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THE 'LIVING FUNERAL' OF DANNIELLE BROWN

Mother willing to 'take her last breath' at Freedom Corner over the death of her son at Duquesne University

by Ashley G. Woodson

For New Pittsburgh Courier

Dannielle Brown, the mother of former Duquesne University student Marquis Jaylen Brown, held a Civil Protest Homegoing Service on Aug. 6 to send a strong message to the university that she is willing to take her last breath until she receives full access to the investigation of her son's death.

"I held this civil protest because it allows me to write my own narrative and not someone else's. It's to honor my son, but also to pay homage to my way and to let everyone know that I'm willing take my last breath at Freedom Corner," Dannielle Brown told the New Pittsburgh Courier, as hundreds were in attendance. "A living funeral is for the person whose life is on the line and that would be me.

It gives me the opportunity to participate in my homegoing service while I'm still alive as opposed to others speaking on my behalf."

Dannielle Brown added: "The reason I'm doing this is because I do not think I'm going to get the answers I need. I don't think Duquesne University is interested in working together with me in partnership to make sure this doesn't happen to other children. Let me be clear and state that Duquesne University is not interested in working with me, but the people of Duquesne are sympathetic towards what I'm going through. Duquesne University is showing me that my life doesn't have value. My son's life has value and they need to realize that this child did not go out of a 16-story window."

Simply put, Dannielle Brown wants justice for her son, a football player on

Duquesne's team who, according to police and the university, smashed a dorm room window with a chair and jumped to his death in October 2018. Investigators do not believe foul play was involved.

But Dannielle Brown never bought the entire story that Duquesne and the police were selling.

So much so that she decided to leave her home in Washington, D.C., more than a month ago, launching a hunger strike at Freedom Corner, demanding answers as to what happened

to her son.

Michelle Hicks and Jake Barley have been avid supporters of Dannielle Brown, among those staying with her each day of Dannielle Brown's hunger strike, which, at the time of the living funeral on Aug. 6, had reached 34 days.

"It's very important to continue to support Ms. Brown. Obviously her life is on the line and she needs to get the answers she de-

serves," Hicks said.

"It's a very powerful statement that she's willing to put her life on the line for her son's justice," Barley said.

Just the phrase "living funeral" caught the attention of local media, most of them following Dannielle Brown's every

SEE FUNERAL A6



DANNIELLE BROWN held her own "Living Funeral" at Freedom Corner in the Hill District, Aug. 6. She said she would put her life on the line to get justice for her son, Marquis Jaylen Brown, who died at Duquesne University in 2018. (Photos by Ashley G. Woodson)

51 of 65 homicides Black lives

Uptick in homicides during summer

by Rob Taylor Jr.

Courier Staff Writer

The coronavirus pandemic is a stressful time for everyone. People have lost jobs, or their hours have been cut, and ordinary things that people are used to doing, such as going to concerts, birthday parties, etc., have been altered.

Across the country, police have responded to an uptick in violent crime. Crime is on the rise in Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, New York City, and

STOP THE



GENOCIDE!

elsewhere.

The New Pittsburgh Courier has always been at the forefront of fighting back against gun violence against anyone, but particularly Black-on-Black homicides. Though we are in the midst of a pandemic, the likes we haven't seen in 100 years, it should not be lost on anyone that it is not an excuse for violent crimes to be committed. The Courier denounces all violent crime, and although there

SEE HOMICIDES A4

The Race for the White House

'Low-income' voters could determine the 2020 Presidential Election

New study champions 'poor and low-income' people, urges them to vote on Nov. 3

by Rob Taylor Jr.

Courier Staff Writer

In the 2016 Presidential Election, Republican Donald Trump, the eventual winner, also defeated his opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, here in Pennsylvania by roughly 40,000 votes.

But according to a newly-released report by Columbia University School of Social Work Assistant Professor Robert Paul Hartley, if just four percent more of the 1.2 million Pennsylvanians classified as low-income had voted in the election and voted for, say, Clinton, Trump would have lost Pennsylvania.

The same could be said in a state like Michigan, where Trump won by only 10,000 votes. If just two percent more of the 980,000 Michigan residents classified as

low-income would have voted in the election and voted for Clinton, she would have won the state.

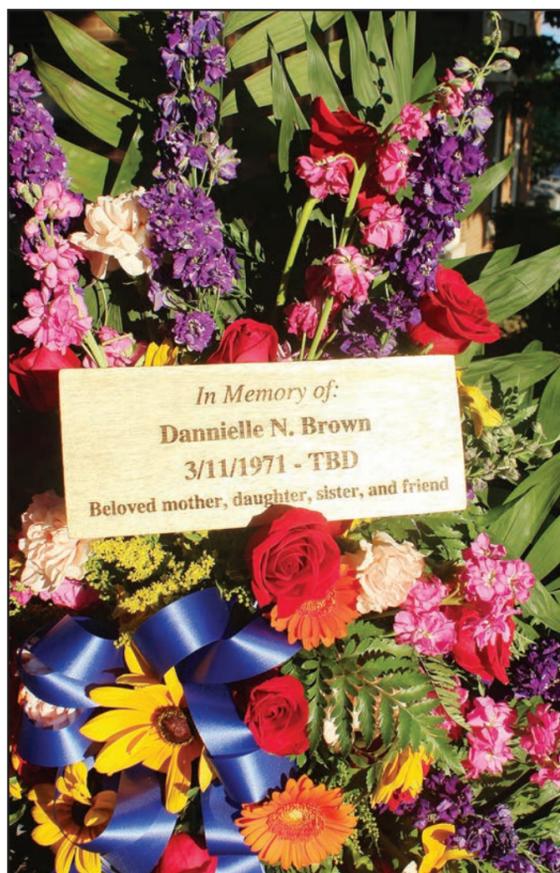
While it should be noted that not everyone in the U.S. who is classified as low-income will vote for a Democratic presidential candidate such as this year's presumptive nominee, Joe Biden, Hartley's findings indicate that overall, the voting potential of low-income Americans is very impactful.

And the vote of low-income Americans could determine the presidential election this November 3. But generally, lower-income Americans of any ethnicity turn out less to vote in elections than wealthier Americans. Hartley's study found that there's a 20-percent-

SEE VOTERS A2



DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SEN. KAMALA HARRIS hopes to use her influence with Black and suburban voters to win the presidential election for Joe Biden.



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'Low-income' voters could determine the 2020 Presidential Election, report says

VOTERS FROM A1

age-point gap on average between low-income Americans (classified for this report as those with incomes below twice the federal poverty line) who vote (46 percent) and wealthier Americans (those with incomes above twice the federal poverty line) who vote (67 percent).

The primary reasons for low-income Americans not voting, the report said, are a lack of interest in the issues or feeling their vote will not matter.

"A large proportion of the electorate is not participating in elections because they are not motivated by a particular candidate who might make a difference on issues that matter to economically vulnerable families," the report, obtained by the New Pittsburgh Courier on Aug. 12, read.

The report also said many low-income Americans have transportation problems or illness/disability concerns that can prevent them from voting.

Many in the political world were shocked when Trump, who had never held public office, defeated

in the 2016 election, could Hillary Clinton currently be the U.S. president, instead of Trump? According to the report, "there are 15 states total that would potentially flip if at least 71 percent (on average) of the newly voting low-income population voted for the party that lost in that state in 2016: 10 states could flip from red (Trump) to blue (Clinton), and five states from blue (Clinton) to red (Trump).

Those 10 states that probably would have flipped from Trump to Clinton were Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida.

Most of those states, with the exception of Wisconsin and Arizona, have significant African American populations.

Thus, when Hartley's report outlines the impact that low-income Americans could have on an election if their rate of voting increased, it speaks largely to the country's Black population. Blacks comprise the highest percentage of any ethnic group

the purposes of the Columbia University report, the family is considered "low-income." A person or family would have to earn more than twice the federal poverty line not to be classified as "poor" or "low-income" for this report.

Taking this into account, report researchers classified 140 million Americans (40 percent) as "poor" or "low-income," including 23.7 million of the 41.4 million African Americans (60 percent) in the U.S.

And Biden, without admitting it, knew that choosing a Black woman (Kamala Harris) as his running mate, and the first-ever Black woman VP candidate in U.S. history, could only boost his chances to bring more Black voters to the polls in his favor on Election Day.

After Barack Obama, the country's first Black president, comfortably won re-election in 2012 over Mitt Romney with 332 electoral votes, there was a significant drop-off in the number of African Americans (about 765,000 less) who voted in the 2016 presidential election.

And leave it to Trump to mock some African Americans' lack of voting in the 2016 election, as he did during a post-election rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Dec. 9, 2016, a month after he won the election.

"The African American community was great to us," Trump said. "If they had any doubt, they didn't vote...and that was almost as good."

Simply put, the higher the participation of Black voters on Nov. 3, the better the chances that Biden will defeat Trump, and Harris will be the first African American (and first woman) vice president in American history.

Most polls show that only eight percent of African Americans favor Trump—most of the rest (83 percent) are in Biden's corner.

IN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, the overall popular vote (total actual votes) is not what wins an election. A candidate must win the popular vote in a particular state; they are then awarded all of the state's electoral votes (with the exception of Nebraska and Maine).

In Pennsylvania, Trump enjoyed a 43,000-vote victory over Clinton in 2016. And it was instrumental in Trump's overall presidential win, because Pennsylvania, while sometimes

est number of electoral votes of any state (20).

When Hillary Clinton was the Democratic candidate in 2016, she was expected to win over many White working women

oric that seems to further divide the country rather than bring it together. However, Trump hails that he's done "more for the African American community" than any oth-



THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE 2020 is the New Pittsburgh Courier's special series of reports pertaining to the upcoming Presidential Election. More reports will appear in the coming weeks in our print edition and online at www.newpittsburghcourier.com.

"THE HIGHER THE PARTICIPATION OF BLACK VOTERS ON NOV. 3, THE BETTER THE CHANCES THAT BIDEN WILL DEFEAT TRUMP, AND HARRIS WILL BE THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN (AND FIRST WOMAN) VICE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY."

veteran politician Hillary Clinton in the November 2016 election. Trump had 306 electoral votes to Clinton's 232. A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win the presidential election.

The Columbia University report, titled, "Unleashing The Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans: Changing The Political Landscape," found that in the 2016 Presidential Election, out of 225 million eligible voters, 138 million people voted. Out of the 138 million who voted, 29 million were poor or low-income. But there were 34 million poor or low-income people who were eligible to vote, but did not vote in the election. Thus, if more low-income people turned out to vote

living in poverty. The most recent Census information revealed nearly one in four Black households (22 percent) are living in poverty, while the poverty rate for Whites is just nine percent. The poverty rate for Asian-Americans is 10 percent and 19 percent for Hispanics.

But for the Columbia University report, the researchers classified "poor and low-income" as those whose incomes are less than twice the federal poverty line. For example, a family consisting of two parents and two children are considered in poverty if the household income is no more than \$27,085 (the supplemental poverty measure). When the \$27,085 is doubled, it equals \$54,170. Still, for

and suburbanites, along with the Black community. In the Pittsburgh region, a Courier analysis of the popular vote data from 2012 and 2016 revealed that while Democrats picked up 19,000 additional votes in Allegheny County between 2012 and 2016, Democrats lost valuable votes in many surrounding counties, thereby diluting Clinton's advantage. The Courier found that between 2012 to 2016, Democrats lost 4,000 votes in Beaver County, 4,000 in Fayette County, 4,000 in Westmo-

er president in U.S. history, "with the exception of (Abraham) Lincoln."

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, this country will be inundated by political spats between the presidential and vice presidential hopefuls. You'll see endless TV ads, numerous debates, and cable news channels like CNN and Fox News going wire-to-wire with political talk.

But for African Americans, of whom a disproportionate number are classified as "low-income," the latest report authored by Hartley shows that it's the low-income Americans that could determine the outcome on Election Day.

"Campaign policy proposals are typically targeted toward the middle class, and political debates spend a minority of the time on issues directly relevant to most lower-income voters," Hartley wrote in his conclusion in his report. "...Ultimately, it is true that low-income Americans are less likely to vote, yet it does not have to be that way. For a more representative democratic election, and a large potential gain for those who speak to this population, the low-income electorate may offer a new focus for organization, mobilization, and campaign debate in the years going forward."

"MOST POLLS SHOW THAT ONLY EIGHT PERCENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS FAVOR TRUMP—MOST OF THE REST (83 PERCENT) ARE IN BIDEN'S CORNER."

The question for the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia regions isn't if Allegheny (or Philadelphia) County will go to Biden, but if the two regions can garner enough Democratic votes to offset the expected Republican surge of votes in the middle of the state.

If that happens, Pennsylvania would flip back to blue (Democrat), and it would be that much harder for Trump to garner the necessary 270 electoral votes to be re-elected. Pennsylvania, along with Illinois, has the fifth-high-

reland County, 3,000 in Lawrence County, 2,000 in Washington County, and roughly 1,000 in Greene County (18,000 total).

Numerous organizations, namely the Black Political Empowerment Project in Pittsburgh, consistently hammer to local African Americans the importance of voting in all elections. But this upcoming election may be the most important election yet. Many African Americans view President Trump as a person with racist views, using language and rhet-

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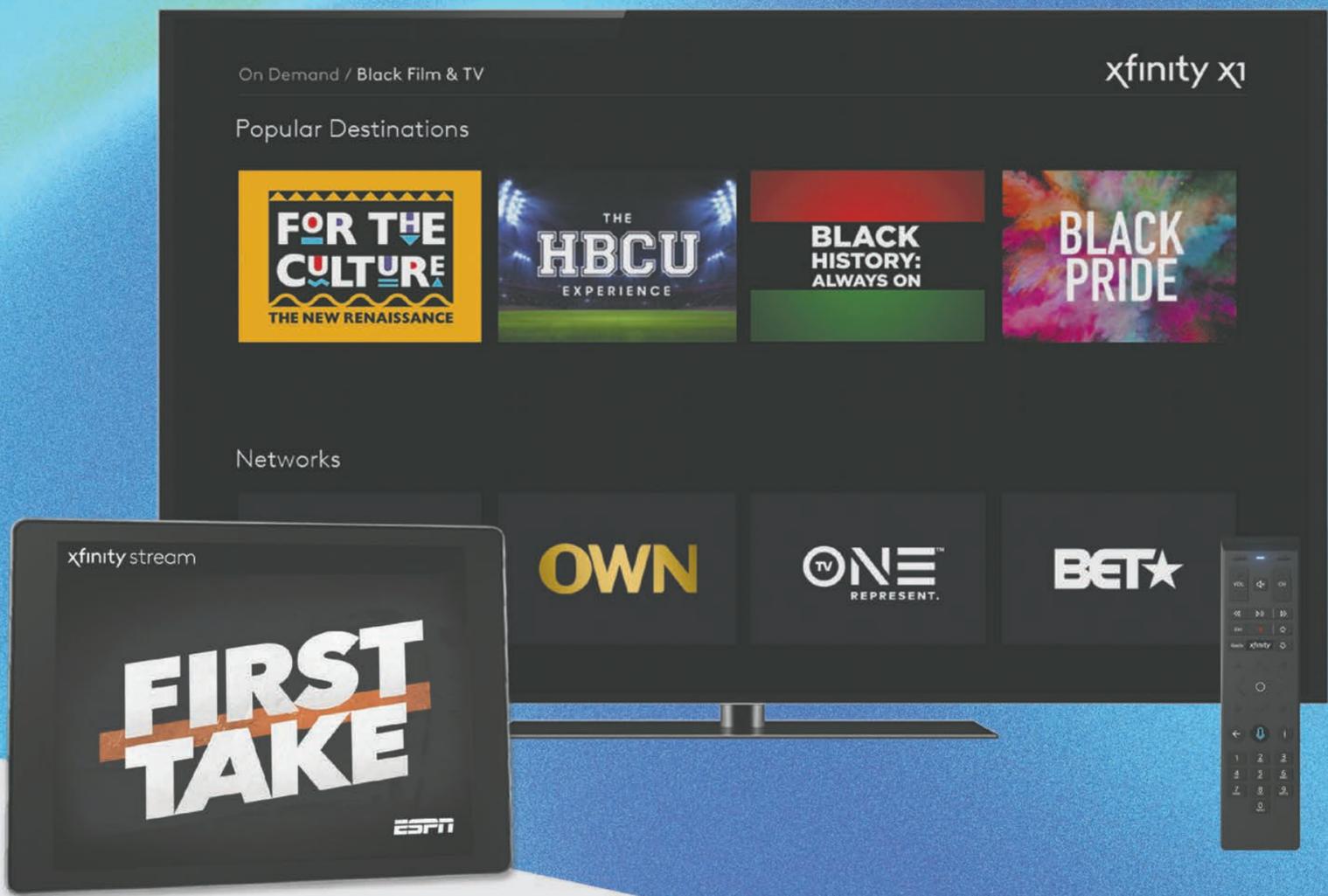
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51 of 65 homicides Black lives

Uptick in homicides during summer

HOMICIDES FROM A1

hasn't been a huge increase in homicides in Allegheny County (61 from Jan. 1 to July 31 in 2019, 65 from Jan. 1 to July 31 in 2020), one homicide is always one too many.

JULY 5—Justin Gomez, a 32-year-old Black male, was shot in the area of Mohler Street and Ferris Court in Homewood around 9:45 p.m. on July 4. Gomez, of Turtle Creek, died at the hospital the next morning. Authorities have not identified any suspects.

JULY 5—Keith D. Byrd, a 34-year-old Black male, died the morning after the Fourth of July in a shooting in the 100 block of Shetland Street in Larimer. No arrests have been made in the case.

JULY 8—Jamey Green, a 29-year-old Black male, was shot in an apartment in the Green Valley Flats apartment complex in North Versailles. Police say he was shot by a 20-year-old man from Duquesne.

JULY 11—Kevin Swinton, an 18-year-old Black male, was killed on July 11. There is no more information available at this time. Police ask that you call 1-833-255-8477 with any information.

JULY 17—Keith Jones Jr., a 20-year-old Black male, was shot near Spear Alley, near Dinsmore Street, in McKeesport. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Allegheny County Police tip line at 1-833-

255-8477.

JULY 22—Clinton Jamar Miller, a 40-year-old Black male, was shot on Knox Avenue in Knoxville. He died at UPMC Mercy Hospital around 3 a.m. No arrests have been made.

JULY 23—Niko Dawson, a 31-year-old Black male, of McKeesport, was shot in the 1200 block of Soles Street around 11:20 p.m. A woman was also shot, but survived.

JULY 26—Cortez Rai Lucas, a 27-year-old Black male, died on July 26. No other information is available at this time. Police ask that you call 1-833-255-8477 with any information.

JULY 29—Rieshawn Robinson, a 49-year-old Black female, was found

shot to death in Hazelwood, in the 300 block of Flowers Avenue. Another man was also found deceased, though that hasn't been ruled a homicide as of yet.

JULY 29—Michael C. Tomson, a 53-year-old White male, was assaulted, police say, by a 29-year-old Kennedy Township man, at the Hilltop Inn on Kisow Drive, also in Kennedy. The 29-year-old allegedly punched Tomson in the face and head. Tomson died from his injuries. The 29-year-old is in custody.

JUNE 3—Demond Terrell Scott, a 19-year-old Black male, of Duquesne, was shot in North Braddock around 3:45 p.m. Another man was also shot during the encounter.

Anyone with information on possible suspects can contact the Allegheny County Police Tip Line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS. Callers can remain anonymous.

JUNE 4—Mitch William Verheyen, a 38-year-old White male, was shot during a home invasion, police say, by the homeowner, in Brentwood. Police say the homeowner shot Verheyen three times.

JUNE 5—Terrance Lamar Carter, a 49-year-old Black male, and Elisha Marie Moses, a 34-year-old Black female, were found shot to death on Princeton Boulevard in Wilkinsburg around 9:50 p.m. No arrests have been made in the case. Police ask that anyone with information call the county police tip line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS (1-833-255-8477).

JUNE 7—Deshere Davenport, a 19-year-old Black male, was shot and killed in Wilkinsburg. Police ask that anyone with information call the county police tip line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS (8477).

JUNE 9—Trai Wilson, a 36-year-old Black male, was shot multiple times while on Dearborn Street in Garfield, on June 8. He died the following afternoon.

JUNE 11—Edgard Fumbula, a 22-year-old Black male, was shot along Bailey Street in Mt. Washington. Police say a 24-year-old man was responsible for shooting Fumbula and another man.

JUNE 14—Demetrius Herring, a 28-year-old Black male, was killed on June 14. There is no other information available at this time. Police ask that anyone with information call the county police tip line at 1-833-ALL-TIPS (1-833-255-8477).

JUNE 16—George Brosey, a 54-year-old White male, was shot while at the Crawford Village housing complex in McKeesport. It's unclear if any suspects have been apprehended.

JUNE 18—Ericka J. Stevens, a 29-year-old Black female, was shot following an argument outside a bar in McKeesport. Police arrested a 33-year-old female who they believe is responsible for the shooting. Stevens was a mother of three.

JUNE 19—Tara Alice Joseph, a 43-year-old Black female, **Oliver Andrew Finley**, a 43-year-old Black male, and **Harold E. Hicks**, a 51-year-old Black male, were shot near Coal Street in Wilkinsburg. Investigators are still looking for the shooter or shooters.

JUNE 21—Roger Brown, a 63-year-old Black male, died after being assaulted, police say, by a 31-year-old man and 47-year-old woman, who were cousins, in Homewood. The assault happened in the 7200 block of Frankstown Avenue. Both suspects were arrested.

JUNE 25—Kellyn Toliver, a 31-year-old Black male, was shot in Swissvale around the areas of Noble Street and Center Street. He died from his injuries at UPMC Presbyterian. Known as Tolly Bandz, Toliver was a friend of late Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller.

JUNE 26—Christopher Langham, a 48-year-old White male, was shot, police say, by a 26-year-old male, at the Pittsburgh Motel in Robinson Township. The 26-year-old was arrested near the scene.

JUNE 28—Gregory Michael Walker, a 37-year-old White male, was fatally stabbed by a 35-year-old man, police say, as the man encountered Walker as he was walking along Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln-Lemington. The suspect was arrested.

MAY 2—Bing Liu, a 37-year-old Asian male, was shot in his Ross Township townhouse, as part of a murder-suicide, police say. It happened in the 200 block of Elm Court. Liu was a Pitt researcher. Police believe he was shot by a 46-year-old man, who then got into his car and killed himself.

MAY 4—Kristy Jefferson, a 38-year-old Black female, was found dead in a McKees Rocks apartment on Helen Street, in an abandoned refrigerator. Police have arrested a 40-year-old man in connection with the case, but yet to have

charged him with homicide.

MAY 4 -- Tiawaun S. Henley, a 26-year-old Black male, was shot while in Stowe Township, around 3:30 p.m. Police say he was with a 16-year-old male, of whom fired the shot that killed Henley. Police charged the Sto-Rox High School student with aggravated assault and possession of a firearm by a minor.

MAY 7—Zion Thomas, a 19-year-old Black male, of Homestead, was shot in East Liberty near Larimer Avenue and Broad Street around 10:30 a.m. Thomas was a 2019 graduate of Steel Valley High School.

MAY 12—Garrett King, a 28-year-old Black male, was shot in a parking lot in Knoxville, near Mt. Oliver, around 6:30 p.m. on May 11. He died early May 12 at the hospital from his injuries. It's unclear if any suspects have been apprehended by police.

MAY 13—Marcus Wells Jr., a 16-year-old Black male, was shot around 9 p.m. near Laketon Road and Robinson Boulevard in Wilkinsburg. Cynthia Barnhart told WTAE-TV that Marcus was a very kind-hearted young man, whose death "has completely shattered the family foundation."

MAY 17—Gordon Danielson Jr., a 57-year-old White male, was killed, police say, by his downstairs neighbor, in a McKeesport apartment building. The manner of death was a stabbing. A 52-year-old man has been charged with homicide, burglary and robbery.

MAY 19—Thomas Johnson, a 45-year-old Black male, was shot outside the Mon View Heights apartment complex in West Mifflin. A 37-year-old man has been charged with homicide.

MAY 29—Mark McCaa, a 45-year-old Black male, died of pneumonia due to quadriplegia at Manor Care nursing home in Shadyside. However, he was permanently disabled after being shot in Penn Hills in 2006, thus ruling McCaa's death a homicide. No charges have been filed in the case.

MAY 31—Sean A. Reese, a 34-year-old Black male, was shot during a block party in Homewood. He was the owner of Secrets Night Club, also in Homewood. Reese was a member of Perry Traditional Academy's football team which won City League titles. He graduated from Perry in 2003.

APRIL 1—Esam Tanzim Hossain, a 23-year-old Black male, was shot and killed in Oakland, on Meyran Avenue. Hossain was a former Pitt student, originally from San Jose, Calif.

APRIL 9—David Craig Smith, a 38-year-old White male, was shot and killed in the 2600 block of Stayton Street in Marshall-Shadeland. It's unclear if Pittsburgh Police have apprehended any suspects in this case.

APRIL 11—Tayshawn Robinson, a 19-year-old Black male, was found near McCoy Road in Stowe Township by two teenagers. Investigators determined that Robinson was killed around 3 a.m. Anyone with information should call the police tip line, 833-ALL-TIPS (833-255-8477).

APRIL 19—Elizabeth Wiesenfeld, a 68-year-old White female, of Whitehall, had been missing since April 2019. Her remains were found inside a garbage bag in Plum Borough on April 19. Investigators believe her 47-year-old handyman is responsible for Wiesenfeld's death.

APRIL 26—Antwon Rice, a 31-year-old Black male, of Homewood, was shot while sitting in an SUV on Bennett Street in Homewood on April 22. Rice died from his injuries on April 26. An obituary for Rice said his dream was to have his own cleaning business and leave a legacy behind for his children.

APRIL 26—Kwame Washington, a 24-year-old Black male, was shot and killed while sitting in the passenger seat of a vehicle on Shingiss Street in McKees Rocks. Anyone with information should call the police tip line,

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New show, 'Move Your Mountain,' to strengthen and encourage viewers

Airs Fridays at 2 and 9 p.m. on Cornerstone Television Network

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Cornerstone Television Network has launched a new program, entitled, "Move Your Mountain," featuring local hosts Pastor Myra Bell and Pastor Gary Mitrik.

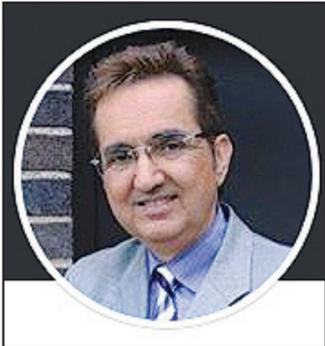
"Move Your Mountain" airs Fridays at 2 and 9 p.m. Cornerstone Television Network is available on Comcast and other cable providers—check your local guide for the channel. Cornerstone Television Network can also be viewed online, 24 hours a day, at www.ctvn.org/watch.

Crystal Bynum, with Cornerstone Television Network, said in a release that "in the midst of coronavirus, unrest, and other national challenges, this new program offers encouragement and support with a focus on ministering to viewers' individual spiritual needs."

Viewers will be inspired as Pastors Gary and Myra lead them with powerful teaching, words of encouragement, and time in prayer. Pastor Gary is senior pastor and founder of Greater Works Outreach (church, school, and Bible School), located in Monroeville. Pastor Myra Bell serves with her husband, Christopher, as Senior Pastor of Living Way Christian Fellowship Church in Pittsburgh, which they founded in 2002. Living Way is located at 8610 Bricelyn St.

Through "Move Your Mountain," Bynum said, CTVN's goal is to join their faith with the viewers' faith in order to see mountains moved in their lives. "We believe in miracles here at Cornerstone Television Network. I'm excited about the focus of this new program, which gives viewers support as they try to deal with the challenges they face in life—whether it is a pandemic, other health concerns, worries about a loved one, a need for a financial breakthrough, or simply wanting to know God's love in a deeper way. God is big enough to 'move their mountain,'" said Tom Hollis, Chief Operating Officer, Cornerstone Television Network, in a release.

Cornerstone Television Network is a Christian media ministry based in Wall, Pa. The network offers an expansive lineup of inspirational, education and life-changing programming, for people of all ages.



PASTOR GARY MITRIK



PASTOR MYRA BELL, with husband, Pastor Christopher Bell. Pastor Myra Bell co-hosts "Move Your Mountain" with Pastor Gary Mitrik.

