marquis' mother, isn't buying what the police and university are selling.

So much so that she spent the past days on a hunger strike at Freedom Corner in the Hill Dis-

trict, demanding more information, more answers from authorities and university officials.

"I've been knocking and knocking, and I still don't have any answers two years later," Danielle Brown told the New Pittsburgh Courier exclusively, July 5. "I've been knocking through my attorney and through Pittsburgh Police trying to find out what happened to my son, hoping that people will come to me. Maybe they felt after graduation they would



DANIELLE BROWN, holding a photo of her son, Marquis Brown. (Photos by Courier photographer Ashley Woodson)

COURIER EXCLUSIVE UPDATE

On Tuesday afternoon, July 7, the Courier's Ricco J.L. Martello reported that Duquesne University officials met with Danielle Brown. She returned to Freedom Corner around 7:30 p.m. that evening, and the Courier's Ashley Woodson reported that Brown said overall, she was not satisfied with the answers she was given by university officials.

be open enough to share as opposed to be able to share while they were still students."

Investigators said that Marquis Brown, of Washington, D.C., had marijuana in his system when he jumped from the window—a window that was broken after he allegedly broke it with a chair. Witnesses told police Marquis Brown was acting "erratically" in his dorm room.

But Danielle Brown wants to know how the up to four people who were in the same dorm room with him somehow didn't prevent Marquis from jumping out the window. She told WPXI-TV (Channel 11) on Monday, July 6,

one is it?"

Danielle Brown added: "There were four people in the room when my son supposedly jumped out of the window and no one did anything to stop my son. It just doesn't make sense. And he had a gash on his head because someone hit him. Fifty percent of the window was still intact, so I think he was unconscious and bent over when he went out of the window. This whole scenario was suspicious from the beginning. The only way to solve this case is to have an independent investigation to trace his steps."

On June 21, the family and friends of Marquis

"I need to know what happened to my son and I don't need anyone else's narrative. I only want the narrative that my independent investigator can deliver. They're not attached to Duquesne University or the Pittsburgh Police department. It would be a person being able to have access to information and give me an informed explanation of what could have happened to my son and not leaving me scratching my head."

-DANIELLE BROWN

that "either the four people in the room watched him jump out that window, or they had their hands in participating in him going out that window."

Brown held a rally and march in the Hill District and Uptown, demanding more answers into the Duquesne football player's death. Danielle Brown was in attendance at the rally, and then returned to D.C. But she's back in Pittsburgh.

"What brought me back...at Freedom Corner is the symbolism of St. Benedict The Moor (church) where the statue's hands are stretched as if it's praising God," Danielle Brown told the Courier. "This has been a spiritual walk for me. The hunger fast is spiritual and I'm willing to lay down my life for my son's truth and narrative that makes sense. It's either not being able to breathe at home in Washington, D.C., or come here to Pittsburgh to get my oxygen. This has given me the ability to find out the truth. This is to let them know I'm here and to finally get some answers. I also have demands for change for reform and this is what's giving me oxygen."



"Two years later I now see that I need to have an independent investigation," Danielle Brown told the Courier exclusively. "I need to know what happened to my son and I don't need anyone else's narrative. I only want the narrative that my independent investigator can deliver. They're not attached to Duquesne University or the Pittsburgh Police department. It would be a person being able to have access to information and give me an informed explanation of what could have happened to my son and not leaving me scratching my head."

Danielle Brown told the Courier that she believes anything could have happened to her son, including being slipped "an acid drug. At this point, anything is possible without the truth. Not too long ago, the police department said the case was closed, but on the news the other night, they said the police department said the case is always open...which

Late Tuesday, July 7, the Courier learned that Duquesne University officials went to Freedom Corner and met with Danielle Brown. She returned to Freedom Corner around 7:30 p.m. that evening, and told a group of supporters that the university "didn't give me any names of the people in the room when my son died. I don't have ballistic reports and I'm hoping through my own independent investigation that I will receive that information."

Danielle Brown said that Duquesne offered her a hotel room and dinner, "but I didn't come here for that. They did not have to share with me (information) but I'm grateful they did. Unfortunately it was information I already knew."

She said her goal is to raise funds for an independent investigation "to get to the truth for justice for my son, Marquis Jaylen Brown."

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Rita Canton named executive director/ head of school at Nazareth Prep

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Rita Canton, the principal of Vincentian Academy High School, which recently closed permanently, has been named executive director/head of school at Nazareth Prep High School.

The announcement was made June 23.

In a release provided to the Courier, Canton brings more than 20 years of teaching and school leadership experience to her new role at the helm of Nazareth Prep, a college and career preparatory school.

"Rita has a track record of promoting excellence," said Sister Linda Yankoski, president and CEO of Nazareth Prep, in the release. "She joins Nazareth Prep during a year that has been uncertain and challenging for all educational institutions, and we can think of no one better to tackle these challenges and steer the school along a continued path of exceptional education."

Canton joins Nazareth Prep following four years as principal and head of school at Vincentian. Prior to her tenure there, Canton served for six years as the principal at Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, a parochial school in Wilkinsburg, that she helped to open in 2010. Canton's high standards enabled Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy to become a model school for the nation, the release read.

In addition to her experience as a school leader,

Canton also has 15 years of elementary and secondary teaching experience. She worked for nine years as a mathematics teacher and campus minister at North Catholic High School, where she helped plan the liturgies, prayers and faculty and student retreats and acted as the liaison between the school and the Diocese Department of Religious Education.

Canton's educational background includes a master's degree in science education and secondary mathematics certification from Chatham University, a master of theology degree from Xavier University of Louisiana and a certification in educational administration from the University of Scranton. Her studies in pastoral theology at Xavier University focused on Black spirituality and social justice issues such as ethnic and racial disparities in education, racism, gender equality, classism and poverty in light of faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

"I am blessed to join Nazareth Prep, a school whose commitment to social justice and to cultivating the whole student—academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually—aligns with my own," Canton remarked in the release. "I look forward to working with the students of Nazareth Prep as they grow into the deeply educated and community-minded leaders of tomorrow."

Nazareth Prep is an independent Catholic high



RITA CANTON

school dedicated to providing an affordable, progressive education to students of all backgrounds. Through a rigorous yet

personalized preparatory program and unique internship experience, Nazareth Prep prepares students for college and the

workplace and empowers them as designers of the future, the release said.

Pittsburgh's Black Women For Positive Change organization receives \$20,000 grant

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Black Women For Positive Change, which has a chapter in Pittsburgh, recently received a \$20,000 grant from the group Everytown for Gun Safety.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a nonprofit, advocates for gun control and against gun violence throughout the country.

"Black Women For Positive Change has continued to serve a valuable role in the Pittsburgh community, even during the pandemic," said Michael-Sean Spence, director of Policy and Implementation at Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, in a statement to the Courier. "The evidence-based strategies they use to prevent shootings, and their partnership with their local Moms Demand Action group is something we're proud to support. With sustained funding, groups like theirs can continue to make a difference in the lives of

their communities."

Diane Powell, chair of the Pittsburgh chapter of Black Women For Positive Change, said the grant would benefit the organization in promoting its three principles: Working to improve relationships to the community and police; Increasing youth involvement in violence prevention initiatives; Engaging faith institutions and the community to build healthy, spiritual bonds and develop programs for social justice, while serving as a conduit for the community.

BW4PC is also finalizing its ninth annual Week of Non-Violence, with the theme: "Non-Violence, Health Empowerment and Opportunities."

Powell also told the Courier BW4PC is going to sponsor local students to attend the March on Washington on Aug. 28. "Our goal is to provide an opportunity for local youth to travel and exper-



DIANE POWELL

ience the significance of this historic event, firsthand, and to gain civic experience with voter regis-

tration," Powell said. BW4PC is also planning a series of "Community Conversations" which

would focus on strengthening Black families and raising healthy youth.

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Did you miss the Courier's special edition, "Celebrating The Graduates," June 24?

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The Courier is THE VOICE of Black Pittsburgh.

Take Charge Of Your Health Today. Be Informed. Be Involved.

COVID-19 vaccine trials must include Black community

This month, the "Take Charge of Your Health Today" page discusses vaccine trials and their relationship with Pittsburgh's African American community. The current COVID-19 pandemic has increased pressure for the medical community to develop a vaccine to combat COVID-19. The development of a new vaccine means that clinical trials will eventually begin to recruit participants. We must ensure that COVID-19 clinical trials will include African American participants. Systemic racism in the United States is responsible for the medical mistrust among African Americans and could be part of the reason for their historically low participation in clinical trials.

In my role as codirector of the Community PARTners core at the University of Pittsburgh's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, I have made a commitment to inform and educate people about how they can take charge of their health. State-sanctioned violence has been perpetuated against African Americans in the name of medicine since the United States' inception. The "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male," a United States' Public Health Service-led research study from 1932 to 1972, intentionally infected African American males with syphilis without their consent. The study's participants were not adequately treated, and, in some cases, not treated at all, even by 1947 when penicillin was commonly used to treat the disease. We may not have any unethical historical precedents like Tuskegee in our city or universities; however, the pub-



ESTHER BUSH

lic health's sector failure to establish trust keeps the Tuskegee stigma alive.

The Community PARTners core and the Urban League are vigilant and hold our medical system accountable, ensuring Pittsburgh's African American community that this will never happen again.

In a 2015-16 Food and Drug Administration report, of the women who participated in cardiovascular trials in the United States, only 3.2% identified as African American, while 78.7% of participants identified as white. The racial makeup of these studies does not reflect the 13.7% of African American women in the country. This does not seem to be an adequate sample of African American women and raises red flags on the accuracy of treatment outcomes for all women. Because we want studies of the current coronavirus pandemic to apply to all of us, African American participation in clinical trials is essential. African Americans make

up 25% of all COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County (according to the Allegheny County Health Department), yet only make up about 13% of its population. We can't afford not to be included in the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials.

In order to gain footing in research-inclusive spaces, it is my hope that studies include opportunities for community input on topics like the value of participation. What is in it for community members who are asked to share their lived experiences? What is the plan for returning results, including closing the loop on the work in and with communities—particularly black and brown communities that have been historically marginalized—to ensure that researchers are doing the work they set out to do? Accountability in research environment means so much. When possible, thinking about offering both day and evening hours to participate in the research, providing childcare and offering inroads to break down definitions and ethical considerations and exploring safety and privacy in ways that all participants understand, are critical to making research inclusive.

I have two recommendations for researchers who want to increase African American participation in clinical trials. Be mindful that these suggestions are not a complete list and are only intended to initiate the dialogue.

Include us throughout the entire research process. Hiring a research recruiter that looks like us does not help to overcome the barrier of mistrust. Even if the recruiter can connect with the African American community, that relationship ends after the recruit-

ment phase. African American participants are then typically interacting with an all-white research team. This could lead to lower retention rates. Including African Americans throughout the entire process looks like garnering input around recruitment and retention plans, protocols and the dissemination process.

Establish pipelines for researchers from the community. African Americans are usually an afterthought when conducting research studies. Most researchers who are receiving funding to study our communities often decide on a research question based on surface knowledge. However, we know that this is not an equitable process. Researchers are instead contributing to the medical mistrust by doing research on African American communities instead of with them. The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh has been partnering with CTSI for more than 14 years now. In that time, I have learned so much from CTSI leaders like Dr. Steve Reis and my friend Dr. Elizabeth Miller. In turn, they have also learned a lot from the African American community. This reciprocal relationship between our two organizations has helped to build a pipeline between researchers and the African American community. I am extremely proud of the mutual trust and respect our organizations have built. I look forward to what we will continue to accomplish together.

Thank you, readers. Please join the Take Charge of Your Health page next month when we talk about food insecurity, with particular insight into access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pittsburgh vaccine trials at forefront of COVID-19 research

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, people in the United States were afraid of contracting polio, a highly contagious, disabling and sometimes deadly disease. It hit children especially hard. At its peak in 1952, the virus infected 60,000 children. Some parents kept their children indoors and isolated during the summer, a season when the virus seemed especially rampant. Only a vaccine could protect people from the disease.

University of Pittsburgh researchers Jonas Salk, MD, Julius Youngner, ScD, and colleagues had been working for years on a polio vaccine. Children in Pittsburgh participated in the first small study of a potential vaccine. In 1955, after a larger, nationwide trial, the vaccine was proved safe and effective. It was widely considered to be a monumental achievement in public health that led to the eventual eradication of new polio cases from the United States.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are, again, keeping our distance from each other and waiting for a vaccine. Many different vaccines are in development around the world, including at the University of Pittsburgh. Drs. Alejandro Hoberman and Judith Martin have conducted vaccine research in the region for 20 years through their Clinical Trials Unit. Now Pittsburghers will have another chance to participate in studies that could change lives for the better worldwide. The unit is preparing to conduct a COVID-19 vaccine study in the region. The effort begins with creating a registry of people who may be interested in participating in such a study.

Creating a registry of interested people will lay the groundwork for when a vaccine trial is ready to begin. Research studies are a multi-phase, rigorously monitored process. The first phase of a trial is a safety study, according to Judith Martin, MD, professor of pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and codirector, Pittsburgh Vaccine Trials Unit.

"A phase-one study isn't looking at whether the vaccine works," she says. "Phase one is when we're just making sure the vaccine is safe and doesn't cause harm. Phase two of the study is where we know the vaccine is safe, but we're trying to figure out the dose and make sure it would be effective. Phase three builds on the findings of the previous phases. We know the vaccine is safe, and we're fairly confident it's going to work. Phase three studies are large scale with hundreds, if not thousands, of participants."

Currently, there are more than 100 vaccines in development around the world. To bring a COVID-19 vaccine trial to the area, the Pittsburgh Vaccine Trials Unit must evaluate each vaccine to see which is the safest



JUDITH MARTIN, MD

and the best fit for the community. The unit is multidisciplinary, with people from internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, infectious diseases, vaccine development companies, Pitt's Clinical and Translational Science Institute and from the community.

"Our job as scientists is to digest what we learn about each of the vaccine options and bring to the community the one we think has the best chance for success," says Alejandro Hoberman, MD, Jack L. Paradise Pro-



ALEJANDRO HOBERMAN, MD

fessor of Pediatric Research, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, professor of clinical and translational medicine and codirector, Pittsburgh Vaccine Trials Unit.

When the vaccines are ready for phase three clinical trials, Drs. Martin and Hoberman want to hit the ground running. To do that, they say they first need to understand the needs of the community and what people's concerns are. Then, people will be asked to go to the online registry

and indicate their interest in being a part of the phase-three study so that the community is prepared for when the study begins.

As with any study, Drs. Martin and Hoberman say it is necessary for the COVID-19 vaccine study to include people of any race, gender, sex or ethnicity. The more diverse a study population is, the better the chance is that the vaccine will be effective for everyone.

Researchers are learning more about COVID-19 every day. Dr. Hoberman says that while we cannot yet know when a vaccine will be available, the different phases of the vaccine trials are progressing quickly. But when it is time to conduct phase-three studies of vaccines, Drs. Martin and Hoberman want Pittsburgh to be in on it.

"We want our community to have the advantages of a COVID-19 vaccine," says Dr. Martin. "I see it as the best of both worlds: We're bringing something to the community that's potentially going to protect them, and they can benefit from it earlier than the rest of the population. This is going to be another opportunity for Pittsburghers to demonstrate that they can contribute to scientific progress."

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locations and dates this summer!

All clinics run from 10AM – 2PM

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Chartiers	Chartiers Early Childhood Center 3799 Chartiers Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15204	June 8 th & 10 th
Clairton	Family Dollar 533 Miller Ave, Clairton, PA 15025	June 4 th
Coraopolis	Cornell School District 1099 Maple St, Coraopolis, PA 15108	August 31 st
Homestead/Munhall	Steel Valley Middle School 3114 Main St, Munhall, PA 15120	July 27 th & 29 th
Homewood	Homewood-Brushton YMCA 7140 Bennett St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208	June 25 th & July 23 rd
Natrona Heights	Allegheny Valley YMCA 5021 Freeport Rd, Natrona Heights, PA 15065	July 2 nd & August 6 th
New Castle	New Castle Jr/Sr High School 300 E Lincoln Ave, New Castle, PA 16101	July 20 th & August 19 th
New Kensington	Valley Points Family YMCA 800 Constitution Blvd, New Kensington, PA 15068	June 22 nd & July 16 th
North Side	Children's Museum of Pittsburgh 10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	June 17 th & July 15 th
Penn Hills	Penn Hills Family Care Connection 10 Duff Rd, Penn Hills, PA 15235	June 18 th & July 31 st
Wilksburg	Wilksburg School District 718 Wallace Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15221	June 19 th & July 13 th

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UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics, and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown are partnering to bring needed vaccines, safely, to western Pennsylvania communities.

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WILKINSBURG IN FOCUS

Peace March calls for end to recent violence, and transparency in police shooting of Romir Talley



REMEMBERING KELVIN "FATS" LOVELACE—Lynaesha Young, LaShaun King, Sharell Barnett and Sierra Lovelace, holding a shirt remembering their loved one, Kelvin Lovelace. Kelvin, who was 14 years old, was shot and killed in East Hills in 2015.



Mayor Marita Garrett: 'I never waved or pointed a gun at anyone'

Mayor speaks out after protesters unexpectedly came to her home on June 30

MAYOR FROM A2

wants to meet with Talley's mother, Latasha Talley, as soon as possible.

"They can contact me through email, mgarrett@wilkinsburgpa.gov. The number is 412-287-2551."

Prior to Mayor Garrett's interview with the Courier on July 2, the mayor held a press conference in front of the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, Wednesday, July 1, to address the incident that occurred in front of her home on June 30.

But Rose Price, a local resident, appeared at the press conference, and inferred that the mayor is only speaking out about

the Talley case because other local residents have "called her out" on it. Price also didn't believe that Mayor Garrett had been trying to reach out to the Talley family, and that's been over six months since the Dec. 22, 2019 shooting death of Talley.

"Why would you lie to the people, why lie to the newspaper and tell them, 'I reached out to the family' when you know you didn't? That was a bald-faced lie," Price said at the news conference. "Everybody keeps trying to stand back from Marita, but she's the mayor. Just

like (Bill) Peduto's the mayor of Pittsburgh, why can't she be accountable for what's going on in her community? That's all we're saying."

A #WilkinsburgStrong Prayer for Peace March was also held in Wilkinsburg, Saturday, June 20, to not only call for an end to the violence that's happened in the borough of late, but for more answers in the Talley shooting death.

There were five homicides in Wilkinsburg in June, including a triple homicide that occurred in the early morning hours of June 19.

PA Coronavirus Small Business Assistance Program

Now Available!

Could your small business use some extra funds to cover COVID-19 related expenses and losses?

Grants in this NEW state program are available for small businesses that meet certain criteria and are being administered by the Northside Community Development Fund and other local CDFIs.

The first round of funding closes July 14, but you don't need to rush! There will be additional rounds of funding announced soon.

See if this program could help you at NSCDFund.org/PABusinessGrants



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During times of crisis, crucial information about your community comes from local reporters.

Access to high quality information is essential. Especially local information. And especially now. What's happening in our communities? What's the impact? How are our local leaders responding? For answers to these questions, we rely on the hard work of our local reporters. As a result, readership of local news outlets has reached record highs.

But due to COVID-19, most local news publications are losing money, fast. Advertising has plummeted during the crisis and readers aren't subscribing fast enough to fill the void. This has led to thousands of local reporters being laid off. Just as our society faces numerous, urgent challenges.

Millions of people are in danger of losing access to the authoritative local

information they need to stay informed. That's why the Local Media Association and the Local Media Consortium are working with local news providers to build a strong future for local journalism. And that's why our long-time partner Google is purchasing ads like this in local publications across the country, as well as providing a Relief Fund to help struggling local news outlets. But those actions alone aren't enough.

Please consider supporting the local news organizations you rely on. Subscribe to them. Donate to them. And if you have a business that's able to, advertise with them. **Your support is critical to sustaining the dedicated journalists serving your communities.**

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The Declaration of Independence, revolutionary ideas and changing systems
J. Pharoah Doss B6

PROPERTY IS POWER!