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A CASKET IS CARRIED towards Fifth Avenue from Freedom Corner, during the "Living Funeral" for Dannielle Brown, Aug. 6. (Photos by Courier photographer Ashley G. Woodson)

'A LIVING FUNERAL IS FOR THE PERSON WHOSE
LIFE IS ON THE LINE AND THAT WOULD BE ME.'

- Dannielle Brown

FUNERAL FROM A1

move. Dannielle Brown addressed the crowd at Freedom Corner, then led a procession-style march, which included a closed casket, from Freedom Corner down to Fifth Avenue, and then to the steps of Duquesne University.

"That boy, right there, my son," Dannielle Brown said as she pointed to photos of her son, "I would lay down my life for my kids, all day long, and it's not cliché. I'm here doing it."

The hundreds of supporters stopped at an underpass near Duquesne University's campus, where they were greeted by a colorful mural of Marquis Jaylen Brown in a football uniform, wearing his No. 40. Dannielle Brown and marchers then approached Brottier Hall, the dormitory on Duquesne's campus where Marquis Jaylen Brown lived.

"We're keeping Number 40 alive in the name of everybody else," said Victor Muhammad, a minister and community activist, to supporters, Dannielle Brown by his side. "We must stand together for justice and make sure justice lives beyond us. We're planting seeds for trees we might not be able to get shade from, but we're all standing together, regardless." Muhammad, pointing in the direction of Duquesne University, then said: "All of Pittsburgh stands with Ms. Brown and you cannot stand in your sanctuary and turn a blind eye when justice is being called for."

A point of emphasis for Dannielle Brown was to be

supportive of other mothers who have lost their sons, and are also seeking justice. She mentioned how, in the Romir Talley officer-involved shooting

them in a casket. "It's important to us to love Dannielle Brown to life," Dr. Kimberly Ellis said. "This living funeral is different, yet beautiful. There is the Egyptian

Book of the Dead where people see death in a clear and concise matter. This is such a complicated story that outside of any legal

issues we must ask God for justice because this doesn't make any sense."

(Rob Taylor Jr. contributed to this story.)



DANNIELLE BROWN addresses the crowd at her "Living Funeral" at Freedom Corner, Aug. 6.

Duquesne Univ. responds to
Dannielle Brown's demandsby Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Six days after Dannielle Brown, the mother of former Duquesne University student Marquis Jaylen Brown, held a Civil Protest Homegoing Service at Freedom Corner demanding justice for her son on Aug. 6, the university responded with information related to Dannielle Brown's concerns.

Duquesne said it agreed to share the university's Public Safety Office file with Dannielle Brown through her attorney. "Duquesne has been in regular communication with her lawyer to arrange for the provision of that file. The file is ready and waiting to be shared as soon as Ms. Brown's lawyer returns the relevant paperwork," a statement from Duquesne, obtained by the New Pittsburgh Courier, read.

It's unclear as of Courier press time, Aug. 18, if Dannielle Brown and her attorney have reviewed the file.

The university said that Dannielle Brown had also demanded body cameras for its officers to add additional training," Duquesne University's statement read.

During the press conference, the university's lawyers, represented by Reed Smith LP, affirmed that its investigation found no malicious doings by any police officers or students pertaining to Marquis Jaylen Brown on Oct. 4, 2018.

"There's absolutely no evidence that this was a case of police intimidating someone, a case of police using force or threats of force," Dave Fawcett, a lawyer with Reed Smith, said.

"There is absolutely no evidence of the Public Safety Officers acting inappropriately in any fashion," Duquesne's statement read.

Reed Smith's investigation found that police "did not use force or threats of force; rather they worked to deescalate the situation and keep everyone safe," after officers were originally called to the scene about a possible disturbance. "Unfortunately, the young man he suddenly smashed the window with a chair and propelled himself out of the window, a fall that eventually led to his

death. The City of Pittsburgh Police reported that testing confirmed the presence of drugs in his system. Duquesne's own investigation confirmed that J.B. had gone off campus to celebrate his 21st birthday at the apartment of a friend, and ingested drugs there, before returning to his building on campus."

Duquesne University said that Dannielle Brown "has communicated that she is making a substantial monetary demand of the university." But Duquesne said that they believe "such a payment is not warranted by the facts; the Duquesne University Public Safety Officers acted appropriately, and there are multiple witnesses to support the findings of the City of Pittsburgh investigation as well as the independent investigation commissioned by Duquesne."

"Duquesne continues to grieve for the entire family over this tragedy and to care for the health and safety of Ms. Brown," Duquesne's statement read. "The university hopes that she finds closure by learning more about the facts after reviewing the Duquesne's Public Safety file."



How do you prepare for the future when life is so uncertain now?

(BPT)—As the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to present health and economic challenges, it is difficult to focus on anything other than the present. It's important, though, not to lose sight of the years ahead and to take steps that can put you in a better position when we emerge on the other side.

The youngest baby boomers—the generation born between 1944 and 1964—turned 55 last year. This, coupled with the uncertain job picture, means many of us are thinking more seriously about what we will need to successfully retire.

In the past, the years leading up to retirement have been a time of hope and optimism. We've looked forward to fulfilling our dreams of doing the things we might have missed while working, such as dedicating more time to family and friends, checking items off a bucket list, or even pursuing a meaningful second career.

However, many of the traditional assumptions about this phase of life have been challenged over the past decade, including the idea that we'll retire at 65. In fact, MetLife's Evolving Retirement Model Study found nearly one in 10 workers (9 percent) never expect to retire. Many of us are choosing to continue working and, in light of the current situation, some who have already retired,

especially those in health care, are even being asked to return to work.

What's behind this change? It turns out that it's more than just the current market volatility. Perhaps one of the most significant reasons is the decline in company-financed pensions. Many companies have shifted from defined benefit, or pension, plans, which promise retirees a monthly income benefit for life, to defined contribution (DC) plans. DC plans, such as 401(k)s, are the main source of retirement savings for most workers.

While employers often make contributions to these plans, workers are primarily responsible for their retirement security. With this in mind, there are three key steps you can take now to prepare for the years after you finish working regardless of whether that day is decades away or just over the horizon.

1. Create a plan to eliminate debt.

Whether you carry a balance on a credit card, have student loans or a mortgage, start paying off your debts now. Reducing your monthly expenses not only allows you to save more for retirement, but also gives you more flexibility with how you spend money after you stop working.

2. Make retirement savings automatic, and don't miss out on "free money."

Many employers offer a retirement

savings plan, such as a 401(k), to their employees. The sooner you begin saving, the sooner your savings can begin to build up over time. Help your nest egg grow even faster by contributing enough to take full advantage of any matching contributions your employer offers. For example, your company might match 100 percent of your contribution, up to 6 percent of your salary. In other words, if you earn \$50,000 a year and save at least \$3,000, your company will match that amount by contributing \$3,000 to your retirement as well.

3. Understand how your retirement savings translates into income.

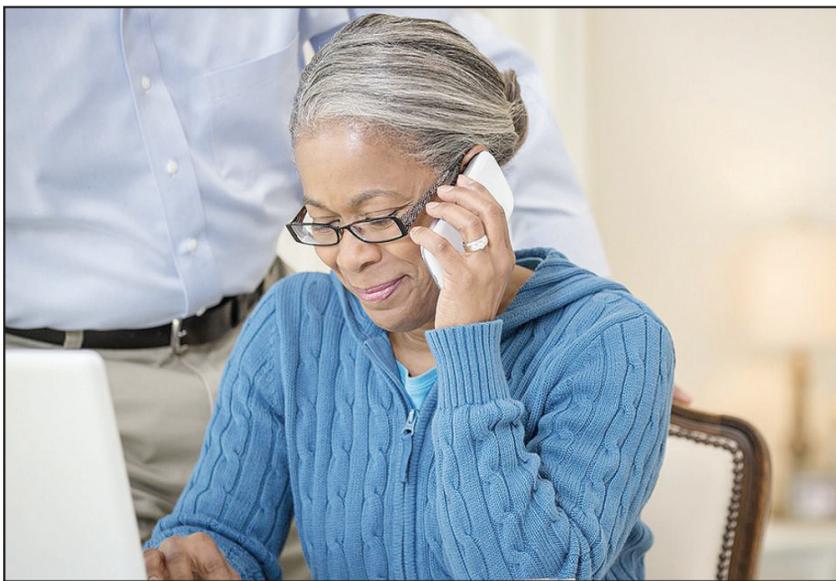
Take the time during your working years to understand how much income you might receive in retirement based on your retirement savings. The U.S. Department of Labor offers a simple retirement income projection tool that can help you get started. If you see that projections are falling short of where you think you might need them to be, consider filling the gap by increasing the amount you are saving. Additionally, if you are over the age of 50, you can make catch-up contributions to your 401(k) or individual retirement account.

MetLife's Study also asked workers and retirees the age of the oldest person they know. On average, that person is al-

most 85 years old, and 45 percent of survey participants believe they'll live that long too. Many of us can, therefore, expect to live 20 years—or more—in retirement, and we'll need our savings to last. The question is: Will we be able to enjoy a comfortable and secure retirement, especially during periods of market turmoil like we are experiencing now?

Having a predictable income can make a big difference and fortunately relief may be in sight. While many employers don't yet offer guaranteed retirement income options in their 401(k) plans, a new law passed at the end of 2019 could change this. That's good news, considering that 95 percent of workers and retirees say it's important for retirees to have a source of guaranteed retirement income they cannot outlive.

MetLife's Study was conducted online with 1,518 U.S. adults ages 33-75 who are either employed full time or retired and have access to a defined benefit or defined contribution plan through their current employer or the employer from which they retired. Data were weighted, where necessary, to align with actual population proportions. The Study was conducted by The Harris Poll between Aug. 19 and Sept. 6, 2019.



Need Medicare? Easy ways to get the benefits you—or your loved ones—deserve

(BPT)—Some 60 million Americans receive Medicare benefits each year to help pay for health care and prescription drugs, according to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that runs the program. Yet, many don't get the right benefits for their health needs and their budget.

"The biggest mistake people eligible for Medicare make is that they don't know enough about their options," says Kyal Moody, president of Medicare Benefits Solutions, a new offering from Health Compare. "As a result, people don't get the benefits they deserve."

Confused about which plan is right for you or your loved one? Medicarebenefits.com can help. This new, free service lets you compare Medicare plans. It also offers access to licensed, experienced Medicare insurance agents who can help provide information on thousands of plans from the leading Medicare health insurance companies. Call the toll-free number: 1-866-576-2956, Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT.

Here are three other ways to help ensure you get the benefits you and your loved ones deserve:

Know the options. Two of every three eligible people are enrolled in Original Medicare, according to CMS. The rest

have chosen a Medicare Advantage plan, a popular option increased at 8 percent per year compared with less than 1 percent for Original Medicare. What makes Advantage plans so popular? In addition to covering all Medicare services, some Medicare Advantage plans also offer Medicare beneficiaries extra coverage through supplemental benefits, such as vision, hearing and dental services. Some also offer prescription drug coverage (Part D) as part of their plan.

Review your plan's drug coverage annually. Look for changes in prescription drug formularies—the list of medications covered by your drug plan. If a prescription drug drops off the formulary it could cost thousands of dollars if you don't switch to a plan that pays for your medication.

Do a benefits check-up every year. The National Council on Aging, a nonprofit organization for seniors, offers a free, interactive site to check eligibility for a host of benefits from income tax relief to food, housing and utility assistance, transportation discounts, pension help and veterans' benefits. Find more information at Findmybenefits.org or by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-794-6559, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, to be sure you are getting all the benefits and services you might be eligible for.



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Strabane Woods of Washington - Washington
Weatherwood Manor - Greensburg

Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation:

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Avalon Springs Place* - Mercer
Canterbury Place* - Lawrenceville
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Trump administration ramps up efforts to dismantle the Post Office

by Stacy M. Brown

For New Pittsburgh Courier

(NNPA)—President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to dismantle the United States Postal Service or revamp the agency in a way that has angered Democrats and others who said it's a tactic to prevent mail-in voting for the upcoming election.

The CARES Act passed in April authorized the postal service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the Treasury Department for operating expenses if it determines that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the post office would not fund operating expenses without borrowing money.

"They have withheld that money. They have broken the law," Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass told BlackPressUSA during a livestream interview last month. Other Democratic lawmakers, including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), and Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), also told BlackPressUSA that the president is trying to dismantle the postal service.

Trump has steadfastly opposed funding the postal service.

Despite recently voting with his wife by mail in a Florida primary election, the president said he's against mail-in voting.

"Trump is not stupid. He knows if there is a decent-sized turnout in this election, he loses," Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) wrote on Twitter.

"He and his friends believe they can suppress the vote by destroying the post office. We aren't going to allow that to happen."

Several postal workers have reported the removal of sorting machines at postal facilities and the removal of sidewalk mailboxes.

Postal officials reported that in the last week, the agency had removed letter



SENIORS AFFECTED—Slowdowns at the post office have reportedly also resulted in seniors receiving their medications late and other important mail like social security checks. (Photo: iStockphoto/NNPA)

collection boxes in at least four states: New York, Oregon, Montana, and Indiana.

Postal workers in at least three states—West Virginia, Florida, and Missouri—have received notification that retail operating hours also face reduction.

Removing mailboxes had become a practice along marathon and parade routes since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, however, the latest removals are believed intentional and strategically coordinated to impact the election.

In response to the removal of mailboxes and a slowdown in the delivery of mail, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) sent a letter to the Postmaster General on Aug. 7. New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D), Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin (R), Mich-

igan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D) and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) joined in signing the letter.

"State and local election officials are busy planning for the November general election, and many expect an increase in the use of absentee and mail ballots, along with other election-related mailings," the state officials wrote.

"We view the [United States Postal Service] as a vital partner in administering a safe, successful election and would like to learn more about any planned changes around USPS service due to COVID-19, preparations for increased election-related mail, USPS staffing levels and processing times, and other pertinent issues."

The postal service has sent letters to warn 46 states that it could not guarantee all mail-in ballots cast for the November

election would arrive in time to be counted.

Some states, like Maryland and Virginia, received a "heightened warning" that the postal service could not meet state-mandated deadlines.

In response, a large group of protesters staged a "noise demonstration" on Saturday, Aug. 15, outside of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's home in Washington, D.C.

The demonstration was organized by the direct-action group "Shut Down D.C."

The organization said they believe DeJoy is "dismantling" the U.S. Postal Service in favor of President Donald Trump's re-election. They said his actions contribute to voter suppression.

"DeJoy has fired or re-assigned much of the existing USPS leadership and ordered the removal of mail sorting machines

that are fundamental to the functioning of the postal service. Meanwhile, mail delivery is slowing down under other decisions made by DeJoy, such as eliminating overtime for postal workers," the organization wrote in a statement.

This week, the U.S. Inspector General opened an investigation into DeJoy's policy changes at the post office.

According to some lawmakers, those changes are reportedly taking a toll on military veterans who are experiencing much longer wait times to receive mail-order prescription drugs.

Slowdowns at the post office have reportedly also resulted in seniors receiving their medications late and other important mail like social security checks.

It has also angered those who work for the agency. Postal workers throughout the country have re-

ported low morale, and many have cited the actions of DeJoy, who was appointed by Trump. On Friday, Aug. 14, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), a union that boasts nearly 300,000 active and retired postal workers, endorsed Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden.

"Vice President Biden is, was, and will continue to be a fierce ally and defender of the United States Postal Service, letter carriers, and our fellow postal brothers and sisters," NALC President Fredric Rolando said in a statement.

"Together, Biden and [vice presidential running mate] Sen. Kamala Harris fully exhibit the experience, dedication, thoughtfulness and steady hands that will work to ensure that letter carriers and working families are put first," Rolando declared.

\$1,000,000 isn't enough to go crazy with?

I recently shared an engagement meme on Facebook. The question posed was, "If you had \$1,000,000, how would you spend your time?"

Following are some of the responses. "Same way I usually do, wouldn't change a thing." "Maybe get a slightly bigger house, drive a more modern car, live a little more lavishly. Nothing too extravagant." "Still work and pay off student loans. Take vacation and finish a couple more degrees." "I'd still work. Take more vacations." "Watch that \$1 mil turn into \$2 mil." "Try to figure out how to make a better life for my grandkids." "I'll spend my time working to build and grow my nonprofit holistic mental health care services." "Invest and enjoy life." "Pay off student loans, car and home. Work for myself." "First I'd invest some of the money. Then I'd work 6 months, travel 6 months, and use extra time to work on my writing." "I'd help homeless vets and homeless people as well as people with drug and alcohol problems." "Open a Doggie Day-care and spend every day with dogs." "I'd turn that \$1 mil into \$5 mil." "Still work, become debt-free and continue to invest. Have some fun in the sun with family and friends (Caribbean home)." "Do fun stuff." "Focus on my photography and help out my children." "Thanking God!"

I believe it's healthy to dream a little. This question forced people to sit back and think and dream, if money was a non-factor what are some things that are important to me? How would I spend my time? What expenses and bills are in the way of allowing you to live a more free, fulfilling life? What are my priorities? What can I do to serve and help others? How can I grow this money to benefit me, my children, my grandchildren, and gen-

erations to come? What's some fun stuff that I can do? What are some cool places that I can visit?

As you read those words, did you think and dream a little? What would YOU do with 1 M I L L I O N dollars?

My childhood friend and high-school classmate Tiffany chimed in with a response. She replied, "I'll go to work and take vacation at usual times. But they will be more lavish. Everything else would be the same. \$1,000,000 isn't enough to go crazy." Wait a minute? What did she say? I'll repeat, \$1,000,000 isn't enough to go crazy. Dream interrupted!

What is she talking about? Who says that \$1,000,000 isn't enough to go crazy? To heck with what she said, I'm going BUCK WILD with \$1,000,000. Still can't shake the thought of her words though. Damon, is she right? Is it enough?

Allow me to save you the suspense. She's right. \$1,000,000 is a ton of money. But it's not what you think it is. Especially if you immediately adjust your lifestyle to mirror this newfound monetary success. Warning: You can spend \$1,000,000 faster than you can spend \$1,000. Think about it. When you have \$1,000, you think within confined limits. You know that you can only get so much. As a result, you spend accordingly. If you had \$1,000,000 at your beck and call to do whatever you want, whenever you want, however you want—you're getting 10 of EVERYTHING and inviting friends and family along for the ride. You're going to

go BUCK WILD! Sheesh.... What do you expect if someone who's not accustomed to having \$1,000,000 comes into that amount of money?

It happens with sports figures, entertainers, and other celebrities all the time. Many of them come from humble beginnings. Then they're suddenly handed millions of dollars with no training manual. Many of them end up owing millions in taxes. Some find themselves bankrupt. Too many of these high-earning individuals squander through millions fast. Sadly, only a few create generational wealth. In case you missed it, they were working with more than \$1,000,000...and BLEW IT. Guess you can say they went crazy with millions.

Why isn't \$1,000,000 enough to go crazy with?

Taxes: Uncle Sam, The dude in the Top Hat and funny colored suit. He wants his share. Let's assume the person with \$1,000,000 is single. We live in a progressive tax environment—meaning our tax rate starts at 10 percent for the first \$9,000 we earn. The tax rate continues to rise as earnings increase. Earnings over \$510,301 are taxed at the highest tax rate of 37 percent. On the \$500,000 portion alone, taxes are eating up \$189,000. There's more. The first \$500,000 was taxed at lower rates. Plus, you have the state and local taxing authority wanting their piece of the pie. That \$1,000,000 looks a lot like \$650,000 after taxes. You also want to get a good tax advisor on your team to help reduce the overall tax

burden.

Agent/Advisor: You will not have an agent. If you come into that type of money, you'd certainly want a financial and/or tax advisor. Someone who will look out for your best interest and give you sound advice. Someone who will show you how to make your money grow and create generational wealth. This will not be free. Price can vary from a couple of thousand to hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars depending on the complexities of your financial situation.

Generational Wealth: Scripture says that a wise man leaves an inheritance to his children's children. We all want to be wise with our money. Financial Freedom is owing no man or lender anything—debt-free. Financial Independence is having an asset base that generates income sufficient to cover lifestyle and expenses. Creating generational wealth is living off the interest generated by your assets and never touching the principal or selling off the assets. Thus, leaving an inheritance for your children and future generations to live off—assuming your children are not spendthrifts. A safe withdrawal rate from investment assets is 4 percent. This will allow you to live off the interest, cope with inflation, allow your money to continue to grow, and you never touch the principal. Assuming you invested \$1,000,000 and you want to live off interest and create generational wealth, a 4 percent withdrawal rate is \$40,000 per year. You'll get a raise each year because the investments will grow.

Every \$1,000,000 invested is worth a cool \$40,000. That isn't enough to go crazy with.

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

Damon Carr

The Carr
Report





Guest Editorial

America needs you, Kamala Harris

We highly commend Joe Biden's choice of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris for his running mate in the historic, make-or-break general election of 2020. We commend his response to the call of so many organizers, activists and highly visible Black women (and men) within the Democratic Party to choose a Black woman to run with him. A man who entered history as the vice president of the United States' first Black president now has set the path for another historical precedent—Harris could become the first woman vice president in the U.S. But that is only if we as Black women (and men) put everything in our power into getting out the vote, and that includes energizing Americans of all backgrounds, who must be made to understand that our very democracy is at stake on November 3.

It would be fitting if this choice—which is both “unprecedented and wise,” in the words of our sister, Rev. Traci D. Blackmon—were to preserve our endangered democracy for future generations. Kamala Harris is emblematic of the America struggling to be born, which Donald Trump and his enablers are doing everything in their power to abort. We believe that, once it was projected that the U.S. was on pace to become a majority minority country in this century, a movement now symbolized by Trump went to work on strategies and policies that would slow and reverse that pace, and primary to those efforts is slowing or stopping the immigration of non-white people. Kamala Harris is the daughter of two non-White immigrants: her mother is East Indian and her father is Jamaican. She is a member of the community of over 47 million immigrants who call America home. Our democracy requires that each and every one of them vote for their sister on November 3.

However, like her brother in history with a complex ethnic heritage, Barack Obama, Kamala Harris identifies as Black. She attended an historically Black institution of higher learning, Howard University, and while there she pledged to a Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Like Obama, she had other paths of self-identification open to her; like Obama, she found her power—her self—in identifying as Black. At this precise moment when the Black community is feeling renewed power and aspiration—backed by members of other ethnic groups in numbers and with purpose that we have not seen since the days of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King—Kamala Harris looks very much like a future America that is just being reborn from the ruins of the White supremacy staked out by Trump and his enablers.

She and Biden have a vicious fight ahead of them, and Biden was wise to choose a fierce fighter. We have witnessed her tightening her verbal grip around Attorney General William Barr during the Trump impeachment hearings. Like the veteran prosecutor she is, she gave him no room to escape. Kamala Harris doesn't suffer fools in the judicial branch of the government or in the White House. After all she was the first Black attorney general for the state of California, the fifth largest economy in the world, so we already know she is a boss. She has the intelligence to know what is right, the courage to fight for it, and the toughness to win.

We know all too well what comes next for Kamala Harris. The vicious attacks on local Black women public officials (St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner and St. Louis Treasurer Tishaura O. Jones) have not ceased, despite their resounding victories at the polls last week. We know all too well how opponents of President Obama were particularly crude and vile in their attempts to belittle and degrade Michelle Obama, his highly accomplished and dignified African American wife, even outside of the elections and beyond the White House. Yes, we know all too well what comes next for Kamala Harris. And we are ready to support and defend her with all of our strength and power.

Are you? Are you ready to support and defend her with all of your strength and power? She needs you. We need you. America needs you.

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John. H. Sengstacke
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(1912-1997)

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—For me, like many others, the news that Joe Biden had chosen Senator Kamala Harris as his running-mate in this year's presidential election was historic, exciting, and motivating. Senator Harris brings the experience and talents necessary to WIN and GOVERN! Realizing my opinion does not create consensus, I listened to local radio to gauge the opinion of others in my community. I know that “THE PERFECT TICKET” does not exist, but I was eager to learn what others thought. My assumption was that most comments would express an understanding that the vote is a demonstration of trust in a candidate to act in the best interests of the voter. I was largely disappointed.

Many of the reasons I heard for/against the Biden-Harris ticket were based upon previously released opposition research. Many were arguable, but others were as ridiculous as Kanye West being a viable presidential alternative. I found myself wanting to debate with many of the callers.

Unexpectedly, I received a list of reasons for voting Biden-Harris that was consistent with my views. This list provides me with the opportunity to “speak to a larger audience.” It was sent without attribution to an author or origin, but I thank whoever took the time to compile this cogent list. The list exceeded my word limit, but, for the greater good, I feel compelled to provide as much of it as possible.

1. YOU'RE NOT JUST VOTING FOR PRESIDENT/VP!
2. You're voting to prevent a 7-2

Reasons

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Commentary



dangerously conservative majority on the Supreme Court. (Note: 87-year-old Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is single-handedly fighting to hang on until we have a new president. This alone should be enough for historic turnout!)

3. You're voting for the next Secretaries of Education, Housing and Attorney General.

4. You're voting to keep the House and gain a Senate majority.

5. You're voting for federal judges and the rule of law.

6. You're voting to save Native American lands and national parks.

7. You're voting for letting kids out of cages.

8. You're voting for scientists to be heard and protect us from climate change and pandemics.

9. You're voting for housing rights.

10. You're voting for former incarcerated persons to be treated with dignity and assisted to be proud and productive members of society with the right to vote “after paying their debt to society.”

11. You're voting for DACA Dreamers.

12. You're voting for the long-term existence of Social Security and Medicare and for your children's and grandchildren's future.

13. You're voting for veteran

healthcare.

14. You're voting for affordable health insurance for everyone.

15. You're voting for teaching professionals to be paid as the noble heroes they are.

16. You're voting for sensible gun laws while maintaining your 2nd Amendment rights.

17. You're voting to curb homelessness and find solutions to affordable housing.

18. You're voting against systemic racism and income/wealth disparities.

19. You're voting to defend a woman's right to make personal health-related decisions and choose personal reproductive rights.

20. You're voting to acknowledge the humanity and protect the safety of our family and friends in the LGBTQ+ community.

21. You're voting to stop the normalization of White supremacy and dangerous bigotry in the mainstream.

22. You're voting for the chance to end qualified immunity for police officers who commit murder and other crimes and hide their corruption behind badges.

23. You're voting to save the USPS.

24. And you're voting against allowing the USA to become yet another authoritarian regime run by Trump.

The Biden-Harris ticket isn't perfect—no ticket ever will be, but we must consider the alternative!!

I plan to do my part to ensure that the Biden-Harris ticket wins for these reasons and more!!

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

On civil disobedience

Rev. Jeff Hood

Commentary



to understand what he had done wrong, he rolled down the window. The officer asked where he was going. After his explanation, the pastor thought he was just going to be

(BlackPressUSA)—His huge fist repeatedly struck her face. This wasn't the first time her boyfriend beat her up...but this was definitely the worst. Hours later, she awoke with blood caked between her face and the floor. Seeing that her boyfriend was asleep, she quietly ran out the door. Due to multiple warrants, she was too scared to call the police. So, she ran to the only place she knew to go. Seeing the steeple in the distance, she ran harder. For many years, her church was known as a place that would help victims of domestic violence. It was her only hope.

Once she got on the lawn, she raced to the side door. There was always someone there. Running up, she missed the sign. Over and over again, she banged on the door. Nobody came. Backing up, she realized that there was a sign, “Churches are not considered essential based on the recent COVID-19 order...so we have been forced to suspend all social services until the order is lifted.”

He was sitting at home watching television. The phone rang. On the other end of the line, was a voice he did not know. After identifying himself as a local police officer, the voice proceeded to tell him that his son was shot and killed earlier that night. Devastated, the man called his pastor. After hearing the anguish in his voice, the pastor raced over to his parishioner's house.

Not long after he got off of the exit, he was pulled over. Unable

was closed. He needed help with his bills. The church was closed. She needed somewhere to sleep. The church was closed. He needed to take a shower. The church was closed. She just needed help. The church was closed. He just needed help. The church was closed.

The church is the largest provider of social services in our country. Dallas County and various other counties have discouraged/inhibited such work. Repeatedly, churches and their ministers are not included in the definitions of what is essential to our society. The language is all about businesses.

While there is room given for churches to meet “virtually,” churches can't do the vast majority of their work over a computer screen. More lives will be lost if the church stops being the church. I can't accept this.

We must love our neighbors. We must stand up for the marginalized and oppressed. We must. To do anything else would not be the church. When someone asks for the help of churches, I encourage

you to help them...no matter what any authority says. Civil disobedience might be the hallmark of our faith at this point.

Thank you
(Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood studied at Brite Divinity School.)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of BlackPressUSA.com or the National Newspaper Publishers Association.



able to go. Instead, the officer went back to his car. After a few minutes, the officer came back with a citation. Immediately, the pastor demanded to know the reason for this ticket.

The officer didn't hesitate, “Ministers are not considered essential workers under the recent COVID-19 order.” She needed food. The church was closed. He needed emergency counseling. The church

Donald J. Trump, the luckiest politician in America

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Those Black folks, including myself, who strongly believe that the most important goal of 2020 is to oust No. 45 as president of the United States are not shouting “Hallelujah” and feeling good about former vice-president Joe Biden's selection of Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate.

We believe that once again the Democratic Party has given No. 45 an enormous, undeserved gift. Some of us will not be surprised if one of the world's premiere, me, myself and I comen will now drop Mike Pence from his vice-president position and replace him with a White woman. No. 45 and his crew are well aware, contrary to popular belief, that Black folks in general and Black women in particular, are not the pivotal voting bloc in the upcoming election.

They know that No. 45 will get less than 10 percent of the Black vote. It's also certain that he will get a sizeable majority of the White

A. Peter Bailey

Commentary



male vote. That leaves White women, according to most political commentators, as the most unpredictable voting bloc in the 2020 presidential election. Many Black folks, including myself, don't believe for a second that the White women vote is unpredictable. We are convinced that the overwhelming majority of White women in this country have absolutely no desire to see a “woman of color” being elected vice-president before one of them has achieved the historic first. We are aware that White women leaders in the early 20th century's Suffragette Movement were outraged that Black

men, at least legally, had the right to vote before they did. Modern day White women were not shouting with joy that a “man of color” got into the White House before one of them made it.

That's why Biden's selection of Harris is so uncool. If the focus was on defeating No. 45, rather than to provide Black people with another feel good moment, Biden would have selected Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, or Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, or Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan as his running mate. At the same time he would have committed to putting a Black woman on the Supreme Court. By failing to recognize that, the Democratic Party has reinforced the view of many serious Black folks that No. 45 is one of, if not the luckiest politician in America. By the way, I seriously doubt that if Sen. Kamala Harris was the complexion of Michelle Obama she would not have been selected as Biden's running mate.

CLASSIFIED

AUGUST 19-25, 2020

www.newpittsburghcourier.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Help Wanted

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS (DAY AND EVENING) CULINARY, ELECTRICIAN TECHNOLOGY, WELDING, HVAC/R, CLINICAL COORDINATOR/SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND MAINTENANCE TECH/HVAC/ELECTRICAL

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

- Culinary and Pastry Chef Instructors**
Associate degree required, Bachelor's preferred ACF, CCE, or CEC preferred but not required
- Electrician Technology Instructor**
Electrician journeyman experience or licensure required
- HVAC/R Instructor**, EPA Universal Certification required
- Welding Instructor**, American Welding Certification (AWS) and SENSE Plates Certification required
- Clinical Coordinator/Surgical Technology** Associate degree required, Bachelors preferred Must possess CST/CSFA
- 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
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

TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER

Port Authority is seeking full-time **Transit Police Officers**. A Transit Police Officer is responsible for ensuring the safety of Port Authority customers, staff and property throughout the areas it serves. Officers must enforce all local, state and federal laws on and around our transit system.

- Job requirements include:**
- High School Diploma or GED.
 - Valid PA Driver's License.
 - Current Act 120 certification or candidate must successfully pass the Act 120 certification test prior to an interview.
 - Successful completion of administered written Police Officer exam.
 - Successful completion of administered fitness exam.
 - Basic clerical skills.
 - Ability to observe and analyze situations objectively and respond appropriately.
 - Ability to handle emotionally charged situations.
 - Ability to act quickly and calmly in emergency situations.
 - Professional and effective communication skills to include:
 - Ability to communicate orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner.
 - Ability to understand and execute oral and written instructions.
 - Successfully complete/maintain the following required training:
 - Yearly firearm qualifications with a department authorized firearm.
 - Maintain Basic First Aid and CPR/AED Certification.
 - Yearly mandatory in-service training.
 - Job specific training, as required.
 - Ability to work various shifts, pass days, weekends/holidays, as required.
 - This a Safety-Sensitive position subject to all testing provisions under the Drug and Alcohol Policy, including random drug and alcohol testing. The person selected for this position may be required to be tested prior to being awarded the job.



Port Authority offers a competitive compensation and benefits package including medical, dental and vision. Transit Police Officers are eligible for a defined contribution plan which consists of two components: a 401(a) Money Purchase Plan and a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. Tuition Reimbursement and comprehensive training opportunities are also available.

Interested candidates should forward a cover letter and resume to:

Amy Giammanco
Employment Department
345 Sixth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527
agiammanco@portauthority.org
EOE

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 **Ms. Martha J. Cynkar, Deceased** of 2105 Monongahela Boulevard, White Oak, PA 15132, Estate No.02-20-03346, Mr. Louis Andelmo, 176 Old Ridge Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108, Executor, c/o Max C. Feldman, Esquire and the Law Office of Max C. Feldman, 1322 Fifth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

NOTICE OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

The Trustee named below gives notice of the death of **William H. Sullivan**, late of Mt. Lebanon Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who died on **June 24, 2020**. During his lifetime, the said Decedent established the **William H. Sullivan** under Trust Instrument dated **February 19, 1998** and the same has been mostly recently restate in its entirety by writing dated **November 7, 2019** of which **Daniel W. Sullivan** is the Trustee. The Trustee requests all persons having claims against 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: **Daniel W. Sullivan**, Trustee, 107 Olde Manor Lane, Moon Township, PA 15108 or to: **Todd A. Fuller, Atty. Brenlove & Fuller, LLC**, 401 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017

NOTICE OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

The Trustee named below gives notice of the death of **Denis Duffy**, late of Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who died on **June 6, 2020**. During his lifetime, the said Decedent established the **Denis Duffy** Family Trust dated **October 2, 2007** and the same has been mostly recently amended by writing dated **June 3, 2020** of which **Gregory J. Jones** was as Trustee. The Trustee requests all persons having claims against 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: **Gregory J. Jones**, Trustee 6575 Quaker Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 or to **Todd A. Fuller, Atty., Brenlove & Fuller, LLC**, 401 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

THE URBAN ACADEMY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CHARTER SCHOOL will be holding a **Special Board of Trustees Meetings on the ZOOM virtual meeting platform to review opening plans for the 2020-21 school year.**

www.zoom.com
Meeting ID: 395 278 951
SPECIAL TRUSTEE MEETING
10:00 AM Call to Order & Public Comment
August 21, 2020
Requests to speak at the public hearing will be accepted beginning one week prior to the date of the hearing until noon on the day of the meeting. Call 412.361.1008 ext 207 to register. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes of uninterrupted testimony.

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH

Sealed bids will be received in the Bellefield Avenue Lobby, Administration Building, 341 South Bellefield Avenue until **11:00 A.M.** prevailing time **September 1, 2020** and will be opened at the same hour in the administration building cafeteria:

Window Cleaning-Variou Locations
General Information regarding bids may be obtained at the Purchasing Office, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, RM 349 Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The bid documents are available on the School District's Purchasing web site at: www.pghschools.org Click on Our Community; Bid Opportunities; Purchasing-under Quick Links.

The Board of Public Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or select a single item from any bid.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

INVITATION FOR BIDS
THE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH will receive bids from qualified contractors for the roof replacement of the Homewood Coliseum: a commercial building located at 7310 Frankstown Avenue; in the Homewood neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh, and all work incidental thereto required to complete the Homewood Coliseum Roof Replacement, until **11:00 a.m.** prevailing time on **Friday, the 11th day of September, 2020**, via Public Purchase. **Contract documents will be available after 10:00am on Thursday, August 20, 2020, only on Public Purchase. Paper copies will not be available for pickup. Contract documents will not be mailed. Bids will only be accepted through Public Purchase.**

A pre-bid meeting will be held virtually on **Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** through Zoom. Please email McGarry.Luginski@ura.org to obtain information for this meeting. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend.

A certified check or bank draft payable to the order of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value), or a satisfactory bid bond, executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in a dollar amount equal to 5% of the total bid, shall be submitted. Each bid submission must include the Bid, Non-collusion Affidavit of Prime Bidder, Bid Bond, Statement of Bidders Qualifications, and Certification of Minority and Women's Participation with Exhibits. Wages paid on this project shall not be less than the minimum wages determined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry as set forth in the contract documents.

The Contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity requirements. The Contractor must assure that applicants and employees are not discriminated against based on race, color, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, age or sexual preference, gender identity, gender expression, political and/or union affiliation. The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh requires that all bidders complete and submit Certification of Minority and Women's Participation with Exhibits. The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the date of opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids prior to awarding the Contract.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
Diamonte Walker
Deputy Executive Director
August 20, 2020

THE URBAN ACADEMY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CHARTER SCHOOL

Sealed bids will be received in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, 437 Turrett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 until **11 o'clock A.M., Friday, August 21, 2020** and will be opened at the same hour in the charter school **CONFERENCE ROOM** for the services of a **Cleaning Service Company** to provide evening custodial and cleaning services of our facility.

A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The contract will be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

Please email bconey@urbanacademypgh.org to retrieve the bid documents.

The Board of Trustees of the Charter School reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or select a single item from any bid.

Brandon D. Coney
Chief Operating Officer
We are an equal rights and opportunity Charter School

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Electronic Proposals will be received online at the Port Authority of Allegheny County's Ebusiness website (<http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>). Proposals/bid submittals will be due **11:00 a.m. on September 4, 2020** and will be read at **11:15 a.m.**, the same day, at Port Authority's Heinz location (Please contact the respective Contract Specialist for Tele-Conference dial-in information for the Bid Opening), for the following:
Electronic Proposal - Ebusiness website (<http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>)

	Bid Number	Bid Name
1	B200764A	VMware Horizon Support & Subscription Services
2	B200766A	Maintenance Inspect Test - Fire Protection Systems
3	B200868A	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

No bidder may withdraw a submitted Proposal for a period of **75 days** after the scheduled time for opening of the sealed bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held via tele-conference on each of the above items at **10:00 a.m. on August 18, 2020**. Please contact the respective Contract Specialist for Tele-Conference dial-in information. Attendance at this meeting is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. **Questions regarding any of the above bids will not be entertained by the Port Authority within five (5) business days of the scheduled bid opening.**

These contracts may be subject to a financial assistance contract between Port Authority of Allegheny County and the United States Department of Transportation. The Contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations.

Contractor is responsible for expenses related to acquiring a performance bond and insurance where applicable. All items are to be FOB delivered unless otherwise specified. Costs for delivery, bond, and insurance shall be included in bidder's proposal pricing.

Port Authority of Allegheny County hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Board of Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 20-08

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

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTING SERVICES
The work under the proposed Agreement consists of a consultant to provide employee benefits consulting services which shall include, but are not limited to, (1) perform strategic planning of employee benefit health and welfare programs; (2) provide underwriting analysis and actuarial services to estimate benefits costs and the effects of benefit modifications on such costs; (3) analyze claims experience and its financial impact; (4) assist Authority in procuring benefit services from vendors, and in post-award management of benefits contracts; (5) provide general administrative support; (6) assist Authority so as to ensure compliance with benefits laws; and (7) within the overall scope of the services, perform special projects and other additional services (**Contract Services**).

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 three-year period with the option to extend the term of the Agreement up to two additional years at the sole discretion of Authority.

A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on or after **August 17, 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 **PSBSPA - Pro Benefits/Wages/Pension** 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 Catherine Terrill (412) 566-5188 or via email at CTerrill@PortAuthority.org.

An Information Meeting for interested parties will be held at **9:30 a.m.**, prevailing time, **September 1, 2020** via Microsoft Teams video conference and/or call to answer any questions regarding this RFP.

- To join by video conference:**
• <https://bit.ly/RFP2008infomeeting>
- To join by phone:**
• +1 (412) 927-0245 United States, Pittsburgh (Toll)
• Conference ID: 701 437 897#

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 <http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>, at or before **2:00 p.m.**, prevailing time, **September 17, 2020**. 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.

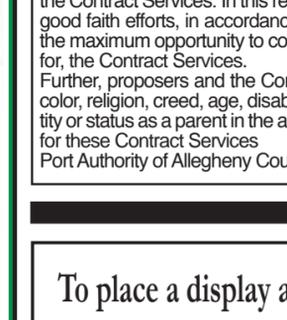
Port Authority of Allegheny County, in compliance with **74 Pa.C.S. § 303**, as may be amended, also requires that certified Diverse Businesses, ("DBs") have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontract for, the Contract Services. In this regard, all Proposers, and the 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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To place a display ad in the New Pittsburgh Courier call 412-481-8302 ext. 128 or 129

Get your ballot now

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—What would you do if somebody walked by your house and promised to rob it the next day? Most of us would take every precaution, checking the locks, the door, and the windows. Some of us might weapon up, making sure we could defend our homestead. Some might also reach out to law enforcement, sharing the threat with them. Almost all of us would take the threat seriously and make the appropriate precautions to prevent our violation.

The 45th President of the United States has warned us that he plans to rob us. First, he placed one of his crooked cronies in charge of the postal service. Then he said that he would not fund the postal service to facilitate the timely processing of mail ballots. He has continuously associated mail voting with fraud, although nine states have had universal mail voting for years. And finally, he just put it out there, plain and simple. He thinks mail voting favors Democrats, and he doesn't want to do Democrats any favors. So instead, his postal chief is removing mailboxes and shutting down sorting machines. And now the USPS has warned election officials in most

Julianne Malveaux



Commentary

states that ballots mailed before election might not arrive in time to be counted.

The 45th President is setting up a situation where the November election can be contested. He's doing it because he has already stacked the Supreme Court in his favor. He has no interest in maximizing the number of people voting but minimizing that number. He's not interested in democracy, but in dictatorship.

If someone told you they were planning to rob you, you'd take precautions. Trump has declared that he intends to steal this election. We can't let him do it. Not only must the Biden-Harris ticket beat him, but they must beat him like a drum, so decisively that there is no doubt that he has got to go.

Here's what you must do.

1. Voting procedures vary by city and state. Make sure you know the rules. Some places send all registered voters mail-in ballots, while others require you to request an absentee ballot. Find your local Bureau online, or call your favorite local elected to get the information.

2. Return your ballot shortly after you get it. If you put your ballot in the mail on election day November 3, it may not be counted. Some places will have drop boxes for ballots, and others will allow you to drop off your ballot. Just get your ballot back by whatever means necessary.

3. If you prefer to vote in person, or if you've neglected to mail your absentee ballot, make sure you know where your polling place is. Because of the coronavirus, some cities are reducing the number of available polling places, and the site where you usually vote may be closed.

4. It is also possible to vote early in person. Check with your Board of Elections about when and where you might vote early.

5. Be patient. Conducting an election amidst a pandemic is new for us, and some election procedures have been unnecessarily politicized. You may encounter obstacles if you choose to vote in person. Document any hurdles you have to clear, get names of anyone who denied you the right to vote, and complain if the matter is not resolved. The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law runs a hotline on election day. Their number is 866-OURVOTE, or 866-6878683.

6. Spread the word. Reach out to your circle to share information about voting and encourage your friends and colleagues to vote.

7. Because of the coronavirus, which is not likely to be gone by November, there will be fewer gatherings to discuss the vote. Be on the lookout for zoom town halls and other meetings that civic organizations are holding. Encourage your church, your sorority, or your local NCNW section to consider virtual town halls. It is in some people's interest to suppress the vote, and we've seen enough of it these past few years. It is your absolute right to exercise the right to vote, even if some make it difficult. We don't have to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar or translate a passage of the Constitution into Latin, as our foremothers did. It is in their honor and the memory of Congressman John Lewis that we vote.

(Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author.)

Manipulating the built-in narrative of a police shooting

When Kellyanne Conway, counselor to President Trump, used the term "alternative facts," all of her political opponents accused her of "doublespeak." In George Orwell's novel "1984,"

"doublespeak" was derived from two other Orwellian terms "newspeak" and "doublethink." "Newspeak" was the method of controlling thought through language and "doublethink" merged two contradictory thoughts. Therefore, "doublespeak" made falsehoods sound truthful.

Of course, Orwellian language can be dismissed as science fiction, but when specific groups decide to "manipulate the narrative" it can produce an Orwellian effect. By definition a narrative is a way of presenting a situation that promotes a particular point of view or set of values. Police shootings, specifically, when a White police officer kills an unarmed Black male, has a built-in narrative that indicts the White officer of racial animus before any official report of the shooting is released. This built-in narrative is rooted in America's history of racial injustice and abhorrent community/police relations in Black neighborhoods. This poor relationship produced its own narrative that states: Police protect and serve White communities, but police patrol and control Black ones. After a police shooting it doesn't occur to the believers of the built-in narrative that their reaction can easily be manipulated. (This happened in Ferguson with the Hands Up, Don't Shoot narrative.)

Recently, rioting and looting broke out in Chicago, but it wasn't a continuation of outrage over the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd. The violence was in response

J. Pharoah Doss

Check It Out



to another police shooting. The Chicago Police Department's preliminary statement on the police-involved shooting said: On Sunday, August 9, 2020, at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the 5700 block

of S. Racine Ave. in the 7th District, Officers responded to the call of a person with a gun and observed a male suspect who matched a description given, and attempted to confront him in a nearby alley. The offender then fled from officers and during the foot pursuit, produced a firearm and fired shots at the officers. Officers then discharged their firearms, striking the offender. The offender's firearm was recovered on the scene. The offender was transported to the University of Chicago Hospital in an unknown condition. Three officers involved in the incident were transported to a nearby hospital for observation.

The incident described in the police report didn't warrant the built-in response from the Black community because the suspect wasn't unarmed. Since 2015 the Washington Post has kept a police shooting database and it has revealed deadly encounters between the police and suspects with firearms are so frequent that police shootings of unarmed suspects are anomalies, and it's the anomalies that received the built-in response from the Black community. So, what started the riot? Immediately after the shooting the narrative that circulated on social media and throughout Black neighborhoods was that the police gunned down a child.

It might be a stretch to claim that manipulating the narrative is equivalent to Orwellian language, but this incident in Chicago does fit the criteria for "alternative facts."

Make Pittsburgh a livable city for all

According to numerous publications, Pittsburgh has been determined to be America's most livable city. However, according to a report by the Gender Equity Commission, Pittsburgh was found to be one of the worst places for Black people to live in America.

Black communities have the highest number of shootings and gun-related deaths in the City of Pittsburgh. Black neighborhoods have the city's largest blight as evidenced by vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties. Contrary to being "most livable," our Black communities lack basic amenities such as grocery stores, drug stores, clothing stores, and quality sit-down restaurants. Instead of mixed-income communities that contribute to quality living, all too many Black communities are filled with fixed-income senior citizen homeowners who have no equity in their homes, as well as low-income single mothers doing their best to raise their children in a community with failing schools and few positive outlets. As our communities cope with the disproportionate effects of coronavirus, they are mired in an economic crisis induced by systemic racism.

Black Pittsburgh is in desperate need of comprehensive economic development, which includes the creation of wealth from which the communities benefit individually and collectively. We need more than a jobs program or a housing project. We need nothing less than comprehensive investments that grow community economies, and enhance the prosperity and quality of life for all residents.

We must comprehensively rebuild Black communities for Black people by Black people with the unwavering support of our friends and allies, and do so towards the benefit of the entire city. We must build affordable housing; reduce crime and violence; strengthen social institutions; increase employment and entrepreneur activities; and equip Black children with the education and tools for success. It's critical that we not only address these matters, but do so simultaneously.

Increased affordable housing is the most expensive and perhaps most urgently needed intervention for Black Pittsburgh. Currently, the city has a 17,000-unit affordable housing shortage, and this number increases

Rev. Ricky Burgess and R. Daniel Lavelle



Commentary

every year. Our City has invested in a number of new mixed-income projects including those in Larimer, Homewood, the Hill, Garfield and the North Side. In an additional push to address Pittsburgh's affordable housing crisis, the

City has established the Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund, through which the city has committed \$10 million annually. The funds support the development and preservation of affordable and accessible housing in areas with good access to public transit, jobs, good schools, childcare, grocery stores and other amenities that individuals and families need to improve their and their children's health, safety and economic self-sufficiency, and to address other critical housing needs.

However, despite these and other efforts, the issue of affordable housing worsens. Pittsburgh needs a larger infusion of resources to both jumpstart development projects in Black communities and reduce the affordable housing shortage. The city could, for example, issue between \$60-\$120 million in bonds to immediately and significantly fund the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund. With these new funds we will be able to build new construction and rehab existing properties to create affordable, quality housing options for homeownership and rentals in Black communities.

For the City of Pittsburgh to truly be the most livable city for all residents, principles of equity and fairness require us to invest disproportionately in poor Black neighborhoods. Merely giving an equal proportional share of resources now will not be enough to overcome decades of damage done by neglect and systemic racism.

At this time, we need Pittsburgh citizens as well as those who benefit in other ways from the city, to commit to the comprehensive development of Pittsburgh Black neighborhoods. A significant, sustained, holistic investment in Pittsburgh's Black neighborhoods will be a tangible measure of our city's commitment to fairness, equity and inclusion, and a tangible measure of our city's greatness. It's time to make Pittsburgh not just a livable city for some but rather a time for us to "rise like a phoenix from the ashes" of systemic racism and make Pittsburgh one of our nation's greatest cities for all!

Oscar Blayton

Commentary



Laws are weapons of the unjust

We read in disbelief that a Black man who has already spent almost 23 years in a Louisiana prison for stealing a pair of garden clippers has now been denied any measure of mercy and must spend the rest of his life behind bars for his minor crime.

Fair Wayne Bryant, 62, was convicted of stealing the clippers in 1997 when he was 38. And five White men who sit on the Louisiana Supreme Court decided that it served justice to destroy a life for such a minor crime.

The only dissent came from the court's sole Black, and only female, Chief Justice Bernette Johnson. Chief Justice Johnson wrote a blistering dissent that shines a spotlight on how law is used as a weapon by oppressors against the oppressed.

Bryant had been convicted of three previous crimes and all four of his convictions resulted from his attempts to steal something. Chief Justice Johnson argued from the bench: "Such petty theft is frequently driven by the ravages of poverty or addiction, and often both. It is cruel and unusual to impose a sentence of life in prison at hard labor for the criminal behavior which is most often caused by poverty or addiction."

Bryant's infractions over the years were the acts of a desperate man, a man forced into poverty by a system designed to keep him in a state of poverty so that others could live more affluently. But the Louisiana courts used the pattern of his behavior as evidence of the need to keep him separated from society. And while the White men in black robes would never admit it, the courts in the state of Louisiana were not seeking to punish Fair Wayne Bryant as much as they were sending a message to the oppressed Black people of that state.

Reading between the lines, we can see the dehumanizing process used by the courts to inflict pain upon Black people in order to ensure their compliant and subservient behavior. The language used by a lower court in Bryant's case tortures logic while denying Bryant's appeal of his cruel and unusual punishment. The Louisiana 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion that stated in part that the "litany of convictions and the brevity of the periods during which the defendant was not in custody for a new offense is ample support for the [life] sentence imposed in this case." In short, this statement argues that Bryant should stay in jail for life because he has spent time in jail before.

The three-word opinion of the five White justices—"Writ application denied"—was as chilling and final as a death sentence. They gave no explanation for their decision because they did not believe they had to. But Chief Justice Johnson was not having it and wrote a dissent that pointed to the historical underpinnings of such an unjust and oppressive use of the law.

In her dissent, Chief Justice Johnson pointed to the "Pig Laws" that had been enforced in Louisiana in years past. These laws were designed to trap impoverished African Americans in a legal web designed to keep them poor and "in line."

When slavery was abolished by the 13th Amendment in 1865, Southern plantation owners in states like Louisiana found themselves without enough manpower to keep their fields operational. But they soon found a loophole. The 13th Amendment stated: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime ... shall exist within the United States."

Pig Laws were passed to unfairly target and entrap poor former slaves and force them into a penal system that provided free labor for plantation-owning Whites. They were dubbed "Pig Laws" because many of them made it a crime to steal farm animals. And newly freed slaves without the means of acquiring food legitimately often were reduced to theft. This was forced criminality by design and the Pig Laws and other Black Codes provided a steady supply of free Black labor to replace the emancipated slaves.

Poverty has ravaged Blacks since emancipation, and poverty's frequent companion, addiction, has followed in its wake as the oppressed attempt to self-medicate in order to ease their pain and suffering.

Laws are tools for social design. They are passed to make people behave in a particular way. In the hands of an oppressor, laws are tools to extract subservient behavior from the oppressed. And when used for that purpose, these laws are no more just than midnight lynchings or other barbaric assaults to enforce subservient behavior. Like lynchings and beatings, these laws are the oppressive weapons of the unjust.

Most of the laws used to police black and brown bodies today are pig laws that have evolved to adjust to the modern realities of our time. This is why excessive force is constantly applied to people of color and local, state and federal institutions contort logic to defend it.

Too many laws as they are applied to people of color are unjust and we must fight our way to the polls to root out the people who design them and utilize them.

(Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.)

She works hard for (less) money

by Larry Smith

For New Pittsburgh Courier

For millions of Americans, August means blistering days (and nights), kids returning to school (even during a pandemic) and the return of football (in normal years). But, for



LARRY SMITH

millions of Black women, the sweltering summer days of August place a white-hot spotlight on economic inequality.

Specifically, the 13th of this month was "Equal Pay Day" for Black women. It is the day on which sisters finally earn as much money as men did—way back in 2019.

Yes, you read that correctly. Black women must wait more than 200 days into 2020 to make as much money as men did last year. (The wait would be even longer if Black men, who make only 87 cents for every dollar that White men make, were excluded from the equation.) By contrast, Asian American Women's "Equal Pay Day" was in February of this year. White Women's "Equal Pay Day" was in March. Native Women's "Equal Pay Day" is Oct. 1. Latinas? Unconscionably, their day is not until Oct. 29.

Given that more than 90 percent of Americans have been negatively impacted by the Great Depression-like economic effects of COVID-19, the particular plight of Black women will likely be lost in the shuffle. Of course, even when economic times were better, the "good old days" were not so good for the vast majority of Black women. This is despite the fact that, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, Black women are the most highly educated people in the U.S.—followed by Asian women, White women and White men.

As Angela Bronner Helm reported four years ago in *The Root*, education is a story of "good news, bad news" for Black women. Despite their superlative educational achievements, their earnings trail White men, White women, Black men and Hispanic men (in that order). This stark wage disparity exposes the lie that hard work and educational attainment are the great "equalizers" in America. That's a bunch of ... well, you know.

To be clear, I am not advocating that African Americans, female or male, shun postsecondary education. With few exceptions, less education translates into less income. (Please note that "postsecondary education" includes trade school, apprenticeships and other types of "non-academic" training after high school.) Still, greater educational attainment cannot, by itself, close gender- and race-based wage gaps. Macro socioeconomic structures (i.e., systemic racism and sexism) have given White Americans a nearly insurmountable economic advantage over African Americans. In short, even if we were able to close the wage gap in a few years, it would still take decades before we closed the wealth gap. While the former is important, our ultimate focus needs to be on the latter.

(Reprinted from the *Indianapolis Recorder*)

Jason Wright becomes first Black president of an NFL team

Hired by Washington's Football Team

by Rob Taylor Jr.

Courier Staff Writer

Who would have ever thought that there would be a Black president of the United States before there was a Black president of an NFL team?

More than 230 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, Barack Obama became the first African American president in 2008.

And, almost shockingly, it took 100 years of the National Football League being in existence before finally, Jason Wright, a 38-year-old former player-turned business consultant, was named president of the Washington Football

Team.

The announcement was made on Monday, Aug. 17, only a few weeks after the Washington Football Team was lambasted for alleged sexual harassment claims by 15 women who formerly worked for the team in various capacities.

The Washington Post report resulted in the ouster of managers and the early retirement of the team's longtime broadcast voice.

It also resulted in owner Daniel Snyder vowing to change the culture of the team, the team that's off the field. On the field, in December 2019 he hired Ron Rivera, the former Carolina Panthers head coach, to bring the on-field

team back to life.

Snyder also had to oust the longtime nickname of the Washington team, as team sponsors threatened to pull their massive ad dollars. The name had been seen as offensive to Native Americans. The New Pittsburgh Courier is not using the team's former nickname.