To invest or not to invest

As you may be aware the \$2 trillion Cares Act rescue package includes a one-time pay out to individuals and families. And by now many of you if not all have received your stimulus check. While some have spent it, many are determining the wisest ways to invest, spend or save it. The specifics are: Corona Virus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act included a one-time check, up to \$1,200 for individuals, up to \$2,400 for married couple and \$500 added for each child based on income.

Some of you may have received the check and used it to cover essential needs and to pay other economic obligations you may have. Once those obligations have been met you should use the money to help build your emergency fund to cover three to six months of expenses. Once those two things have been accomplished consider investing ... very cautiously invest or even donate.

If you are one of those people who are fortunate enough to cover your necessities and your emergency fund is already tight, you may be holding on to the money wondering how to put that money to work. A couple of things to consider, either save it or invest it for the long haul. Currently, you are able to earn great equities (equities are the values of shares issued by a company.) There could be great investment opportunities waiting on investors.

Equities are a smart investment for long term investors. Currently they are down approximately 32 percent from all-time highs and it would be wise to start slowly taking advantage of these opportunities.

One option is to max out your 2019 individual retirement account or Roth IRA. If you have already maxed it out get a head start on your 2020 contributions. Due to COVID-19 the deadline for making contributions to your 2019 IRA has been extended to July 15, 2020 the same date your income tax returns are due.

Another way to have your stimulus check work for you is to pay down your debt to better position yourself financially to purchase property. This could be an excellent way to pay off small existing debts that report to the credit bu-

SEE INVEST B2



ANTHONY O. KELLUM

Super-sized Racism:

Former McDonald's execs strike back in race discrimination lawsuit

by Trevor Coleman and Trevor W. Coleman II
The Michigan Chronicle

(Part 1 of a series.)

For more than 50 years the McDonald's Corporation took pride in branding itself as a socially conscious corporation particularly interested in doing business in abandoned and long-ignored Black communities while embracing racial diversity as a critical component of its corporate ethos.

It is a philosophy that helped create a popular narrative and also focus on the story that the Chicago-based company was a progressive business and a place where African Americans could grow, find mentors, promotions, and economic opportunity.

However, that image may have been shattered this year in a lawsuit brought by two African American female executives who claim that under new leadership, the company not only deliberately divested from the Black community and businesses, but hurled racist, sexist insults at them including referring to the employees at "n_gers" and "angry Black women."

Adding further injury to the insults, the women also claimed when they spoke up about such treatment, they were demoted and the perpetrators were promoted.

The accusations have rocked the fast food industry, especially since McDonald's has long projected itself as a leader in diversity initiatives and as an aggressive recruiter and developer of African American talent and entrepreneurs.

But Domineca Neal and Vicki Guster-Hines, former vice presidents of the

fast food chain, allege the discrimination and harassment started and progressive programs came to a screeching halt following a change in corporate leadership at McDonald's in 2015. In their suit they said the new regime engaged in systemic racist and discriminatory behavior and civil rights abuses against them and other Black executives.

Among the allegations were that one top White male executive repeatedly referred to them as "angry Black women" and another who earlier had referred to Black employees as "n_gers"

ish-born Steve Easterbrook, came on board in 2015 and initiated a corporate restructuring plan that de-emphasized racial diversity and input from Black executives and franchisees. She and Guster-Hines were then demoted from vice-president to senior director positions in July 2018.

They are seeking compensation following those demotions, claiming that they occurred as a result of discrimination.

"When they assumed leadership, it became very clear that African American stakeholders were no longer a strategic priority and the environment became toxic," she said.

"An example would be, you know, cutting advertising spending with African American agencies that impacted, of course, African American customers and local community organizations, and it didn't make economic sense, it didn't make good business sense."

McDonald's commitment to diversity was so widely known and promoted that it was regularly named among the Fortune 500 top corporations for diversity and inclusion and other companies would benchmark



DOMINECA NEAL, VICKI GUSTER-HINES

shockingly being promoted rather than disciplined following a complaint filed against him for such racially abusive language.

In an exclusive interview with the Michigan Chronicle, Neal, a native of Detroit, said the harassment began shortly after the new CEO, Brit-

against them.

That reputation, however, is now threatened by the lawsuit scheduled to be heard in the Northern District Court of Illinois this month, July, or early August. Besides Easterbrook, who was let

SEE MCDONALD'S B2

Multiple streams of income is a necessity—not a luxury!

I grew up in a single-parent, fixed-income household. Most of the people who lived in my neighborhood also came from single-parent, fixed-income households. I thought it was normal. First day of every month was like a holiday in our community. The entire street who typically sleeps in daily, wakes up early in the morning on that day waiting for the mailman. This is before direct deposit became a thing.

First couple of days of the month, everybody is doing the "happy dance." Bills are paid, the refrigerator is full, and we got an opportunity to do some fun stuff. By the fifth of the month, money is all spent—leaving "too much month left at the end of the money". We struggled to get ahead for the rest of the month. The cycle repeated itself month after month after month in perpetuity. The struggle was real!

As I was growing up, I had no clue what I wanted to be when I grew up. Today, I'm in my mid-40s and I'm still trying to figure that out (LOL). But then and now, I knew what I didn't want. I didn't want to be that person who waited an entire month for a check that lasted all of 5 days—if that. Then struggle to get by the rest of the month. Miss me with that nonsense! That lifestyle I lived for the first 19-years of my life inspired me to desire and aspire for more.

I've come to learn as an adult and as a Financial Advisor that working a job in and of itself doesn't absolve you of my childhood experience of "too much month left at the end of the money". 78 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, hand to mouth, struggling

to make ends meet. That was before the Pandemic. That's 8 out of every 10 people you know, regardless of how much money they make. The typical household is broke shortly after payday, struggling to the next payday only to be broke shortly after payday in perpetuity. The struggle is real!

I recall reading a marketing book years ago. In this book, I took away a couple of things: The author said that his goal was every time the mailman delivered mail to his home, he wanted the mail to include a check made out to him. Stark contrast to my childhood life. We got a check delivered once a month. Stark contrast to everyday people. We can count on bills being included in the mail daily but not checks. His goal became my goal. I was trying to get a check delivered every day. My best attempt at that goal was 7 days in a row, check in the mail. Talking about a "happy dance". Imagine me twerking (LOL). Secondly, the author said, I can't tell you with confidence one way to make \$100,000. But I can tell you with confidence, five ways to make \$20,000. The key is to be doing all 5. This too became my goal. I went from offering solely mortgage related services to also offering tax preparation and financial planning services within my company.

I was exposed during the economic crisis back in 1998. But thinking back, it prepared me to better weather the storm of this pandemic. Although I was offering

three different financial related services and was becoming more and more known as a financial advisor, from an income generation standpoint, I only focused on mortgages. Income generated from the other services was gravy. Tax Preparation was a seasonal business. I was making 10-20 times more per transaction doing mortgages than I was preparing financial plans and preparing taxes. And it took less time to structure a mortgage deal than it did to prepare tax returns and financial plans. But once the bottom fell out of the mortgage market in 1998, it impacted 70-80 percent of gross revenue—eventually forcing me back to Corporate America.

Due to the Coronavirus, upwards of 40 million people have been either furloughed or laid-off. Big, medium, and small companies are all fighting during this time to keep their doors open. We work hard for our respective companies and try to add value and prove ourselves valuable. Despite how valuable we think we are, what's been made glaringly obvious during this time is that on the balance sheet of our respective employer, employees are categorized as an expense. In fact, employees are the largest expense employers pay. To stay afloat companies had to let many people go. Millions of people are out of work. Gratefully, the federal government gave unemployment a \$600 weekly raise. That's subject to sunset last week of July 2020. In addition, federal government mandated mortgage and

student loan forbearances. Many car and credit card companies are offering similar work-out plans. All of these work-out plans will end soon, if not extended.

What we're experiencing today as a country eerily reminds me of my childhood upbringing. How do you combat living paycheck to paycheck or combat being without income should you be laid off? According to Forbes Magazine, "there are no downsides to a side hustle. There are only benefits to building more than one source of income. A side hustle is the new Job Security."

I agree! Solution is Multiple Streams of Income! Not only does income from multiple sources provide a needed additional source of income to your household, it can serve as a crutch or a safety net in the event income from a primary source is reduced or eliminated entirely.

We're taught in investing that you need to diversify your portfolio in order to mitigate risk. It's not wise to put all your eggs in one basket. If that makes sense when it comes to investing, wouldn't the same hold true when it comes to our income – our most powerful wealth building tool? Why do most of us rely on our singular job as our one and only income source?

Chances are your favorite celebrity has multiple streams of income. Think about that for a second. Someone who earns 100 times the average person's annual income with their main job, has income coming in from multiple sources.

In addition to your primary job, level up, take on additional income sources!

(Money Coach Damon Carr, can be reached at 412-216-1013 or visit his website at www.damon-moneycoach.com.)

Damon Carr

The Carr Report



To invest or not to invest

INVEST FROM B1
reau.

According to experts, “Reducing your debt-to-income ration will have a larger impact on your ability to buy a home than simply adding the same amount of cash to your down payment.

Your credit score determines your interest rate when purchasing a home. The higher your credit score the lower your interest rate which can make a huge difference when buying a property.

If your ultimate goal is to buy property, it is imperative to remember that your credit score is everything when you are buying a home which is why family finance experts recommend using a small portion of your stimulus check on a credit building loan.

Another option is to add your stimulus check to a home savings account. Recognizing that your stimulus check is not enough to cover a down payment, but it can be put directly into a home savings that could go towards a list of homeowner expenses.

Lastly, if you could afford it, donate your stimulus check. Several industries with hourly workers, nail technicians, restaurant workers, hairdressers, etc. had their main source of incomes disappear in the blink of an eye, but their financial obligations did not and their stimulus checks will not even scratch the surface of what they owe.

Food banks and other charities are also in need now, more than ever and the demand for their services are increasing but their budgets were set before the pandemic started. If your job is still in tack and your emergency fund is in good shape, you may want to consider donating a portion of your stimulus check.

Remember, however you choose to spend your stimulus check make sure your basic needs are met first and anything thereafter make thoughtful and strategic decisions. “You must gain control over your money or the lack of it will forever control you.”

—Dave Ramsey

(Anthony O. Kellum is President of Kellum Mortgage, LLC.)

Former McDonald's execs strike back in race discrimination lawsuit

MCDONALD'S FROM B1

go last year after it was revealed he was involved in an affair with a colleague, in violation of company policy, also named in the suit are the current CEO, Chris Kempczinski, and Charles Strong, the chief field officer.

At its bare essence, the women allege in the suit the world's largest fast food restaurant chain has “declared war against the African American community.”

She noted her observation is based on its new business plan and corporate leadership's attitudes toward African American employees and owner-operators who had the majority of restaurants in African American consumer markets and would be impacted, more so than others. “And that action coincided with

Council and it subsequently became dormant. The Council provided career development and a talent pipeline for African American employees. And soon the demotions started with African Americans being targeted for elimination such as herself and Guster-Hines, the suit alleges, leaving no African Americans at Kempczinski's leadership table during his tenure as president of McDonald's USA to advocate on behalf of Black employees, franchise operators or customers. The suit claims the number of African American executives in the top ranks of McDonald's operations fell to seven in 2019 from 42 in 2014, the year before the new regime came on board.

The suit also alleges:

- Before Easterbrook and Kempczinski's arrival, African American consum-

from the Michigan Chronicle by publication deadline.

However, in a statement to the media in January, issued at the filing of the suit, McDonald's said it disagreed with the characterization of the company's behavior. It said 45 percent of its corporate officers and all of its field vice presidents are people of color.

“At McDonald's, our actions are rooted in our belief that a diverse, vibrant, inclusive, and respectful company makes us stronger,” the company said. “While we disagree with characterizations in the complaint, we are currently reviewing it and will respond to the complaint accordingly.”

Carmen D. Caruso and Linda C. Chatman, the Chicago-based trial lawyers representing Neal and Guster-Hines, said the behavior by McDonald's executives constituted

some of the most egregious acts of racial discrimination they have ever been confronted with in their careers.

“Under the guise of reorganizing the way they manage the franchise system, the restaurant system across the country, they basically decimated the ranks of the African American leadership and employees,” Caruso said. “That to me is one of the most glaring acts of intentional discrimination that we saw in the case. And we lay those numbers out in greater detail in the complaint itself. But that was very, very, serious discrimination in employment, and it's over and above a lot of other things that came before and other things that have



a significant reduction in the number of African American owner-operators.”

When Neal and other executives brought these concerns to the attention of leadership, they began to retaliate against them. They defunded the company's African American Diversity

ers generated 20 percent of all revenue for McDonald's U.S. stores.

- Easterbrook and Kempczinski caused a decrease in advertising to attract African American patronage. The constant cutting in the funding of programs for building African American leadership resulted in the system-wide purchases by African Americans to decline by 6 percent.

- Nearly one out of three African American franchisees left the McDonald's system since Easterbrook arrived which was disproportionate to the loss of non-African American franchisees.

But among Neal's and Guster-Hines' most revealing claims was the racist, sexist taunts they had to endure from the McDonald's executives. The suit alleges that in 2005, Marty Ranft, a White vice president and general manager of the McDonald's Ohio Region, told Guster-Hines, “You are a n_gger like all the rest—you just believe you are better 'cause you are a smart one.”

She further alleges she reported Ranft to her supervisors and emphasized that she would not tolerate being called a n_gger within McDonald's or anywhere else. She said there was no response to her complaint from the corporation and Ranft was eventually promoted to Vice President of Development for the entire U.S.

The suit also alleges in 2017 that Strong, who supervised Neal and Guster-Hines, and at the time was responsible for 50 percent of the U.S. business and about 14,000 restaurants, instructed Neal not to consult with or take the advice of two African American women, Bridgette Hernandez and Barbara Calloway, who had been promoted over Strong's opposition. She alleged he stated, “We don't need any of that Black woman's attitude. They are too angry and aggressive.”

The next year in March 2018, Strong allegedly told Guster-Hines that five African American women, Chioke Elmore, Regina Johnson, Hernandez, Calloway and Neal, were “angry Black women” that “always seemed to be mad about something.” He then allegedly asked Guster-Hines to explain the source of their anger.

The five women constituted 40 percent of female African American vice presidents as of March 2018, and were three out of the five vice presidents reporting to Strong when he allegedly made the statements.

“So that was shocking that he was so openly discussing that with various stakeholders that we were angry Black women,” Neal said.

But what she, Guster-Hines, and others found even more jarring and demoralizing was after they shared Strong's racist, sexist, and demeaning remarks to his superiors, he, too, was promoted and they were demoted.

“In shocking ways difficult to overstate, McDonald's, under Easterbrook and Kempczinski, declared a war against the African American community,” the lawsuit alleges.

Neither the McDonald's Corporation Media Relations Department nor the lawyer representing them, Nigel F. Telman of Chicago, returned calls

come after, but that's kind of a centerpiece of the discrimination against the executive employees, including Domineca and Vicki.”

Chatman agreed and said that they are also arguing that McDonald's will try to argue that their promotion and demotion policies are neutral because they are based on data, not race. The racially hostile work environment had a particularly destructive impact upon Black employees, including Neal and Guster-Hines.

“The crux of it is that, under Easterbrook and now Kempczinski, McDonald's is not interested in, or focused upon, Black customers, Black franchisees or Black executives, as evidenced by how they decimated their ranks at the corporate level,” she said.

“Domineca and Vicki were forced to witness McDonald's blatantly de-emphasize Black people and the effect upon them was terrible,” Chatman said. “I mean, how are they supposed to work in an environment that is openly hostile to people who look like them?”

Neal said when Kempczinski was told about concerns that there weren't any Blacks on his U.S. president executive team, he said, “the numbers don't matter.”

“But, the numbers do matter,” Chatman said.

Caruso said the bottom line is that they are alleging their clients were victims of intentional discrimination and it came from the very top of the McDonald's organization in the form of Steve Easterbrook and Christopher Kempczinski.

“It was not an accident that all this happened to Domineca and Vicki, and other African Americans in the company,” he said.

Neal, reflecting on her time at McDonald's, recalled how happy she was to join the organization in 2011 precisely because of its reputation for embracing the African American community.

“And we embraced them, and that was shown through the loyalty to the brand, the representation of African American talent at all levels throughout the organization and the opportunities to create wealth for the African American owner-operators, which was also very inspiring and a representation of their diversity and inclusion values,” she said.

Now, after leaving the corporation in March, Neal still finds the swift turnabout in the company's attitude and values—after nearly 50 years of progress—disconcerting. She said the whole “angry Black woman” incident felt as if she was living in an episode of “Mad Men.”

She is left to wonder how sincere the corporation was about diversity and inclusion in the first place. She noted things would never have had gotten out of hand if the Board of Directors had come down on the executives. But they didn't.

“It was very disheartening, heartbreaking, and shocking because I think that we're at a stage in society, where we know that's language that is racial in nature and stereotypical and used in a manner to quiet African American women from being able to comfortably bring their authentic selves to the workplace,” Neal said.

COVID-19 Relief PA Statewide Small Business Assistance \$5,000 - \$50,000 Grants

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The measure of a president

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Commentary



dishonorable, failed or otherwise) set the tone for their time in office and beyond. It is expected and hoped that anyone willing to run for the office has a character rooted in the foundations of honesty, selflessness, character and compassion. Until now, we have generally rejected an abject liar, a person devoid of compassion, and one motivated only by self-interest. Somehow, the current officeholder slinked in the door.

I know many sycophants of #45 will vehemently reject my assessment of their 'boy,' but facts support my position. These facts are no longer based in "he said, she said" dialogues. His current incompetence has now resulted in the loss of American lives. Lives lost that he is supposed to value above all others. Lives for which he is expected subordinate personal interests and which he is expected to defend. Lives which depend on his leadership. Lives which he has abandoned at the altar of "What's Good for Trump."

Failing the creation of a comprehensive or cogent national strategy to combat COVID-19, #45 has begun to

'reinvent' his belief that COVID-19 will miraculously "disappear." Failing to set an example of behavior endorsed by medical science, he presents to the public without masking and ridicules those who do. Simultaneously, he lies to the American public, stating that "more testing creates more infections" and that infections are on the decline. Meanwhile, the US, whose population is roughly 5 percent of the world's population, has suffered 25 percent of COVID-19 worldwide fatalities.

#45's most recent and most egregious act is his ongoing and public support of Vladimir Putin while US intelligence sources have disclosed that Russia paid bounties to the Taliban for the lives of US servicemembers serving in combat in Afghanistan. According to sources, Taliban combatants were paid \$100,000 per each American life.

Once again, #45 does not believe US Intelligence sources and labels reports of bounties as "fake news" and "a hoax." He has laid these American lives on the altar of his reelection.

These are just two of the myriad offenses of character and leadership he presents to us. After assessing the carnage in the wake of his disastrous term of office, is there anything he can offer us in a second term that will justify the butchery of his first term? The choice is yours! It can only be made with your vote!!

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women.)



Guest Editorial

COVID-19 denial is dangerous, deadly

Top U.S. COVID-19 adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci blames the country's pandemic response on American "anti-science bias."

This bias is "inconceivable," because "science is truth," said Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, while criticizing those discounting the importance of masks and social distancing.

Fauci is right that many Americans have an "anti-science bias" in their response to the coronavirus. The bias is similar to the one against climate change. But just as with the climate change debate, skepticism is also exploited by politicians.

President Donald Trump and many Republican state leaders continue to send signals through their words and actions that the coronavirus is no longer a serious threat and that Americans can return to business as usual including not wearing a mask in public or practicing social distancing.

As states and cities gradually reopen it is important to remember that the coronavirus is continuing to kill Americans in significant numbers.

The number of new coronavirus cases per day in the U.S. is hovering close to the peak reached in late April during some of the deadliest days of the crisis.

Experts say expanded testing probably accounts for some of the increase. But other measures indicate the virus is making a comeback. Daily deaths, hospitalizations and the percentage of tests that are coming back positive for the virus have also been rising over the past few weeks in parts of the country.

Texas has pursued one of the most aggressive reopening schedules in the nation. But disturbing new signs have forced Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to backtrack. Abbott announced last Thursday that he will pause any further reopening of Texas, which is seeing a surge of COVID-19 cases.

The U.S. government's top public health leaders last week disputed assertions by Trump that the coronavirus pandemic is under control and the U.S. is excelling in testing for the virus.

Trump has said the pandemic is "fading," but it is actually surging in many states, experts said, and the need to expand testing is "critical."

Fauci and other public health authorities have made it clear that the rise in cases recently is not just from increased testing, as Trump and Vice President Mike Pence repeatedly suggest, but also from states relaxing their precautions.

(Reprinted from the Philadelphia Tribune)

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—As a student of philosophical principles, I am aware of the school of thought that does not believe in the existence of "NORMAL" as a universal state of being. A testament to that idea is the fact that each of us has a unique set of experiences that shape differences in our definitions of normal. However, living among others with as little conflict as possible requires a standard of conduct with written and unwritten principles to which most consent. We label those who do not consent or who behave outside of the parameters which we consider in order as abnormal or, more commonly as criminals.

A RESPONSIBLE HUMAN's comportment reflects character, honor and is respectful of the personage and rights of those with whom she/he must interact. Without those character traits it's unlikely that any person could rightly ascend to a position of LEADERSHIP. I define a LEADER as one who assesses the impact of circumstances upon a group and, through the powers of discernment, persuasion and/or inspiration, navigates and guides that group to/through a course of action that results in the greatest benefit for that group.

Not all Presidents of the United States have conducted themselves as responsible humans. An even smaller number have demonstrated qualities of leadership that have been predicated on the "common good." The implications of their leadership (enlightened,

D.C. statehood is a racial justice issue for the entire nation

Ben Jealous

Commentary



caseload was higher than 19 states'.

This denial of COVID-19 relief funds is just the latest harm imposed on D.C. by members of Congress who have been happy to treat D.C. as their fiefdom, from interfering with public health officials' response to the AIDS crisis to blocking implementation of a voter-approved referendum to legalize the use of marijuana.

There is no doubt that both historically and today, opposition to extending democracy to our nation's capital has been grounded in racism and the desire to maintain racist structures of power.

And there is no doubt that denying citizens of the nation's capital representation in the national legislature—something no other free country does—undermines our self-image as leaders of the free world and our credibility as a beacon of democracy on the international stage.

Civil rights leaders and other advocates for statehood, including Jesse Jackson and Julian Bond, D.C.'s nonvoting delegate to Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton, and the activists at DC Vote, have been making the case for statehood for decades.

The case is clear. D.C. has more

residents than either Wyoming or Vermont, and nearly as many as Alaska. D.C. residents contribute more federal taxes than those of 22 states, and more per capita than any state. There is no principled justification for continuing to treat the people of Washington, D.C. as second-class citizens.

Many of the systemic problems Americans are grappling with do not have simple solutions. But this one does. All it will take is for the Senate to pass and the president to sign the legislation that just passed in Congress.

What is standing in the way is the same ruthless Republican desire to maintain power that brings us racial and political gerrymandering and voter suppression. The illegitimate entrenchment of power in the hands of right-wing politicians undermines democracy. It harms Americans everywhere, not just in D.C., by making it harder to adopt policies that protect American lives and communities. That is why D.C. statehood must be part of the agenda of the broader movement to advance racial equity and a healthy democracy.

For now, D.C. statehood legislation is sure to join the growing pile of common-good measures passed by the House that die in Mitch McConnell's graveyard. That should intensify our resolve to mobilize voters and overcome every undemocratic tactic Republicans will deploy to suppress the vote between now and November.

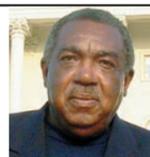
(Ben Jealous is president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation; former president of the NAACP.)

Having political power without economic power is impossible

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—We Black folks need to understand that political power is impossible without economic power. We may have some degree of political influence, but never power without securing economic power. No one understood this better than Professor James Clingman. The following excerpt from his must-read book will explain my position Black Dollars: How to Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense: "Herein is my strongest effort yet to elucidate the nuances and the obvious connections between politics and economics. Moreover, as others before me have done, my task is to do everything I can to convince Black folks in particular that our interests must be returned to economics over politics as it was when we owned economic enclaves across this nation. I know that's hard for some of us, because we have been seeking political power since 1965. Irrespective of our feelings about our favorite politicians, the status quo will remain the same until we demonstrate our willingness to use our dollars to effect public policy. Everything else is rhetoric." Furthermore he continued "I am not advocating an 'either or'

A. Peter Bailey

Commentary



scenario between the two disciplines; certainly our actions in response to them must be 'both and.' We must understand the priority however; which one comes first, which one depends on the other, and which of the two can achieve real power faster. We have struggled with politics for 50 years now, since we abandoned our economic base of business ownership and mutual support. Five decades should be enough to convince us that if and until we have a strong economic base, a position of struggle from which to negotiate our grievances with politicians, we will never have real political power. I hope this book convinces you of that hard cold fact and will leave you to work on obtaining real economic power collectively and individually as quickly as you can....Our aggregate annual income of \$1.2 tril-

lion dollars is mainly used to create wealth for everyone for Black people, because we spend the vast majority of it at their businesses. Politics has not and will not solve these issues. We must solve them ourselves, by 'the work of our own hands,' as Martin Delany told us." For those who don't know, Martin Delany was an Afro-centric contemporary of Frederick Douglass. We as a people must insist that our leadership on any level display their knowledge of Professor Clingman's views on economic power.

Finally he noted the term, "Black dollars matter! is in response to our efforts to tell the world that 'Black lives matter!' To most, that's a very obvious reality and there should be no need to impress that reality on any human being, except of course on those who would take Black lives unjustifiably. Thus, our protests against police killing Black men continue. In order to implement a Black dollars strategy in response to the killings, we must understand the relationship between public policy development and economic empowerment. Once we get a handle on that, I contend we will be well on our way to winning this battle."

Pittsburgh Courier

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Stephan A. Broadus
Assistant to the Publisher

Allison Palm
Office Manager

Rob Taylor Jr.
Managing Editor

Jeff Marion
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John. H. Sengstacke
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Help Wanted

BOROUGH MANAGER POSITION

Job Description: Wilkensburg, a dynamic and historic first-ring suburb of Pittsburgh of 16,000 residents with both major highway and busway access, seeks an experience full-time manager to help direct out continued forward momentum. Reporting to a council of nine, the Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Borough including oversight of a \$15 million dollar annual budget and supervision of department heads. The ideal candidate will be creative and accountable, while championing strong communication and team building. A proven track record in community and economic development, grant writing and financial management is highly desired. Professional management style covering 75 employees and background leading a municipality in a unionized environment. **Salary:** Shall be commensurate with experience with an attractive benefit package. **Minimum Education Qualifications:** Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science; Master in Public Policy or Master of Business Administration preferred. **Experience:** The qualified candidate shall have a minimum of five years experience in governmental management and at least three years with direct staff supervision. Prospective candidates shall apply a resume with a cover letter, three references, two writing samples including on funding proposal in an envelope marked "Borough Manager Position" and mail to Borough of Wilkensburg, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkensburg, PA 15221. Application period closes at 4PM on August 17, 2020. EOE/AA

LOCAL COLLEGE HIRING ACADEMIC CHAIR-SCHOOL OF DESIGN, V.P. STUDENT AFFAIRS/ ENROLLMENT MGT., MAINTENANCE TECH/HVAC/ ELECTRICAL & HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS

Pittsburgh Technical College is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- Academic Chair** – School of Design Master's degree in related discipline
- V.P. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management** Master's degree required, doctorate preferred
- Maintenance Tech** – HVAC/Electrical – Full-time Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (8 hour work shift) Must be Universal EPA Certified
- Housekeeper** – Full-time - Day Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (8 hour work shift) 3 years prior office/institutional cleaning experience
- Housekeeper** – Part-time – Evening Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (4 hour work shift) Prior office/institutional cleaning experience preferred

Must pass criminal background check. Immediate opening at our North Fayette campus near Robinson Towne Center. Apply to www.ptcollege.edu (Employment with PTC) or www.workfortcollege.com. EOE M/F

MAINTENANCE AND COMMUNITY MANAGER POSITIONS

TREK Development is hiring! Open positions include, Maintenance and Community Manager positions. Send resumes to bitzer@compass-resources.com

FULL-TIME VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is seeking a full-time visitor services manager. Please send resumes with salary requirement to hrvs@pittsburghzoo.org. The job description will be posted in a reply. EOE

CODE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Borough of Wilkensburg is seeking a Director of Code Enforcement. This is an administrative position which includes field work. Director supervises five employees. A minimum of five years' experience in code enforcement or building industry. Completion of a BS, BA or comparable industry credentials. Building Code Official certification preferred. Knowledge of MS software or other industry platforms a must. Must possess and maintain a valid PA Motor Vehicle License. Cover letter and resume with three (3) professional references to Acting Borough Manager, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkensburg, PA 15221, or email (preferred) infor@wilkensburghpa.gov Application period closes at 4 p.m. on August 17, 2020. A position description is available on the Borough's website at www.wilkensburghpa.gov. EEO/AA

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Legal Notices

Estate Notices

Letters have been granted on the estate of each of the following decedents to the personal representative named who request all persons having claims against the estate of the decedent to make known the same in writing to him or his attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to him without delay:

Estate of RUTH S. GABELHART a/k/a RUTH ELIZABETH GABELHART, Deceased of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania No.02-20-02781, Scott W. Gabelhart, Executor, 1064 Elizabeth Drive, McMurray, PA 15317 or to Robin L. Rarie, Atty; BRENLOVE & FULLER, LLC, 401 Washington Avenue Bridgeville, PA 15017

Estate of SZLEC PATRICIA ANN a/k/a SZLEC PATRICIA A, Deceased of Shaler Township No.02556 of 2020, Brian J. Szlec, Executor, 246 Corey Dr., Gibsonia, PA 15044 or to Micheal J. Saldamarco, ESQ., Atty; STE. 100, 908 Perry Hwy. Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Estate of Mr. John Earl Pawuk, Deceased of 923 Vance Avenue, Coaropolis, PA 15108. Estate No.02-20-02840, Ms. Carol Pawuk and Ms. Karen DeChellis, Co-Administratrixes, c/o Max C. Feldman, Esquire and the Law Office of Max C. Feldman, 1322 Fifth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
JustLaws PLLC, Steve Masters, Esquire, 621, West Mount Airy Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 16, 2020, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State for 1Hood Power, a corporation organized under the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988 for the purpose of building political power, holding politicians accountable, and developing effective political leadership through electoral organizing, issue advocacy, and civic education efforts. The name of the corporation is 1Hood Power

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

WASHINGTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Washington County Housing Authority will receive separate, and sealed bids for the following prime contract bid with the Authority:

**NEW FLOORING FOR NATHAN GOFF APARTMENTS
1 MIDDLELAND AVENUE
EXTENSION
NORTH CHARLEROI, PA 15022
WCHA 2020-G9 CONTRACT;
A/E PROJECT # 2170**

A certified check or bank draft payable to the Washington County Housing Authority, a US Government Bond or satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and acceptable sureties in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bids will be received no later than 11:00 AM DST, Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the Washington County Housing Authority, 100 South Franklin Street, Crumrine Tower, Washington, PA 15301 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be held by the Housing Authority for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days prior to the contract award.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11:00 AM DST, Friday, July 10, 2020 at the Nathan Goff Apartments, 1 Middleland Avenue Extension, North Charleroi, PA 15022.

Plans, specifications and contract documents may be examined at the following location:

Bid Documents are being distributed, with twenty-four hour prior notice of pick-up, by F. L. Haus Company, 921 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, by phone (412) 231-7700 or fax (412) 231-7709. All prime bidders are REQUIRED to buy the full set of plans and specifications. Contact F. L. Haus Company for cost of plans and specifications. Free examination of said documents is available at the office of Canzian/Johnston & Associates LLC and Pennsylvania Builders Exchange. Submit all required documents in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

Nathan Goff Apartments: New Flooring for Nathan Goff Apartments.

The work to be performed under this contract is a Section 3 Project under provisions of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, and must, to the greatest extent feasible, provide opportunities for training and employment for lower-income residents of the project and contracts for work in connection with the project are awarded to business concerns which are located in, or owned by, Washington County residents. Particular attention is directed to requirements of Executive Order 11246, 11625 and 12138, as well as Section 3 requirements, as set forth in the Specifications.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason(s) what so ever and to waive informalities in the bidding.

STEPHEN K. HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

WASHINGTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Washington County Housing Authority will receive separate, and sealed bids for the following prime contract bid with the Authority:

**CRUMRINE TOWER ANNEX EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS
CRUMRINE TOWER 100 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET
WASHINGTON, PA 15301
WCHA 2020-G1 Contract; A/E COMMISSION # 3172**

A certified check or bank draft payable to the Washington County Housing Authority, a US Government Bond or satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and acceptable sureties in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bids will be received no later than 1:30 PM DST, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 at the Washington County Housing Authority, 100 Crumrine Tower, Franklin Street, Washington, PA 15301 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be held by the Housing Authority for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days prior to the contract award.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-bid Meeting will be held at 9:00 AM DST, FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020 onsite at Crumrine Tower, 100 South Franklin Street, Washington, Pa 15301

Plans, specifications, and contract documents may be examined at these locations:

Plans and Specifications may be viewed at the following Plan Rooms: Cleveland Builders Exchange, Pittsburgh Builders Exchange, Construction Journal, and Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council.

ACD containing PDF's of all bid documents may be obtained through the office of the Architect, Shaeffer & Madama, Inc., 57 Fourteenth Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 upon receipt of a \$25.00 non-refundable payment and valid email address. For more information, contact susieb@shaeffer-madama.com.

Submit all required documents in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

WCHA Crumrine Tower: Crumrine Tower Annex Exterior Renovations

The work to be performed under this contract is a Section 3 Project under Provisions of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, and must, to the greatest extent feasible, provide opportunities for training and employment for lower-income residents of the project and contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to business concerns which are located in, or owned by, Washington County residents. Particular attention is directed to requirements of Executive Order 11246, 11625 and 12138, as well as Section 3 requirements, as set forth in the Specifications.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason(s) what so ever and to waive informalities in the bidding.

STEPHEN K. HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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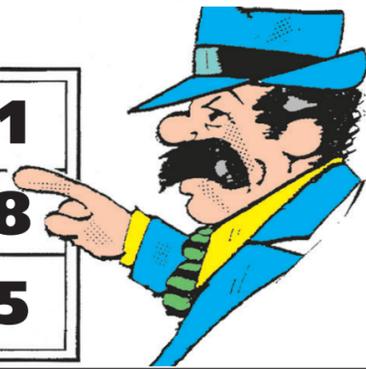
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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

Bids/Proposals

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT Port Authority of Allegheny County REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 20-04

Port Authority of Allegheny County (Authority) is requesting proposals for the performance of the following service ("Contract Services"):

GENERAL MARKETING SERVICES

The work under the proposed Agreements consists of general marketing services with a pool of two firms for each category listed which shall include, but not be limited to: 1) Advertising, Marketing and Promotion; 2) Public Relations; 3) Community Outreach (Street Teams)/Community Engagement; 4) Market Research; 5) Direct Mail Distribution; and 6) Video Production. While it is currently the Authority's intention to enter into agreements with a pool of two firms for each category, this number may be adjusted up or down, at Authority's sole discretion, based upon the number of proposals received and Authority's evaluation of same in relation to its general marketing services needs in each of the categories. The required services will be issued on a work order basis as they are approved to proceed by Authority. The Agreement will be for a four-year period with the option to extend the term of the Agreement up to one additional years at the sole discretion of Authority.

A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on or after June 30, 2020, and can be obtained by registering at the Port Authority ebusiness website: <http://ebusiness.portauthority.org> and following the directions listed on the website. Please note that Proposers must register under the ebusiness category of PSMAP – Pro Market/Add/Public Relation for this RFP. Proposers may also register in other categories for any future RFPs issued by Port Authority. If you have specific questions regarding this RFP, please contact Fred Buckner (412) 566-5467.

An Information Meeting for interested parties will be held at 9:30a.m. prevailing time, July 21, 2020 via conference call to answer any questions regarding this RFP. The Authority call-in number has been set up and is as follows:

- Toll Free Number (Canada/US): 1-800-974-5902
- Local Dial-In Number: (412) 874-8100

• Conference ID #: 4051776

Electronic proposals must be both received, and time stamped by a representative of the Purchasing and Materials Management Department through Authority's Ebusiness website at or before 2:00 p.m., prevailing time, July 30, 2020, at <http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>. Proposals received or time stamped by a Purchasing and Materials Management Department representative through Authority's Ebusiness website after the advertised time for the submission of proposals shall be non-responsive and therefore ineligible for award. Each Proposer shall be solely responsible for assuring that its proposal is timely received and time stamped in accordance with the requirements herein.

This Contract Services may be funded, in part, by, and subject to certain requirements of, the County of Allegheny and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The proposal process and the performance of the requested services will be in accordance with guidelines and regulations of the FTA "Third Party Contracting Guidelines", FTA Circular 4220.1F, as amended, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Port Authority of Allegheny County, in compliance with 49 C.F.R., Part 26, as amended, implements positive affirmative action procedures to ensure that all Disadvantaged Business Enterprises ("DBEs") have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts financed, in whole or in part, with federal funds, if any, provided under or for the proposed Agreement. In this regard, all recipients or contractors shall take all necessary and reasonable steps in accordance with 49 C.F.R., Part 26, to ensure that DBEs have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontracts for, the Contract Services.

Port Authority of Allegheny County, in compliance with 74 Pa.C.S. § 303, as may be amended, also requires that certified Diverse Businesses, ("DBs") have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontract for, the Contract Services. In this regard, all Proposers, and the Contractor, shall make good faith efforts, in accordance with 74 Pa.C.S. § 303, to ensure that DBs have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontracts for, the Contract Services.

Further, proposers and the Contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, disability, national origin, sex, sexual origin, gender identity or status as a parent in the award and performance of contracts or subcontracts for these Contract Services.

Port Authority of Allegheny County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

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Bids / Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR SEWER AND CATCH BASIN MAINTENANCE AUTHORITY WIDE IFB #300-18-20 REBID

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) hereby request bids from qualified Firms or Individuals capable of providing the following service(s):

SEWER AND CATCH BASIN MAINTENANCE AUTHORITY WIDE IFB #300-18-20 REBID

The documents will be available no later than **June 29, 2020** and signed, sealed bids will be accepted until **10:30 A.M.** on July 21, 2020.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will only be accepting physical bids dropped off in person from 8:00 AM until the bid opening time of 10:30 AM on July 21, 2020 in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bids may be uploaded to the Authority's online submission site, the link is accessible via the HACP website and within the IFB. Sealed bids may still be mailed via USPS at which time they will be Time and Date Stamped at 100 Ross Street 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Parties or individuals interested in responding may download a copy of the Solicitation from the Business Opportunities page of www.HACP.org. Questions or inquires should be directed to:

Mr. Kim Detrick
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Procurement Department
100 Ross Street
2nd Floor, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-643-2832

A pre-bid meeting will be held via call in; on **July 9, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.** Please see call in information below:

Join the audio conference by phone:
United States - Washington, DC
+1.202.602.1295
Access Code 598-776-271#

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh strongly encourages certified minority business enterprises and women business enterprises to respond to this solicitation.

HACP's has revised their website. As part of those revisions, vendors must now register and log-in, in order to view and download IFB/RFPs documentation.

Caster D. Binion,
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

HACP conducts business in accordance with all federal, state, and local civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VII, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, The PA Human Relations Act, etc. and does not discriminate against any individuals protected by these statutes.



LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids / Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR FIRE AND SECURITY ALARM MONITORING AUTHORITY WIDE IFB #300-17-20 REBID

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) hereby request bids from qualified Firms or Individuals capable of providing the following service(s):

FIRE AND SECURITY ALARM MONITORING AUTHORITY WIDE IFB #300-17-20 REBID

The documents will be available no later than **June 29, 2020** and signed, sealed bids will be accepted until **11:00 A.M.** on July 21, 2020.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will only be accepting physical bids dropped off in person from 8:00 AM until the bid opening time of 11:00 AM on July 21, 2020 in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bids may be uploaded to the Authority's online submission site, the link is accessible via the HACP website and within the IFB. Sealed bids may still be mailed via USPS at which time they will be Time and Date Stamped at 100 Ross Street 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

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Procurement Department
100 Ross Street
2nd Floor, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-643-2832

A pre-bid meeting will be held via call in; on **July 9, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.** Please see call in information below:

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AN APPOINTMENT THAT'S

...THIRTY MINUTES FROM HERE!