But the hiring of Wright seems to have curried favor for Snyder and the Washington franchise as a whole. Wright played seven seasons in the NFL and was the labor-union representative for the Arizona Cardinals in 2011. After his playing career, he received his MBA from the University of Chicago



JASON WRIGHT

Booth School of Business. He made his imprint while working with global strategy and management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where he became partner in the Operations Practice, based in D.C.

As president, Wright will focus on all the business-related aspects of the team.

"If I could custom design a leader for this important time in our history, it would be Jason. His experience as a former player, coupled with his business acumen, gives him a perspective that is unrivaled

in the league," Snyder said in a statement. "We will not rest until we are a championship-caliber team, on and off the field. Jason has a proven track record in helping businesses transform culturally, operationally and financially. He is a proactive and assertive advocate for inclusion of all people and will set new standards for our organization, and for the league. There could not be a better duo than Jason Wright and Coach Ron Rivera as we usher in a new era for Washington Football."

Surprisingly, older Americans are coping best during the pandemic

(NewsUSA)—Older Americans have actually been coping far better than younger ones during the coronavirus pandemic, according to new research.

The Edward Jones and Age Wave Study goes where few have ventured before in focusing exclusively on how different generations have held up emotionally and financially in the months since all the lockdowns began. And some of its findings are at least as startling as how quickly even 70-year-olds came to love Zoom.

"COVID-19's impact forever changed the reality of many Americans, yet we've observed a resilience among U.S. retirees in contrast to younger generations," said Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D., the founder and CEO of Age Wave, a leading research think tank on aging, retirement and longevity issues.

While acknowledging upfront that the virus itself disproportionately struck aging adults, the five-generational sampling of 9,000 people age 18 and over revealed more than a few surprises.

Among them:

- While 37 percent of Gen Zers, 27 percent of Millennials, and 25 percent of Gen Xers said they'd suffered "mental health declines" since the virus hit, only 15 percent



OLDER AMERICANS—"They've seen wars and other major disruptions before, and they know that this, too, will pass."

of Baby Boomers responded likewise.

- Faring the best were those 75 and over—the Silent Generation that followed the so-called "Greatest Generation"—with a mere 8 percent of those respondents reporting any mental health deterioration. That would seem to run counter, as does the results for Boomers (age 56 to 74), to early dire warnings that prolonged social isolation made older adults especially vulnerable to depression, anxiety and cognitive decline.
- Nearly 68 million

Americans have altered the timing of their retirement due to the pandemic, and 20 million stopped making regular retirement savings contributions.

Dychtwald attributed the two older generations' resilience to their having "a greater perspective on life."

"They've seen wars and other major disruptions before," he said, "and they know that this, too, will pass."

Younger generations feel like, "What happened to my life? I mean, I was sup-

posed to go to college or I was starting a new job, and now everything has changed."

"Most retired Boomers and Silent Gens also had monthly Social Security checks to fall back on. Which explains why—though the pandemic has significantly reduced the financial security of a quarter of Americans—younger generations were slammed the hardest: Nearly one-third of Millennial and Gen Z respondents characterized the impact as "very or extremely negative,"

compared to 16 percent of Boomers and 6 percent of Silent Gens who admitted to similar hardship.

Looking for any silver lining that's come out of the COVID-19 crisis?

Well, 67 percent of respondents did say it's brought their families closer together.

"The pandemic has certainly thrown into sharp relief what matters most in our lives," said Ken Cella, Edward Jones's client services group principal. "And important discussions have taken place about planning earlier for retirement, saving more for emergencies, and even talking through end-of-life plans and long-term care costs."

"And with the study also showing that an overwhelming percentage of retirees yearn for more ways to use their talents to benefit society, financial services firm Edward Jones believes it's time to redefine retirement more "holistically" to encompass what it calls "the four pillars" of health, family, purpose and finance.

Successfully addressing most of those pillars admittedly takes more financial savvy than many of us have, though, especially given ever-rising costs. But a financial advisor, like a local one at Edward Jones, has the perspective, experience and empathy to help.

51 of 65 homicides Black lives

Uptick in homicides during summer

HOMICIDES FROM A4

833-ALL-TIPS (833-255-8477).

APRIL 26—Amber Dolby, a 38-year-old White female, was shot around 5:30 a.m. while in McKeesport near Rogena Street and Riverview Avenue. Dolby was a mother of three.

MARCH 3—Christian Moore-Rouse, a 22-year-old Black male from Verona, was found in Fox Chapel after he was reported missing in December 2019. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner ruled Moore-Rouse's death a homicide. Moore-Rouse was a 2016 Allderdice High School graduate. A 21-year-old Fox Chapel man has been charged in connection with Moore-Rouse's death.

MARCH 5—Elijah Jamaal Brewer, a 25-year-old Black male, died in a Pittsburgh Police officer-involved shooting around 7 p.m. near East Ohio Street, North Side. Brewer, of Mt. Oliver, was a well-known rap artist and certified fitness trainer. He was affectionately known as "EZ" by friends and family.

MARCH 12—Brittany Alker, a 30-year-old White female, was killed, police say, by a 34-year-old homeless man in Homewood after a domestic dispute. Police identified the man as Alker's boyfriend.

MARCH 28—Chasae Swindle, a 42-year-old Black male, of McKeesport, was shot while in his vehicle on Evaline Street in Penn Hills. Swindle was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and was part of the janitorial staff at the Pittsburgh International Airport.

MARCH 30—Shadea Johnson, a 32-year-old Black female, of Homewood, was shot, police say, by a 44-year-old man, on Monticello Street around 2:30 a.m. The 44-year-old was captured by U.S. marshals.

Road. The 5-year-old was not seriously injured.

FEB. 4—Joseph Perlick-Spernak, a 25-year-old White male, was shot and killed after a physical altercation that began inside a home in Clairton. Police believe 28-year-old Gerald Johnson was responsible for the shooting. Johnson remained at the scene as police arrived.

FEB. 9—Anthony Lamarr Orocco, a 20-year-old Black male, was shot and killed while trying to break up a fight between a mother and her son, both of whom were armed with a gun. The incident happened in West Mifflin, as 21-year-old Dante King told police that he shot Orocco, of Pine Knot,

Ky.

FEB. 9—Chassity Clancy, a 3-year-old Black female, was shot and killed while sleeping in a home in Beltzhoover. While the shooting death is widely believed to be accidental, 51-year-old Marlin Pritchard, of Beltzhoover, faces homicide, child endangerment and gun charges in connection with the shooting. Pritchard told police he was sleeping with a shotgun under his pillow.

FEB. 16—Jason Lewis, a 39-year-old Black male, was shot and killed while leaving the Sahara Temple after-hours club in Braddock. Lewis died around 12:15 p.m. at UPMC Presbyterian hospital, about nine hours after he was wounded.

FEB. 17—Jeremy Dentel, a 28-year-old White male, was shot and killed, police say by 21-year-old Adam Rosenberg, after the two met in person from a dating app. Dentel was killed with a gunshot to the head in Baldwin Borough. Rosenberg will stand trial on homicide charges.

FEB. 26—David Howard, a 47-year-old White male, was shot and killed, police say by his own son, in Harmar Township. Shane Howard, the 23-year-old son, told police he shot

his father after his father badmouthed his girlfriend and their baby.

FEB. 26—Robert Fulton, a 33-year-old Black male, was shot and killed on Taft Avenue in Beltzhoover around 11:30 a.m. No additional information has been made available about this case.

(*January homicides—3*)

JAN. 1—Ladea Terrell, a 33-year-old Black female, was shot multiple times in Wilkinsburg on Dec. 17, 2019. She died of her injuries on Jan. 1. Terrell was shot around 9 p.m. in the 200 block of Eastgate Drive, which closely borders East Hills. There have been no arrests in the shooting death.

JAN. 10—Issa Noor, an 18-year-old Black male from Grove City, was shot multiple times near Roberts Street and Bedford Avenue in the Hill District around 6:45 p.m. There have been no arrests in the shooting death.

JAN. 12—Joshua Brandon Long, a 22-year-old Black male from West Mifflin, was shot by a homeowner inside a home in Baldwin Borough. The incident occurred shortly after 7 p.m. Anyone with information on the incident can call the Allegheny County police tip line at 1-833-255-8477.

Takisha & Clayton



The Powells tie the knot in a ceremony fit for royalty



When Clayton Powell, a well-known drummer in Pittsburgh, first laid eyes on Takisha Doswell back in 2009 when he worked at Urban League Charter School (now known as Urban Academy), "I couldn't keep my eyes off of her," he said.

"I would see her at school and out and about and would awkwardly stare at her, wishing I knew how to say something to her without sounding awkward."

Takisha's children were

students at the school, and to her, at first, Clayton was "a nice guy who, to me, had a staring problem. LOL (laugh out loud). Nevertheless, there was something genuine in his eyes."

They didn't speak too much in the months and years after.

Fast forward, seven years later, to 2016, when Takisha began working at Urban Academy. Clayton was there, as well! And, as Takisha tells it on their wedding website, "the

work relationship turned into a work husband/work wife thing where we would have lunch all the time together."

Eventually, the two became an official couple, and, since this is in the New Pittsburgh Courier, that can only mean one thing...he proposed, she said yes, and just a few weeks ago, on Aug. 8, Takisha and Clayton were married in a ceremony held at the Doubletree Hilton—Green Tree.

VELMA SCANTLEBURY-WHITE, M.D.
Became first Black female transplant surgeon...right here in Pittsburgh



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AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Big Sister to the Rescue

With her brother on dialysis, retired Pittsburgh Police Officer Brenda Tate becomes chain organ donor, donating one of her kidneys

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, Brenda Tate, a retired Pittsburgh Police officer, called her younger brother, Larry Robinson, and was adamant that they go fishing. After all, it was something they used to do as kids, growing up in the Hill District and fishing down at the Allegheny River.

"It stank so bad (down there)," Tate, now 71, recalled. "We would come home smelling like oil."

Though Robinson, now 70, isn't a morning person, he agreed to take the two-hour trip to Erie's Presque Isle State Park, where fishing is

a popular pastime. "I picked him up at 7 in the morning, we left Pittsburgh, we got there around

rods were 20 years old. "I made him buy some open face rods, and then I had to teach him how to use it,"

AUGUST IS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

9 or 9:30, we stopped and had breakfast. We talked all the way up and all the way back. We talked about when we were children, growing up," Tate said.

In between the reminiscing, Tate realized that her brother didn't have a fishing license. They stopped at Field & Stream and handled that. Then, Robinson realized his fishing

Tate said, jokingly. "It was an amazing day."

Tate told the New Pittsburgh Courier how great it was for her and her brother to have some bonding time. She said that at one point in her life, she went her direction, and her brother went his. "I became part of the police, he became the heavy equipment operator," Tate said.



BRENDA TATE AND HER YOUNGER BROTHER, LARRY ROBINSON. A number of ailments for Robinson led to critical kidney problems. When Tate learned that Robinson would be placed on kidney dialysis, she had no doubt that she would donate a kidney of her own, which helped Robinson find a match through a chain donor.

But the love has always been there between the siblings—Tate is the oldest, followed by Robinson, and a third sibling who has since passed. Growing up at 1927 Webster Ave. in the Hill, Tate could never forget all the good times she had with her two younger brothers.

And decades later, in early 2016, when she learned that Robinson's health was failing to the point where he had to go on kidney dialysis, big sister came to his rescue.

Tate became an organ donor.

"I called his wife, and I said, 'Why can't he get a

kidney?' And she said, 'I'm not a match and I can't do it.' And I said, 'I'll do it,'" Tate recalled.

But Robinson, a Penn Hills resident who had diabetes and a number of other ailments, was unable to receive a kidney, doctors

SEE TATE A3

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SALA UDIN 'SOUNDS THE ALARM'

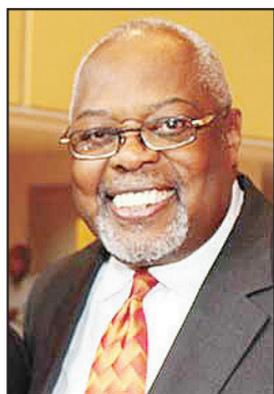
Citing a lack of Black student achievement, Udin doesn't want Hamlet to get five more years

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

If Sala Udin and Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D., get together for brunch anytime soon, the last thing they'll be discussing is the food.

Udin, the outspoken politician, civil rights advocate, and current Pittsburgh Public Schools board member, is furious with what he calls a lack of student achievement among Black students in the district. And while he's not squarely placing the blame on Dr. Hamlet, the district superintendent, Udin does not want his fellow board members to vote Dr. Hamlet to another full term.

"People ask me what to do," Udin said in a letter sent to the New Pittsburgh Courier, Aug. 12, entitled "Sound the Alarm." "The most generous answer I can come up with is for the



PPS BOARD MEMBER SALA UDIN, left, believes Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, Ed.D., right, should be guaranteed one additional year as leader of the district due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But Udin doesn't want his fellow board members to approve Hamlet for another four or five-year term at this time.

whole city to demand that the School Board consider extending the superintendent's contract for one year due to COVID-19, while the board prepares to conduct a

real superintendent search. But renewing it for four or five years? No way. If we can't demand that one simple thing, then we are all guilty for the loss of opportunity to literally save our children."

Dr. Hamlet was unanimously approved by School Board members in 2016 to

SEE UDIN A6

Herring named Dir. of Diversity/Inclusion for South Fayette Twp. School District

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Charles Herring, Ed.D., was recently named Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the South Fayette Township School District, based in McDonald, Pa.

The position was created "to provide further support for the district's efforts with the diversity/cultural competencies" for the district's strategic plan, the district said in a release.

Dr. Herring left his teaching position as K-5 Enrichment Coordinator for the district. He's been with South Fayette Township since 2015.

"We are excited to have Dr. Herring in this new role in continuing to create an inclusive culture for all students," the district's release read. "Additionally, the Board of Directors" passed a resolution "supporting the development of an anti-racist school climate." "Dr. Herring is empathetic, compassionate, and a great listener," district Superintendent Kenneth Lockette, Ph.D., told the New Pittsburgh



CHARLES HERRING, PH.D.

Courier. "He has a calming effect on people and is able to help people see multiple perspectives."

Dr. Herring holds a Doctorate of Education in Language, Literacy & Culture from the University of Pittsburgh and served in an extracurricular position as Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator for the district over the last school year. In this role, the district said,

Dr. Herring created the Student Diversity Leadership Committee that was recognized by the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a 2020 Diversity Award, which was presented to student leaders by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald in the spring.

SEE HERRING A6



NEW Pittsburgh Courier

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

Velma Scantlebury-White became the first Black female transplant surgeon in America...right here in Pittsburgh

Some patients didn't like the idea of her as their surgeon, but she won them over by 'saving their lives'



VELMA SCANTLEBURY-WHITE, M.D., America's first Black female transplant surgeon.

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

In a field dominated by White males, Velma P. Scantlebury-White, M.D., adept with the surgical knife, has carved her own space in history.

She is the nation's first African American female transplant surgeon, and as many New Pittsburgh Courier readers know, her connection to Pittsburgh is plentiful.

But for the millennials, or newcomers to the Courier,

let's revisit the story of Dr. Scantlebury-White.

Born in Barbados in 1955, her family moved to New York City in 1970. After graduating from high school, Dr. Scantlebury-White attended Long Island University-Brooklyn, graduating with honors and degrees in biology and pre-med. Next, she attended Columbia University, earning a medical degree. She then completed an internship and residency in general surgery at Harlem Hospital Center,

and had fellowship training in transplantation surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Scantlebury-White then joined Pitt's School of Medicine staff in 1989, eventually becoming an associate professor of surgery at Pitt.

In 2002, she left Pittsburgh to become professor of surgery and assistant dean for community education for the University of Southern Alabama. She's now the associate director of the Kidney Transplant Program for the Christiana Care Health System, in Delaware.

Millennials, there you have it! ...

...Of course, it wasn't that easy. Nothing, especially breaking barriers like Dr. Scantlebury-White did, comes easy.

Like leaving your home country, at age 14. But that's what Dr. Scantlebury-White and her mother did. Dr. Scantlebury-White told the Transplant Journal in 2008 that her mother had a passion for education, and felt that there were more educational opportunities in the States than Barbados.

"Attending high school in Brooklyn was a tremendous culture shock! I had few friends, was unfamiliar with the curriculum, and taking multiple-choice tests," Dr. Scantlebury-White said. "Our testing in Barbados was more problem solving and essay writing, with subjects as English Literature, Latin, Scripture, and European history. I learned to stifle my desire to learn because if you were timid like I was, you were beaten up and forced to do other students homework!"

Her parents were adamant about her going to college, but didn't have the money to pay for it. But Dr. Scantlebury-White was awarded a full scholarship to Long Island University-Brooklyn. At Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, she said she was was "smit-

ten by surgery the minute we started our gross anatomy class during the first year. Oh, what excitement to be able to do dissections, learn about the different muscles, nerves and the ability to cure someone just by surgery. This was where you could find me late at night—in the anat-

omy laboratory, learning from our cadaver, Suzy, as we called her."

In 1986, Dr. Scantlebury-White had an interview at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (now UPMC Children's). "I met with Dr. Mark Ravitch," she recalled in the interview with Transplant Journal.

"FOR MANY AFRICAN AMERICANS, THEY WILL BE TOLD THAT THEY NEED TO STAY ON DIALYSIS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIFE. AND THAT IS NOT TRUE."

VELMA SCANTLEBURY-WHITE, M.D. IN A 2018 INTERVIEW WITH THE NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION



"He suggested a two-year research fellowship in transplantation with Dr. Thomas Starzl. This would give me that competitive edge to get into the pediatric fellowship program in Pittsburgh. I came to Pittsburgh and ended up as a transplant surgeon instead."

Dr. Starzl, known as the "father of modern transplantation," was a world-renowned figure in the profession, as physician and researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, who died in 2017. To say that Dr. Scantlebury-White learned from the best isn't hyperbolic.

"As a fellow, you were ei-

SEE SURGEON A5

African Americans represent 29 percent of all Americans awaiting an organ transplant

93 percent of Blacks waiting are in need of a kidney

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

When it comes to minorities, they are in the majority when it comes to Americans in need of an organ transplant.

Of the 113,000 people in the U.S. currently await-

ing a life-saving organ transplant, 60 percent are minorities, and African Americans make up the highest percentage of the minority groups.

But "transplants" and "organ donors" are words that just don't seem to come up in Barber and Beauty Salon conversations. The discussion about organ donation and transplants simply aren't top-of-mind in the Black community, or most other ethnic circles.

That's exactly why renowned African American surgeon Clive O. Callender, M.D., started National Minority Donor Awareness Day in 1996.

"We wanted a special day to honor the nation's minority donors, and also, to encourage more people to sign up as organ, eye and tissue donors," Dr. Callender said on a health-related television program. "... Imagine how many more lives could be saved or enhanced, if there were simply more donors from every ethnicity."

In the human body, an organ or tissue may fail or become severely damaged due to disease or injury. A transplantation is often recommended, and some of the most common organs transplanted are the kidney, liver, heart and lung. Other organs and tissues transplanted include the pancreas, intestine and cornea.

But there's always been more people that need a transplant, than there are

available organs to donate. And each day, 18 to 21 people die in the U.S. awaiting a life-saving organ transplant.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, there were roughly 32,000 African Americans awaiting an organ transplant in 2019, which represented 29 percent of all people awaiting a transplant, though Blacks only account for 13 percent of the U.S. population. A kidney transplant is by far the most common organ in need for any ethnicity. For African Americans, 93 percent were in need of a kidney transplant, followed by the heart and liver.

"Organ donation is important for everyone, but due to high rates of diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease, minority populations are especially at risk," Dr. Callender said.

Of the 32,000 Blacks awaiting an organ transplant in 2019, there were roughly 6,750 transplants performed. The vicious cycle continues—while between 20-25 percent of the African Americans in need of a transplant received one in 2019, they are replaced with more African Americans being placed on the waiting list. Thus, even with thousands of transplants performed on African Americans each year, there seems to be about 32,000 African Americans on average each year on

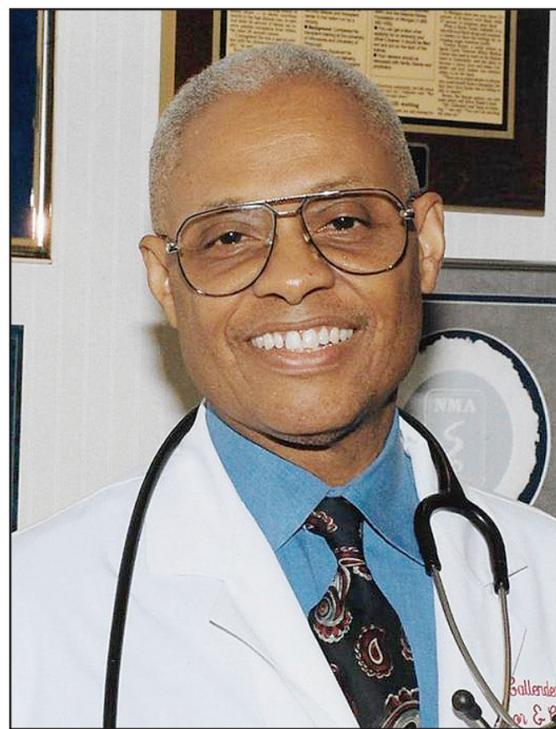
the waiting list.

Data from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services also shows that while Blacks accounted for 29 percent of all patients on the transplant waiting list, Blacks accounted for just 12.5 percent of all organ donors in 2019.

"We must continue to educate our communities about the importance of being a registered organ donor, and dispel the misconceptions about organ donation," Dr. Callender said. "Doctors will do everything they can to save your life, even if you are a registered donor, and you won't need your organs in the hereafter."

Dr. Callender, while not known in the Pittsburgh area, is highly-regarded in medical circles across the nation. He's currently professor of surgery at Howard University, but he's considered a pioneer for his tireless effort over the past five decades to increase organ donation in the African American community.

Dr. Callender founded the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) in 1991. According to a release from Howard University, MOTTEP was the first program of its kind to include a two-fold strategy: Increase the number of persons becoming organ/tissue donors; and increase awareness of the diseases and behaviors that lead to the need for transplan-



CLIVE O. CALLENDER, M.D., the founder of the first National Minority Donor Awareness Day, in 1996.

tation in the first place. In 2000, National MOTTEP created the campaign, "Love Yourself, Take Care of Yourself," that promoted disease prevention.

Dr. Callender's idea for a National Minority Donor Awareness Day, over the years, turned into a week of awareness. Today, it's a month of awareness.

"I reflect on the days when they said it was an impossible task to increase organ donation rates in the African American and minority community," Dr. Callender said during an interview with Howard University in 2019.

At one point, African Americans accounted for just three percent of all organ donations, in 1982. Those days are long gone. Blacks in recent years have averaged between 12 and 16 percent of all organ donations.

"It's a miracle and I'm grateful," Dr. Callender told Howard University. "This proves that this is the ministry that God had for me and validates my life's purpose."

(To become an organ donor, visit organdonor.gov.)

TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR, VISIT WWW.ORGANDONOR.GOV

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AUGUST IS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

Big Sister to the Rescue

With her brother on dialysis, retired Pittsburgh Police Officer Brenda Tate becomes chain organ donor, donating one of her kidneys

TATE FROM A1

said, because his diabetes was too bad.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S., according to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. When blood sugar levels are too high, over time, it damages a person's kidneys. If kidneys are damaged, waste and fluids can build up in the person's blood instead of leaving the body. Kidney damage from diabetes is officially called "diabetic nephropathy."

Tate told the Courier how she went into fasting and prayer for the next two months in early 2016, hoping that good news would come from the situation. And it did. "That March (2016), the doctors called and said, 'If you're still willing to give up your kidney, he's good to go.'"

The month of August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month. It began in 1996 from renowned transplant surgeon Clive Callender, M.D., who originally held the occasion for one day (August 1) to encourage more African Americans to become organ donors. Over the years, more Blacks have become organ donors, though there can never be enough. Currently, there are 113,000 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant, with nearly 30 percent of them African Americans. And while the majority of all people needing a transplant are in need of a kidney, for African Americans, it's almost exclusively the organ needed (93 percent).

About one-fourth of all African Americans in need of a transplant receive one each year, leaving 75

percent having to wait another year. And as Blacks receive a transplant, they are quickly replaced by another African American who is diagnosed with needing a transplant.

There are two ways to become an organ donor—while you're living, or after you've passed (cadaver). But when it comes to living organ donors, the American Journal of Kidney Diseases (the official journal of the National Kidney Foundation) reported in 2012 that Blacks were least likely to receive a living kidney donation.

Tate became a living organ donor, even though she wasn't a match for her brother, Robinson. Through what's called a "chain organ donor," a person who is not a match for one person, could be a match for another person. In Tate's case, she was a match for a man who needed a kidney in Erie. That man's wife, who was not a match for her husband, gave her kidney to someone else who was a match. As the chain went on, doctors found a Caucasian woman who was a match for Robinson. She gave up her kidney for Robinson.

But it wouldn't have happened if Tate didn't agree to give her kidney to someone.

Robinson received his kidney on Sept. 19, 2017, and one month later, Oct. 19, Tate donated her kidney to a man in Erie.

"I went in that Thursday (Oct. 19, 2017), and I was home Saturday (Oct. 21)," Tate recalled to the Courier, her procedure occurring at UPMC Montefiore. "I had very little pain and I wanted to go home that Friday, the next day, and

they said, 'No, let's hold you one more day to make sure everything is working right. I had very little pain because of the (small) incision.'"

And the best part? "I didn't pay for anything," Tate said. "My brother's insurance apparently paid for everything."

Besides the financial part, Tate said the real "best part" about the entire ordeal was that Robinson no longer had to be on dialysis, now fitted with his new kidney. "He's doing well," she said. "He's 6-foot-3 and he's always pretty robust. However, he's not as robust as he used to be. But he gets around. He's doing very well."

Robinson is a fighter. In addition to the diabetes and dialysis, in the past few years he fell and broke his leg in three places. But, to no one's surprise, he recovered.

Joy Starzl, wife of the late pioneer transplant surgeon Dr. Thomas Starzl, is Tate's godsister. So, Tate had known some things about transplantation, but it "never crossed my mind that I would have to do something like this," she told the Courier.

In Pittsburgh, the Center for Organ Recovery has an abundance of details about how to become an organ donor. The organization helps to dispel untrue myths about organ donation, and clearly outlines the donation process. To reach the local CORE office, call 412-963-3550.

"I want them to know that you have an opportunity to give life," Tate said to those who may want to become organ donors. "You see your loved one and say, 'How can I help?' You have



BRENDA TATE AND HER BROTHER, LARRY ROBINSON, with Dr. Amit D. Tevar, left, who performed the transplant surgery on Robinson.

an opportunity to save your loved one's life."

The first time that Tate saw Robinson after Tate's organ donation, she said to him, jokingly: "You know, we're even now, Larry."

After all, the siblings couldn't forget how, when Tate was around 9 years old and Robinson was slightly younger, Tate didn't like her younger brother always following her. One day, as the young Robinson followed the young Tate, she decided to

run. He ran after her. She ran into an abandoned storefront on Webster Avenue and she slammed the door.

"The next thing I heard was him screaming," Tate told the Courier.

Her brother, Robinson, was so close to her that when she slammed the door, Robinson's hand was in the path and the force of the door knocked most of Robinson's finger off. He was around 7 or 8 years old at the time, and he was

rushed to the hospital. Two police officers came back to the storefront, found the missing part of the finger, and doctors were able to reattach it.

"Now we're even," Tate jokingly told her brother. "I owed you a finger...so now you got a kidney."

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Velma Scantlebury-White, M.D.—America's first Black female transplant surgeon

She won skeptical patients over by 'saving their lives'

SURGEON FROM A2

ther flying out to retrieve organs or doing a complicated transplant with one of the senior attendings,” she said in her interview. “Back in those days, some patients felt uncomfortable with having a Black female surgeon. I had to learn to not feel rejected because of their ignorance, but to embrace my skills, and realize it was their loss by not having me as their surgeon. On several occasions,

the senior attending would make it clear that I would be the operating surgeon. Many of these patients later stayed in touch with me for many years after their transplant. I had won them over by saving their lives.”

In 1989, it became offi-

cial. Dr. Scantlebury-White earned her Doctor of Surgery, thus becoming the first Black female transplant surgeon in the U.S. Married to Harvey White, Ph.D., many in Pittsburgh's Black community would see the White family and their

two daughters attending church at St. James A.M.E. on Lincoln Avenue, and at other family-friendly functions.