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids / Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR DRIVERS TRAINING FOR RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IFB #550-10-20

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) hereby request bids from qualified Firms or Individuals capable of providing the following service(s):

DRIVERS TRAINING FOR RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IFB #550-10-20

The documents will be available no later than **June 29, 2020** and signed, sealed bids will be accepted until **11:30 A.M.** on July 21, 2020.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will only be accepting physical bids dropped off in person from 8:00 AM until the bid opening time of 11:30 AM on July 21, 2020 in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Sealed bids may be uploaded to the Authority's online submission site, the link is accessible via the HACP website and within the IFB. Sealed bids may still be mailed via USPS at which time they will be Time and Date Stamped at 100 Ross Street 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Parties or individuals interested in responding may download a copy of the Solicitation from the Business Opportunities page of www.HACP.org. Questions or inquires should be directed to:

Mr. Kim Detrick
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Procurement Department
100 Ross Street
2nd Floor, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-643-2832

A pre-bid meeting will be held via call in; on **July 9, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.** Please see call in information below:

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The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh strongly encourages certified minority business enterprises and women business enterprises to respond to this solicitation.

HACP's has revised their website. As part of those revisions, vendors must now register and log-in, in order to view and download IFB/RFPs documentation.

Caster D. Binion,
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

HACP conducts business in accordance with all federal, state, and local civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VII, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, The PA Human Relations Act, etc. and does not discriminate against any individuals protected by these statutes.



LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids / Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR PLUMBING REPAIR SERVICES AUTHORITY WIDE REBID IFB #300-02-20 REBID

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) hereby request bids from qualified Firms or Individuals capable of providing the following service(s):

PLUMBING REPAIR SERVICES AUTHORITY WIDE REBID IFB #300-02-20 REBID

The documents will be available no later than **June 29, 2020** and signed, sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 A.M.** on July 21, 2020.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will only be accepting physical bids dropped off in person from 8:00 AM until the bid opening time of 10:00 AM on July 21, 2020 in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bids may be uploaded to the Authority's online submission site, the link is accessible via the HACP website and within the IFB. Sealed Bids may still be mailed via USPS at which time they will be Time and Date Stamped at 100 Ross Street 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Parties or individuals interested in responding may download a copy of the Solicitation from the Business Opportunities page of www.HACP.org. Questions or inquires should be directed to:

Mr. Kim Detrick
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Procurement Department
100 Ross Street
2nd Floor, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-643-2832

A pre-bid meeting will be held via call in; on **July 9, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.** Please see call in information below:

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The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh strongly encourages certified minority business enterprises and women business enterprises to respond to this solicitation.

HACP's has revised their website. As part of those revisions, vendors must now register and log-in, in order to view and download IFB/RFPs documentation.

Caster D. Binion,
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

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Symbols, statues and substance

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Socially isolated and alone in my home, I lifted my fist into the air when I learned that the Mississippi legislature voted to remove the Confederate stars and bars from their flag. As NACCP President Derrick Jackson said, “it’s been a long time coming.” A long time since the songstress Nina Simone put it out there with Mississippi G—damn. A long time since Emmitt Till was massacred for “reckless eyeballing.” A long time since James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered. It’s been a long time coming, but has Mississippi changed?

I’m an economist, so I have to go with the data. Mississippi is the most impoverished state in our nation. It also has the highest percentage of African Americans—37 percent. Still, the state voted in a racist White woman—Cindy Hyde-Smith, who joked about lynching in the days leading up to her election. Mississippians found such jokes acceptable since they rejected Mike Espy’s candidacy for the Mississippi Senate seat that Hyde-Smith now occupies. He garnered 46 percent of the vote in what was described as the closest Senate election in Mississippi since 1988, still, his defeat speaks to the intransigence of racism in his state. Perhaps his 2020 candidacy will yield different results. From my perspective, though, it’s not the symbolic flag, but also the substantive racial inequality in Mississippi.

So while I also cheered that the Princeton University Board of trustees finally agreed to remove the nation’s racist 28th President’s name from its public policy school, I wonder if anything else has changed at Princeton. Students have demanded a more diversified faculty and curriculum and funding for research on reparations. The name change is the first

Julianne Malveaux



Commentary

step. What is the next step?

In Virginia, Governor Ralph Northam (D) said he would remove the statue of Jefferson Davis, the traitorous President of the Confederacy from Richmond’s Monument Avenue. As soon as he announced it, there was a lawsuit challenging his decision, and the matter is headed for court. Rita Davis, the Black woman who is Northam’s legal advisor, said the statue was designed to minimize “a devastating evil.” If you walk down Monument Avenue, evil abounds. Taking the statue down is a first step for the blackface-wearing governor, but again what’s next?

Even as the winds of change are swirling, there are dinosaurs who cling tenaciously to our nation’s racist past. I do not understand why Confederate loyalists seem to have forgotten that THE CONFEDERACY LOST THE CIVIL WAR. Except to stir up his racist base, I don’t understand why a man who was born and raised in New York has such loyalty to the Confederacy.

On June 26, the 45th President issued an executive order “protecting monuments, memorials, and statues and combatting recent criminal violence.” The executive order is replete with combative and incendiary language, describing protesters as “rioters, arsonists, and left-wing extremists.” It uses terms like “Marxism” and “agitator” to describe those who oppose historic racism as “ignorant of history.” Because of this “ignorance” (look in the mirror, Mr. President), the executive order says the Feds will prosecute people who “destroys, damages or desecrates a monument on federal or state property,” and their “accomplices” and imposes criminal penalties of up to 10 years in jail. Really? If our nation’s founders had been held to the same specious standards, there would be no United States of America.

The folks who are clinging to statues are clinging to a way of life where Black people are supposed to bow and scrape and accept any kind of treatment from “powerful” White people. In adhering to the Confederacy and folks like Woodrow Wilson and Andrew Jackson, they are clinging to Presidents who were oppressive segregationists. Wilson’s legacy is especially egregious as he deliberately attempted to reverse Black progress by resegregating the civil service. Now, we have a President who would do it all again by embracing racism, retweeting a “White power” video, demonizing protesters, and using language designed to divide.

Some of the symbols of racism are being erased, albeit slowly, but little has changed about the substance of racial inequality. People should not be celebrating symbolic victories unless they are prepared to challenge structural inequality. I cringe when I walk in downtown DC, looking at signs that proclaim “Black Lives Matter,” knowing that many of these stores have exhibited racist behavior toward Black neighbors. Don’t eradicate the symbol, Mississippi, Princeton, commercial establishments, if you aren’t also willing to eliminate the substance of racial inequality.

(Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist who can be reached at www.juliannemalveaux.com)

The Declaration of Independence, revolutionary ideas and changing systems

Last year was the 400th anniversary of African slaves arriving at Virginia’s Jamestown colony in 1619. The New York Times commemorated this event with a collection of essays called The 1619 Project. The 1619 Project proclaimed that 1619 was the year America was founded and not 1776.

The senior editor justified this controversial narrative by explaining that the ideas in The Declaration of Independence were false because slavery still existed after the document was signed.

This year, another Black man was killed by a White police officer. The tragedy brought worldwide protests, the destruction of Confederate monuments, national awareness of Juneteenth, debates about the historical hypocrisy of Independence Day, and whether or not July 4th represented White supremacy. Now, rejecting the 4th of July because The Declaration of Independence stated “all men are created equal” but Black people were still enslaved is an understandable position.

The only problem is its hindsight and the revolutionary idea gets lost. Unfortunately, that happens to most revolutionary ideas. Let’s take Christianity, for example. For contemporary Christians the revolutionary idea behind the faith is God’s son died and resurrected to redeem humanity from original sin. But that wasn’t the revolutionary idea in antiquity. There were other myths about deities returning from the dead, so another resurrection story wouldn’t have been novel or even interesting.

The revolutionary idea the early Christians introduced to the world was that the believer’s body was the temple of God. To modern churchgoers the phrase “your

J. Pharoah Doss



Check It Out

body is a temple” isn’t taken seriously because they’re centuries removed from its original meaning. In ancient times the ritual of forgiveness for sins was to sacrifice an animal at the temple. That was done because they believed God actually lived inside the temple. The early Christians

abolished this ritual by proclaiming Christ was the sacrifice and God lived in every believer. The profundity of this revolutionary idea can only be appreciated through its historical context.

The profundity of the revolutionary idea inside The Declaration of Independence has suffered from the same lack of historical context. The contemporary concern about inequality in America has made many, including the essayist of The 1619 Project, place all emphasis on the Declaration’s claim that all individuals are created equal. But that wasn’t the revolutionary idea. The revolutionary idea was, “unalienable rights endowed by the Creator.”

The Declaration of Independence announced American sovereignty by challenging the divine right of kings. The divine-right theory stated kings derived their authority from God and could not be held accountable by parliament or any other earthly authority. The revolutionary ideas of unalienable rights stated every individual was born with rights granted to them by the Creator, it was the government’s responsibility to protect these rights, and the king had no divine right to rule.

Changing century-old systems require revolutionary ideas, not recycled rhetoric by those that believe the legacy of slavery gives them a divine right to be destructive.

Past due time for American healthcare system to protect Black Americans

(NNPA)—Today, Americans are facing unprecedented times. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, our country has fallen into an economic recession, and hundreds of thousands are protesting police brutality and racial injustice. But there is another epidemic in this country that must be addressed, and it must be addressed now.

CNN’s Don Lemon said it best—“there are two deadly viruses killing Americans: COVID-19 and racism.” Because of the systematic racism that is rooted in our nation, racial disparities in American healthcare have caused illness, injury, and death in minority communities across the country. Black Americans suffer the most at the hands of the American healthcare system. Now, we are seeing COVID-19 shine a much-needed light on the harsh reality that has been plaguing an entire race for centuries.

In my own home state of North Carolina, Black Americans make up 30 percent of COVID-19 cases and 34 percent of the COVID-19 deaths, even though they only make up 22 percent of the population. Really think about that math. How does it make sense?

That means, 162 Black North Carolinians will die due to COVID-19, which is 70 more than would be expected based on the demographic makeup of the state. That is 70 more Americans who will die just because of the color of their skin.

Unfortunately, these healthcare disparities are nothing new. Black Americans have long suffered from a severe lack of access to quality, affordable care, which predisposes them to increased rates of underlying conditions and illnesses. Due to the lack of access, Black Americans are often forced to travel very far for care. This usually means, if they have insurance, they must go to out-of-network facilities and often find themselves hit with exorbitant surprise medical bills.

Surprise medical bills are unanticipated costs related to out-of-network or emergency care a patient received. These bills can range from a \$50 prescription drug to \$30,000 in emergency transport. Not surprisingly, Black Americans suffer from a higher rate of

surprise medical bills, at higher costs compared to White Americans.

Congress holds the pen when it comes to reforming surprise medical billing in this country, but they are falling far short of what needs to be done. There are multiple

bills in the House and the Senate that claim to rectify this injustice, but all of them still leave the cost to patients or providers without holding insurance companies accountable.

While Congress is trying to figure it out, we are seeing the administration miss the mark as well. In a Twitter thread on June 22, CMS administrator Seema Verma may have misdiagnosed the real root of the issue—insurers. Because of the blatant and intrinsic greed, these companies are starving patients of care and putting the financial burden on their shoulders.

In a recent Congressional hearing, Dr. Rhea Boyd, a practicing physician and healthcare scholar said, “ensuring that insurance is not a barrier to healthcare is really critical, particularly for African Americans...”

Insurance companies make billions of dollars every year by using sly tactics like skinny networks to lure customers in and then slap them with a surprise medical bill when they go out-of-network. It is time to put a stop to insurance companies making billions off the backs of hardworking Americans.

It is clear that Senator Lamar Alexander and Representatives Frank Pallone and Greg Walden, three of the members committed to eradicating surprise medical billing, are in the pockets of Big Insurance. The bills they are sponsoring do not even bring insurance companies to the negotiating table, let alone hold them responsible.

We are halfway through 2020, and we still do not have proposed legislation that gets at the root of the surprise medical billing problem. We must get rid of skinny networks, improve access to care, and cover emergency services. It is time for insurance companies to pay, so we can save Black lives. Black Lives Matter.

(Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association based in Washington, D.C.)

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.



Commentary

Letter to the editor

Racism is so deeply rooted in our culture

Dear Editor:

As a 56-year-old Black man born and raised in Pittsburgh, I feel the need to address my feelings and concerns regarding the murder of George Floyd and the racism I’ve seen and/or experienced in my lifetime.

I was born in 1964, the year the Civil Rights Act was passed and growing up in the 1970s my generation definitely benefited from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. However, although some gains have been made for people of color since 1964 we are still, as I see it, fighting many of the same battles; police brutality, racial oppression, et. al.

Has there been some progress? Sure. But not enough. When I look at racism I think it can be subtle or overt. It’s bad either way and much of the racism I’ve experienced has been very subtle.

When I see these protests of the past few weeks, this feels like a civil rights movement for the 21st century. Of course, there are no easy answers and I don’t know if we can ever completely eradicate racism or racial injustice because it’s so deeply rooted in our culture, but I still believe we must and have to continue to try.

David Perkins
Penn Hills

Glenn Ellis



Commentary

COVID-19: Where we are, what we must know, what we must do

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—At least 15,000 Black Americans would still be alive if they had died of COVID-19 at the same rate as White Americans. This is according to publication of a recent study from the APM Research Lab called, “The Color of Coronavirus”.

Just the latest in a barrage of information on COVID-19 and the pandemic. How do you make sense out of all of it? How much of this do you need to know? What do you really need to do to protect you and your family?

Let’s start at the beginning.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

According to the South China Morning Post, a 55-year-old individual from Hubei province in China may have been the first person to have contracted COVID-19, November 17, 2019. The COVID-19 virus first hit the United States in January 2020; the first death here was in February; and by March, the virus had hit all 50 states! Now, here we are six months later, after 3 months of “sheltering in place”, and signs of “reopening” are popping up, while at the same time, some states and cities are having to close as soon as they open. The media is continuing to bombard us with more information than any of us could, reasonably, be expected to be able to process. We’ve now passed a half-million cases around the world, and 2.5 million infection cases, and more than 125,000 deaths here in the United States.

At this rate, half of the entire population of the United States will be infected by the end of the year.

In light of these dismal statistics and facts, we still aren’t sure how bad things really are. It seems that the data that is being collected and reported to us is all over the place. When it comes to the death count, 63 percent of all the deaths in the United States are reported as much as 10 days from the date of death. And that’s after an actual death certificate is issued. Not to mention that some states report daily, some report weekly, and some report monthly.

It takes extra time to code COVID-19 deaths. While 80 percent of deaths are electronically processed and coded by NCHS within minutes, most deaths from COVID-19 must be coded by a person, which takes an average of 7 days.

Oh yeah, then there’s the vaccine! In spite of the fact that a successful vaccine clinical trial typically takes 10 years, we’re being promised one as early as January 2021, by Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, is even more optimistic. He believes, “if all goes well, maybe as many as 100 million doses by early 2021” would be possible.

First, it’s truly a long shot if 10 years is the typical amount of time, and we’re hearing about less than a year. According to Gil-ead, the pharmaceutical company to develop a treatment for COVID-19, Remdesivir, a patient will require six doses, at \$520 apiece, over five days, for a total of \$2,340. That’s the cost to the hospital; who knows how much it will cost the patient.

In the meantime, testing is the buzzword traveling throughout communities across the nation, today. At this time, the FDA doesn’t require the manufacturers of testing kits to provide information on the accuracy of the tests. One notable controversy was over a test kit produced by Abbott Laboratories. The FDA and other monitors found that Abbott’s “rapid-test” missed between a third to one-half of infections that were identified correctly by another competing manufacturer’s test kit. We should take remember that getting tested is not enough to give you relief from the stress and worry about infection from the coronavirus.

The CDC wants us to keep in mind that when it comes to testing, “The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing. You might test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during your illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected then.”

So, what can we do to protect ourselves and our families?

First, each one of us has to decide, and declare to ourselves, “do I want to live, or do I want to die?” All too often, we just not are fully committed to make sacrifices and efforts that are in our own best interest. We can greatly improve our chances of making it through this pandemic, but, like the old man was asked, “Do you want to be well?”

If so, then all we need to do is practice the 3 W’s:

Wash your hands thoroughly and often; Wear a mask; and Watch how close anyone is to you, or vice versa.

(The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis is Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow.)

TAKE THIS VIRUS SERIOUSLY

Coronavirus continues to disproportionately affect Blacks in Pittsburgh area

Page A4

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Clergy members hand-deliver a list of police reform demands to Mayor Peduto



REV. DR. RICHARD WINGFIELD



REV. GLENN GRAYSON SR.



REV. EARLENE COLEMAN

Funding should be reallocated to areas like education, recreation, transportation

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Stevie Wonder wasn't in the house, but the faith leaders that comprise The Concerned Clergy of Western Pennsylvania recently "Signed, Sealed and Delivered" to Mayor Bill Peduto's Downtown office a list of demands for local police reform and accountability.

The local pastors from various denominations bypassed the local post office and marched right into the mayor's office on June 29, moments before a press conference outlining the list of demands was presented to local media at Freedom Corner in the Hill District.

Copies of the demands also made it to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert.

"With the heinous murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery still fresh in our minds, we gather to say enough is enough," said Rev. Dr. Richard Wingfield of Unity Baptist Church in Braddock, at the news conference. "Since then at least two or three other lives of African Americans have been taken at the hands of police violence. We gather to voice our anger, our hurt, our frustration and offer our continued dedication to the call for social justice and a stop to police brutality, locally and abroad."

"We recognize that others have already submitted their list of demands and we applaud their efforts and honor their efforts. However, we come as clergy to do our part, to let city

SEE FUNDING A6



CLERGY MEMBERS leave Mayor Bill Peduto's office at the City-County Building, Downtown, June 29, after giving him a list of demands for local police reform. (Photos by J.L. Martello)

Sean 'Nitty' Reese, owner of Secrets Night Club, remembered

Passed away after shooting in Homewood on May 31

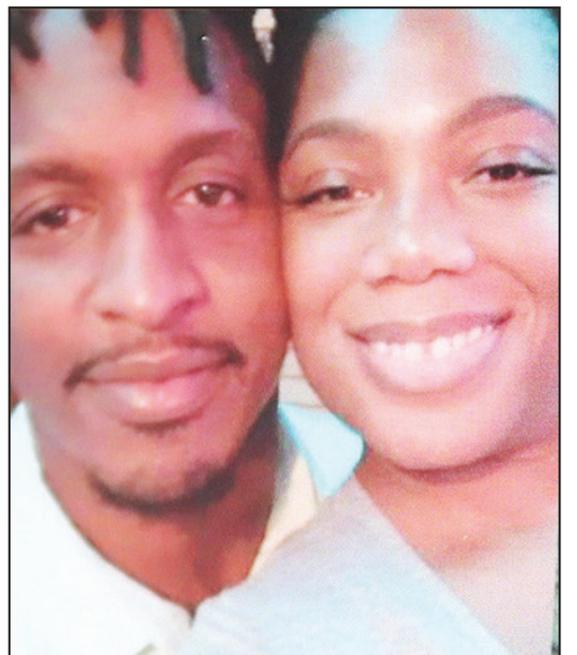
by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Very few people knew about the time Sean "Nitty" Reese saw a kid walking outside during Pittsburgh's cold days without a coat, and Reese stopping and giving the kid a spare coat he had in his car.

Very few people knew about the young African American kids who looked up to him, and when they asked him for money, he said, "You have to earn it," and bought the kids a cooler and water bottles, and the kids would sell the bottles to residents for income. Reese, a 2003 Perry Traditional Academy graduate,



SEAN "NITTY" REESE, in this photo with his mother, Ondii Gray. Reese was 34 years old.