“It was not until my third year in Pittsburgh as a junior attending that word spread about me being the

first Black female transplant surgeon.” Dr. Scantlebury-White said to Transplant Journal. “Realizing that there were no others before me was a daunting acknowledgement: many women had paid a price for freedom, to get an ed-

ucation, to attend medical school, and even to become a surgeon. I was now a transplant surgeon—first in my family to attend college, and first to be a Black transplant surgeon. Such a status never meant much to my parents, I was just following God's plan for my life.”

Velma Scantlebury-White, M.D., has performed more than 2,000 organ transplants in her distinguished career.

SALA UDIN 'SOUNDS THE ALARM'

Citing a lack of Black student achievement, Udin doesn't want Superintendent Hamlet to get another full-term contract

UDIN FROM A1

become the district's next superintendent. On July 1, 2016, he officially took office. The next year, he and his top brass introduced a five-year strategic plan labeled "Expect Great Things," intended to eliminate the racial achievement gap, reduce suspensions, and provide additional resources to teachers and schools.

Now, three years into the plan (along with an unforeseen coronavirus pandemic), everyone from parents, administrators, board members, students and former students have varying opinions on if the plan is working.

When it comes to the numerical data, is the glass half-full or half-empty? On one hand, Pittsburgh Public Schools' graduation rate for all students has been on the rise. In 2014-15, the rate was 70 percent. By 2017-18, the rate rocketed to 78.6 percent.

On the other hand, the third-grade reading proficiency rates for Black students on PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) exams has dipped, from 46 percent in 2017-18 to 38 percent in 2018-19. For White students, it also dipped from 77 percent to 72 percent in 2018-19, but it's still 34 percentage points higher than Black students.

Udin, in his letter, said bluntly

that "the majority of Black students in PPS are failing in reading and math at levels of 70-90 percent!" He cited Westinghouse 6-12's math proficiency levels for Black students in grades 6-8 at the school. In 2019, the level was 2 percent. Throughout the district, the level for Black students in grades 6-8 was 8 percent. The number was 42 percent for White students district-wide.

"When schools closed last spring, the majority of Black students in PPS were already sever-

ely less than proficient (failing) and in need of special attention."

Come Aug. 31, Pittsburgh Public Schools will officially begin the academic year for students, but it's all remote learning for at least the first nine weeks, after the board voted in favor of board member Kevin Carter's resolution to halt in-school learning.

Udin feels as though the School Board is "close to locking in another contract" for Dr. Hamlet, which is why he's "sounding the

alarm," in his words. Dr. Hamlet's current five-year contract expires on June 30, 2021. The board has until Feb. 1, 2021, to decide to renew his contract or part ways. "None of his supporters will argue that a contract renewal is

warranted because he has done a spectacular job in academic outcomes for PPS students," Udin said. "He has not, and everybody knows it. His supporters make excuses for the poor academic performance because they want to 'give him another chance.' Or, 'We don't want to engage in another lynching of a Black male leader, like they did Dr. John Thompson.' His sycophants will not even argue that Dr. Hamlet has shown sufficient promise that he is likely to turn this di-

Ebony Pugh, PPS spokesperson, told the Courier exclusively that since Dr. Hamlet's arrival, Black student suspensions have greatly decreased. She also said graduation rates have improved for Black students.

Wendy Bell, KDKA's controversial afternoon radio host and former WTAE-TV anchor, invited Udin on her radio show on Friday, Aug. 21, which Udin accepted. "My perspectives are based on results, and when I looked at the results of over three or four years, I did not see significant improvement for the general school district, and I was especially alarmed by the high percentage of failure of African American students throughout the district," Udin said on KDKA Radio.

Udin went on to say that the "amount of failure for African American students' learning" was "criminal."

A few moments later, Udin, on KDKA Radio, called it "unmentionable" to consider renewing a contract for Dr. Hamlet, who he said "just did not deliver. He may be a nice guy, he may wear beautiful suits, and wonderful cologne, but the bottom line has to be, 'What is the outcome?'"

"He may be a nice guy, he may wear beautiful suits, and wonderful cologne, but the bottom line has to be, 'What is the outcome?'"

SALA UDIN

saster around in the next four or five years. They are sticking with him, not for the benefit of the children, but because he is on their team and nobody is willing to let the team take a defeat."

Dr. Hamlet has not publicly commented on Udin's letter, but

Herring's effective style lands him Dir. of Diversity/Inclusion position for South Fayette Township School District

HERRING FROM A1

The South Fayette Township School District has four schools—an elementary, intermediate, middle and high school. The district sits west of Bridgeville and South of Oakdale. The district's student makeup is 73 percent White, 19 percent Asian, four percent multi-racial, two percent African American and two percent Hispanic.

According to Dr. Herring,

he's not "the typical educator," he said in an interview with Kidsburgh.org. Dr. Herring was a hip-hop producer in Pittsburgh, and also was manager of an Enterprise Rent-a-Car location. But it's some of those experiences, including attending Wilkinsburg High School, that he feels makes himself more relatable to students.

"A lot of people don't get it

when they get into education. They feel like they're the bastions of knowledge, and should be disseminating it to the students, and the students don't bring a lot to the equation," Dr. Herring told Kidsburgh.org. "The teacher has a certain knowledge, and the student has a certain knowledge, and the hybrid space is where they meet. It's a symbiotic relationship. There are times when

the student is the teacher, and you're learning from them."

Dr. Herring added: "The main thing you want to do as a teacher is allow the students to be the constructors of their own education. Set up the parameters of whatever you want the students to learn."

The South Fayette Township School District realized that Dr. Herring's non-traditional but effective style should be

implemented district-wide. Dr. Herring will help to coordinate teacher and student training, assist with audit/revisions of curriculum to address multiple perspectives, develop recruitment strategies to have a more diverse faculty and staff, and create student and community outreach and partnerships.

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Scholarships awarded to McKeesport High School graduates



MCKEESPORT PAST AND PRESENT—The organization McKeesport Past and Present is celebrating 14 years in existence this year, and scholarships were handed out to 2020 graduates Dashaiylah Konik, in the left photo, and Jamya Fulmore, in the right photo. The McKeesport Past and Present reunion has taken place for the last 13 years for the purpose of keeping an extended family closer together. It's in honor of Barbara Jean Price, a teacher who graduated from McKeesport with honors and studied history at Lincoln University and also studied in Washington, D.C. She lived her adult life in D.C., but would often charter buses of McKeesport students to D.C. to visit various D.C. landmarks, and she also sponsored a community picnic in Isbir Manor in McKeesport. When Ms. Price died in 2006, families began the now-annual tradition of fellowship in McKeesport, along with a scholarship presentation, community picnic, dinner dance, custom-made T-shirts, bands and a church service.

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS JAMYA FULMORE AND DASHAIYLAH KONIK, with, from left, James Fulmore, James Fulmore Jr. and Jean Graves. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS with the McKeesport Past and Present Committee.



DASHAIYLAH KONIK



JAMYA FULMORE

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The Four Harty Bible School Campuses Listed Above Announce IN PERSON Fall Registration For Prospective Students and Returning Students for the 2020-2021 School Year. (PLEASE MAKE A NOTE THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED AT ALL CAMPUSES LISTED BELOW AND A MASK IS REQUIRED.)

- **HILL DISTRICT (MAIN SCHOOL CAMPUS) and NORTH SIDE CAMPUS REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD IN PERSON**
When: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 From 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Where : Christian Tabernacle Kodesh Church of Immanuel
2601 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (A MASK IS REQUIRED)
For further information please contact (412) 323-0821 or (412) 621-2089.
- MAIN SCHOOL CLASSES will be taught by "VIRTUAL / ZOOM"
starting Wednesday, September 9, 2020, from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
For further information please contact (412) 323-0821 or (412) 621-2089.
- NORTH SIDE CLASSES will be taught by "VIRTUAL / ZOOM"
starting Monday, September 14, 2020 From 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
For further information please contact (412) 323-0821 or (412) 621-2089.
- **ALIQUIPPA CAMPUS: REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD IN PERSON**
When: Monday, August 24, 2020 From 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Where: The Miracle School of Ministry, 702 Davis Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001 (A MASK IS REQUIRED).
For further information please contact (412) 264-2015 or (724) 378-3706.
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- **WASHINGTON SCHOOL CAMPUS: REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD IN PERSON**
When: Monday, August 26, 2020 From 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Where: The Salvation Army, 60 E. Maiden Street, Washington, PA 15301 (A MASK IS REQUIRED).
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Communities are as rich and diverse as their needs. That's why completing the 2020 Census matters. Every household counted contributes to their community's funding for critical public services like healthcare, special needs, and public transportation. Census takers are now visiting homes to help households respond to the 2020 Census. All census takers will be wearing masks and following local safety guidelines. This is your chance to make a change, don't miss it! **It's not too late.**

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Creating a gentrified
guilt complex
J. Pharoah Doss B5

EnJunaya Canton quit a six-figure job to start fast-growing Zuhuri Beauty

by Ben Stevenson

For New Pittsburgh Courier

(NNPA)—It's been an exciting couple of years for EnJunaya Canton, owner of Zuhuri Beauty, a skin care line originally created for African American women. Based out of Los Angeles, Canton has been rapidly growing her company for the past few years and is constantly thinking about how she can take it further.

Started in 2006, Zuhuri Beauty was born out of a desire for cleaner, healthier skin care products. After seeing transformative results from starting an organic and vegan diet, Canton realized how much of a difference that healthy, natural ingredients can make.

The realization got her thinking about skin care. She had a background in chemistry and some knowledge about the industry, so she took a leap of faith and started Zuhuri Beauty. Canton has grown Zuhuri quickly and consistently over the past few years. She sells direct online, including Amazon, and through a handful of retailers. She has also been featured in Macy's and Walmart.com.

But, like many small business, Zuhuri Beauty was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was an incredibly tough time, and Canton spent long hours trying

to maintain the business in addition to trying to find funding to help her keep it running.

She was able to receive the money she needed through PACE (Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment), a community development corporation that focuses on areas including entrepreneurship and economic inequity in diverse communities throughout Los Angeles.

"I had gone to every program that had existed (and got rejected)," said Canton. "I found PACE and they said, 'We are going to help you.'"

PACE received grant funding from U.S. Bank's \$1 million Market Impact Fund to support their business counselors who are working hard to help small businesses who were impacted by COVID-19, like Zuhuri Beauty, with relief and recovery efforts.

"COVID-19 has disproportionately affected minority-owned small businesses. Since mid-March, PACE has received more than 1,300 inquiries from small business owners requesting \$140 million in financial assistance," said Kerry Doi, President and CEO of PACE. "We are grateful to U.S. Bank for once again stepping up and demonstrating their commitment to providing relief to Los Angeles' vulnerable and minority-owned small businesses."



ENJUNAYA CANTON is owner of Zuhuri Beauty, a skin care line originally created for African American women.

This funding has helped Canton to weather the storm during COVID-19 by keeping her part-time staff and continuing prod-

uct development. She said it's about more than just the financial support—it's about supporting her vision.

"PACE and U.S. Bank have been amazing to me, in all areas. Money is one part it, but what's more is when you know people really believe in you, even when you're not believing in yourself."

After going through countless trials and tribulations to get where she is today, Canton understands the risks that come with starting your own business. In 2016, she quit a six-figure job to go work at a cosmetics store to learn the skills she knew that she'd need to be successful with her business.

For the first-generation college student with two master's degrees, that leap of faith led to an abrupt lifestyle change, including replacing her BMW with a \$2,000 well-used Acura. Now, Canton's bet on herself is starting to pay off, with Zuhuri sales growing at a 50 percent clip for the past four years.

Canton said she hopes to inspire other entrepreneurs of color to take action for themselves and to pursue their passion. In fact, she also offers coaching services to help them do so.

"You have to do it—this idea isn't going to die in you, it will irritate you forever. So, try to have this voice in your head that keeps saying, 'Just do it.'"

(Ben Stevenson is an employee of U.S. Bank.)

Making 'Artificial Intelligence' work for your career

by Wanda "Sistah Soldier" Petty

For New Pittsburgh Courier

If understanding technology during a pandemic wasn't already enough, now add the consideration of figuring out how artificial intelligence works and why anyone dealing with strategic planning needs to become familiar with its properties.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) developed as a result of big data. The data collected needed to be understood. As analysts noticed patterns, it formed a new measurement. All types of organizations that seek to know how to serve their clientele best, develop their products, and have a competitive edge use AI. It's estimated that the need to understand how to utilize it will grow in the coming years. Its use can accelerate a company's growth vastly.

AI has different aspects to consider when branching into its field, analytics, biases, and purpose. It's important to know what to count and what to weed out. All data isn't useful but may expand considerations for unveiled strategies in previous research, and the only way to know you're using the right platform is to examine or experiment. Some may think such tech-

nology would eliminate jobs. Instead, it creates more jobs by highlighting the areas needing attention and identifying a need for future solutions.

Use AI to your advantage.

Become an expert. Figure out the applications that focus on the programmatic needs of the entity and help it evolve (i.e., fundraisers, studies, predictions, and practices). The collection of data will continue changing industries across the board. SHE Virtual Academy offers courses required for obtaining the skill set to become a certified AI specialist. Courses cost less than \$500 and can yield a salary upward of \$80K and beyond. Most people



WANDA "SISTAH SOLDIER" PETTY

are unaware of how such little investment and little time can provide such significant dividends. The best part about it is there's no unique skill level required to work in this field.

Have the mindset that you want to do it. Once you know you want to delve into the specialty of AI, don't delay. Start learning in as many ways as possible. Listen to podcasts, take courses that will allow you to become fluent, and develop a foundation for acquiring the necessary skills employers will seek. Join the industry's association and be in the know of what's coming down the line. Its

development is not going to diminish in the next 10-20 years. It's fair to say it will continue branching out into additional paths for data to become understood.

Seek opportunities ahead of time. Always be out in the community, building your network, and know where you can specialize in its use. If one were to consider the entertainment industry, filmmakers use AI to understand how viewers watch television shows, films, and theatrical plays to identify when, where, or what age group is watching them. Marketing agencies use AI for social media to create ads, follow interest groups, and to improve the platforms. The list goes on and on. So, the next time you consider enhancing your career or company, examine how you can incorporate AI into your plans. You'll be glad you did, because it will save you a lot of manual calculating.

(Wanda "Sistah Soldier" Petty is an inspirational leader who helps veterans, women, and minorities step into God's call for their lives using their creative skills. She's the CEO, Host, and Executive Producer of SHE VET iNSPIRES Television Show and the Executive Recruiter for SHE MediaTech™.)

Budget Sculpting

When it comes to your money, you should know where you are, where you're going, and how you'll get there. This all starts with the dreaded B-word, BUDGET. The very mention of the word budget sets off a feeling of confinement, restriction, limitation and loss of control. I admit there is a sense of confinement, restriction, and limitation associated with managing money—but it has nothing to do with a budget. What confines, restricts and limits us is our income! So if you want to spend more, have more, and save more without sacrificing your lifestyle, you simply need to earn more. A more formal definition of a budget would be a plan for spending, saving, and investing money. The importance of making a budget and sticking to it is to save for future goals while meeting present obligations.

Nobody wants to be tied down and confined—especially when it comes to our money. Most of us hold the position that it's my money and I'm going to do as I please. You showed up to work, bust your butt and earned it. I'm with you—do as you please! Just do it on purpose with a plan that includes your needs, goals, desires, responsibilities, and commitments. Otherwise doing what pleases you today without planning can be the catalyst for what will destroy you tomorrow—financially speaking.

Now that we have a basic understanding of why a budget is important, how do we know that our budget is something that needs to be followed or something that needs to be changed? If you're barely making it month-to-month or have "too much month left at the end of your money," the telltale signs are evident—SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE. But

what is that something? How do you quickly identify the area in your budget that's causing you problems? What if the telltale signs are not so apparent? You pay your bills on time each and every month. You have a few dollars left after the dust settles. Are you moving in the right direction? You manage to get the numbers to balance, but are you sacrificing your children's college fund, your retirement plan, your entertainment and recreational activity or tithing? If you're currently doing well financially, wouldn't you like to do better? A healthy budget recognizes that there are a lot of things we need, want, and desire in life—all of which have a price tag attached to them. A healthy budget does not limit or restrict you to pursue the things you desire in life. It simply helps you to understand that money is finite. There's only so much of it that will flow through our hands and we have to make the most of it.

I've compiled some budget percentage guidelines that will help guide you to ensure that as you spend money and obligate yourself to payments, you have considered that there are other things you want to do in life that require money. These budget percentage guidelines will ensure that you're not overspending or under funding a particular category.

- Tithing/Charitable Giving—10-15 percent
- Housing—25-35 percent
- Food—5-15 percent

- Utilities—5-10 percent
- Transportation—10-15 percent
- Clothing—3-7 percent
- Savings—5-15 percent
- Medical/Health—2-7 percent
- Insurance—5 percent
- Personal—5-7 percent
- Recreation/Entertainment—5-10 percent
- Child Care/School—5-10 percent
- Debts—5-10 percent

These are guidelines and are not the universal standard. They are flexible and can be manipulated to line up with your priorities. The important thing to understand as you slice your money pie is that a bigger slice in one category will require a smaller slice in another category. For example, you can cheat up on the housing category allocating 40 percent of your income as long as you reduce your transportation category down to 5 percent.

Here's how it works. You want to total the amount of money you bring home in your paycheck each month. We're only concerned with our take home pay (net income) since what we take home in our paycheck is the only thing we can spend. From there you want to look at what you're currently spending on a particular category. To calculate the percentage of a specific budget category, all you have to do is divide the amount budgeted for that category by your net income. For example, let's assume that your net income is \$2,000 per month. Each and ev-

ery month you bring home about \$2,000. Let's further assume that your house payment is \$900 per month, your car payment is \$450 per month and your debts (personal loans and credit cards) are \$300 per month. By dividing housing payment of \$900 into your net income of \$2,000 you calculate housing to equal 45 percent of your net income. By dividing car payment of \$450 into your net income of \$2,000, you calculate transportation to be 23 percent of your net income. By dividing your debt payment of \$300 per month, you calculate debt to be 15 percent of your net income. By comparing these percentages to budget percentage guidelines, you see that you're over spending in each category. By adding up the percentages in these categories you'll see that housing, car and debt accounts for 83 percent of your net income and you still have to buy food and pay utilities among other things. This leaves very little if any for tithing, savings, entertainment and other things you aspire to do with money.

Leave it to me to use an example that paints a grim picture. My example is a close depiction of what's taking place in most households. They camouflage their reality by using credit to finance the rest of their lifestyle. Like money, credit is finite, at some point you'll max out your credit and be forced to accept the wisdom in the budget percentage guidelines. I'd rather heed the advice now and begin to sculpt my budget to align with my priorities, values and goals and get the biggest bang for my buck.

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

Damon Carr

The Carr
Report



It's happened again—another police shooting of a Black man

Jacob Blake shot seven times in the back...in front of his kids

by Hazel Trice Edney

For New Pittsburgh Courier

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—As of late Tuesday, Aug. 25, 29-year-old Jacob Blake remains in stable condition after being shot seven times in the back by a White police officer for unknown reasons on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Blake was reportedly leaving the scene of an altercation between two women as police followed him on foot, one holding a gun to his back. Blake had reportedly broken up the fight between the two women.

When Blake attempted to get into the driver's seat of the car where his 8, 5, and 3-year-old sons were seated, the Kenosha, Wisc., officer with the gun grabbed the back of his T-shirt, then opened fire, shooting Blake seven times in the back.

The Blake family attorney said that Blake is paralyzed, and it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again.

Two of the officers involved have been placed on administrative leave pending investigations.

Wisconsin's governor called on the National Guard in anticipation of possible violent protests. This incident comes after a summer of heated protests after the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, both killed by police. It also comes just before the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Net-



JACOB BLAKE, 29, was shot seven times in the back by police right in front of his children.

work's "Get Your Knee Off Our Necks" march this Saturday, Aug. 28, "citing racial climate as the urgent need to still mobilize."

Sharpton and Martin Luther King III, along with attorney Benjamin Crump and the families of Floyd, Taylor, Eric Garner and others will convene with

the National Action Network, NAACP and others for the March on Washington in protest of police brutality.

Protesters quickly hit streets around the country as the Blake family pleaded for peaceful demonstrations only. Despite their pleas, buildings were set on fire in Kenosha. Nothing was mentioned of the shooting by President Donald Trump during the first day of the Republican National Convention. Democratic Presidential Candidate Joseph Biden issued a statement.

"This morning, the nation wakes up yet again with grief and outrage that yet another Black American is a victim of excessive force," Biden said. "This calls for an immediate, full and transparent investigation and the officers must be held accountable."

DNC Chairman Tom Perez concluded, "A bullet in the back. A knee on the neck. When will it end? Yet again, our nation is hurting. Yet again, Black communities are hurting. Our hearts go out to Jacob Blake and his family as we pray for his recovery. Sadly, we know he is not the first to be viciously gunned down by law enforcement. He is one of countless Black Americans who have suffered at the hands of bigotry with a badge."

Kamala Harris wins backing of the 'Divine Nine'

by Cynthia Yeldell Anderson

For New Pittsburgh Courier

(Zenger News)—In her historic speech accepting the vice presidential nomination for the Democratic party, Sen. Kamala Harris introduced her family—among them her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, "The Divine Nine" and others from historically Black colleges and universities.

The California Democrat's shout-out echoed worldwide.

As the first HBCU graduate and the first member of a historically Black Greek letter organization named to a major party ticket, Harris' nomination has created a groundswell of enthusiasm among Black Greek member organizations whose combined membership exceeds two million globally.

Mannings is the chief business development officer at Partners for the Common Good. She united with a group of sorority sisters to watch Harris' speech at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday. "There is a level of excitement that I've never seen," she said.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which represents eight other predominately Black Greek letter organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta So-

rority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Affectionately known as "The Divine Nine," each has graduate and undergraduate chapters in the U.S. and abroad.

Since Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden announced Harris as his running mate, social media has been filled with support.

"Kappa Alpha Psi is definitely behind her, she has our vote," said member Randall C. Pippen Jr., who attended Howard University with Harris and served with her on student government there. "I've talked to Omegas and Deltas who support her, and Deltas have shared the social-media post of 'Deltas for Kamala.' The support is across the board."

Many prominent Black political figures and civil-rights leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr., (Alpha Phi Alpha), Rev. Jesse Jackson (Omega Psi Phi) and Shirley Chisholm (Delta Sigma Theta), were or are members of the Divine Nine.

"As a proud member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which is the fraternity of John Lew-



SEN. KAMALA HARRIS

is, James Weldon Johnson, Rev. Al Sharpton and many others, we are grateful for all the members of the Divine Nine Black Fraternities and Sororities who are over-

joyed by the nomination of Kamala Harris for the office of Vice President of United States of America," said Ben Chavis, CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Associa-

tion.

But Harris is the first to be a VP nominee for a major party ticket.

"It's clearly a historic moment," said Everett B. Ward, president, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., on behalf of the nine NPHC presidents. Sen. Harris represents the high standards of public service and leadership that define members of the National Pan Hellenic Council, he said.

"All of our organizations, prior to Sen. Harris' nomination, historically have been involved in voter registration, voter education and advancing public policy that involves African Americans," Ward said. "The nomination underscores the importance for our organizations to continue promoting voter engagement and voter education. We are committed to protecting the right to vote for all citizens, especially when there are organized efforts to suppress the Black vote."

The Divine Nine experience doesn't end after college.

Volunteerism, community service, advocacy work, social gatherings, mentoring programs and strong bonds are sustained throughout adulthood. Members wear their

respective fraternity or sorority colors with pride.

"Once you become a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, you're always a member," Mannings said. "We are about serving the community."

Divine Nine member organizations, along with graduates and students across the country, also take pride in the fact that Harris is a graduate of a HBCU.

"Her selection is a nod to the excellence that comes out of HBCUs," said Inez Brown, who attended Howard University and pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha with Harris. "Often, people think HBCUs are not up to the same standards as predominantly White institutions and it's absolutely not true. Statistics will tell you the most successful people in business, in finance and in different areas are products of HBCUs."

Pippen said Harris was a member of the debate team and student government during their college years. She volunteered for community-service events with Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, and was active in social-justice issues on campus, such as protesting against apartheid, Mannings said.

For sorority sister Jill Louis, a Dallas attorney, Harris' nomination has a higher purpose: She has been selected for a mission to rescue democracy.

"For us, it's a bigger cause," says Louis. "We are looking to galvanize the entirety of the Divine Nine and all members of HBCUs across the country,"

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY, the HBCU where Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate Sen. Kamala Harris earned her undergraduate degree.



Guest Editorial

Kamala Harris faces 'Crabs-In-A-Barrel'

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden held people in great suspense while he mulled over who would become his Vice Presidential running mate. When he made his announcement, it turned out to be his former rival, Senator Kamala Harris.

Kamala Harris is a very talented and accomplished woman. She is also the subject of much controversy. She is currently the only Black American female in the U.S. Senate, and was formerly Attorney General of the state of California. Many people were ecstatic when Biden announced Kamala Harris as his running mate. It was a surprise, therefore, to see the viciousness of attacks on her by some Black people. It took some time for the Trump administration to come up with a way to denigrate her. But it took no time for the "Crabs-In-A-Barrel Brigade" to pounce.

Some Black people are holding several things against her. For one, they say she is not Black. Her dad is Jamaican and her mother is East Indian. There is a birth certificate circulating that says her mother is "Caucasian," and her father is Jamaican. Those who are circulating the birth certificate are using it to "prove" that Kamala is Caucasian! They continue to circulate this disinformation even though it has been pointed out on numerous occasions that nowhere on the birth certificate does it assign a race to Kamala. This is a deliberate disinformation campaign, and the Russians or bots are not responsible for it: it is being circulated by African Americans.

Kamala is a graduate of Howard University, a renowned HBCU, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first African American sorority in the United States founded in 1908. Furthermore, if you look at her, it is very obvious that she is Black!

Some folks are also upset that she married a White man (Jewish) and was an extremely successful prosecutor who, as Attorney General of California, was responsible for the incarceration of a lot of Black men. This has been the biggest hue and cry; that she hates Black men.

What has not been said is that sections of California needed the intervention of a strong Attorney General. A Black female mayor of one of California's beleaguered cities that suffered from extremely high crime rates went on record to say that Kamala worked with the city to reduce those rates and that she was very effective. In her mind, someone like Kamala was really needed.

Though there is no doubt a lot of Black people support Kamala, it is really sad to see how many are viciously opposing her. We are witnessing the granddaddy of the "crabs-in-a-barrel" syndrome! We all know that no one is perfect; and we know that politics often generates strange bedfellows. So we know that neither Kamala nor Biden is perfect; they both have baggage.

But their transgressions and misdeeds pale in comparison to those exhibited by our current president.

Incredibly, President Trump, who has also been impeached, is committing what some are saying is a federal crime. Because he opposes mail-in voting, falsely claiming that it is plagued with fraud, he has masterminded a massive voter suppression ploy. He appointed a new postmaster general who immediately let some staff go, slowed down the process, removed mail-sorting machines, and removed mail boxes from some communities in an attempt to thwart the mail-in voting process. This is an egregious breach of justice.

It is also said that Trump wants to get rid of Medicare, Social Security, and a number of other initiatives that were part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Basically, Donald Trump wants to re-create America in his image, which apparently does not have the well-being of the American people in mind.

This became patently obvious when he did not develop an effective strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and now insists that students and teachers return to schools where it is certain that some people will die as a result. At press time, more than 169,000 Americans have died from COVID-19.

With all of this, there are still Black people saying that they will not vote for Biden and Harris, which translates into votes for Trump! This is outrageous—if we do not defeat Trump in November, things can get much worse, and there are those who even say that our democracy is at stake.

Ultimately, it is time that we resist the crabs-in-a-barrel mentality and mount a unity campaign in order to save us and our country.

(Reprinted from the Chicago Crusader)

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Friends and friendships have always been valuable commodities in my life. Periods of absence of my friends have always left gaps in my sense of personal wholeness. Things always seem better when I have meaningful interaction with friends. Things are more complete when my life's journey includes like-minded companions with whom mutually supportive goals are our basis in working for the achievement of a higher quality of life in our respective communities.

If you can understand these perspectives, you can understand the joy I experienced in watching the 2020 Democratic Party Virtual Convention. Each night I turned off my television with a more finely tuned sense of purpose. Each morning I awaken with a heightened spirit of possibilities. Although virtual, I was able to confirm the existence of hundreds, if not thousands, of citizens who also desire for a government based in truth, unity, and justice for all. Through their expressions, I realized that, although committed to the continual struggle, many had been worn and demoralized by the conflict and confusion generated by the current administration. Good news—relief can be a short ten weeks from us!