SEAN "NITTY" REESE, in this photo with his longtime girlfriend, Taronda Brown.

would have turned 35 last Wednesday, July 8. Instead, his life was cut short due to what one person told the New Pittsburgh Courier was a "very unnecessary" disagreement, which led to a shooting at a Homewood

block party, early Sunday, May 31.

The shooting killed Reese, who was the owner of Secrets Night Club in Homewood, on Kelly Street.

To many of the millennial generation, Secrets Night

Club was a welcome sight. To Reese, it was his one of his primary passions.

"When Sean told me he wanted to open up Secrets, we made flyers, and he had me drive (him) all over the city. Every single person, he

put a flyer in their hand, he had a personal conversation with them, and all of those people showed up," said his longtime girlfriend, Taronda Brown, in an ex-

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A mural for all to see



ARTIST KYLE HOLBROOK paints the faces of George Floyd and Sandra Bland, seen in the top photos, on the side of the Community Empowerment Association building in Homewood. Antwon Rose II is also part of the mural, in the red shirt. To see the mural, visit the CEA Building, 7120 Kelly St. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

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Parents, be very careful before sending your kids, even college students, back to any school

There is now an insidious and invisible enemy that stands firm within and without the borders of our bedrooms, homes, hospitals, schools, our stores as well as almost anywhere that we conduct business or find pleasure.

That enemy has a name—coronavirus. I am not going to directly or indirectly use this space to define or refine the definition of what this scourge represents. However, I am mostly concerned about how many high school and college

ers posing as “hamburger helpers” that have supposedly been elected to protect us, not infect us.

Boys and girls, the sucker-free countdown has begun. The President of these United States is suggesting—no, demanding—that we send our children back to school to perform as if things were normal. Athletics seems to be now serving as infectious tools conveniently used to influence future elections. The current health crisis may be affecting a particular demographic in order to

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND CORONAVIRUS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

As of July 13, 2020

Blacks account for **1,291 of the 5,033 cases (26 percent)** of coronavirus of which the race is known. In **613** additional cases, the race is unknown.

From those cases, Blacks account for **150 of the 470 hospitalizations (32 percent)** of which the race is known. In **12** additional hospitalizations, the race is unknown.

Blacks account for **40 of the 198 deaths (20 percent)** due to coronavirus of which the race is known. In **2** additional deaths, the race is unknown.



Inside Conditions

Aubrey Bruce

athletic organizations have been utilizing a ton of resources and energy trying to devise and sell strategies to lure young athletes back onto the football, soccer and lacrosse fields and on the basketball and volleyball courts...covertly attempting to reignite competition with as little attention and fanfare as possible.

I have not heard much chatter from sports administrators in regards to what concrete plans they are formulating and coordinating to “educate” these so-called “student athletes” during this possible season-ending pandemic. This communiqué is a must-read for all low- and middle-class Black folks, brown folks, White folks and yellow folks! We have execution-

achieve a certain political outcome. A high school or college linebacker or defensive back not only has to compete against a pulling guard, tight end or cover five wide receiver sets. COVID-19 is now functioning as that extra running back or wide receiver sneaking out of the backfield or running a pick play that may be impossible for any defensive scheme to stop. This new enemy is now attacking our physical, mental and spiritual health at will, deceiving those that they took an oath to enlighten and protect.

In the past, parents and students would rejoice as if they won the lottery when a student-athlete would sign a letter of intent, committing themselves to a particular institution of higher

learning. In the game of “life monopoly,” many of the students looked at college scholarships as “get-out-of-the-hood-free cards.” Nowadays, for an athlete to sign a letter of intent to perform at any school, that commitment might potentially evolve into a “death warrant.” What can be done to ensure that we don’t sanction our children to become “conveyor belts” of sickness, sadness and death? On Feb. 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued press briefings saying that “the CDC does not currently recommend the use of face masks for the general public.” That mandate was issued to preserve scarce PPE supplies for essential responders. Who is to say that when an effective treatment or anti-coronavirus drugs become available, that those drugs might encounter

a false shortage just to treat those that might be deemed “worthier” as far as receiving treatments?

Parents, do not send your children or grandchildren to a political slaughterhouse for a college scholarship, now or in the future. The real meaning of scholarship is about to be tested. Let’s see if educating our children, whether it be through virtual or onsite learning, has any value to these “educators” aside from their athletic prowess. What value do sick and dying parents have after their child brings an unwelcome

hitchhiker, coronavirus, back home from the pandemic-ridden school with them? There is no national testing and diagnostic apparatus in place in our schools, locally, regionally or nationally for athletes or the student body in general. How can we prevent infection on the gridiron, the basketball court or the hockey rink, when no such safeguards even exist?

There has been a humongous bruhaha concerning the singing or playing of the national anthem and kneeling on one knee prior to sport-

ing events taking place in both collegiate and professional sports venues across America. But if we aren’t mindful and careful about the decision to prematurely force our children back into infected dungeons and miniature tombs disguised as classrooms and sports arenas, the national anthem, as well as any other ode to patriotism, may very well serve as a funeral march. American patriot Patrick Henry once said: “Give me liberty or give me death.” He didn’t say, “Give me liberty and let me die.”

‘Ball’ of Confusion! And it’s not the owners!

If you’re a pro athlete, why would you risk playing this season?

Shoutout to my 33 loyal fans that are still out there fighting the fight, fighting the virus and fighting the other virus, aka, the president. And, as one of our nation’s greatest leaders said... “Fight the power, we gotta fight the powers that be!” That’s right, Chuck D. of the rap group Public Enemy.

Before I go any further, allow me to pay homage to my lead in title. “Ball of Confusion, that’s what the world is today.” The mighty Temptations brought you that classic hit in 1970, but if you take it line by line, you would think it was released just last week!

And now, to the double meaning here. I know, I know, you want me to get to it. Just hold on, Junior, it’s not like you got somewhere to go or haven’t heard that there’s a pandemic going on here...

Anyway, “Ball”—any kind of ball—football, basketball, soccer ball, golf ball, baseball, tennis ball...hell, for that matter, anything that rolls, bounces or you can kick it or hit it...why in the world would any pro-

fessional athlete (and I make my case there first) want to risk everything they spent their entire life to achieve, just to play a half of a meaningless season that everyone knows will be marked with an asterisk? Let’s be totally honest here. Ask yourself, how can any team really claim a championship with all these improvised and bogus rules?

Now I know I am the lone voice out here trying to shout reason out

or Sidney Crosby or Mike Trout or recent gazillionaire, Patrick Mahomes, would risk all they’ve gained just to play a meaningless season.

I tip my cap to the really smart ones that have opted out and I wouldn’t play nothing but the radio until they discovered a vaccine. And, if you really think I am the lone voice, there’s 100,000-plus no longer with us in the U.S. who have died due to coronavirus. They would give me their vote



Overtime

Bill Neal

to you people who claim if you don’t have sports, you’re going to die. Well, how ‘bout this; how ‘bout if you’re the person playing the sport and you really could die.

For the life of me I just don’t understand why LeBron or Tiger or Brady

if they could. Sadly, they cannot.

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The Courier is THE VOICE of Black Pittsburgh.

Clergy members hand-deliver a list of police reform demands to Mayor Peduto

Funding should be reallocated to areas like education, recreation, transportation

FUNDING FROM A1

and county elected officials know that clergy across Western Pennsylvania are just as concerned and involved as well," Rev. Wingfield added.

The letter delivered to Mayor Peduto had six major areas of concern: Public Safety, Education, Transportation, Housing, Mental Health, and Recreation.

From the police department's \$114 million budget for 2021, the clergy members believe some of that money should be reallocated to address the aforementioned areas of concern. The clergy members stressed they weren't advocating "defunding" of the police, but a "reallocation" of some of the funding.

In the area of Public Safety, members want a task force to be created which explores "alternative ways to respond to harm" in the Black community. There could be a clergy person who goes along with the first-responders; or maybe a social worker or mental health counselor.

In the area of Education, public safety officials could be teamed with school-aged students. "Through relationship-building and education, rapport can be built between officers and students through strength-



REV. VICTOR GRIGSBY

based programming that teaches students the laws of public safety, while taking on the responsibility and accountability roles in their communities," the letter, obtained by the New Pittsburgh Courier, read.

In the area of Transportation, clergy members want greater investments in public transportation in underserved communities. When someone doesn't have the necessary transportation to get to their jobs, it "cre-

ates additional social hardships," the letter read. "Funding for neighborhood services provided by community groups, such as a van to carry seniors to and from the grocery store, transporting youth to and from summer jobs, and providing needed transportation for single-parent households would be an extended application of public safety."

The clergy wants more funds into the city's affordable housing fund, a better quality of health

care for Blacks that "other communities receive," and in the Recreation arena, the clergy wants the city to have 24-hour recreation centers. These centers would have sports programs staffed by coaches and athletes, and social workers, the letter read, should be provided to assist in the development of recreational programs.

The clergy also noted that in addition to the city always counting how many gunshots are fired

in the city, the city should invest in a "Shots Made" program, featuring open basketball courts in the city. This keeps kids off the streets, and, as an example, on the basketball courts.

Reverend Wingfield said that "public safety" is not always about police enforcement. When there's substandard housing, education and recreation, "they all breed into public safety issues," he said. That's why some of the funding should be redirected, he said.

"We're looking at this thing holistically," Rev. Wingfield added at the June 29 news conference. "It's got to be a holistic approach to public safety. If all we're going to do is police, that's only a small portion of the problem."

The letter addressed to the mayor was signed by Rev. Wingfield, Bishop Dorsey McConnell, Rev. Victor J. Grigsby, Rev. Earlene Coleman, Rev. Marie Kelly, Rev. Leon Harrison and Rev. Glenn Grayson Sr.

"We want to see Pittsburgh live up to its billing as the most livable city in the nation," Rev. Wingfield said. "But it cannot live up to its name if the voices of African Americans are ignored."

"As discussions about policework in America move forward, we welcome feedback and guidance," Public Safety Director Wendell Hissrich said to WPXI-TV (Channel 11) in response to the letter. "We support many of the suggested reforms, including health experts helping officers who deal with non-traditional issues that are now part of everyday modern policing, such as drug addiction, mental health issues and homelessness. We want to make sure that those who need help get it, and in the most constructive and healing way possible."

Bishop McConnell, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, said at the news conference that "we stand with our friends, our sisters and brothers, and in doing so we want to be clear that we do not set the agenda. We listen to the agenda that is being set by the leaders of communities of color, and come alongside and support them in any way that we can. 'Lend our privilege' to see if we can't help their goals and their vision for peace and justice in their communities become more of a reality. Until there is peace and justice in these communities, there is not peace and justice for us all."



REVEREND GLENN GRAYSON SR. addresses the media at the June 29 press conference at Freedom Corner. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



BISHOP DORSEY MCCONNELL

Ethnic & Diversity Studies program offered at CCAC

Professor Ralph Proctor says program is important for today's students

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Esteemed Community College of Allegheny County professor Ralph Proctor is known to many across the Pittsburgh region as a civil rights historian and champion of African American history and culture.

And he told the New Pittsburgh Courier that with racial injustice top-of-mind for many in the U.S. right now, it's the perfect time for college students to dive even deeper into America's complicated intersection of race, gender, discrimination and inequality.

Proctor is the creator of CCAC's Ethnic & Diversity Studies program. Current college students—not just those who attend CCAC—are able to take the courses in the program as electives.

CCAC said on its website that students who complete the courses in the program will be able to: write critically about race, class and ethnicity in social and historical contexts; analyze multiple categories of social diversity; describe the scope and magnitude of ethnic and diversity studies from an interdisciplinary approach; identify different cultures of the world through the study of language, literature, religion and artistic creations or other disciplines; and distinguish among the experiences of a variety of diverse cultures different from their

own and provide an analytic framework which facilitates awareness of how cultures vary and shape the human experience.

"The most important thing students will learn is that our world has been built on discriminating against any people who are not middle-class people who control the wealth," Proctor told the Courier in an exclusive interview, July 7. "They will learn that we have been duped into believing that White, Christian, rich people should control the world and that the 'American Way' is the only way and all those who are different do not deserve to share in the 'American Dream.' They will learn the negative impact racism and discrimination play in poverty. They will learn that we have been brainwashed into believing that only the values of rich, White, straight, Christians are acceptable and all the rest of us have been marginalized all of our lives."

The program is based at the college's Allegheny Campus and the Home-wood-Brushston Center. Proctor said that employers are increasingly looking to employ those with cultural competency skills, which one would get by enrolling in the CCAC program.

"Recent events that have taken place in our country have caught the attention of the world in an unflattering way,"

Proctor said in a release provided to the Courier. "Demonstrations about these events show us that the world is questioning our leadership as a welcoming nation that treats all people equally. We must dedicate ourselves to removing the last vestiges of racism from America. When we truly embrace our differences and learn to value one another—when we learn to sing each other's songs and dance each other's dances—the world will be a better place."

Students who complete the courses—at least 18 credits are required for completion—will receive a certificate, which, Proctor said, "can be considered as a 'minor.'" It's great to have on a person's resume, Proctor said. "Many multi-national corporations are looking for people who show competence in understanding people of diverse backgrounds."

Courses taken in the first semester would include Ethnic and Diversity Studies, Introduction to Black Women and Leadership, and Achieving Cultural Competence. In the second semester, after taking Understanding Violence in America, students can choose two "restricted electives," such as History of the Pittsburgh Civil Rights Movement, Cultural Competence and Diverse Populations, History of Women, African American Literature, and Urban Sociology.

Vietnam War veterans spotlighted in 'Da 5 Bloods'

It has been two and half decades since veteran actor Delroy Lindo and Academy Award-winning director Spike Lee hooked up for a feature film. The pair reunited for Netflix's recent release, "Da 5 Bloods," a tale of five Vietnam War veterans who return to Asia to tie up some loose ends.

Lindo portrays Paul, a veteran suffering with PTSD, wrestling with some war secrets, and battling with a "fractious" relationship with his son. Even in this vulnerable role, he is fierce, strong, and proves why he works well with a visionary like Lee.

"I needed to do this," said Lindo, referring to his part in the film.

In a virtual roundtable hosted by the African American Film Critics Association, Lindo told me, "Spike inviting me to be part of his projects has gifted me with these brilliant characters to play as an actor." Lindo has graced us with his presence in three Spike Lee joints previously—Malcolm X (1992), Crooklyn (1994) and Clockers (1995).

"That's a gift to any actor that a creative worker of Spike's stature would just call you and say, 'hey man, come do this,' not only the invitation to participate in the work, but the content of the part," Lindo said.

There is an undeniable alchemy when Spike Lee is sitting in the director's chair and Delroy Lindo is on the other side of the camera. Both Lee and Lindo admitted some of the most powerful scenes in the movie are opportunities where Lindo and

the cast improvised, such as the riverboat market scene and when Lindo's character breaks off from the group.

Give Delroy Lindo his flowers now. He continues to solidify his seat with the Hollywood greats, and

freedom fighter or person of color fighting a war abroad when there's a war in your own backyard.

For millennials like myself, "Da 5 Bloods" is definitely an eye-opener. Even in fiction, the drops of relevant, thought-pro-

Mercedes J. Williams

On Movies /TV Shows



he is tremendously talented.

Also starring Chadwick Boseman, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Norm Lewis, Clarke Peters and Jonathan Majors, "Da 5 Bloods," even in 2.5 hours, is hard not to watch. The suspense, intensity, and striking attractiveness of war brothers coming together calls for a really good cinematic picture.

This film is a dark reminder that Black soldiers went halfway around the world defending a country where they were barely free. Black servicemen fought on the front lines in Vietnam, while their brothers and sisters fought for voting, desegregation, and basic civil liberties.

The Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War were running congruently. Dr. King, Malcolm X, and JFK were all assassinated during this time. Imagine being a

voking history is cause for deeper conversation about how Black people respond to war and the sacrifices a Black soldier endures. I did not know much about the Vietnam War before watching this film, but I am now on a journey to find out more.

That is powerful remnants of a great film.



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Sean 'Nitty' Reese, owner of Secrets Night Club, remembered



FAMILY AND FRIENDS remember Sean Reese, who died in a shooting in Homewood, May 31. (Photos by Courier Photographer J.L. Martello)

Passed away after shooting in Homewood on May 31



just felt it, even then.” Gray said she decided, after having Reese at age 16, that “I was only going to have one child because I needed to give Sean my all. I felt that is what he needed.”

Gray said she put her all into raising Reese. “I told Sean to be the best at whatever he does, and to do it well. I always told him that he needed to give back to the community because the community gave to him, and to always treat people good.”

Gray told the Courier that somehow, Reese would find a way to forgive those who

had done him wrong.

“We don’t always know if our children are going to do what we say, but after this, after Sean’s death, I realized that he was doing everything and more than what I taught him to do,” she said. “I understand now what God’s purpose was, why he was here. He was here to touch people’s lives.”

Reese’s best friend was also his longtime girlfriend, Brown. Brown told the Courier that she had known Reese for 11 years, and witnessed his entrepreneurial, go-getter spirit. Sometimes, there would be times that wouldn’t go so well for Re-

ese, but Brown said she always encouraged him to persevere. She used to tell Reese that even “if he had to live in a cardboard box,” she would live right there with him, and together, they would make a way.

Reese is survived by, among others, his mother, his father (Melvin Reese III), Michael A. Mullen Sr., and Brown. Reese is the father of daughters DeMonie Graham Reese and Khloe Brown Reese, and a son, Rhoyal Reese.

Reese’s mother, Gray, said that when she hears the phrase “Black Lives Matter,” she wants everyone

to understand that it goes for Black-on-Black crime as well. “God didn’t create us to kill one another,” she said.

Pittsburgh Police don’t have any suspects in custody in the deadly shooting, which also sent three others to the hospital.

“I’m so mad...sometimes I just feel like if it wasn’t for my grandkids, I probably wouldn’t even want to go on anymore, because he was my life,” Gray told the Courier. “He was my only child, and I put my all into him.”



TARONDA BROWN AND ONDII GRAY, with two of Sean Reese’s children, Khloe Brown Reese and DeMonie Graham Reese.

REESE FROM A1

clusive interview with the Courier. “Before Secrets, no one wanted to come to Homewood.”

And before Secrets, football was Reese’s true passion. Reese was recognized as one of the top defensive players in the City League at Perry. A defensive end/tight end, he was part of a Perry powerhouse—the Commodores won City League titles in football six consecutive years, beginning with the 2000-2001 season.

After Perry, Reese played football for Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The 6’3” Reese could be seen mentoring youth

around town, working in construction (specializing in masonry), and was also a family intervention and prevention specialist for the Community Empowerment Association in Homewood.

“He was committed to using his innovative spirit, people skills, talents and resources for improving the quality of life for himself, his family and community,” Reese’s obituary read, obtained by the Courier.

“Sean was special, he was definitely special,” said his mother, Ondii Gray, in an exclusive interview with the Courier’s J.L. Martello. “I knew that Sean was destined for something great. I



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“We don’t always know if our children are going to do what we say, but after this, after Sean’s death, I realized that he was doing everything and more than what I taught him to do. I understand now what God’s purpose was, why he was here. He was here to touch people’s lives.”

ONDII GRAY
Mother of Sean Reese

BLACK WOMEN CONTINUING TO MAKE MAJOR MOVES

Swegle becomes Navy's first Black female tactical jet pilot; Reid to host weeknight show on MSNBC

by Rob Taylor Jr.

Courier Staff Writer

Even before the May 25 tragic death of George Floyd by a White Minneapolis police officer, Black women like Navy Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle and television host Joy Reid were busy soaring to new heights.

It just so happens that, as the U.S. is in the middle of an increased awareness of racial and social injustice due to Floyd's death, which was captured on video for all to see, the latest feats from Lt. Swegle and Reid have bubbled to the forefront.

Lieutenant Swegle became the Navy's first known Black female tactical jet pilot last week, as she completed the undergraduate Tactical Air (Strike) pilot training syllabus, according to the Navy Times. She'll be able to fly aircraft such as the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, the F-35C Joint Strike Fighter and the EA-18G Growler.