Of all the indicators of success in the coming election, I'm most inspired by the active engagement of Black women. Projections of overwhelming participation and support of the Biden-Harris

Old friends

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Commentary



team confirm the dedication of the most reliable block of voters in the Democratic arsenal. The significance of Kamala Harris as the Vice-Presidential candidate of the party is, undoubtedly, of great historic significance, but she's just the first cog in the wheel of parity in diversity that our times now require and that people are rightly demanding from our party.

Although inspirational, I hold no naïve ideas about the perfection from the candidates for whom we vote. We should, however, be realistic in predicting the consequences of a continuing future with the current administration.

Most of us are thoroughly disgusted with the profane, racist, ignorant, uncaring words and behavior of those currently charged with leading our nation. They've demoralized our people and caused the loss of so many of our friends around the world. We have a leader who can rightly be blamed for most of what ails us now. Compliance with his policies by his puppets have allowed over 170,000 deaths of Americans from COVID-19. His response, "It

is what it is!" 30 million Americans are unemployed and the man in the White House only "speaks" support of a continuing lifeline to our citizens. That same man has crippled the post office we need to maximize voting opportunities. His deliberate efforts to suppress the vote acknowledge his understanding the policies of his party are mainly objectionable to so many Americans. Again, he's hedging his bet with Russian interference in our election.

The theme advanced from the Democratic convention was the fact that, despite the negatives of #45, the election is not a gimme. If Democrats want it, more than Black people will have to work for it every day from now to November 3rd late into the night and maybe a few days later until all the votes are counted.

We mustn't forget the inspirational words of these great speakers—especially the powerful women of whom I am so proud. How can any woman not be proud? We must use each word of promise as inspiration to do all we can to make November 3rd a glorious day for the American people that says, "Democrats have just shown us what America should look like in order to perfect our union." Joe Biden is an old friend, and he has been through the years. We know Joe, but more important, Joe knows us, and he has for a very long time.

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

Black male sexism confronting Sen. Kamala Harris' vice presidency

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Sexism is raising its ugly head again and this time it is not just White men who trashed Hillary Clinton in 2016. This time the rumblings are coming from some Black men. And their target is U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, the first Afro/Asian woman nominee as vice president on a U.S. major political party ticket. Hopefully, the Black male inquisitionists and Sen. Harris will sit down together and work this out.

Right out the box, the mentally challenged Trump, who championed the lie that Barack Obama was unfit to be president because he wasn't USA born did the same thing to Harris. The Senator was born in Oakland to a mother from India and a father from Jamaica, but Trump began spreading the message that her heritage disqualified her as a vice president designee.

These antics are expected from a White Supremacist president who thinks people of color aren't fit for much of anything, but a nascent anti-Kamala narrative from Black male corridors is troubling. The GOP is bringing out its heaviest artillery to suppress the Black vote and a Black male problem could be detrimental to the life and death cause of getting rid of Trump.

Remember polls show that Black women voted an overwhelmingly 96 percent for Hillary Clinton in 2016, but Black men voted up to 13 percent to Trump—the man who called football players kneeling in protest of police brutality SOB's and Black homelands ".itholes." Perhaps if Trump would just throw a few business crumbs their way it didn't matter how he was crushing voting rights and killing social programs while fattening the coffers of his billionaire cronies.

Now I hear rumbling that the Black male vote could go as high as 15 percent for Trump—a sure sign of self-emasculation—because some feel they are being taken for granted by the Democrats and Harris as VP might even make it worse.

How could they throw gasoline on the GOP fire that is already burning down the house of Black America? I raised this question in complete anguish.

What happens when some Black men don't have a house," Professor Keith Magee, a London-based social justice scholar responded. "Most of the political rhetoric isn't about Black men who are at the bottom. The Talented Tenth are seated at the table and are not including Booker T. Washington's Negroes. These poor and marginalized Black men are not included in these high and lofty conversations. Whites, no matter how poor they are, have the privilege of their white skin. No matter who's elected they wake up White, knowing that they will never be treated as badly as Black men. You don't see White cops kneeling them to death."

At the center of the harsh feelings some Black men have about Harris started in her pre-Senate era. She was California's attorney general, as well as district attorney of San Francisco. In those positions she reportedly came down like a hammer

Barbara Reynolds

Commentary



on Black men, often unfairly prosecuting them too heavy-handed on non-violent offenses, especially marijuana.

If her record is not perfect, I'd like to know which politicians in the last 200 years did dot every i and cross every t. Compared to Trump/Pence who were too disrespectful of Blacks to even send a representative to the funeral of our hero Rep. John Lewis or take the police to task for the murder of George Floyd, Biden and Harris still smell like roses in a crowd of skunks.

Some of this disdain toward Sen. Harris simply Black male sexism, which is as deep-seated in Black culture as White male supremacy is in White circles. In 1760 former slave Richard Allen and his group bolted from St George's church in Philadelphia because of segregated worship services and launched the first African Methodist Episcopal church. Although the struggle was about racism, the preaching pioneers refused to ordain Black women. To this day, several Black denominations—as well as White ones—still refuse to ordain women as pastors or preachers, preferring to retain this sexist rigidity by not even allowing women to preach from their pulpits.

In the civil rights movement, many recall the famous lines of SNCC head Stokely Carmichael that the only place for women in the movement was "prone." In the August 28 March on Washington there were two lines of civil rights leaders marching on separate streets; one for male civil rights leaders and one for their female counterparts. According to USA TODAY, civil rights leaders like Rosa Parks and Dorothy Height walked down Independence Avenue, while the men proceeded down Pennsylvania with the press.

In 1972, I was in the room with unbossed, unbought New York representative Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to win a seat in congress when she was uppity enough to vie for president as a Democrat. I was there when segregationist-minded Black male politicians confronted her and worked against her, of course to no avail.

Latently, we have seen the rise of Black women politically 122 Black or multi-racial Black women

who filed to run for congressional seats in this year's election; this figure has increased steadily since 2012, when it was 48, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). Good news but Black women are still underrepresented. They are nearly 8 percent of the U.S. population, but 4.3 percent of Congress and Sen. Harris is the only Black woman in the Senate, according to a report here by the Center of Women and Politics. If Democrat Joe Biden becomes president, he has promised a Black woman will finally have a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yet, while some Black male egos seem bruised as they see Black women rise, they should remember that most Black women as author Alice Walker proclaimed are not feminists, like most of the White female activists who war against men. Black female leaders emphasize lifting the entire family as they climb, especially wanting the Black males at their side. Also, Black women have a history of working tirelessly in the background to help men get elected to political office, before they enter in.

Moreover, Black women are statistically at or near the bottom of the battle in wages—in medium income, fair wages, and ascends to health care. The latest statistics show Black men earn 75 percent of what White men earn doing the same work and Black women earn 64 percent—meaning both groups suffer from economic racism.

Stephanie Myers, co-founder of Black Women for Biden says, "It would be great for Senator Kamala Harris to hold forums with Black Men for Biden and other Black men, to hear about the issues and concerns of Black men." She also points out that there are several Black male led groups working for Biden-Harris within her organization.

Now is not the time for an argument to drag on about which gender is going to reign if Biden wins. If Trump continues his dictatorial reign, thousands more will die because of his incompetence and malfeasance of COVID 19, our children are being forced back into unsafe schools; the Postal Service has been sabotaged to stop mail-in ballots from arriving on time for the Nov. 3 election.

As Dr. King once warned "we either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or die together as fools."

Pittsburgh Courier

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– University of Pittsburgh Physicians located at U. S. Steel Tower, 57th Floor, 600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, seeks Diagnostic Radiologist to provide subspecialty abdominal imaging services approximately 50% of the time; remaining 50% of the time shall be spent performing general radiology duties, including fluoroscopy, minor percutaneous interventions, basic neuro MRI, and basic nuclear medicine; shall monitor and diagnose illnesses and injuries utilizing the results from computed tomography (CT) scans, ultrasounds, magnetic resonance imaging technology (MRI), radiography, nuclear medicine, and fluoroscopy at 2775 Mossdale Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146, 200 Lothrop St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 1400 Locust St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219, 5230 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232, 9100 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 1 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Township, PA 16066, 1211 Wilmington Ave., New Castle, PA 16105, 1500 Fifth Ave., McKeesport, PA 15132, and 815 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15215. Work may be performed at additional work sites in the area of intended employment, as yet unknown or unpredictable. Applicant must have medical degree or foreign equivalent, must have completed a residency in Radiology plus at least one year of fellowship training involving advanced abdominal imaging, must be Board Eligible or Board Certified by the American Board of Radiology, and must have a valid Pennsylvania medical license. Position requires travel to worksites within 55 miles. Apply by following these steps; visit <http://careers.upmc.com> and enter 200001TU in the "Search Keyword/Job ID" field and click Go. EOE/Disability/Veteran.



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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:

NOTICE OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

The Trustee named below gives notice of the death of **Denis Duffy**, late of Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who died on **June 6, 2020**. During his lifetime, the said Decedent established the Denis Duffy Family Trust dated **October 2, 2007** and the same has been mostly recently amended by writing dated **June 3, 2020** of which Gregory J. Jones was as Trustee. The Trustee requests all persons having claims against 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. Gregory J. Jones, Trustee 6575 Quaker Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 or to Todd A. Fuller, Atty., Brenlove & Fuller, LLC, 401 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017

THE ESTATE OF MARIO L. TOLLIS AKA MARIO TOLLIS, Estate No. 02-20-03446, of the City of Coropolis, County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Linda Tollis Administratrix, c/o 504 State Street, Suite 300, Erie, PA 16501; Attorney Alan Natalie, Esquire, 504 State Street, Suite 300 Erie, PA 16501

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the provisions of the Fictitious Names Act of Pennsylvania that an application for Registration of a fictitious name (was/will be) filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the conduct of a business under the fictitious name of **PETS HAPPY STUFF** with its principal office or place of business at 3129 EWART DR. PITTSBURGH, PA 15219. The names and addresses, including street and number, if any, of all persons who are parties to the registration are: Stacey Muhammad, 3129, Ewart Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Notice

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

The Community College Board of Trustees will hold a meeting on **September 3, 2020**. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually beginning at **4:00p.m.** and streamed on **CCAC's YouTube** page at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHredThkcvF-8JzeHw8g_A. A copy of the Agenda for the Board meeting will be made available for review on the College's website (www.ccac.edu) on **August 31, 2020**. Comments regarding items scheduled for action by the Board may be submitted via email to brichardson@ccac.edu by no later than **3:00 p.m.** on the date of the meeting. Comments will be read into the record, up to a maximum of three minutes each.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

OPENING OF WAITING LIST
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 • **Lemington Senior Housing – (one- (1) bedroom units only)** – 1625 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

These units require the head of household, spouse or co-head of household to be at least 62 years of age. Not all households will be eligible for a one- (1) bedroom unit, as the age, relationships and number of household members affects the number of bedrooms for which a household is eligible. Income and eligibility restrictions of the Housing Choice Voucher Program apply. **Pre-applications will be accepted online ONLY at www.hacp.org** and can be submitted from any computer, laptop or smartphone with internet access. No pre-applications will be accepted before **8:00 a.m., Friday, September 4, 2020**. Printed pre-applications will not be available at any of the HACP properties or offices.

Position on the waiting list will be determined based upon date and time the completed pre-application is accepted by the on-line system. As forty eight- (48) of the units available meet the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), persons/families that require the features of a wheelchair accessible unit are highly encouraged to apply. Please be advised that part of HACP's eligibility determination process includes the provisions of its reasonable accommodation policy, requiring persons/families to request an accommodation to qualify a person/family for a wheelchair accessible unit. For more information on HACP's reasonable accommodation policy and qualification for a wheelchair accessible unit, please contact the Disability Compliance Office at 412-456-5282.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to submit a pre-application can contact the HACP's Disability Compliance Office at 412-456-5282. For those that are deaf or hard of hearing, you can also contact HACP at TDD: 412-201-5384.

Additional information is available by contacting the HACP Occupancy Department at 412-456-5030 or by visiting our website at www.hacp.org. This event is for Project Based Vouchers for Lemington Senior Housing **ONLY** and is completely separate from the HACP Housing Choice Voucher and Low Income Public Housing Programs.



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 Project: Design/Build of NSRFP Pirates Quay Repairs
 RFP Available: **August 21, 2020**
 Pre-Proposal Meeting: **3:00pm August 26, 2020 (non-mandatory)**
 NSRFPF, Great Lawn (next to WWII Memorial)
 Time/Date/Location for Proposal Submittal: **2:00 p.m. September 3, 2020**
 SEA, 171 10th Street, 2nd Floor, Pgh, PA 15222

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR REMOVAL AND REBUILDING OF RETAINING WALLS AT 3929 WINSHIRE REBID IFB #300-23-20-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):

Removal and Rebuilding of Retaining Walls at 3929 Winshire Rebid

The documents will be available no later than **August 24, 2020** and signed, sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 A.M. on September 15, 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 September 15, 2020 in the lobby of 100 Ross St. Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bids may 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 **September 3, 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.



PUBLIC NOTICE Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2023

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26, Port Authority of Allegheny County hereby announces the following as its proposed overall DBE participation goal for **Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2023 (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023): 19.01%**

This goal represents the percentage of work to be accomplished by DBE prime contractors, subcontractors, consultants and material suppliers for professional services, construction, technical services and material/supply procurement contracts on federal-aid transit projects.

The proposed goal and its rationale are available for public review, for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice, upon request. Please send requests to sbroadus@portauthority.org. Written comments will also be accepted by Port Authority of Allegheny County for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments via email at DBEProgram@portauthority.org or mail to:

Port Authority of Allegheny County
 Office of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise & Diverse Business
 Heinz 57 Center
 345 Sixth Avenue, Floor 5
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH

Sealed bids will be received in the Bellefield Avenue Lobby, Administration Building, 341 South Bellefield Avenue until **11:00 A.M.** prevailing time **September 1, 2020** and will be opened at the same hour in the administration building cafeteria:
Window Cleaning-Variou Locations

General Information regarding bids may be obtained at the Purchasing Office, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, RM 349 Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The bid documents are available on the School District's Purchasing web site at: www.pghschools.org Click on Our Community; Bid Opportunities; Purchasing-under Quick Links.

The Board of Public Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or select a single item from any bid.
 We are an equal rights and opportunity school district

8432 6619 0501 4719 2011 5510 8351 314 090 462 518 595 412 003 32 12 92 26 18 51 66

GRANNY! WHAT ARE YOU GIVING YOUR FAVORITE SON-IN-LAW FOR HIS BIRTHDAY?

CLOSE YOUR EYES SON-IN-LAW! WHAT DO YOU SEE?

NOTHING!!

BILL MURRAY THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GETTING!!

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How Trump plans to win, and it's scary

Everyone knows that Trump will turn the 2020 presidential campaign into the dirtiest, vilest, non-stop attack leaden campaign in U.S. history. Everyone knows that because Trump virtually told us. He has called Biden and Harris every name in the book and hurled every insult he could think of at both. When the dust settles after the close of the Republican National Convention, Trump will kick his dirty campaign into higher gear.

However, there's much more to the Trump victory game plan than his standard schoolyard name calling and finger pointing. He tipped the first one with his talk to the GOP-aligned Council for National Policy when he snatched a page from the 1968 presidential campaign playbook of Richard Nixon. He railed that he will be the arch defender of America's beleaguered, disrespected, and under siege police. He will rip the demands to defund and, even more terrifying to some, abolish the police. He'll conjure up the image of a Black Lives Matter as a nihilistic, anti-White, anti-police, lawless group. He'll make the law and order sell to nervous, fearful voters in the swing states, and right leaning independents. They are the ones Trump again banks on to tip the scales in the crucial swing states in his direction.

He'll make more wild claims that he single-handedly turned the American economy around, created more jobs than ever in history, and that he will do even more

Earl Ofari Hutchinson



to ensure the good times keep rolling for Americans with four more years. This is a warmed-over version of the old supply side economic policies that mirrors Reagan's 1980s campaign pitches. This gives him the hook he needs to boast that Americans will reap rewards with his economic policies.

Then he'll paint the standard conservative smear of Biden and the Democrats as tax and spend, liberal big government proponents. He banks that this will still strike a chord with millions of voters. He'll have the perfect foil in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democratic controlled House's seeming gargantuan COVID stimulus recovery spending plans. This openly and subtly stokes a large segment of middle- and working-class workers' disdain for liberal solutions to problems.

He'll stand his fumbling, bumbling, colossal inept handling of the COVID pandemic on its head and make the case that he did everything right and even saved lives and prevented the economy from totally falling to pieces. He gave a preview of that lie with his praise of the first responders and health care workers in his speech to the Council for National Policy. The boast was that he was the one who set the wheels in motion to damp down the crisis. He'll repeat his bogus claim that he was the one who cut through the fog of Congress and took executive action to stop evictions, boost unemployment payouts, and help bail the states out.

In 2016 nearly everyone wrote Trump off as a sure loser to Hillary Clinton. Some are inching close to doing that again versus Biden. This is a mistake. There is always a path for a Trump White House win no matter how bad things appear on the surface for him. There's his base. Much is still made that there aren't enough less educated, blue-collar, and rural Whites in the electorate to push Trump over the top. But elections are almost always won by candidates with a solid and impassioned core of bloc voters. In Trump's case, White males, older voters, middle-income, college educated voters vote consistently and faithfully. They vote in a far greater percentage than Hispanics and Blacks, and especially young voters. Trump also got a lot of votes from middle-class Whites, both male and female, college educated, business, and professionals. They had one thing in common and that one thing wasn't borderline bigotry, loathing of Clinton, or dislike and rejection of a Democrat. They still wanted what powered Obama's 2008 win—change.

Clinton simply was not that change to them. Biden may not be either to many. To them, he is the consummate beltway established, corporate influenced, deal making politician. The Biden name is the embodiment of that image and dislike. Trump sold himself as the counter to that as well as to the GOP establishment. He was the anti-politician, politician. This time around he can have his cake and eat it too. He'll still play the role of the enraged citizen politician that well blast away at all the polite conventions of politics. But he'll also have the GOP establishment with their mountains of cash and millions of rock-solid GOP voters firmly behind him.

In between, he'll play his stock racial, anti-immigrant, and bash Hispanics race card. He'll have the usual never-ending barrage of free media time that he gets with every one of his silly, dumb, idiotic, and insulting tweets and utterances that dominate the 24-hour cable news cycle. This guarantees that his name will be splattered before the public no matter how hard he's attacked.

The Trump-Biden slugfest will be brutal and ugly just as Trump wants it to be. This is what makes his plan to win so scary.

(Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst.)

Creating a gentrified guilt complex

In 2006, author Shelby Steele published, *White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era*. Steele described White guilt as the vacuum of moral authority that comes from simply knowing that one's race is associated with racism.

Therefore, Whites (and American institutions) must acknowledge historical racism to show themselves redeemed of it, but once they acknowledge it, they lose moral authority over everything having to do with race, equality, social justice, and poverty. The authority Whites lose transfers to the "victims" of historical racism and becomes the victim's source of power in society.

Steele went further: Anger is not inevitable for the oppressed; it is chosen when weakness in the oppressor means it will be effective in winning some kind of spoils. Anger in the oppressed is a response to perceived opportunity, not to injustice. Injustices create only the potential for anger, but weakness in the oppressor calls out anger, even when there is no injustice. In both the best and the worst sense of the word, Black rage is always a kind of opportunism.

Last month, in Kentucky, Black Lives Matter Louisville created a social justice rating system to grade establishments in the NuLu Business District. Grade A = Ally, meaning the establishment supported Black liberation and met the requirements. Grade C = Complicit, meaning the establishment failed to meet 2 or more of the requirements. Grade F = Failure, meaning the establishment failed to meet minimum requirements including failure to create a safe space for Black inclusion. The requirements, which were actually social justice demands, were the following:

- 1). Establishments must have 23 percent BIPOC on staff
 - 2). Establishments must receive 23 percent of inventory from BIPOC businesses
 - 3). Establishments must make regular donations to BIPOC organizations
 - 4). No dress codes that discriminate against BIPOC patrons or employees.
- The activist expected NuLu business owners to sign a contract that stated: I, a business owner in the gentrified

J. Pharoah Doss

Check It Out



NuLu Business District, understand that gentrification targets poor and disadvantaged communities of color. I acknowledge that the original residents of Louisville's Clarksdale community, which was demolished to make way for NuLu, have been harmed by displacement. I acknowledge that my business has played a part in the harm done to Clarksdale's original residents, who have received no economic benefits from our occupation.

The reaction from NuLu's business owners ranged from weak, to mild, to extreme. Some owners believed they had a responsibility to admit gentrification occurred and they should play an active part in increasing diversity in the district. Other owners felt the activists had a legitimate grievance, but disagreed that the NuLu district was part of the gentrification that took place at Clarksdale. Then there were owners that insisted that the activists were using mafia shakedown tactics to achieve their goals. In response to the last group of business owners one activist warned, "How you respond to this is how people will remember you in this moment. You want to be on the right side of justice at all times."

Another social justice demand centering around gentrification happened earlier this month in Seattle. The Seattle Times reported that Seattle was the third most gentrified city in the United States. The city's Central District has seen a dramatic drop in Black residents. The paper estimated by the next decade the Central District will be 10 percent Black, down from 73 percent Black in 1970. A small group of Black Lives Matter activists went on a march to demand for White people to give up their homes as a form of reparations for gentrification.

Ta-Nehisi Coates's 2014 article, "The Case for Reparations," contained a list of historical grievances in the subtitle: Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Then Coates wrote: Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.

These activists just added gentrification to America's compounding moral debt and will continue to guilt the present in an effort to gain from the past.

White supremacy is falling down

White supremacy is falling down: Right On!

Right wing reactionaries across the United States danced in the streets and cheered as loud as they could when the monuments celebrating communism in Europe and Asia were toppled with the collapse of the Soviet Union several decades ago.

Now, US reactionaries are denouncing as loud as they can the rising popular movement to topple the thousands of monuments constructed to celebrate White supremacy in the United States.

Everyone does, or should, know these statues and other monuments were not constructed solely to pay homage to some so-called "lost" Confederate "heritage" of yesterday.

They were also raised to inspire and encourage White racists for eternity.

Without doubt, Dylann Roof, the unapologetic mass murderer of nine African Americans in a Charleston South Carolina church, was inspired by and worshipped all of the monuments, "Made in The USA."

They were first constructed during the era immediately after the fall of the brief Reconstruction governments in the American south. In that era, state sponsored violence massacred untold thousands of Black people to force Black people "Back Toward Slavery" into grinding abject poverty, and mass suffering under the exploitation of sharecropper feudalism.

The African American historian Ray-

Fred Logan

Commentary



ford Logan (no kin to this Fred Logan) called this era the "Nadir" in African American history.

These monuments were raised and reigned as White racist moral and religious support for the Nadir.

They have blessed and sanctioned each and every individual and systemic crime of White supremacy since they were constructed. Their very existence served to bless the entire era of America's public lynchings in the South and elsewhere.

They sanctioned the entire history of pogroms, genocide and other crimes against the indigenous 500 Nations of the North American continent.

They sanctioned the 1921 pogrom against Black people in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They blessed the US concentration camps for Japanese Americans in the 1940s. They blessed the state murder of George Floyd several weeks ago in Milwaukee.

They inspire and encourage the 24/7 racist tirades, policies and body language of the sitting US president Donald Trump.

These monuments do not stand passive. They are not some sentimental memorabilia like old trolley cars retired to some American history museum.

They are frontline weapons in White supremacy's relentless war to dominate the world.

Each and every time one is toppled it is a resounding victory for all of the sworn enemies of White supremacy. Right on!

Jesse Jackson Sr.

Commentary



New generation of protests holds great promise for America

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—The inspiring rise of a new generation protesting against racial injustice is driving a new era of change in America, like the generation that emerged 60 years ago to build the civil rights movement of that time. July 16, 1960 is marked in my memory: that is the day I joined seven other friends to walk into the Whites only Greenville Library, and to be arrested for violating the segregation laws. That was more than five years after the 1954 *Brown v. Board Supreme Court* decision that declared "separate but equal"—the lie that justified segregation—a violation of the U.S. Constitution. Yet in Greenville, South Carolina, where I grew up, nothing had changed.

We still lived in a segregated bubble. The public library, the buses, the schools, the pool—all were still segregated. There were no Black police officers, or firemen, no Black elected officials. Even the graveyard was segregated. Our options were limited. For example, graduating from high school, I could not even apply to Furman or to Clemson or to the University of South Carolina. I went to the University of Illinois on a football scholarship. When I returned from Christmas vacation in 1959, I could not use the public library to do my assignments. The Blacks-only library did not have the book I needed; the white library did, but I could not walk in the door. I vowed that I would not accept that when I came home in the summer. Protests were beginning to spread, as a young generation decided to burst the bubble of segregation and claim their rights under the Constitution. Students in Nashville and Greensboro and elsewhere were beginning the sit-ins.

The July demonstration at the library was a turning point in my life, as demonstrations were for many across the South. We met with fierce resistance. We were denounced as outside agitators, tarred as socialists or communists, and suffered from violent opposition from private vigilantes and uniformed police officers. But the movement kept building and would not go back. In 1964, we won the Public Accommodations Act, that declared an end to segregated public facilities. In 1965, we won the Voting Rights Act, propelled in part by the horrible spectacle of the police riot on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Personally, I started working with Dr. King in 1965. The barriers that we struck down opened the way for a new South. Industries and modern companies like CNN would come to the South.

As universities desegregated, so did athletic fields. Professional teams like the Atlanta Braves could be built. African Americans began to win elections at the state, local and national level. We broke the chains of legal apartheid in the United States and transformed the country. Yet, as we have witnessed time and again, we did not end racism in this country. We did not succeed in breaking the biased institutional structures that still enforce racial injustice—from red-lined neighborhoods to savagely unequal schools to wage and hiring discrimination to a dangerously discriminatory criminal justice system.

Dr. King's drive for economic equality as the next stage of the civil rights movement was cut short by his assassination. Now a new generation is emerging to challenge these injustices. The demonstrations in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder have been the largest in our history. On opinion surveys, a stunning 15 million to 26 million Americans report that they have participated in demonstrations for Black lives in 2,500 places from small towns to big cities. Forty percent of the counties in the country have witnessed protests. White participation has far exceeded that in the first civil rights movement. And already politicians have begun to respond—reforming police practices, banning choke holds. Mississippi legislators voted to retire the state flag with its Confederate battle emblem.

This new generation of protest holds great promise for America. Despite its breadth and depth, it will face great resistance—and not simply from a Donald Trump desperate to discredit it for his political purposes. Entrenched interests will resist change. The movement is focused on reforming areas—criminal injustice, economic inequalities, basic economic and political rights—that threaten the privileged and the powerful. Yet what we learned 60 years ago is that when people move, change is possible. Then the powerful forces of segregation that seemed overwhelming could not withstand the moral force of a generation not willing to put up with glaring injustice silently. Now this generation has an opportunity to make America better, and the lives and options of millions are at stake in their struggle. This is a time for anyone with a conscience and a pulse to join this extraordinary movement.



Pitt Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner tells students: 'Your behavior is threatening a successful fall term for all of us'

University of Pittsburgh Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner wrote an open letter to all Pitt students on Aug. 19, making sure they take accountability for adverse actions that could permeate a large number of COVID-19 infections across Pitt's campus. In-person classes were set to begin on Aug. 24, but the university has now postponed all in-person classes until at least Sept. 14. Classes for now are online-only.

Pitt students are already in residence halls, off-campus apartments and hotel rooms that the university has blocked off as de-facto

dormitories.

COVID-19 has already forced changes at universities like Notre Dame and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. And late Tuesday, Aug. 25, the University of Alabama announced it had more than 500 positive cases on campus, and at Ohio State University, 80 students had tested positive.

The New Pittsburgh Courier has obtained the open letter to students from Pitt Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner:

Dear Pitt students,
Over the past few days, I have been alerted by stu-

dents, parents and community members that a large number of students are holding and attending parties without wearing face coverings and without observing physical distancing guidelines.

Let me be clear: Your behavior is threatening a successful fall term for all of us.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, after only one week of classes, transitioned to an entirely remote plan for the semester when more than 170 students tested positive for COVID-19. Early reports indicate that off-campus house parties and parties hosted by fraternities and sororities played a significant role in spreading the virus. Last night, Aug. 18, the University of Notre Dame immediately suspended in-person classes following a surge of 80 new cases of COVID-19, which were linked to off-campus parties.