The Navy Times also reported that Swegle is a 2017 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and is currently assigned to the Redhawks of Training Squadron (VT) 21 at Naval Air Station Kingsville in Texas. She will earn her Wings of Gold at a ceremony on July 31.

"It's official. My daughter, Maddy continues rise," Swegle's father, Carey Manhertz, wrote on Twitter, July 9.

"Very proud of LTJG Swegle," Rear Adm. Paula D. Dunn, the Navy's vice chief of information, wrote on Twitter, July 9.



MADELINE SWEGLE, the Navy's first Black female tactical jet pilot.



JOY REID is now the host of "The ReidOut" on MSNBC starting July 20 at 7p.m.

"Go forth and kick butt." "Congratulations, LTJG Swegle!" tweeted Sen. Elizabeth Warren on July 11. "You make the @US-Navy and our country stronger."

In 1980, Brenda Robinson became the first Black female graduate from the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School.

Come July 20, you'll be seeing much more of Reid, as she has been named the 7 p.m. weeknight host of "The ReidOut" on cable network MSNBC. There are currently no

Black women who host a national news show on weeknights. Gwen Ifill, who co-anchored PBS Newshour, was the last Black woman to do so. Ifill died in 2016.

"African American journalists, African American women in particular, are woefully underrepresented on TV in all hours of the day," said MSNBC's 9 p.m. weeknight host Rachel Maddow to The New York Times. "But particularly in prime time, it's just a desert. Joy more than deserves this time

slot and this kind of national platform."

Reid currently hosts weekend mornings on MSNBC, titled "AM Joy."

Reid is a 1991 graduate of Harvard University. She was formerly the managing editor of theGrio.com, which was catered to African American audiences. Reid also hosted a radio show in Miami, and has contributed articles to The New York Times and The Miami Herald, among other publications.



MADELINE SWEGLE



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**Black Lives Matter:
We are the Black
community**

J. Pharoah Doss B6



Black McDonald's franchise owners should matter

by Trevor Coleman

The Michigan Chronicle

(Part two of a three-part series)

During a recent interview with CNBC news, McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski bragged that his company has "probably" created more Black millionaires than any other corporation.

Setting aside the fact the NFL, NBA, and a few other businesses may have something to say about that, the statement nonetheless did raise the question of the fast-food behemoth's relationship with the African American community. Especially given the shocking allegations of systemic racism at the highest levels of the corporation made this year in a lawsuit against the corporation by former African American executives.

Kempczinski himself is at the center of the lawsuit as a defendant along with former CEO Steve Easterbrook, and Charles Strong, the Chief Field Officer.

The plaintiffs, Detroit native Domineca Neal, and Vicki Guster-Hines; former vice presidents allege the men were part of a new leadership team that took over in 2015 and not only tolerated and engaged in sexist and racially discriminatory treatment of them and other employees but implemented a new business plan which had a discriminatory impact on Black McDonald's franchisees and a formerly thriving Black customer base.

The lawsuit alleges under the leadership of Easterbrook at McDonald's Corporation and Kempczinski at McDonald's USA, the McDonald's companies

engaged on a racist course of conduct, and "publicly abandoned its commitment to racial equality on a company-wide basis."

Beyond the alleged personal discriminatory treatment toward the women and other African Americans, the suit also alleges the corporate web page operated by McDonald's Corporation shifted away from its commitment from promoting racial diversity to gender diversity, which ominously portended new corporate priorities that allegedly proved to be detrimental to Black franchise owners and their customers.

"Where the Company has total control over its message, McDonald's under Easterbrook and Kempczinski proclaimed a commitment to gender diversity but conspicuously omitted any mention of a corresponding commitment to diversity based on race," the suit claimed.

The lawsuit further states its then-CEO, Easterbrook, repeatedly emphasized that under his leadership 'diversity' at McDonald's meant 'women,' omitting African Americans. And that his exclusion of African Americans

from his "inner circles of trusted advisors" and defunding of the previously-vibrant McDonald's African American Council (MA2C), that worked hard to develop African American leadership talent in the company and in the ranks of its franchise owners meant the "death penalty" for that critical tool for Black business development.

Proof of this is in the steep decrease in the number of African American executives in the top ranks of McDonald's operations which fell to seven in 2019 from 42 in 2014, the year before the new regime took over. And nearly one out of three African American franchisees left the McDonald's system since Easterbrook arrived which was disproportionate to the loss of non-African American franchisees.

McDonald's has steadfastly denied all allegations of the discriminatory treatment of Black employees or Black franchise owners. However, there have long been complaints from both within and outside the company that its Black franchisees operators carried a heavier burden to meet corporate demands than its White counterparts.

"The bottom line is they come in undercapitalized for traditional reasons and then are given restaurants in challenging areas with higher operating costs and are subject to three strikes you're out by the corporation," said Carmen Caruso, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

This dilemma is illuminated in the lawsuit which alleges under Easterbrook and Kempczinski African American franchisees were intentionally hit hard on both their revenue and expenses. They allegedly suffered the disproportionate loss of revenue from losing African American customers more likely to dine in a restaurant owned by an African American franchisee, disproportionately in African American communities; coupled with sharply increased expenses imposed under programs such as "Big Bolder Vision 2020" (BBV2020) that McDonald's rolled out in 2017, sparking widespread franchisee discontent."

"The lawsuit further states McDonald's knew or recklessly disregarded the likelihood that BBV2020, among other financial stresses imposed by the company, would put disproportionate financial stress on African American franchisees and cause a disproportionate number of them to leave the system. McDonald's knew but did it anyway" the lawsuit states.

Larry C. Triplett, chairman, and CEO of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA) acknowl-

SEE FRANCHISE B2

You have to 'Get out of Dumb' before you can 'Get out of Debt'

Have you ever done something so stupid that you wanted to smack yourself and scream out loud WHAT WAS I THINKING? I know I have. I recall one freezing cold winter day. The snow was up to my knees. I had to go out and run an errand. Car was low on gas. I made a stop at the gas station. The gas cap was frozen shut. I pried and I pried. I couldn't get this gas cap to open for nothing. Then I got this bright idea. Use a lighter to thaw it. I scurried around in the car and located a lighter. I went back to the gas tank, ignited the lighter with fire and right before I put fire on the gas cap, I thought better of it. I screamed to myself, WHAT WAS I THINKING? Can you imagine some idiot igniting fire to a gas tank? Poof-Poof-BOOM! It was me who was almost that idiot. Fortunately for me, my brain kicked in before I completed the act.

Renowned Radio Host and Personal Finance Expert Dave Ramsey says when you do something stupid and it cost you money, you pay "Stupid Tax". I too am a Personal Finance Expert. Like Dave, I've also done some stupid things that have cost me money. How do you think we both became experts in personal finance? Sure, I got academic training in Finance. I've worked in Banking and Finance my entire working career. None of that really prepares you for real world personal finance management. Spoken more directly, none of that really teaches you how to win with money. I consider you to be winning with money when you're debt free with mega-money in the bank. Anything else is an illusion.

Academic training teaches you these

high-level concepts and prepares you to pass tests. The concepts of beta, standard deviation, economic yield curve, fiscal and monetary policy don't necessarily trickle down to basic everyday money management. Training acquired in the finance industry teaches you how to service or sell various financial products. In addition to product and service training, you get compliance training to ensure you don't subject the financial institution to breaking the law. Neither academic finance training nor working in banking and finance taught me how to win with money.

If those of us who've been trained and worked in finance haven't been given proper information and tools to win with money, how's the rest of the hard-working everyday people fairing? Published statistics states: 78 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. The average American couldn't cover a \$400 minor emergency. The average American saves less than two cents of every dollar earned. 78 percent of Americans don't have a will. The average American current retirement saving balance is less than their annual salary. Only 15 percent of retirees receive more than \$35,000 annually. 96 percent of Americans age 65 or older retire or die broke. By the way, those statistics include those of us trained in and working in finance.

With little to no personal finance curriculum in elementary, middle school,

high school or college, most people have obtained what they know about finance from bankers, insurance agents, financial advisors, tax preparers, loan officers and realtors...all of whom are trying to sell you on their financial products and services. Most of the earnings are based on 75-100 percent commission. Yes, it's true you have smart, morally correct, selfless people in these positions that have their client's best interest at heart. It's also true that you have self-centered people in these positions who are more concerned about themselves earning money on the transactions than they are helping the client make the best decision for themselves. You have to be able to choose between the two.

You also have people in these positions who are enthusiastic ignoramuses. These are finance professionals selling financial products and services they believe in but don't fully understand. Their respective company is pushing a particular product. They stand to earn a decent commission on it. They sell it to you. They buy it for themselves. I'm reminded of a story I heard on a Personal Finance radio show. The caller was an insurance agent who had called in to reveal that he was debt free. As he was sharing his story, he revealed that he had Cash-Value Life Insurance with a \$900 monthly premium. One of the things he did to create wiggle room in his budget was obtain Term Life Insurance, which

gave him a higher face amount (coverage) and a \$90 monthly premium. He was able to save \$800 per month. He then used that \$800 to accelerate his process of getting out of debt.

After doing research on his own, he came to learn that what he was selling and buying wasn't in his best interest. He got out of dumb, and then he got out of debt.

There's a myriad of financial products, financial services, and financial concepts that are widely touted and widely accepted that's not always in the best interest of the end user. Cash-Value Life Insurance vs. Term Life Insurance is one of them. Instead of being educated on the pros and cons on both, we've been sold on the necessity of Cash-Value Life Insurance. Why? Cash-Value Life Insurance pays the higher commission.

I'll cover more in future articles. I'd be remiss if I didn't touch on Building Credit Score vs. Building Net Worth. The American public is sold on the idea that a high Credit Score is a true indicator of good money management. LIES! It's suffice it to say that if you're seeking to win financially, you want to focus on building your Net Worth, not your Credit Score. Net Worth is defined as Assets minus Debt. Credit Score is a predictive indicator of how well you manage debt. Eliminating debt is smart. The other is DUMB - (Debt Under Management is BULL). "Get out of Dumb," and then you'll begin the process of getting out of debt and enhancing your savings.

(Damon Carr, Money Coach can be reached at 412-216-1013 or visit his website @ www.damonmoneycoach.com.)

Damon Carr

The Carr
Report



PNC appoints two members to Executive Committee

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that the PNC Financial Services Group Inc., recently announced the addition of two new members to its Executive Committee. Carole Brown will be Head of PNC's Asset Management Group (AMG), and Richard K. Bynum will serve in the newly created role of Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer. Both executives will report to Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer William S. Demchak.

The announcement was made July 7.

Brown, who joined PNC in 2019 as chief change and risk officer for AMG and Corporate & Institutional Banking (C&IB), will be responsible for leading PNC's wealth management and private banking services for high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families, as well as custom investment and advisory solutions for institutional clients. She succeeds Michael P. Lyons, who was instrumental in recruiting Brown to PNC. Lyons, also a member of PNC's Executive Committee, will continue to lead PNC's C&IB group.

Bynum, who has more than 15 years of experience at PNC, most recently as regional president of Greater Washington, will lead PNC Community Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility; Community Development Banking; and Diversity and Inclusion. In his new role, a press release provided to the Courier read, Bynum also will be responsible for leading the implementation of PNC's recently announced \$1 billion commitment to help end systemic racism and support the economic empowerment of African Americans and low- to moderate-income communities.

"PNC is fortunate to have an excellent team of senior executives leading our company during these complex



CAROLE BROWN

and challenging times. As we continue to drive PNC forward from a position of strength, we are thrilled to further enhance our leadership through the appointment of Carole and Richard to our executive team," Demchak said in a statement.

On Brown, Demchak said, "Carole has distinguished herself as a results-oriented, collaborative leader who best represents PNC's unwavering commitment to serving our clients. She is a proven leader with an incomparable skillset and a track record of achieving improved financial performance, and brings new and fresh perspectives to our company and to AMG, a business with good momentum as a value-added wealth manager and institutional asset manager. I am delighted and proud to have her join our Executive Committee."

On Bynum, Demchak said, "As a senior leader in our bank, Richard fully understands and embodies the importance PNC places on fulfilling our commitments to our clients, communities and employees. In this new role, he will drive meaningful change that will allow

us to even better serve our communities and strengthen PNC as a whole. Though we are proud of the work PNC has done to date to drive economic empowerment and racial equality, we know we must do more at this pivotal moment, and I am confident that Richard will be instrumental as we accelerate our progress."

Brown, prior to joining PNC in August 2019, served as chief financial officer for the City of Chicago under Mayor Rahm Emanuel, assuming that role just as the city entered the greatest fiscal crisis in its 149-year history. During her four-year tenure that commenced in 2015, Brown worked closely with the mayor and his senior management team to develop and implement a series of financial reforms to restore financial stability to the city.

Before her leadership role with the City of Chicago, Brown had a more than 25-year career as one of the leading municipal finance investment bankers in the country. She gained extensive leadership experience in civic and community engagement, including serving as



RICHARD K. BYNUM

chair of the Chicago Transit Authority Board for 6.5 years until 2009; a member of the Transition Team for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, including as chair of his TIF Reform Panel; and a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission Fixed Income Market Structure advisory committee from 2017 to 2019.

She serves on several non-profit boards, including the Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Metropolitan Planning Council; and also is a member of The Economic Club of Chicago, the Executives' Club of Chicago and The Chicago Network. She graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in government and from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management with a master's degree in management.

Bynum is an accomplished executive with nearly 20 years of executive leadership experience. He was named regional president of PNC in Greater Washington in 2017, previously serving as a member of PNC's retail executive team, where he led the company's Business Banking division. Prior to that, By-

num served as PNC's Greater Washington retail market executive, where he led consumer and small business sales; and also served as chief operating officer for PNC Business Banking, where he led the sales force operating platform for hundreds of small business bankers across PNC's footprint.

Bynum began his career with PNC in 2005 in its Executive Leadership Program, holding key roles in the development and execution of revenue-driving businesses and initiatives; strengthening the brand; and enhancing engagement of employees while fostering innovation throughout PNC. Prior to joining PNC, Bynum served as a senior leader with the American Red Cross. His 12-year tenure included roles as the managing director for disaster response and emergency communications for the organization's Chicago chapter and as an operations director for the Kosovo Refugee Operation and September 11th effort in New York.

Bynum—who has been recognized as one of Washington, D.C.'s most influential business leaders by the Washing-

ton Business Journal—serves on the boards of numerous non-profit and civic organizations, including the corporate council for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture; the Economic Club of Washington, D.C.; the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts; the Federal City Council; the Philip L. Graham Fund Foundation; the United Way—National Capital Area; and the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

Bynum holds an MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Florida State University, and is a graduate of the Consumers Bankers Association Graduate School of Retail Bank Management.

The Greater Washington regional president role vacated by Bynum will be filled by D. Jermaine Johnson, executive vice president and market manager of Corporate Banking for PNC in Greater Washington and Greater Maryland, effective Aug. 1. Johnson brings 25 years of industry experience, including his current market role leading the large corporate, middle market, and government contracting segments. Throughout his career, Johnson has demonstrated a strong commitment to corporate growth and strategy, leading strategic partnerships and driving customer engagement.

Prior to joining PNC in 2005, Johnson held a number of leadership positions with increasing responsibility at Bank of America and GE Capital. He is a graduate of James Madison University, with a bachelor's degree in Finance. Johnson also is actively engaged in the community, serving as Treasurer for the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and as an Audit Committee member for the March of Dimes.

Black McDonald's franchise owners should matter

FRANCHISE FROM B1

edged to the Chronicle that the operators have been facing challenges with McDonald's recently but said they were "attempting to work things out." And declined to comment any further.

Neal told the Chronicle the businesses were hobbled by a policy that pretty much limited Black owners to stores in inner cities where operating costs were higher and sales were much lower. She said she tried to advance a policy of "bundling" suburban locations with inner-city locations when approached for franchise opportunities by qualified Black operators to help balance out the burden.

"I worked to ensure strategic franchise decisions were made to help close cash flow gaps and was able to achieve that," she said.

So there are equitable solutions. But the new corporate leadership has not institutionalized them despite its proclaimed support for "diversity" even sponsoring a very high profile ad in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The dramatic ad begins by referencing Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Alton Sterling, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd:

"They were all one of us," the McDonald's ad reads. "We see them in our customers. We see them in our crew members. We see them in our franchisees. And this is why the entire McDonald's family grieves. It's why we stand for them and any other victims of systematic oppression and violence."

"Today we stand with Black communities across America. Which is why we're donating to the National Urban League and the NAACP. We do not tolerate inequity, injustice, or racism."

McDonald's released the ad last month across its social media accounts, while also pledging to donate \$1 million to the National Urban League and the NAACP. The corporation generated total revenue of \$21.08 billion in 2019.

By comparison Yum! Brands which owns KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and The Habit Burger Grill pledged \$3 million to social justice efforts led by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, American Civil Liberties Union and non-profits fighting for social justice in its hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. It generated about \$5.5 billion in revenue last year.

One insider who did not want to be named said after all the years of McDonald's taking such immense pride in being known as the one major corporation that took a chance on investing in the Black community with progressive and innovative outreach, hiring, and business development policies following the urban rebellions of

the 1960s, its token gesture toward BLM and marginalization of the NBMOA is a sad but apt metaphor for the attitude of its new leadership.

"Larry (Tripplett) has been fighting for years for equity in the treatment of NBMOA members, why is this so hard? Why is it taking him years to fight this battle? Why is it taking him years to get relief when we all know this is a big problem?"

"When you say 'Black Lives Matter' what are the policies put in place to know this is true on the operator side and corporate side?" the person said.

In a December 2019 story in the publication Business Insider, it noted that Tripplett said in a letter to McDonald's east and west zone presidents that March that "Through no fault of our own we lag behind the general market in all measures."

However, he was more conciliatory in a later statement to the publication.

"The National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA) is the largest African American organization of established entrepreneurs in the country," Tripplett said in a statement. "Our goal is to ensure that McDonald's Corporation (McDonald's) is fully and authentically engaged in the African American experience—including African American communities, employees, vendors, and franchisees."

It added: "These efforts are rooted in our core belief that diversity and a vibrant, inclusive, and respectful McDonald's makes us stronger. McDonald's is proud to create opportunities for entrepreneurship, economic growth, and mobility in communities across the country."

"Working in collaboration with McDonald's, we both are committed to delivering world-class hospitality, operational excellence, and increasing guest visits," the statement read. "We are working together to make the McDonald's brand shine by fully integrating African Americans at all levels. We both recognize that when we move together, we move further. And we are encouraged by our progress."

The Chronicle reached out to the McDonald's Corporation for comment however had not heard back by the publication's deadline. McDonald's has publicly stated all of its franchisees in all communities have the opportunity to prosper, grow and achieve their business ambitions.

One Michigan businessman who did not want to be named but was familiar with the situation said after a period of tension, things are slowly improving. "We have some momentum going in the right direction but we are sitting down and working through our issues."

(This story is developing. Stay tuned for Super-sized Racism Part Three in next week's edition.)

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Guest Editorial

GOP state lawmakers' attempt to politicize pandemic fails

Republican state lawmakers should stop their fight to end Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's pandemic shutdown order.

Republican majorities in both chambers, along with a few Democrats, voted early last month to end the emergency disaster declaration that has led to closure of "non-life-sustaining" businesses, bans on large gatherings and orders that people stay at home.

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson, and Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Centre, sued to enforce their resolution.

The dispute went to the state's highest court, which took up the matter without hearing oral arguments. Last week, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court ruled against the GOP's efforts to end Wolf's pandemic shutdown orders.

A divided court ruled that a resolution passed with mostly GOP votes was a "legal nullity" because it was not sent to Wolf for him to sign or veto.

"We express no opinion as to whether the governor's response to the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes wise or sound policy," wrote Justice David Wecht, who was joined by three others in the decision. "Similarly, we do not opine as to whether the General Assembly, in seeking to limit or terminate the governor's exercise of emergency authority, presents a superior approach for advancing the welfare of our commonwealth's residents."

Wecht said allowing the General Assembly to overturn the governor's proclamation without presenting the measure for him to sign or veto "would be to rewrite our constitution and remove the governor from the lawmaking process. Such a view is inimical to our system of checks and balances, a system in which presentment plays a critical role."

We are anxious for the full return of Pennsylvania's economy, but those who seek to overturn the governor's shutdown ban are being short-sighted.

Wolf has gradually been reopening the state, although a recent small increase in infections in some parts of the state has produced some additional restrictions.

Health officials in the state's two most populous counties—Philadelphia and Allegheny, comprising Pittsburgh—report rising rates of positive tests for the coronavirus. Officials attribute the increase to people socializing in bars and returning from beach vacations and coronavirus hot spots in other parts of the U.S. In response to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County, health officials are ordering all bars and restaurants in the county to stop the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption.

The pandemic should not be politicized. Republican state lawmakers should look at the virus outbreak that is occurring in Texas, Florida and other states that reopened too soon.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court made the right decision to keep the Wolf's administration's disaster proclamation in place.

(Reprinted from the Philadelphia Tribune)

Black women and children's lives matter

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—While in the midst of proclaiming Black Lives Matter, (and I agree) I want to make it clear that all Black Lives Matter, including Black women and children. It shouldn't be necessary to say that, but it is. To MATTER is to have VALUE! There's little doubt that Black Lives Matter. Thousands have demonstrated their support of that belief in streets across the nation and, for unnumbered reasons, many more support that belief in the privacy of their consciences.

The real challenge for those of us dedicated to broadening the understanding of Black Lives Matter is changing the concept of BLM from a slogan to a way of life. In so doing, we develop the ethic of embracing actions and ideas that encourage and stimulate positive growth in our communities. It means rejecting those actions and ideas which produce no tangible positive outcomes in the lives of Black people—especially Black women and children.

It could be said that in the '60's, The Black Panther Party was a precursor of BLM. Their Ten Point Program parallels the safety and physical concerns for the Black community of today's BLM Movement.

In the early 1990's, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, Founder of the National Congress of Black Women, broadened those concerns with a campaign against "gangsta rap"—a campaign that addressed the psychological

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Commentary



destruction of our youth and persons unduly influenced by the media. Dr. Tucker understood that the information we feed our minds is intrinsically linked to how our reality is shaped and the conduct we can be expected to exhibit in our daily lives. If Black Lives are to really Matter, we must re-examine how we think of each other and how we treat each other. If Black Lives are to really Matter and we are to rise above the common discord we see in the daily intrigues of our nation, we MUST recalibrate how we value each other and regard each other with the respect we demand for ourselves.

It's time for Black women to bring back our complaint about being constantly bombarded with unspeakable terms in what some call music. Gangsta rap, when it comes from Black men or Black women, has no regard for Black women or children. No other women have to endure being bombarded and brutalized with such filthy language in their music. It's long past the time to change that.

Bob Law, esteemed radio personality and leader of the National Black Leadership Alliance, Kwabena Rasuli of Clear the Airwaves and I have made every appeal possible to radio stations that play the offending music, to corporate thugs that finance radio stations playing the pornographic language that glorifies drugs, violent behavior, rape, murder, that disrespects Black women and have no regard for children. This garbage is pumped into the minds of Black youth throughout the day. Many who pay to keep the filth on the radio in Black neighborhoods are in the fast food industry that helps to damage the psyche of our youth, as well as damage their health. We've concluded that it's time to stop talking about it and move to the next step. We must move to action that takes the profit out of those who pay to make that kind of music possible.

If you're a parent, you must listen to the words used in what your children are hearing. Identify the companies advertising on the stations playing the offensive music and stop doing business with them. Money speaks louder than words.

We're in a period where we're working hard to Rescue Our Children and Heal the Wounds of Circumstance. All of us have a duty to cleanse and clear our airwaves.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women.)

Emmett Till, George Floyd generational wake-up calls

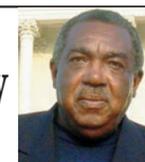
(TriceEdneyWire.com)—For many Black teenagers in my generation, the JET magazine photo of 14-year old Emmett Till's brutalized body after he was lynched by White supremacists was a wake-up call about the true nature of race in the United States. The August 1955 horrific photo gave us a searing memory that still lingers in our souls. Unfortunately, that memory did not lead us to create a strong Black national unity organization designed to promote and protect our human rights in this country.

Hopefully, the White supremacist cold-blooded lynching of George Floyd will encourage the current generation to do what we failed to accomplish. To create the much-needed Black national unity organization, they should study and learn from the following guidelines from committed, visionary warriors, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Brother Malcolm X.

In his book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*, Dr. King noted: "A second import-

A. Peter Bailey

Commentary



ant step that the Negro must take is to work passionately for group identity. This does not mean group isolation or group exclusivity. It means the kind of group consciousness that Negroes need in order to participate more meaningfully at all levels of life in this country. Group unity necessarily involves group trust and reconciliation.... This form of group unity can do infinitely more to liberate the Negro than any action of individuals. We have been oppressed as a group and we must overcome that oppression as a group."

In a 1963 letter to 8 civil rights leaders, Brother Malcolm stated: "If capitalistic Kennedy and communistic Khrushchev can find

something in common on which to form a united front despite their tremendous differences, it is a disgrace for Negro leaders not to be able to submerge our 'minor' differences in order to seek a common solution to common problems posed by a common enemy."

At such a meeting, he continued, "There will be no debating, arguing, criticizing or condemning. I will moderate the meeting and guarantee order and courtesy for all speakers.... It will give you a chance to present your views to the largest and explosive element in metropolitan New York."

It's critically important that current and future generations of Black folks do a much better job of creating the kind of Black national unity advocated by Dr. King and Brother Malcolm. It is the most effective way to honor the memories of Emmett Till, George Floyd, Dr. King, Brother Malcolm and other warriors whose lives were taken in the war against White supremacy/racism.

Letter to the editor

We stand by this superintendent

Dear Editor:

The Western PA Black Political Assembly was founded in 2003 with purpose of educating and empowering the African American community politically. We are writing an open letter to the City of Pittsburgh to state our full and unequivocal support of Dr. Anthony Hamlet the Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. And we are calling on the Pittsburgh Board of Education to renew its contract with our current Superintendent.

The purpose of this letter is to lend our voice to the many in this community who believe Dr. Hamlet has built a foundation in the last 4 years that has yielded gains for all students, particularly for African American students.

The most important question we must ask of any Superintendent is: Are we making progress towards our ultimate goal? That goal is ALL children are making the academic progress necessary to be productive and successful adults." It is indisputable that under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Hamlet the answer is—YES.

The success of the Pittsburgh Public Schools is inextricably linked to the success not only of this city, but our region. We know that many of our children are not reaching their academic potential. We know at times that there will be negative incidents in our schools, wrongdoing by school officials, and turnover in staff, but again the most important question remains.

While there is still work to be done the African American community is pleased with the progress toward all students achieving academic equity. Here are but a few examples:

1. Engaged, as part of his Look,

Listen, and Learn Tour, more than 3,500 constituents. Over the course of 30 days, the Superintendent held 10 community-based listening sessions, special meetings with principals, teachers, bus drivers, administrative staff, regional stakeholders and students, and an online survey. The tour, additionally included visits to all 54 District schools, two center programs and a school bus ride with some of the District's English language learners.

2. Launched in spring of 2017 the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan: Expect Great Things

3. Improved the percent of students, since 2015, scoring proficient or advanced Grades 3 – 8 Combined has grown on all three exams. Mathematics increased from 25.6 percent in 2015 to 28.7 percent in 2020. ELA/Reading increased from 42.8 percent in 2015 to 47.3 percent in 2019. Science performance increased from 46.5 in 2015 to 49.8 percent in 2019. Since 2015, the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced Grades 3 – 8 Combined has grown on all three exams. Mathematics increased from 25.6 percent in 2015 to 28.7 percent in 2020. ELA/Reading increased from 42.8 percent in 2015 to 47.3 percent in 2019. Science performance increased from 46.5 in 2015 to 49.8 percent in 2019. In ELA/Reading the percent of students performing Below Basic decreased from 19.2 percent in 2015 to 13.3 percent in 2019. In Science, the percentage of students performing Below Basic decreased by double digits, moving down from 31.7 percent in 2015 to 21.4 percent in 2019. The number of students performing at the lowest level, below basic, in grades 3 to 8 Combined also decreased, meaning more students are growing academically.

4. Increased the graduation

rates, the 4-year cohort graduation rate is based on the number of students within a group who graduate within four years. Graduation rates are reported a year later to account for credit recovery programs. Official state reports show the District has maintained growth in the 4-year cohort graduation rate since 2015 for all students. Additionally, students of both genders and African American students have had increases throughout the past five years.

5. Re-routed school bus routes to deliver reliable transportation to the District's most vulnerable youths.

6. Launched the district-wide Student Advisory Council to ensure that students have a voice at the highest level.

7. Challenged the public to hold him accountable through making the District more transparent and accessible. The public can now track the progress of the Pittsburgh Public Schools through Data Dashboards which include data related to Key Performance Indicators within the District such as Algebra 1, 9th Grade Pass Rates, Graduation Rates, Pittsburgh Promise Eligibility, and performance on State Accountability Exams.

The African American community of Pittsburgh, will never forget what happened to our first permanent Black Superintendent Dr. John Thompson, who did not get a renewal of his contract. We vow never to allow the treatment of Dr. Thompson to ever occur again. Let us be perfectly clear, we are standing by this Superintendent.

Rick Adams
Johnnie Monroe
Richard (Rick) Adams, Co-Convener WPBPA theradioactivist@prodigy.net
Rev. Johnnie Monroe, Steering Committee Member WPBPA jmon5611@gmail.com (412) 303-3144

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JULY 15-21, 2020

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B4

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Help Wanted

ASSOCIATE INTERNAL AUDITOR
Port Authority is seeking an Associate Internal Auditor to be responsible for conducting and documenting moderately complex audit projects. Makes material contributions to the report of audit findings, including the development of recommendations for the correction of unsatisfactory conditions, improvement of operations, reduction of costs, or the increases of revenues.

Essential Functions:

- Plans and executes moderately complex audit assignments, conducts reviews of portions of extensive audit assignments, prepares work papers to document audit procedures, findings and recommendations in accordance with recognized professional standards.
- Participates in conducting reviews of assigned organizational and functional activities and contribute in interpreting and analyzing the policies and procedures of same. This may include developing recommendations for business process improvements.
- Participates in the performance of special reviews and/or matters of significant at the request of Internal Audit management, which may include, investigating and attempting to resolve matters related to the assignments.

- Arranges Port Authority employees' travel (air, train, bus etc.) and lodging reservations as requested/ needed by PAAC employees for business related travel in compliance with the Board-adopted Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy for employees, including ensuring all necessary forms are completed and submitted and compiling appropriate documentation to support reconciling credit card statements in coordination with Finance personnel for timely and accurate payment of such expenses

Job requirements include:

- BA/BS degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, or directly related field from an accredited school.
- Minimum of two (2) years auditing/accounting experience.
- Experience planning and executing moderately complex audit assignments, conducts reviews of portions of extensive audit assignments, prepares work papers to document audit procedures, findings and recommendations in accordance with recognized professional standards.
- Must have the ability to travel to various Port Authority locations, out of town overnight and occasional evenings and weekends as needed to perform audits and potentially serve on Pennsylvania's Uniform Certification Program (UCP) Appeals Committee as part of Port Authority's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.
- Effective and professional communication skills.

Preferred attributes:

- Minimum of two (2) years Internal Auditing experience.
- Knowledge of Government Auditing Standards (GAS).
- CIA, CFE, CPA or other related professional certification program that would enhance the performance of their internal auditor duties.
- Experience using audit software.
- Experience with business process improvement (BPI).



We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter (with salary requirements) and resume to:

Janet Bruner
Employment Department
345 Sixth Avenue, 3rd Floor
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jobs@portauthority.org
EOE

LOCAL COLLEGE HIRING ACADEMIC CHAIR-SCHOOL OF DESIGN, V.P. STUDENT AFFAIRS/ ENROLLMENT MGT., MAINTENANCE TECH/HVAC/ ELECTRICAL & HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS

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- Academic Chair – School of Design Master's degree in related discipline
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- Maintenance Tech – HVAC/ Electrical – Full-time Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (8 hour work shift) Must be Universal EPA Certified
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- Housekeeper – Part-time – Evening Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (4 hour work shift) Prior office/institutional cleaning experience preferred Must pass criminal background check. Immediate opening at our North Fayette campus near Robinson Towne Center. Apply to www.ptcollege.edu (Employment with PTC) or www.workforptcollege.com. EOE M/F

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Help Wanted

RECRUITER

Port Authority is seeking a Recruiter to administer employment and recruitment activities for assigned positions. Maintains employment records, generates employment reports/statistics and inputs data into PeopleSoft.

Administers validated testing.

Essential Functions:

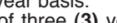
- Utilizes PeopleSoft HRMS to do the following:
 - Create and maintain job requisitions.
 - Enters Applicant Personal Data, Education, License, Membership, Competency and other information.
 - Schedule and track applicants and interviews.
 - Maintain applicant records.
 - Track job offers and maintain appropriate documentation.
 - Process and enter new employee information.
 - Administers employment processes for assigned positions, including recruitment, testing, interviewing and investigations. Conducts background checks on prospective candidates which includes various communications to verify education, previous and current employers. Utilizes the internet to conduct criminal record check and motor vehicle record status. Enters and tracks data in PeopleSoft. Extends contingent job offers and maintains appropriate documentation. Ensures that required employment activities are satisfactorily processed before finalizing hiring actions. Coordinates and conducts new hire orientation.

Job requirements include:

- High School diploma or GED.
- BA/BS degree in Human Resources Management, Industrial Relations, Business Administration or Related field from an accredited school. Related experience may be substituted for the education on a year-for-year basis.
- Minimum of three (3) years of experience interviewing, recruitment and employment process with familiarity with union contracting matters.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Employment/EEO laws and practices.
- Effective and professional communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability in the use of Windows and Microsoft Word.

Preferred attributes:

- Professional in Human Resources (PHR) or Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification from the Society for Human Resources Management.
- Prior PeopleSoft experience.
- Demonstrated ability in the use of Microsoft Excel.



We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter (with salary requirements) and resume to:

Missy Ramsey
Employment Department
345 Sixth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527
MRamsey@portauthority.org
EOE

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG JOB POSTING/CLASSIFIED AD
The Borough of Wilkesburg is accepting applications for the Full-Time position of Police Record Clerk for the Wilkesburg Police Department. The hourly rate of pay is \$20.26 per/hour. Position description and Borough employment application are available at www.wilkesburgpa.gov. Send application to, Wilkesburg Borough, 605 Ross Ave, Wilkesburg, PA 15221 or info@wilkesburgpa.gov. Applications also accepted at the Borough administrative offices during normal business hours. Application period closes at 4:00pm on July 30, 2020. Wilkesburg residency is required EEO
Amanda Ford,
Interim Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG JOB POSTING/CLASSIFIED AD
The Borough of Wilkesburg is accepting applications for the Part-Time position of Financial Clerk I for the Department of Finance. The hourly rate of pay is \$17.58 per/hour. Position description and Borough employment application are available at www.wilkesburgpa.gov. Send application to, Wilkesburg Borough, 605 Ross Ave, Wilkesburg, PA 15221 or info@wilkesburgpa.gov Applications also accepted at the Borough administrative offices during normal business hours. Application period closes at 4:00pm on July 30, 2020. Wilkesburg residency is required EEO
Amanda Ford,
Interim Borough Manager

AUDIT MANAGER POSITION
ERIKS North America, Inc. seeks an Audit Manager, North America to work in Pittsburgh, PA and manage the Internal Audit function for the North America region for compliance with internal audit controls. Submit resume to: melanie.toback@eriksna.com

ASSOCIATE INTERNAL AUDITOR
Port Authority is seeking an Associate Internal Auditor to be responsible for conducting and documenting moderately complex audit projects. Makes material contributions to the report of audit findings, including the development of recommendations for the correction of unsatisfactory conditions, improvement of operations, reduction of costs, or the increases of revenues.

Essential Functions:

- Plans and executes moderately complex audit assignments, conducts reviews of portions of extensive audit assignments, prepares work papers to document audit procedures, findings and recommendations in accordance with recognized professional standards.
- Participates in conducting reviews of assigned organizational and functional activities and contribute in interpreting and analyzing the policies and procedures of same. This may include developing recommendations for business process improvements.
- Participates in the performance of special reviews and/or matters of significant at the request of Internal Audit management, which may include, investigating and attempting to resolve matters related to the assignments.

Job requirements include:

- BA/BS degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, or directly related field from an accredited school.
- Minimum of two (2) years auditing/accounting experience.
- Experience planning and executing moderately complex audit assignments, conducts reviews of portions of extensive audit assignments, prepares work papers to document audit procedures, findings and recommendations in accordance with recognized professional standards.
- Must have the ability to travel to various Port Authority locations, out of town overnight and occasional evenings and weekends as needed to perform audits and potentially serve on Pennsylvania's Uniform Certification Program (UCP) Appeals Committee as part of Port Authority's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.
- Effective and professional communication skills.

Preferred attributes:

- Minimum of two (2) years Internal Auditing experience.
- Knowledge of Government Auditing Standards (GAS).
- CIA, CFE, CPA or other related professional certification program that would enhance the performance of their internal auditor duties.
- Experience using audit software.
- Experience with business process improvement (BPI).

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Help Wanted

BLACK STUDIES TEACHER

The Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School is seeking a Black Studies Teacher position for grades K-5 Elementary. Please submit Resume and ALL three Clearances to sharris@urbanacademypgh.org.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER & HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Anti-hunger advocacy group Just Harvest is seeking a full-time Grassroots Organizer and Healthy Corner Store Project Coordinator. Just Harvest is an equal opportunity employer that values diversity of all kinds. Complete job descriptions can be found online at:

<https://www.justharvest.org/jobs/>

To apply for either position, send a resume, a cover letter describing why you are an excellent candidate, and contact information for three references as Word or PDF attachments to search@justharvest.org with "Grassroots Organizer Application" or "Healthy Corner Store Project Coordinator Application" in subject line. Or mail to: Just Harvest, 16 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh PA 15219, Attn: "Grassroots Organizer Application" or "Healthy Corner Store Project Coordinator." Deadline: July 31, 2020. No phone calls.

MAINTENANCE AND COMMUNITY MANAGER POSITIONS

TREK Development is hiring! Open positions include, Maintenance and Community Manager positions. Send resumes to bitzer@compass-resources.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Legal Notices

Estate Notices

Letters have been granted on the estate of each of the following decedents to the personal representative named who request all persons having claims against the estate of the decedent to make known the same in writing to him or his attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to him without delay:

Estate of Mr. John Earl Pawuk, Deceased of 923 Vance Avenue, Coraopolis PA 15108. Estate No. 02-202840. Ms. Carol Pawuk and Ms. Karen DeChellis, Co-Administratrixes, c/o Max C. Feldman, Esquire and the Law Office of Max C. Feldman, 1322 Fifth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
Student Substance Awareness, Khushi Pasrija at 926 Bell Drive, Wexford, PA 15090, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for a nonprofit corporation which has been incorporated under the provisions of the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. The name of the corporation is Student Substance Awareness.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

NOTICE TO BIDDERS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Westmoreland County Housing Authority (WCHA) is requesting construction bids for (2) prime contracts consisting of: Mechanical Construction and Electrical Construction associated with the following project:

MECHANICAL – VENTILATION RENOVATIONS

Located At
VALLEY MANOR – PA 18-06
MONESSEN, PA 15062

Sealed bids will be received by Michael L. Washowich, Executive Director, until **August 3, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. (Eastern Standard Time)** at the office of the Westmoreland County Housing Authority, 167 South Greengate Road, Greensburg PA 15601. Bids will be opened publicly at **11:30 A.M.** via a zoom video conference call.

Interested respondents can obtain bid documents by downloading from www.wchaonline.com. Bidders shall be registered on the WCHA – Procurement Database to obtain said documents. Inquiries and plan holder registration can be emailed to eriks@wchaonline.com. A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Site Inspection / Meeting will occur on **July 17, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. (E.S.T.)**. Site location is 331 - 3rd Street, Monessen, PA 15062.