Your actions have consequences. If you want to experience campus life as well as in-person classes this semester, then support the health and well-being of the members of our community with your actions.

Let me be clear about the consequences:

When students and student organizations are reported for violating the Student Code of Conduct Health and Safety rules, interim housing suspensions and/or Persona Non Grata (PNG) restrictions will apply while a hearing is being conducted. PNG status means the student is restricted from access to all university buildings and grounds.

If a student hosts a large party and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to disciplinary suspension

through the semester.

If a student organization hosts a large party or event and is found responsible for a violation, the organization will be sanctioned to interim suspension of registration for no less than the remainder of the semester. If the organization has an active conduct history, the suspension may be extended.

If a student living in a residence hall attends a large party and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to housing suspension through the semester.

If a student living off campus attends a large party and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to permanent Persona Non Grata (PNG) status through the semester.

My expectations are clear: Do not hold or attend parties where physical distancing is not possible or where attendees are not following face covering requirements. You need to exercise common sense. Most apartments cannot safely hold more than 4-5 people while accounting for physical distancing of 6-feet between people.

Do not socialize with people who are not part of your pod while you are sheltering in place.

If you are an off-campus student, your pod consists of the people you live with.

If you are an on-campus student, you have been assigned your pod.

Wear face coverings when indoors and near others who are not in your pod.

Wear face coverings when outdoors and when physical distancing is not always possible, as on a busy sidewalk.

When in doubt, wear a face covering.

Wear your face covering



KENYON BONNER

properly—it must cover both your mouth and nose.

Practice good hand hygiene and avoid touching high-touch surfaces with your hands.

These are reasonable and easy precautions to take during a pandemic, so hold yourself and others accountable. If you see Pitt-affiliates breaking these guidelines—students, faculty or staff—then report the behavior.

A report about a COVID-related concern can be filed on the coronavirus.pitt.edu website. A conduct referral on a student violating Pitt's guidelines can be filed (online) or the "Public Health and Safety Conduct Referral" form can be found on the home page for Student

Affairs. The more information you can provide, the better able we are to follow up with appropriate consequences.

Since February, we have all had the time to learn about this virus and adapt to our new public health environment. Now it is time to demonstrate that you understand this is serious business, with serious consequences. We have one chance to get this right.

So take care of business, start the semester right, and mask up.

Sincerely,
Kenyon Bonner



KENYON BONNER was a New Pittsburgh Courier "Men of Excellence" honoree in 2017.

McAuley Ministries awards \$2.1 million in grants to local organizations

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that McAuley Ministries, Pittsburgh Mercy's grant-making foundation, on Aug. 20, announced 29 new grants totaling \$2,123,190 to support advocacy, health & wellness, community & economic development, education, and capacity building initiatives in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Uptown, and West Oakland communities. McAuley Ministries continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by awarding Phase II Emergency Operational Support grants of \$260,000 to 13 community partners, so they can continue serving vulnerable populations by providing food, shelter, child care, educational support, and other resources.

The West Oakland-based, grant-making foundation awards approximately \$3.5 million in grants annually, making it one of the region's largest philanthropic foundations.

Michele Rone Cooper, executive director of McAuley Ministries, noted in the press release that the foundation's goal was to balance the emergency

needs of the community by sustaining those organizations that are providing critical support during the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing to invest in initiatives that will have a longer term impact on the health and development of the foundation's focus neighborhoods.

Grouped by grant-making priorities, some of the recipients of the most recent grants are:

Emergency Response to COVID-19

Acculturation for Justice Access & Peace Outreach (AJAPO): \$15,000; ACH Clear Pathways: \$25,000; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Inc.: \$25,000; Center That CARES: \$10,000; Extra Mile Education Foundation, Inc.: \$10,000; Friendship Community Presbyterian Church/The Corner: \$15,000; Hug Me Tight Childlife Centers: \$10,000; Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center: \$50,000; Neighborhood Resilience Project: \$25,000; Schenley Heights Community Development Program: \$10,000; Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and Veteran's Home:

\$25,000; Sister's Place: \$25,000; The Intersection, Inc.: \$15,000.

Advocacy

Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP): \$50,000, to increase voter engagement, education, overall participation, and turn-out of Pittsburgh's Black community; Hill District Consensus Group: \$100,000, payable over two years, to provide housing justice programs for low-to moderate-income people, helping renters and homeowners navigate public/private resources, legal systems, and supports to prevent homelessness; The POISE Foundation: \$10,000, to support the Human Equity and Justice Fund which will provide financial support to organizations and movements that are on the frontlines responding to crises that significantly impact the Black community, or advancing youth-led social change and community-based intergenerational collaborations and programming.

Community & Economic Development

Community At Holy Family Manor, Inc.: \$50,000, to

provide home repairs for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners; Hill Community Development Corporation: \$500,000, for developing a commercial and cultural corridor along Centre Avenue, anchored by New Granada Square, a mixed-use epicenter of office, educational, food, art, and performance space; NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania: \$50,000, to support a second mortgage lending program that will make homeownership more attainable to renters in the Hill District and throughout the Pittsburgh region; Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh: \$450,000, payable over three years, to provide repairs focused on owner-occupied low-income homeowners living in the Hill District.

Education

Reading is FUNDamental Pittsburgh: \$300,000, payable over three years, to support literacy programs in the Hill District community; The Pittsburgh Promise Foundation: \$50,000, payable over two years, to establish "Promise Coaches" at Pittsburgh Milliones University Preparatory School. The coaches will

serve all students providing personal career exploration and appropriate interventions to ensure Promise-readiness upon graduation; The Pittsburgh Promise Foundation: \$50,000, payable over two years, to establish "Promise Coaches" at Pittsburgh Milliones University Preparatory School. The coaches will serve all students providing personal career exploration and appropriate interventions to ensure Promise-readiness upon graduation.

Capacity Building

Citizen Science Lab: \$25,000, to help support operations of its outreach programs with the Hill District's young future scientists; Hill District Consensus Group: \$10,000, to support development of a strategic plan for #ArtsI-nHD aimed at advancing arts and culture in the Hill District; Hill District Consensus Group: \$14,780, to support work with the CMU Create Lab team to design an IT solution that will track referrals and outcomes from their housing navigation program; Jubilee Association, Inc.: \$25,000, to help bridge the

gap between affordability and the cost of doing business created by COVID-19 in order to keep the child development center open and to continue to provide a quality experience for students; Neighborhood Allies: \$50,000, supporting Amani Christian Development and Communion™ to complete community planning for Herron Avenue and develop a site plan for the renovation of a building on Herron and Wylie for affordable live/work space; Neighborhood Allies: \$150,000, payable over three years, to continue building healthy neighborhoods through investments in financial, human, social, and intellectual capital in under-resourced communities; Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and Veteran's Home: \$28,410, to provide heavy-duty metal doors with protective, built-in viewfinders and increase the number of security cameras to better protect Veterans, staff, and volunteers from external threats and dangers.

The Courier
is THE VOICE
of Black
Pittsburgh.



Inspired by Civil Rights Movement heroes, I march on

I harbor no illusions about the struggle to eradicate systemic racism within the United States. But I remain undeterred just as my grandmother did when she eagerly joined marchers led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Ala., to ensure the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Her motivation: Her parents had been denied the right to vote through racist Jim Crow laws, including the ridiculous requirement of reciting the U.S. Constitution to gain a spot at the voting booth. Additionally, my grandmother felt compelled to join the Civil Rights Movement because she wanted a better life for herself and other Black people who had been educated in older school buildings and taught by teachers who only had access to outdated textbooks. Furthermore, she was incensed that her father, a superb bricklayer, had been subjected to such injustices, even though he played an integral role in building Sel-

ma Memorial Hospital. "This is 1965, not 1865!" she often exclaimed in frustration about her racist environment.

My great-grandparents feared for my grandmother's life as she, her cousin and best friend joined marches that were organized at the historic Brown Chapel AME Church, where Dr. King outlined the guidelines for peaceful protests. The marchers were also keenly aware of dangers that lurked: they could be blasted with fire hoses, attacked by vicious dogs or sent to jail. My grandmother's high school principal had gotten word that she was participating in the protests and even threatened to withhold her high school diploma.

Undeterred, my grandmother marched on, but everything did not go as smoothly as she had hoped. Her best friend was blasted with a water hose and needed oxygen. My grandmother was visibly upset by the incident, and after learning that her friend would

be alright, she pressed on like so many others in the movement. Her friend even encouraged my grandmother to go on, despite the trauma she

Fast forward to 2020, and I, too, remain undeterred as I march in the Black Lives Matter movement. The injustices that Black people face



Commentary

Autumn
L. Johnson

had endured.

My grandmother's courage and determination paid off when, a few months after she graduated from high school, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act into law, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting. Later, she moved to Pittsburgh where she raised her two children and spent more than 40 years working as a nurse at Allegheny General Hospital.

are not that far removed from the 1960s when my grandmother marched. The police are called on us for frivolous reasons: bird-watching, swimming and running, among others. Additionally, the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, strengthening voter suppression.

Moreover, police brutality continues to disproportionately affect the Black community. Although Black people make up 13 percent of the U.S. popu-

lation, they accounted for 28 percent of deaths by police since 2013, according to Mapping Police Violence, a research collaborative collecting comprehensive data on police killings nationwide to quantify the impact of police violence in communities. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Elijah McClain are just a few of the countless people of color who were unarmed and died at the hands of police. Justice needs to be served in these cases, as well as untold others. It is also my hope that the police receive the training they need to better serve diverse communities.

Meanwhile, I will not give up doing my part to eradicate systemic racism in America. I know that I am not alone in this fight. I am inspired by my grandmother and the legacies of Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Dorothy Height, the late Congressman John Lewis and C.T. Vivian, and countless others who were unsung heroes in the movement. I'm also heartened by the di-

versity of the protesters throughout the world, including people who have marched in Washington, D.C. and in my community of Columbia, Md. The sense of community among the marchers gives me hope that, together, we can make a real difference in this struggle.

I know that, in addition to marching, I must remain committed to voting in each and every election. My grandmother and so many others put their lives on the line so that I could have that right. And I do not take it for granted. Again, I am not naïve about the work it will take to end systemic racism in the United States. But I remain encouraged based on what my grandmother and so many other civil rights advocates were able to accomplish before me.

(Autumn L. Johnson, who was born in Pittsburgh, is a nursing student at Morgan State University, an HBCU in Baltimore. Her grandmother, Lois Brazil-Lowman, lives in Manchester.)

LIP SERVICE—THE NFL'S HOLLOW APOLOGIES

Colin Kaepernick can't get a job in the NFL. But the officers who caused Elijah McClain's death in Colorado are still employed.

A few days ago, on Aug. 24, I woke up to a video of the police shooting an unarmed Black man seven times as he opened the door of a parked vehicle in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The seven shots in his back were supposed to kill him. But thankfully, he is still alive. His name? Jacob Blake. Unlike Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tamir Rice or Elijah McClain, Jacob Blake is still alive. Yet his story is one of tragedy.

Colin Kaepernick knelt on the ground in 2016 and asked us to recognize the brown and Black men and women who were enduring police brutality and racial injustice. He begged us to acknowledge their cries and to protest peacefully. When George Floyd was murdered at the hands of police officers a few months ago on May 25, his death

sparked Black Lives Matter protests around the nation and world.

These many years later, the NFL has formally apologized for their response to the peaceful protests on their football fields. Roger Goodell, the NFL Commissioner, issued a video statement on June 5, stating, "We were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier."

He went on to state, "Without Black players, there would be no National Football League and the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality, and oppression of Black players, coaches, fans, and staff."

Oddly and purposefully, he did not specifically mention Colin Kaepernick in his apology.

Major corporations have openly stated that Black Lives Matter and that

they stand against police brutality and racial injustice. Other sports organizations such as the NBA have incorporated Black Lives Matter into



Commentary

Alexis
Sara
Cobb

the fabric of their playoff uniforms. Even NASCAR has acknowledged that Black Lives Matter and have banned the confederate flag. But you know who sits at home, hoping for a phone call? Colin Kaepernick.

You see, everyone's "Black Lives Matter" in the NFL except for Colin Kaepernick's Black livelihood. He is still being made an example. He is

still being punished for speaking out against police brutality and racial injustice. Is it a matter of talent? No. Is it a matter of work ethic? No. We, the fans and the general public, are just supposed to ignore him. Erase him.

Enjoy the NFL. Be happy that the NFL apologized and said, "We were wrong."

Colin Kaepernick is a talented quarterback. Let's not forget that he's good at his job. He was a championship quarterback, a quarterback that led his San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl against Baltimore (the Ravens won). There is an assortment of quarterback non-talent who have started games since Kaepernick has been blackballed from the NFL. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Josh Rosen, Brock Osweiler, Mason Rudolph, Mitch Trubisky, and Will Grier, to name a few. It is unfair and it is unrighteous that Kaepernick sits at home.

Give him a tryout. Let him compete for a job. Why are we still pleading with the leaders of

the NFL to give Colin Kaepernick a fair shot? Because they don't want him in their league. They don't want to have this man wearing their jerseys. He cost them money. He created trouble... or what John Lewis would say, "GOOD TROUBLE."

So, Colin Kaepernick, we have not forgotten you. We know they wronged you. And each day that we see another incident of police brutality, we are reminded that you were a trailblazer. You shone a light in the midst of darkness even when it cost you your job, and evidently, your professional career. Just remember this: Colin Kaepernick, who works out every day, doesn't have an NFL job. But the cops who unjustly caused Elijah McClain's death in Colorado...well, they are still employed.

The hiring of the NFL's first Black team president can have lasting implications

Now, hire more Black GMs, head coaches, broadcasters, etc.

It's funny how one of the perceived most dysfunctional organizations in all of sports is the organization spearheading the most recent, most dynamic move in diversity and inclusion in the world of sports.

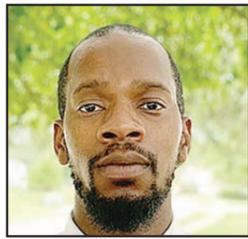
When the Washington Football Team hired Jason Wright as their new team president, he became the first African American team president in National Football League history and the youngest, at 38. Wright will be responsible for cleaning up a toxic team culture that has manifested over the course of the past decade under the control of the departed Bruce Allen that has resulted in a frustrated and eroding fan base.

Wright has an impressive resume that includes being a partner in McKinsey and Company

global strategy and management consulting firm, where he advised companies on diversity and inclusion. During his seven-year playing career, he was the Arizona Cardinals' team representative for the NFL Players Association during the 2011 NFL lockout.

The groundbreaking hire of Wright is monumental because it should facilitate a change in philosophy in what owners look for in hiring team executives. The Rooney Rule has grown stale, in my opinion, because no team has hired a minority team president up until this point. In the past three coaching cycles, there have been 20 head coaching openings. Only three of the coaches hired were minorities when Arizona hired Steve Wilks, the Miami Dolphins hired Brian

Flores, and Washington hired Ron Rivera. Furthermore, one of those coaches, Wilks, got fired after one season. There are currently only two



Commentary

Brandon
Walker

minority general managers in the league in Miami's Chris Grier and the Cleveland Browns' Andrew Berry.

Wright has the smarts and charisma to help foster change in the league circles to hire minority general managers, head

coaches, and coordinators. Wright may come up with proposals like having minorities coach college All-Star games or having assistant coach-

es attend owners' meetings to get their names and faces out there to high-ranking league executives. I think the Rooney Rule has grown stale because they like to chase the new trends around the league, i.e., finding the next Sean

McVay (L.A. Rams) or try to copy "The Patriot of Way." This reasoning explains why a special teams coordinator by the name of Joe Judge, who is White, receives a head coaching job (N.Y. Giants) before Eric Bieniemy, a former NFL running back who is Black. Bieniemy has helped in the development of the best quarterback in the NFL today in Patrick Mahomes...but can't find a head coaching job in the league.

The Washington Football Team also recently hired Julie Donaldson as their Senior Vice President of Media, replacing the longtime play-by-play broadcaster Larry Michael. Michael "retired" after a Washington Post report in July that implicated Michael and other team executives in sexual harassment alle-

gations. The 42-year-old Donaldson is the first woman in NFL history to hold that position. Donaldson had held many on-air desk assignments, including three Olympic games and a weekend anchor for NBC Sports.

Donaldson will be responsible for not only being a voice on Washington's media airwaves, and in their front office, she will prove that women can be successful in running a sports media operation. It will demonstrate that women are more than just "eye candy" in the sports world, and that they know the game and can produce great content.

With two new faces in one organization, the sports world has changed for the better, and their influence on sports and our society will be affected for years to come.

BACKPACKS — CANNED GOODS — PRIZES — PGH SPORTS TEAMS — WAMO/THE BEAT

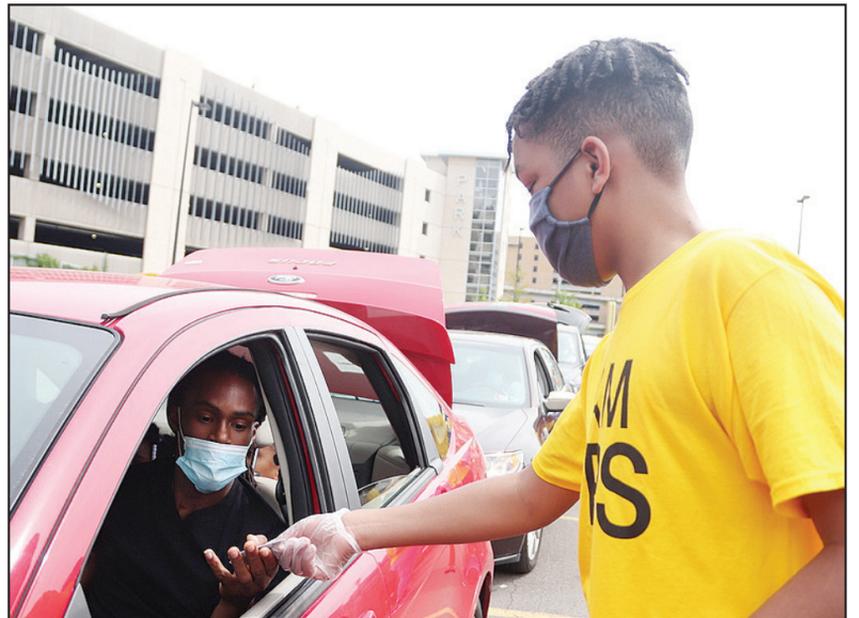
Pittsburgh Public Schools' Back-to-School Celebration 2020



PPS SUPERINTENDENT ANTHONY HAMLET, ED.D., helps load backpacks into cars. It's the new normal...the drive-through edition of PPS' Back-to-School Celebration, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was held, Aug. 21, near Heinz Field. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



LISA ARNETT, with PPS, helps load backpacks into cars.



ZAIRE HOWZE-JETTER, a seventh-grader in PPS, hands out Chick Fil-A gift cards.



MAISHA HOWZE from Allegheny County's Department of Human Services supports PPS, hands out lunches at the event.



LINDSAY POWELL of the City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office helps load canned goods into cars.



MARJANI HOWZE-JETTER, ZAIRE HOWZE-JETTER



THE EMCEES—Kiki Brown of 107.3 The Beat and Portia Foxx of WAMO 100.1.

COURIER EXCLUSIVE

Big changes coming to Children's Museum after allegations of discrimination

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AUGUST 12-18, 2020

KAMALA HARRIS MAKES HISTORY BIDEN'S VP CHOICE



PRESUMPTIVE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE JOE BIDEN selected California Senator Kamala Harris as his vice presidential running mate on Tuesday, Aug. 11, after weeks of anticipation. Harris becomes the first African American female VP nominee in U.S. history. Read more on Page A6. (Photo by Cydni Elledge/Michigan Chronicle)

FAMILY OF ROMIR TALLEY WANTS JUSTICE

Family attorney says Wilkinsburg officer's story just doesn't add up; wants him fired and charged with homicide

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

Romir Talley's family showed a unified front on Monday, Aug. 10, standing in solidarity on the steps of the City-County Building, wearing shirts and holding signs that bore his name and face.

The family wants justice for their beloved Romir, the 24-year-old who was shot seven times by Wilkins-

burg police officer Robert Gowans in December 2019. Romir Talley died as a result of the shooting.

The family just isn't buying the story told by Wilkinsburg Police and later, the Allegheny County Police—that Talley, as he was being chased by Wilkinsburg police officers in an alley in the early morning hours of Dec. 22, fired a shot at the officers, prompting Officer Gowans to return fire, striking and killing Talley.

And although the Allegheny County Police Department has wrapped up its investigation, Paul Jubas, the Talley family attorney, said on Aug. 10 that a witness had recently come forward with information that “sharply contradicts the police officer's statement.”

Jubas wouldn't divulge details about the information the witness had, but he told the assembled media that Allegheny County DA Stephen Zappala should charge Officer Gowans with criminal homicide, and let the new evidence play out in court, decided by a jury.

Last week, Zappala re-



THE FAMILY OF ROMIR TALLEY wants justice for the 24-year-old who was shot and killed by Wilkinsburg Police Officer Robert Gowans in December 2019. (Photo by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

leased a statement about the Romir Talley shooting death investigation, and he didn't seem too happy with the Wilkinsburg Borough.

“Any loss of human life deserves the most methodical and complete review available. No matter the circumstances surrounding this death, the public deserves a thorough explanation. I find it ironic that federal, state, county and local officials, especially Wilkinsburg officials, will not invest in transparent and objective criteria to assist in evaluating such a significant event,” Zappala said. “Contrast this current review with last year's event in Penn Hills when an individual tried to murder a police officer,

an event captured with remarkable clarity by way of a body worn camera. The lack of this type of evidence has greatly complicated the process that my office has in place to deal with these types of investigations.”

There is no body camera nor police car dash camera footage of the events that transpired in December between the Wilkinsburg Police and Talley. It's unclear if and when the borough will acquire body cameras, which are becoming the standard for police departments across the country.

“It's unacceptable,” Jubas said, Aug. 10. “There's not a single police force in any city in America that should be operating with-

out body cams and dash cams. This simple fact that the Wilkinsburg Police Department operates without accountability has caused and will continue to cause the people of Wilkinsburg a massive burden in terms of money and in terms of lives that are sacrificed.”

Jubas, during the 15-minute press conference, was the only person who spoke on behalf of the Talley family. However, the family members continuously nodded their heads in agreement as Jubas spoke about the Wilkinsburg Police Department, of which both Jubas and the family believe should be disbanded.

They also nodded in agreement as Jubas called on Officer Gowans to be

fired from the Wilkinsburg force. Gowans, a former Pitcairn police officer, had been with the Wilkinsburg Police Department for roughly four months before his deadly encounter with Talley.

Jubas said that Officer Gowans' statement is inaccurate when he said that Talley fired a shot at the officer first.

“As we know, Officer Gowans responded to an individual with a gun,” Jubas said. “If he was responding to an individual with a gun, then why was Officer Gowans chasing Romir Talley through the back alleys of Wilkinsburg with his taser out? And once he gets within range



WILKINSBURG POLICE OFFICER ROBERT GOWANS, in this photo from 2016 when he was a member of the Pitcairn Police Department.



NEW Pittsburgh Courier

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SEE TALLEY A4

The William C. & Susan A. Delaney Scholarships...



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CECIL PRICE III, with sisters Cierra Price-Knight and Cerena Price-Knight. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



SUSAN A. DELANEY hands the scholarship to Cecil Price III.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ADIA GLEN, with Susan A. Delaney, left, and Glen's mother, Tonya Johnson.



ADIA GLEN

PA Coronavirus Small Business Assistance Program

Round two is now open!

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

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

The second round of funding closes August 28. All applications submitted before the close of this round will be considered for funding.

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



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THE DELANEY SCHOLARSHIPS' MISSION is to provide financial support to African American students seeking post-secondary educational opportunities. This helps them to achieve their professional goals and become productive leaders in their communities.

William Claude DeLaney was an African American pioneer in the automobile industry in the Pittsburgh area. He started his business on the North Side after returning home from World War II and unable to find a job that would allow him to grow and utilize his automotive skills. He realized the only way to accomplish his dreams as a businessman was to become an entrepreneur and own his own business. He rented space on Sandusky Street and began washing cars. The president of Northside Deposit Bank believed in his vision enough and helped him to buy a Renault car dealership in the Shaler Township area off Saxonburg & Route 8. In addition to selling Renaults, he sold vari-

ous used cars. This was during the '70s and it was unheard of Black men owning their own business, particularly in the automobile industry. As a result of his tenacity and hard work ethics, younger Black men and women looked up to him as a trailblazer and business role model, realizing that their business dreams could also come true.

Susan A. DeLaney, widow of William C. DeLaney, launched this scholarship to honor her husband's legacy and passion for entrepreneurship. Susan DeLaney's career as a Pittsburgh Public Schools Special Educator, Gateway School District Substitute teacher, Gateway District School Board Director, Monroeville Rotary member, and Forbes Hospital Parent and Family Advisory Council spans over 40 years. Her passion for educating the future generations, coupled with her late husband's commitment to young people, has inspired her to help other deserving African American students fulfill their educational goals.

...Helping Black students soar to new heights



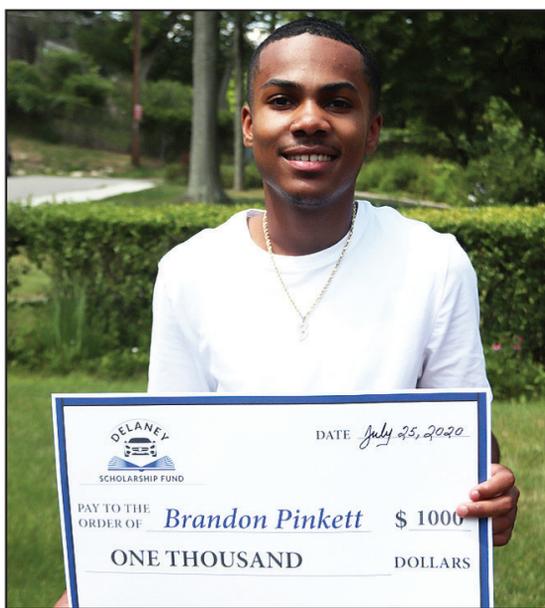
ERIKA JACKSON



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ERIKA JACKSON, with sisters Jazmyn and Esia. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BRANDON PINKETT, with father, Donald Pinkett, and mother, Camille Terry.



BRANDON PINKETT



SUSAN A. DELANEY hands Brandon Pinkett his scholarship.



ADIA GLEN, with mother, Tonya Johnson.



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FAMILY OF ROMIR TALLEY WANTS JUSTICE



DANA DENSON, LATASHA TALLEY, CAROL BLACKWELL, PATRICIA TALLEY. Latasha is Romir Talley's mother; Patricia is Romir Talley's grandmother. (Photos by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

Family attorney says Wilkinsburg officer's story just doesn't add up; wants him fired and charged with homicide

TALLEY FROM A1

of Romir, then he puts his taser away, at which point, and we believe this to be a falsification, he said Romir fires a shot at him; at which point, Officer Gowans pulls out his gun and shoots Romir seven times, including once in the head."

But the new witness, Jubas said, "has contradicted what Officer Gowans said, and there is corroborating evidence for this witness' statement."

Talley's family and friends aren't letting his name go away. Numerous supporters called for justice for Talley during a recent Wilkinsburg Peace March, and a mural featuring Talley was painted on the side of a building in Wilkinsburg, but was recently removed by the owner of the building, who said that he hadn't given anyone permission to make the mural on his property.

As for Officer Gowans, his name as the officer involved in the shooting death of Talley hadn't been made public for more than seven months after the December 2019 shooting. Last week, Wilkinsburg Borough Council President Pamela Macklin publicly released the name at a board meeting.

It's unclear if Zappala will press criminal charges against Officer Gowans. But for Jubas and the family of Romir Talley, the decision should be clear.

"We do firmly believe the DA is in a position where he has to press charges," Jubas said. "The DA can't not charge, because that's just going to incentivize Wilkinsburg to continue down this road of unaccountability."



TALLEY FAMILY ATTORNEY PAUL JUBAS speaks to reporters at a press conference, Aug. 10.

Pittsburgh City Councilmen
Rev Ricky Burgess and R. Daniel Lavelle
present a series of virtual town hall meetings entitled

BLACK PITTSBURGH MATTERS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19TH AT 6:00 PM
"HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BLACK PITTSBURGH"
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"We do firmly believe the DA is in a position where he has to press charges. The DA can't not charge, because that's just going to incentivize Wilkinsburg to continue down this road of unaccountability."