COVID 19 Pandemic Regulations will be followed to gain access to the inspection meeting.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

July 8, 2020

The Office of the County Controller of Allegheny County, Room 104, Court House, Pittsburgh, PA, will receive separate and sealed Bids on Tuesdays and Thursdays from **10:00 A.M. until 2:00PM** and FROM **10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M.** prevailing local time, **August 5, 2020**, and a representative of the Department of Public Works will open and read the Bids in Conference Room 1, Room 410, County Court House, Pittsburgh, PA, one half hour later, **11:30 o'clock A.M.**, for the following:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SOUTH PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

CORRIGAN DRIVE
MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK/ SOUTH PARK TOWNSHIP
COUNTY PROJECT No. 5065-0005

As a prospective bidder please note the following general Project information regarding: Pre Bid Information, Bidding Requirements, and Contract Conditions. See the Project Manual for detailed information, responsibilities and instructions.

PRE BID INFORMATION: Purchase and/or view the Project Manual and Drawings at the Office of the Contract Manager, Room 504, County Office Building, Pittsburgh, PA. Please adhere to all COVID-19 safety procedures. The non-refundable charge for the Proposal and a disk containing the Specifications and Drawings is \$107.00 including sales tax. The Contract Manager will accept only check or money order to the "COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY" in that amount and **WILL NOT ACCEPT CASH OR EXTEND CREDIT.**

Prospective bidders may request to have bid documents mailed. An additional fee of \$16.05 including tax, for handling costs for each requested proposal must be paid in advance. The fee must be received at the Office of the Contract Manager prior to the mailing of any documents.

Interested bidders planning to purchase bid documents or attend the public bid opening are advised to follow Self-Monitoring and Social Distancing guidelines when entering the Allegheny County Courthouse or County Office Building. Interested bidders should also be aware that when entering either the Allegheny County Courthouse or County Office Building, a face mask meeting the guidelines set by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, must be worn at all times.

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS: The County requires pre-qualification of bidders, including subcontractors, as specified in **Section 102.01** of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Specifications, **Publication No.408, 2020** Initial Edition, Effective **April 10, 2020** on this project.

Submit Proposal on the supplied form in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and

Specifications; include the following documents with the Bid Form, **ALONG WITH ONE COMPLETE PHOTOCOPIED SET OF THE PROPOSAL:**

- Bid Security – certified check or surety company bond on County's form to the order of/ or running to the County of Allegheny in the amount of five (5%) percent of the Bid as evidence that you, the Bidder, will accept and carry out the conditions of the Contract in case of award. The County will accept only bonds written by Surety Companies acceptable on Federal Bonds per the current **Federal Register Circular 570, Federal Register Circular 570** is available for inspection in the Contract Office, Room 504, County Office Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.
- Bidder Certification of Pre-Qualification, Classification and Work Capacity
- List of Subcontractors
- Statement of Joint Venture Participation
- MBE And WBE Goals Attainment Certification (**ONLY NECESSARY IF YOU CANNOT MEET THE SPECIFIED MBE AND WBE GOALS.**)
- MBE/WBE Subcontractor and Supplier Commitment and Solicitation Sheets
- Work Sheet Required Amount Performed By Contractor (Non-Federal Projects)

THE COUNTY MAY REJECT BIDS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE THE EXECUTED DOCUMENTS SPECIFIED ABOVE WITH THE BID FORM. You may not withdraw your bid for a period of Sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids. The County Manager reserves the right to reject any and all bids or waive any informality in the bidding.

CONTRACT CONDITIONS: In accordance with the provisions of the "Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act" of **August 15, 1961, P.L. 987**, as Department of Labor and Industry, the prevailing minimum wage predetermination requirements as set forth in the Attachments apply to this Project.

The anticipated notice to proceed is **September 21, 2020**. The project completion will be 242 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed.

The County of Allegheny hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this Advertisement, minority business enterprises / women business enterprises [MBE/WBE] will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this advertisement and the County will not discriminate against minority and women business enterprises on the grounds of race, sex, color or national origin in consideration for an award. It is a condition of the bidding process/contract that all responsive bidders / contractors shall follow the minority business enterprises and women business enterprises [MBE/WBE] procedures set forth in the project manual/contract documents.

For technical questions contact Kevin Lemon, E.I.T., Project Manager, at 412-350-2517. For contracting questions contact Dan Swisher, Contracts Manager, at 412-350-5955 or 5924.

Chelsa Wagner
Controller
County of Allegheny

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids / Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) FOR BEDFORD DWELLINGS PLUMBING LINES INSPECTION, AMP-02 HACP IFB NO. 600-22-20
 THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH will receive sealed bids for the Bedford Dwellings Plumbing Lines Inspection, AMP-02

The construction work is estimated to begin in **September of 2020**. Bid Documents will be available on or about **Monday, July 13, 2020** and may be obtained from the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's webpage, www.hacp.org. Bidders may register on the website and download the bid documents free of charge. Electronic versions of the Bid Documents, including bid forms, project manual, and drawings can be picked up in person, Monday through Friday from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Appointment is required)** at:

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
 Development and Modernization Department
 100 Ross Street, Suite 200
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 Jose Solis, Project Manager
 412-643-2899

A Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will be held on **Tuesday, July 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.:**

Bedford Hope Center, 2305 Bedford Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Bidders shall come prepared to review all aspects of the construction site necessary to prepare a bid.

Bids will be received at:
HACP Procurement Department
100 Ross Street, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Attn: Kim Detrick,
Director of Procurement

HACP will also accept online submissions for this Invitation for Bid in addition to accepting submissions at our 100 Ross Street office. For respondents wishing to submit online, please access the instructions provided in the project manual to submit the bid digitally.

In addition to the electronic submittal above, The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh **will only be accepting physical bids dropped off in person from 8:00 AM until the bid opening time of 10:00 AM on August 11, 2020** in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Sealed bids may still be mailed via USPS at which time they will be Time and Date Stamped at 100 Ross Street 2nd Floor, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. All bids must be received at the above address no later than **August 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**, regardless of the selected delivery mechanism.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH reserves the right to waive any informality in, or reject any and all bids. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the **HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH**.

The Contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity requirements for Federally Assisted Construction Contracts. The Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sexual preference, handicap or national origin. HACP has revised its website. As part of those revisions, vendors must now register and log-in, in order to view and download IFB/RFP documentation.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH STRONGLY ENCOURAGES CERTIFIED MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO RESPOND TO THE SOLICITATION.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Kim Detrick, Director of Procurement at (412) 456-5116 Opt 1.

Caster D. Binion,
Executive Director
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH

HACP conducts business in accordance with all federal, state, and local civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VII, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, The PA Human Relations Act, etc. and does not discriminate against any individuals protected by these statutes.



LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids / Proposals

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) is accepting Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications from Professional Companies who wish to be considered for the following:

NEW ACCESS SHAFT MANHOLES NEAR A-40 AND M-49 (S-474)

All questions should also be submitted, **in writing**, to Suzanne Thomas. Interested Parties shall submit an electronic copy (pdf format) emailed to:

suzanne.thomas@alcosan.org
Attn: Suzanne Thomas,
Procurement Officer

The selected firm will provide all services necessary to the following:

- Perform geotechnical borings, reports, and surveys
- Obtain any necessary permits and easements
- Provide a complete package, including engineered plans and specifications
- Assist with contract bidding, and services during construction

ALCOSAN intends to award the services to one firm to perform all of the services. All submittals must be received no later than **2:00 p.m. August 14, 2020**. It is Consultant's responsibility to ensure the documents have been received. Late submittals will not be considered. Additional information and instructions may be obtained by visiting: <https://www.alcosan.org/work-with-us/planned-and-active-bids>

ALCOSAN encourages businesses owned and operated by minorities, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises to submit qualification statements or to participate as subcontractors or suppliers to the selected Consultant/Firm. The Party selected shall be required to utilize minority, disadvantaged, and women's business enterprises to the fullest extent possible. The goals of the **ALCOSAN's** Minority and Women Business Policy are listed on the **ALCOSAN** website at www.alcosan.org.

Jan Oliver
Director, Regional Conveyance

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NOTHING!!

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Did you miss the Courier's special edition, "Celebrating The Graduates," June 24?

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The enemy within

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—At least six Black children were killed during the Fourth of You Lie weekend. They weren't doing anything wrong, just attending a community picnic, or going to visit a grandmother, or riding in a car with her mom. One of the children, Secoria Turner, 8, was an Atlantan, and the day after the killing, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, emotionally addressed the killers, "You shot and killed a baby," she said. "This random wild, wild West, shoot 'em up because you can, it has got to stop. It has to stop." She went on to say, "Enough is enough. You can't blame this on a police officer. You can't say this is about criminal justice reform. This is about some people carrying weapons who shot up a car with an 8-year-old baby in the car. For what?"

In Washington, D.C., 11-year-old Devon McNeal, ironically attending an anti-violence cookout organized by his mother, was shot in the head by a bullet. An 18-year-old has been arrested, and there are two other suspects. In Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and New York, our children are being murdered. We can get thousands to the streets for a Black Lives Matter protest. How many can we get out for Natalia, 7, killed in Chicago, or Jace Young, 6, the San Franciscan who was killed attending a birthday party?

In 2019, 692 children (0-11) were killed or injured, up from 2014, when 603 were killed or wounded. The Gun Violence Archive, (gunviolencearchive.org), has been counting gun deaths since 2013, says there were 733 child deaths or injuries in 2017, the peak year since they began collecting the data. The murdered children are never the intended victims. Instead, somebody with more firepower

Julianne Malveaux



Commentary

than sense, shoots into a crowd gathering, not caring who they hit. And they've been killing our children.

I could write dissertations about why angry and unemployed young men are running around with guns, settling scores, and securing reputations with no regard for others. But I'm sick of the sociological explanations and the excuses. I'm with Mayor Bottoms. Enough is enough.

How do we stop it, though? Devon McNeal's mother, Crystal, is an anti-violence activist. She organized her gathering to promote the end of violence. But she could not protect her baby boy since all the anti-violence talk in the world can't protect a child from a fool who is determined to use their weapon to rob, kill, or intimidate.

How do we dismantle the gun culture that dominates so many of our inner cities? Will it take new laws? Harsher penalties for illegal gun use? As Mayor Bottoms said, this is not about the police.

Conservatives are right to say we may lose fewer Black lives to police violence to street gun violence. It doesn't matter, because of every George Floyd, Tamir Rice, and Briana Taylor matters. To lose lives because of police indifference, racism, and evil must be resisted, and the Black Lives Matter Movement does that effectively. Black Lives Matter street signs in Washington, D.C., and New York speak to that.

Even as we resist police brutality, structural racism, and other inequities, we must fight the enemy within, the callous young men who engage in gunplay on public streets when anybody could be walking by. How to get through to them?

Cornel West once described these young men as nihilistic, believing that life has no intrinsic value, simply not caring about social norms and moral values. Anyone who would shoot a deadly weapon into a crowd has no regard for human life. And perhaps one could argue that these young men do not value human life because human life has not valued them. But I'm sick of making excuses for socio-paths, even as I understand the forces that created them. These shootings have to stop!

I love looking at Black children, looking at their small, partly unformed faces, and wonder what kind of adult they will evolve into. Too many gun-toting criminals ensure that some of our children won't have the opportunity to grow up. Class differences among African Americans mean that some fall asleep to the sounds of gunfire, while others know shooting from television. When we say it takes a village to raise a child, what happens to the villagers that would rob a child of life?

We need to call these villains out. We need to ask their associates to call them out. Enough is enough. When you say Black Lives Matter, when you march and chant, think of 11-year-old Devon McNeal, 6-year-old Jace Young, eight-year-old Secoria Turner, or seven-year-old Natalia Wallace. Their Black lives matter, too. What must we do to protect our children?

(Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist.)

Black Lives Matter: We are the Black community

Legend has it, during the French Revolution, Maximilien Robespierre overthrew the monarchy and beheaded the king for the benefit of "the people." After the execution, the actual people agreed to institute a new government administered by the people, but Robespierre disagreed and announced, "I am the people." Then Robespierre beheaded every person who opposed "the people's" will.

That's a cautionary tale. Some believe it captures the warning in the phrase: The road to hell is paved with good intentions. Others believe it demonstrates how power corrupts. I believe it warns the people that those speaking on their behalf don't necessarily share their interest.

In 2016 the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, called for a temporary ban on charter school expansion. The NAACP believed no public money should be diverted to charter schools at the expense of public schools. Hundreds of Black parents went to the NAACP board meeting in Cincinnati to protest against the NAACP's position on charter schools. The protests weren't surprising; public opinion polls revealed the majority of Black parents supported charter schools. Obviously, the NAACP spoke only for its membership and not on behalf of the Black community. One protester asked, "Where was the NAACP when so many public schools was failing our children?"

A few weeks after the NAACP's confrontation with the Black parents, Black Lives Matter released its first policy agenda. BLM supported the NAACP's position on charter schools by demanding a moratorium. BLM stated charter schools represented an inappropriate shift of public funds

J. Pharoah Doss



Check It Out

and control to private entities, and BLM demanded increased investments in traditional community schools.

But if the majority of parents in the Black community are in favor of charter schools, who does BLM represent?

Now, in 2020, after the police killing of another unarmed Black man, BLM has issued a demand that has little support in the Black community. BLM wants police departments defunded across the nation and the funds transferred to the Black community. But this demand is no different than the Black parents' demand for charter schools. Since public schools were failing Black children the majority of Black parents wanted public schools defunded and the funds transferred to entities that better served their community. Now that BLM is convinced policing in America cannot be reformed, they want police departments defunded and funds transferred to entities that would better serve the Black community.

That sounds inconsistent with BLM's previous opposition to shifting public funds, but it is consistent with them using the plight of the "Black community" for their own purposes. The question that needs to be answered is: What is the Black community? At the turn of the century the Equity Literary Institute defined the Black community as Black America, members of Black America are citizens of the United States, also citizens of the states, counties, cities, and municipalities in which they reside.

But that definition doesn't mean too much, therefore, like Robespierre, BLM has announced: We are the Black community.

Sports have the potential to unite us

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—"Racism runs rampant in towns and cities neighboring large Indigenous populations. I've been told to 'go back to the reservation' and asked by White people to search for their stolen items on the reservation. The drunk Indian trope permeates majority-White towns and cities where Natives live in poverty. Plains Indians have also faced slurs such as 'prairie n-words' and our women referred to using the derogatory term 'squaw.' Resistance literally runs through our veins. Our schools feature mascots such as Braves, Warriors, and Indians. Absent are the caricatures of mainstream Washington Redskin fandom. We don't partake in the 'tomahawk chop' or reduce heritage to stereotypical chants. Our events usually involve our cultural singing and traditions. We don't act a fool in headdresses—those are sacred symbols with meaning."—Northern Cheyenne writer Angelina Newsom

As the United States undertakes the most significant reckoning of racism in a generation, symbols of White supremacy still loom large. From Confederate monuments to harmful stereotypes in advertising to the names of professional sports teams, American culture is steeped in it.

Eliminating these symbols won't eradicate racism. But we can't eradicate racism unless we eliminate them. The Washington, D.C. NFL team is a prime example.

The United States government has authorized 1,500 wars, attacks and raids on the indigenous people of the land it occupies. An estimated five million to 15 million indigenous people lived in North America in the 15th century. By the late 19th century, fewer than a quarter-million remained.

The motive behind the systematic slaughter and removal of Native Americans was land. Europeans who were barred from owning land in their

Marc Morial



Commentary

homeland flocked to the New World to claim their homesteads. To justify the violence, Native Americans were portrayed as savages, less human than their "civilized" European counterparts. Their customs, their language and the color of their skin set them apart, and referring to them with a slur based on skin color served to reinforce the stereotype.

Slurs based on skin color and other physical differences are intended to debase and divide. And right now, more than ever, we need the power of sports to unite us.

Athletes have played a unique role in the nation's rocky and uneven effort to overcome White supremacy. The activism displayed by Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid, Anquan Bolden and Malcom Jenkins and their Players Coalition, is part of a long legacy that includes Althea Gibson, Muhammad Ali, Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

The NFL has made strides in recent years, establishing a Social Justice Initiative to work with the Players Coalition, and—just last month—changing its stance on player protests like Kaepernick's. Insisting upon a name change for the Washington team is the logical next step in the League's journey.

Dan Snyder, the team's owner, announced last week that the organization is conducting a "thorough review" of the name. The time for review is over. Native American individuals and organizations have objected to the name from the beginning. Organized efforts to change the name have been going on for more than 50 years. As National Congress of American Indians president Fawn Sharp said, "This moment has been 87 years in the making, and we have reached this moment thanks to decades of tireless efforts by tribal leaders, advocates, citizens, and partners to educate America about the origins and meaning of the R-word."



J.C. Watts



Commentary

Impact of COVID-19 in our community

(NNPA)—Washington, D.C., city attorney George Valentine was Black, brilliant, and fit. But after contracting COVID-19, he became so weak, he had trouble moving and even speaking. When it got to the point where he could barely breathe, George called an ambulance and waited on the steps of his house for it to arrive. Every second he waited must have seemed like an eternity. Two days later, George died. He was 66 and had suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure before getting sick with the coronavirus.

New research seems to confirm that, across the nation, the coronavirus has disproportionately impacted Black people, with death rates more than twice as high as that for any other race. Why is this happening—and can we do anything about it?

There are several explanations for the disparity, and most have to do how we live, where we work, and our underlying health conditions. There are also factors that are within our immediate control that we can all do right now to protect ourselves, but that many in our community are failing to do.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cite several possible reasons that Black Americans are more affected. One is that many of us live in more highly populated areas where it's more difficult to practice physical distancing from one another. Many of us also live in multi-generational households where it's easier for younger family members to spread the virus to more vulnerable elderly members. This is especially true for lower-income households with smaller living spaces.

Another reason is that a large percentage of African Americans hold frontline service industry jobs as food servers, cleaners, and personal-care providers, and in fields such as nursing that are all considered essential during the pandemic, and they bravely continue to go to work each day.

One other big factor is that, sadly, our people also tend to have more underlying medical conditions—like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension—that make us more vulnerable.

While many of these factors are difficult to change in the near term, we can do some things immediately to reduce our risks. In my own community in Oklahoma, I've witnessed many Black folks not wearing masks or practicing any degree of physical distancing in public. A lot of people just plain aren't following recommendations to keep themselves and their families safe.

Let's be real for a minute. Some of this stems from past experiences with government that make people skeptical about what they're hearing from public officials. For some, it's the bitter memories of government-enforced segregation and other racist policies. For others, it's the fact the young Black men have more negative encounters with the police, and people don't want to wear masks and give anyone an excuse for mistaking them for criminals. For others, it's that politicians have made promises to us for decades and have failed to make good. Why trust them now?

Despite all this, please don't put your health at risk. We have to do all we can to protect our communities and our loved ones from being exposed to infection.

First, avoid close contact with people who are sick. Being in the same enclosed room with somebody who has the virus can lead to infection. Second, keep at least six feet between you and others if you have to leave home. People can be infected even if they're not showing symptoms. Third, wash your hands or sanitize them often and for at least 20 seconds. Also avoid touching your face, mouth, and eyes with unwashed hands.

I know the advice about wearing masks is a tough one for many folks, but perspectives have changed during this pandemic. So, cover your mouth and nose with a bandana or other face covering if you have to leave home. The mask provides some protection for others in case you're infected and don't know it.

Finally, be sure to get medical help if you have any flu-like symptoms or have trouble breathing, persistent pain in your chest, a fever, or a dry cough.

As I write this, The Heritage Foundation's National Coronavirus Recovery Commission, of which I'm a member, is wrapping up its final report offering recommendations to help us all recover from this pandemic. The commissioners are deeply concerned that COVID-19 has hit minority communities so hard and are urging medical researchers to look into how we can prevent this disproportionate impact in the future.

The commission is also recommending ways that our churches and community institutions can be a positive force for encouraging people to take preventative actions to stop the spread of COVID-19.

I'm hopeful that our nation will conquer this disease and that together, we will emerge from this chapter in our history stronger than before. But ultimately for that to happen, the cure must start with us.

(J.C. Watts is founder and chairman of J.C. Watts Companies, chairman of Black News Channel, and a member of National Coronavirus Recovery Commission.)