PAUL JUBAS
ATTORNEY FOR ROMIR TALLEY FAMILY



LATASHA TALLEY, right, the mother of Romir Talley, and Patricia Talley, center, Romir's grandmother, looks on as attorney Paul Jubas speaks on behalf of the Talley family.

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



THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FOOD BANK held one of its food drives outside PPG Paints Arena on April 10, as hundreds of cars lined the streets to receive the offerings. (Photo by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

Food Insecurity and COVID-19

In late March 2020, an image of a mile-long caravan of cars leading up to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank went viral on social media and in national media outlets. The image captured people lining up—some for five hours ahead of schedule—for an emergency food distribution. The distribution happened at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down the country, leaving many people without their usual paychecks. The image was a striking example of the number of people dealing with food insecurity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only been a health crisis but has revealed just how vulnerable food-insecure people are. When people lost income because of business closures, they became unable to afford life's basic necessities like rent or mortgage payments and food. People who may have already been experiencing food insecurity had an even more difficult time once the pandemic began. But food insecurity—not having ready access to enough affordable, nutritious food—was a problem before COVID-19 halted regular life.

Years ago, during research about food insecurity, Audrey J. Murrell, PhD, acting dean, University Honors College, and professor of business administration, College of Business Administration at the University of Pittsburgh, realized quickly that no standard definition or measure of it existed. She and colleagues developed the Food Abundance Index, a data-driven tool that provides consistency in terms of defining and measuring food insecurity. It can be used as a scorecard to evaluate the effectiveness of different food interventions and, in turn, to better help people. The index includes five categories to measure food insecurity—access, affordability, diversity, quality and density—because food insecurity is not only about living near a grocery store or being able to afford food.



AUDREY J. MURRELL, PH.D.

“Food insecurity is multidimensional,” says Dr. Murrell, who is also professor of psychology, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and of public and international affairs, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. “People ask why we can't just put a grocery store in a neighborhood that needs one. But can everyone afford the food inside it? Does it supply people with healthy and culturally appropriate food? What if the grocery store closes—then what? We made the Food Abundance Index in a way so that doing basic, foundational things—like putting a grocery store in a food-insecure community—doesn't define ‘abundance’ for a neighborhood or community. People have a basic human right to access food. Doing the bare minimum isn't innovative; it's insufficient.”

Dr. Murrell encourages seeing food insecurity as a resilience issue—for people, their neighborhoods, cities and the food system. How can we build the capacity of a particular community to not only have food abundance but to be able to sustain abundance over time—especially in times of crisis like a global pandemic?

“The COVID-19 pandemic showed us how vulnerable our food-supply chain is,” says Dr. Murrell. “Food service companies and grocery store chains were disrupted. We saw farmers having to literally destroy produce and waste milk because their products couldn't get to

people who needed them. When the supply chain is disrupted, we see price gouging. People then can't afford the food to which they do have access. We need resilience in the food-supply chain.”

Dr. Murrell also spotlights how the pandemic has forced a change in the public's perception of who is considered an essential worker.

“For the very first time, grocery store employees, food transportation workers and people delivering food are being seen as essential workers,” she says. “Jobs in the food-supply chain and the food system, particularly at the lower levels, are dominated by women and people of color. If that's the case, then they ought to get paid as and get the health benefits of essential workers.”

According to Dr. Murrell, seeing food as social, economic and environmental sustainability issues creates resilience in our food systems. An updated version of her Food Abundance Index is being developed by the nonprofit organization Food21 (www.food21.org) and will have data about these issues.

When asked what people can do, in addition to donating to or volunteering at food banks, Dr. Murrell says people can purchase from local suppliers, which people rely on when national food-supply chains break down, and use their voices to advocate for people who are food insecure, food service workers and farmers.

“Food isn't a luxury; it's a human right,” says Dr. Murrell. “We should all bear the responsibility of being advocates for building resilient food systems regardless of where we live, what we look like or how much money we make. If we can't do that, we can't survive as a community, city or nation. The COVID-19 crisis has really made us pay attention to where the inequities are in our communities. If you've turned a blind eye to it before, you can't now.”



ESTHER BUSH

Food Insecurity

This month, the “Take Charge of Your Health Today” page discusses food access and insecurity in relationship with minoritized communities in Pittsburgh. The current COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized that access to food is a basic human right, not a privilege. How can we guarantee that we as a collective are working to ensure that African American individuals and communities are not left hungry?

As the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's leader, it is my duty to think deeply about equity and access to resources. As an individual, my values and lived experiences propel me to reflect on what the overview researcher, Dr. Audrey J. Murrell, says about community resiliency and capacity. Taking charge of one's health, as indicated in this Courier page, can help to shape future avenues for ensuring food abundance and resilience. It starts now with partnership and capacity-building among city entities, universities, community organizations and individuals.

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh has always been deeply committed to ending hunger and providing access to food in the region. Our Hunger Relief Services offer emergency food and a pathway to guarantee that people who cannot receive WIC benefits can still feed and protect their babies.

Healthy minds and bodies are critical. The City of Pittsburgh defines food insecurity as anytime folks do not know whether or not they have enough food to meet basic needs. Data from the City of Pittsburgh notes that 21.4% or 1 in 5 Pittsburghers are food insecure. This percentage is higher than the United States average of 12.3% and the Allegheny County average of 14%. We know that sometimes this means having to make difficult choices among buying food, paying rent, picking up a medical prescription, turning on the heat or other essential expenses.

Those choices should not have to happen. In response to COVID-19, and because many people have lost their jobs because of the pandemic, the Urban League continues to show up for those who need support the most. When our fellow neighbors cannot pay their bills, we try to help. We help those who need assistance to pay rent and security deposits. Our Housing Department continues to be a source of assistance even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is really telling about food insecurity data are the neighborhoods where disparity most exists. A food access map on the City of Pittsburgh's website ([https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/2325_FoodInsecurePercentage_\(Multicolor\).pdf](https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/2325_FoodInsecurePercentage_(Multicolor).pdf)) shows many of Pittsburgh's predominantly African American neighborhoods, like the Hill District, Homewood and Larimer, range from 23-70% food insecure. In contrast, predominantly white neighborhoods, like Squirrel Hill, Greenfield and Shadyside, range from 0-22% food insecure. We know that historical and current oppressions like redlining have had grave effects on people's health, wealth and wellness. These numbers also remind us why we have to continue to do the work that we do.

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh will continue to fight for you. One way that you can fight for yourself is to complete the 2020 Census. When you complete the census, you help your community get its fair share of federal funds for vital programs. Please—if you haven't done so already—complete the 2020 Census by visiting www.2020census.gov.

Thank you, readers. On August 13th from noon to 1 p.m. Dr. Murrell and Chef Pierre Claudy, founder of the E.A.T. Initiative, Inc. and owner of Arnold's Coffee & Tea LLC in Pittsburgh, will join readers like you in an online conversation about food insecurity and how to take action. To RSVP, head to <https://bit.ly/2BGaz8o> for the open to the public Lunch and Learn. The “Take Charge of Your Health” page next month will reflect on six months of COVID-19 effects in the Pittsburgh region, with particular insight into how difficult it is to disrupt systems, and what lessons we have learned from the pandemic to implement transformational change. Specifically, we will talk with researchers whose interests include categorizing how the infodemic is differentially impacting certain populations, including racial and ethnic minorities. The World Health Organization defines the infodemic as the mass amounts of information about COVID-19 that makes it hard for folks to know which guidance and reports about the virus is accurate.



IN ADDITION TO NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS, Chef Claudy Pierre, shown above, and others provided home-cooked meals to members of the Pittsburgh community on June 18. The event was titled “Third Meal,” with contributing partners Pittsburgh Gateways, Pittsburgh Green Innovators, the Energy Innovation Center, Super Bakery and Eminent Hospitality Solutions. Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., were also involved. (Photo by Gail Manker)

Chef Claudy Pierre's Eat Initiative

Founded in 2015, the EAT Initiative was birthed out of Chef Claudy's vision to help feed and sustain food insecure communities. Since then, EAT's primary focus has been to inject cultural competency

and food education into communities in Pittsburgh and around the world. Historically, food-insecure communities suffer from a lack of access to fresh food. Today, resources are scarce for these families

and individuals, and this disparity deters families and individuals from preparing new meals in more nutritious and cost-efficient ways. You can find more info on our website here: www.eatinitiative.org

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Senior Pastor
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Sanctuary Worship.....11 a.m.
The Cathedral of Hope Taize - Wednesdays.....7 p.m.Curious about
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Courier
is THE VOICE
of
Black
Pittsburgh.Kamala Harris makes history as first Black woman
to be nominated for vice president

She could be the missing piece to help topple Donald Trump on Election Day

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

It could have been Susan Rice, the former national security adviser.

It could have been Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, or California Congresswoman Karen Bass.

Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth was up for consideration, too, as was Florida Congresswoman Val Demings.

But in the end, it was Kamala Harris.

A name known to many, thanks to her recent presidential bid, Harris, the California Senator, was Joe Biden's pick to be his running mate as he looks to oust Republican Donald Trump out of the White House.

"I have the great honor to announce that I've picked Kamala Harris—a fearless fighter for the little guy, and one of the country's finest public servants—as my run-

ning mate," Biden, the presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee, wrote on Twitter, late Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 11, the tweet all of the political world had been waiting for. "Back when Kamala was (California) Attorney General, she worked closely with Beau (Biden, Joe Biden's late son). I watched as they took on the big banks, lifted up working people, and protected women and kids from abuse. I was proud then, and I'm proud now to have her as my partner in this campaign."

Harris is in the record books as the first Black woman to be named to an American political party's president/vice-president ticket. If Biden defeats President Trump in the upcoming November election, Harris would become the first woman vice president in American history.

In the world of politics, a candidate is sure to have negative things said

about them. President Trump's campaign, upon hearing the news, texted supporters: "Biden picks Phony Kamala for VP! He isn't smart enough to see her lies."

But otherwise, it's been nothing but praise given to Harris. Former president Barack Obama, the country's first Black president, said that with Biden choosing Harris, he "nailed this decision." Obama added: "I've known Senator Harris for a long time. She is more than prepared for the job. She's spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair shake."

Representative Demings said of Harris: "To see a Black woman nominated for the first time reaffirms my faith that in America, there is a place for every person to succeed no matter who they are or where they come from."

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, Biden's prime

contender in the race earlier this year for the Democratic presidential nomination, said Harris "will make history as our next vice president. She understands what it takes to stand up for working people, fight for health care for all, and take down the most corrupt administration in history. Let's get to work and win."

Harris was born in 1964 in Oakland, Calif., to an Indian mother and Jamaican father. She graduated from an HBCU, Howard University, and the University of California law school. She was named San Francisco District Attorney in 2003, a position she held until 2011, when she was elected California Attorney General, a position similar to Josh Shapiro's current title in Pennsylvania.

Harris was re-elected to the California Attorney General position in 2014, and in 2016, was elected to the Senate from Cal-

ifornia. She is only the second African American female senator in U.S. history.

And in a matter of months, she could make even more history. November 3, 2020, aka Election Day, has become that much more significant.

"I know a thing or two about being vice president," Biden said, Aug. 11, in an email to supporters. "More than anything, I know it can't be a political decision. It has to be a governing decision. If the people of this nation entrust me and Kamala with the office of President and Vice President for the next four years, we're going to inherit a nation in crisis, a nation divided, and a world in disarray. We won't have a minute to waste. That's what led me to Kamala Harris."

Sojourner House's annual 'Victorian Tea' going virtual
Fundraiser and celebration of families to be held, Aug. 16by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

By this time of the year, the Sojourner House usually would have already held its annual Victorian Tea, at, say, Pittsburgh's Grand Hotel at the Priory on the North Side. More than 350 people would have come together to enjoy food, entertainment, tea and pastries, live auctions, and, overall, a celebration of all that is the Sojourner House.

But these aren't usual times.

COVID-19 has forced

the Sojourner House's director of development, told the New Pittsburgh Courier in an exclusive interview, Aug. 10. "Some of our clients stayed at our program longer than six months due to limited availability of housing options and them needing a place to live during the stay-at-home order."

And Sojourner House MOMS (Motivation, Opportunities, Mentoring and Spirituality) provides longer-term housing for men and women with children who are experiencing

are encouraged to make a financial donation to the Sojourner House. Those who register by Wednesday, Aug. 12, will be in the running to win one of the nine Sojourner House's popular tea baskets. Registration information and viewing of the Victorian Tea is available at www.sojournerhousepa.org. The video of the Tea will be made available on its website for anyone to view who misses the live presentation on Aug. 16.

The Pre-Teatime (12:30 to 1 p.m.) will feature a

For more information on how to receive treatment
from the Sojourner House, call 412-441-7783.

those large, in-person events to be postponed, including the Victorian Tea, which was originally scheduled for April 19. And it's unclear when everything will get back to normal.

For the Sojourner House, though, coronavirus hasn't stopped the need for its services. The Sojourner House, based on Penn Avenue on the Garfield/East Liberty border, helps mothers recover from addiction, while keeping their children. The Sojourner House focuses on strengthening family relationships, promoting self-sufficiency, long-term sobriety, and mental health stability.

Generally, the organization can provide inpatient care for 14 women at a time experiencing active addiction. The women can bring up to two children under age 12 to reside with them in treatment. The treatment usually lasts from three to six months. Each family has their own apartment during the treatment program.

"During COVID-19, we did not stop admitting clients into care, because addiction did not stop during the pandemic," Susan Orr,

chronic homelessness and have a mental health and/or substance use disorder. Currently, more than 40 families are housed in the MOMS program.

"We continued to open our doors to families in need during COVID-19," Orr said. "Our housing programs are located in Homewood, East Hills and Highland Park. We provided masks, cleaning supplies and technology resources for our families during the crisis."

Thus, as coronavirus didn't stop the Sojourner House from providing its needed services, the staff made the decision to not let COVID stop the annual Victorian Tea entirely. It's now a "virtual" event; the 16th annual Victorian Tea, this Sunday, Aug. 16, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The Tea is an important fundraiser for the Sojourner House, a nonprofit that began in 1991, founded by 26 women from Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. The Sojourner House is named after African American abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth.

Registering for this year's Tea is free, but registrants

performance from Brazilian jazz vocalist Kenia Ashby, and photos of Sojourner House events from the past year.

From 1 to 2 p.m., Pittsburgh Black Media Federation President Brian Cook Sr. will host the Tea, which will include tours of the Sojourner House's three program facilities, an awarding to Leah Lizardon (CEO of 412 Food Rescue) as the honorary chair, and the Pearl of Hope Award given to Chatham University's "Words Without Walls" creative writing program. The program will highlight the many success stories of the families in the organization's programs, and the winners of the tea baskets will be announced.

There will also be commentary by the executive director of the Sojourner House, De'Netta Benjamin-Miller, who was named to the position in October 2019. Benjamin-Miller is a 1993 Schenley High School graduate, who later earned degrees at Central State University (Ohio) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Benjamin-Miller is a licensed clinical social worker who



SCHENLEY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DE'NETTA BENJAMIN-MILLER is the executive director of the Sojourner House.

practices as a therapist at the Sojourner House.

Both Benjamin-Miller and Orr told the Courier that the Sojourner House is a "critical" organization for women in recovery and their children. Orr said more than 1,000 women have been assisted by the organization over the past three decades.

"Over the years, our families and addictions have changed, but what hasn't changed is the need for our services: Family-centered treatment helping not only the woman dealing with adverse outcomes of drug use, but with her family and their needs," Orr told the Courier.

"Financial support often goes toward our families'

daily needs, such as cleaning supplies, food, linens and hygiene products," Orr continued. "...While families are living with us, they have what might be the first stable living condition that they've ever had...our women often enter the program struggling, ashamed and not knowing how to properly parent their children. Upon graduation, they can be proud of their accomplishments, and are armed with new knowledge of how to function in society, and how to properly parent."

(For more information on how to receive treatment from the Sojourner House, call 412-441-7783.)

COURIER EXCLUSIVE

Big changes coming to Children's Museum after allegations of discrimination

by Rob Taylor Jr.
Courier Staff Writer

By the time the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh reopens to the public in 2021, the museum would have attempted to do all it could to assure African Americans in the Pittsburgh area that they'll be welcomed with open arms.

Following an open letter to the museum by former employees, many of whom are Black, alleging racist and discriminatory acts by the museum's leadership, the museum has added a diversity and inclusion committee to its executive board, will hold engagement sessions with the community to help the museum become more of a model of racial justice, and is hiring a manager to oversee its Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) efforts.

The open letter addressed to the museum read in part that many former employees, who were laid off due to the pandemic, "witnessed a pattern of disrespect and dismissiveness towards partnerships with schools serving predominantly Black learners. The museum regularly used and manipulated Black communities to receive funding and continued foundation support, without investing time or interest in our programs there. Museum leadership made no effort to genuinely connect with communities, nor did they try to understand the experiences of Black teachers and Black students. In fact, we witnessed the museum try to cut ties with, and cancel programming for, two classrooms of predominantly Black children because it was not 'lucrative enough.'"

The open letter also said that "Black artists were routinely treated differently" by the museum. "For example, when one artist created an exhibit that wasn't centered in Whiteness, the museum's leadership openly ridiculed his approach to installing exhibits. Many of us spoke up about these injustices—to directors, to HR, to our employee hotline—yet leadership never responded or allowed us to correct course."

Will Tolliver Jr. was the primary force behind the open letter, which was published on social media around Aug. 1. He had been an employee at the Children's Museum's Education/Exhibits division since 2018. But it wasn't just Tolliver who co-signed the open letter's allegations. The letter was signed by more than 60 others who gave their name, such as Monet Spencer, Devin

Booker, Devon Dill and Joanna Kemp, and by others who wanted to remain anonymous. The letter gained traction on social media, and soon found its way into the local media's hands.

The Children's Museum did respond on Aug. 2 with its own statement, assuring its "members, visitors, partners, and the public that we are committed to continuing our mission, of spreading joy, creativity, and curiosity for children and their families, and that all of our focus is on providing the best interactions possible for staff and guests in any and all experiences with our team."

The museum's original response also read that it was "disheartened to see so many inaccuracies, un-attributed quotes, false claims, and misleading statements" in the open letter addressed to the museum.

The New Pittsburgh Courier contacted the museum's senior director of communications, Max Pipman, asking Pipman to address one of the allegations made by the current and former staffers which was inaccurate.

Pipman, on Aug. 7, responded: "We are making a concerted effort to engage past employees side-by-side with current employees specifically to understand the concerns they have expressed. We are working to seriously listen to what they are saying and understand why they are saying it. All we ask from the readers at the Courier is that we explore how our collaboration can lead to the type of justice that we know is needed."

In a special statement from the museum to the Courier, dated Aug. 7, Pipman said in part that "in the last week, we've heard that we need to expand our commitments to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion. These commitments have always been a part of our work, but it is clear that we must do more. We know and fully believe that Black Lives Matter. We've stated that Black Lives Matter. But knowing and saying it are not enough. We need to take action. We need to ensure that everyone knows that museums are not neutral, and that the Children's Museum is committed to being anti-racist."

The museum, located on the North Side, is a popular attraction in Pittsburgh. It was visited by 306,000 people in fiscal year 2017, according to the museum's website. Families come from near and far to experience the many exhibits, such as the MuseumLab, Big League Fun, Garage,



THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH, located on the North Side. The museum announced a number of initiatives geared towards more diversity and inclusion for African American customers and employees. (Photo by Courier photographer J.L. Martello)

Garden and Waterplay.

Blacks and other people of color comprised 25 percent of the museum's staff in 2019, according to the museum. This year, before the coronavirus pandemic, minorities comprised 30 percent of the total staff.

African American children and families have been enjoying the Children's Museum for decades. There had not been any widespread racial-ly-charged complaints against the museum until the recent open letter by its former (and some current) employees.

And even though the museum had released an original statement on Aug. 2, it decided to look "at ourselves" and ask "hard questions." Thus, five days after its original statement, the Children's Museum unveiled its new initiatives to better serve the Black community.

"We need to deepen our partnership and learn-

ing with Black communities across the region and state. We must ask the right questions, even ones we don't yet know to ask, so that we can make progress," Pipman told the Courier.

The museum's new engagement sessions are designed to give current and former staff, and the community the opportunity to discuss how the museum can be a model of racial justice and equity. "The museum strives to learn from the experiences of diverse audiences so that we can design programs and policies to ensure that every child and family feels welcome, safe, and seen—in particular Black, minority and marginalized children and families," Pipman, speaking for the museum, said.

Those interested in participating in the upcoming sessions can email

deai@pittsburghkids.org. The museum's board of directors has created a di-

versity and inclusion committee, and is currently hiring for a person to develop and implement the DEAI strategies and policies. "The individual will lead in educating museum staff how to dismantle oppressive systems and help hold the museum accountable for the DEAI commitments it makes, thereby assisting the museum in fully achieving its mission throughout the entire community," Pipman said.

The changes being made at the Children's Museum echo much of what's been occurring across the U.S. since the death of George Floyd, May, 25, in Minneapolis. Entities across the country have had to take a hard look at its policies and assure the public that the policies are inclusive to all, particularly African Americans. The Courier reported in its July 22 edition that Vibrant Pittsburgh, an organization dedicated

to increasing diversity in Pittsburgh's corporations, effectively put more than 60 local entities "on notice" by sending them three recommendations to create a more diverse Pittsburgh in the corporate sector.

"We want to support and expand our support for Black children, families, and communities, and ensure that every Black person entering into the museum feels comfortable and welcomed," Pipman told the Courier. "We aren't expecting Black communities to do this work for us. We seek to deepen our partnerships with Black communities as we elevate our commitment to diversity, equity, and racial justice. Together, let's see what we can do differently. Let's see what works. Let's see how our collaborations can lead to the type of justice that we know is needed. Together let's make progress. Real progress."



"We know and fully believe that Black Lives Matter. We've stated that Black Lives Matter. But knowing and saying it are not enough. We need to take action. We need to ensure that everyone knows that museums are not neutral, and that the Children's Museum is committed to being anti-racist."

MAX PIPMAN
SR. DIR. OF COMMUNICATIONS
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH

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The guns of August or
the 'woke' side of history
J. Pharoah Doss B6

Mayor Peduto names Douglas Anderson director of city's finance department

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Mayor William Peduto is appointing Douglas Anderson as Director of the Department of Finance and City Treasurer.

Anderson, of Shadyside, has long served as Deputy Controller for the City of Pittsburgh. Mayor Peduto is sending his appointment later this month to City Council, where it is subject to approval. He will take office the first week of September.



DOUGLAS ANDERSON

"Douglas Anderson brings vast experience in finance and government to our administration, and provides a steady hand in a time of great economic uncertainty. I am very happy he is joining us," Mayor Peduto said.

Anderson replaces Margaret Lannier, who retired this summer after 38 years with the City.

The Finance Department is responsible for the collection, deposit, and investment of all funds received by the City from any source. The Department bills and collects tax and fee revenue, intergovernmental payments, certain grant payments, lease payments, and other payments due to the City to be used for budgeted expenditures. The Department also manages tax abatements (including homestead

SEE ANDERSON B2

Doris Carson Williams named to Allegheny Health Network Board of Directors

Allegheny Health Network recently announced that Doris Carson Williams, founder and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania and president judge of the Court of Judicial Discipline, has been named to AHN's board of directors.

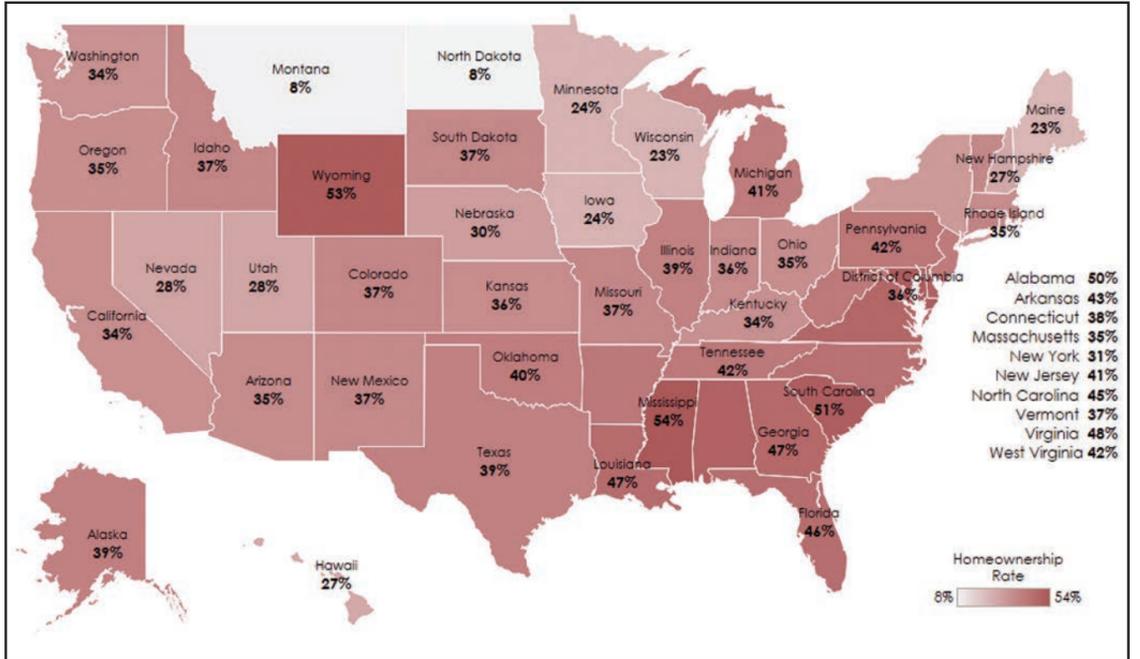
Ms. Williams is also the vice-chair of the Highmark Foundation board of directors, and sits on the Highmark Inc. board. Highmark Health is AHN's parent company.

Additionally, Ms. Williams serves on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. A certified member of the National Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, she also was one of the co-chairs of the Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership, which planned for the 2009 G-20 summit.



DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS

SEE WILLIAMS B2



Why is fair housing still a distant journey for Black Americans?

by Charlene Crowell

For New Pittsburgh Courier

Public pressure to restore a key HUD rule has united civil rights, public and private sector stakeholders in a swelling and nearly daily drumbeat of concern calling for fair housing to be supported and HUD's replacement rule be rescinded.

On July 23 the rule known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) HUD Secretary Ben Carson termed the rule as "a ruse for social engineering under the guise of desegregation".

"The worst thing we can do in a major health pandemic is increase housing instability, homelessness, and overcrowding—which is what will happen if the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing provision is significantly weakened," noted Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance. "Taking away

strong fair housing tools makes all of our communities less safe and increases housing instability. We have learned that lesson and we should not repeat that mistake. We will not allow Trump to take away tools to fight discrimination or make our neighborhoods less safe."

"The government helped create entrenched, pernicious residential segregation and has an obligation to undo it," said Nikitra Bailey, an Executive Vice President with the Center for Responsible Lending. "By rejecting the Fair Housing Act's mission to dismantle segregation and the inequity it created, this Administration is eschewing its responsibility and will be on the wrong side of history."

Initially promulgated under the Obama Administration AFFH required local jurisdictions receiving HUD funds to take meaningful actions to halt decades of discriminatory policies and practices that

perpetuated racially segregated communities. Under the Trump Administration the rule was suspended and then replaced by a new one termed, Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice. Under the new rule HUD grantees are no longer required to actively pursue local plans to eliminate segregated housing.

Across the nation, civil rights and housing advocates agree that historical segregation is largely responsible for the nagging inequity that Black America still confronts today.

Additionally, it is also particularly noteworthy that HUD finalized its new rule without providing an opportunity for public comment—a serious departure from the regular federal rulemaking process.

For the nation's estimated 70 largest and oldest public housing authorities that together serve more than

SEE DISTANT JOURNEY B2

Paul David Spradley to lead Dollar Bank's diversity efforts

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that President and CEO, Jim McQuade, recently announced that Dollar Bank has completed the search that began earlier this year and hired Paul David Spradley, Ed. D, to lead the Bank's diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts.

"Paul's experience and performance make him an exceptional choice to lead the Bank's diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts," said Jim McQuade, President and CEO of Dollar Bank. "He brings the necessary leadership,

knowledge, and commitment that allows us to continue to strengthen and promote our inclusive culture we have upheld since our founding in 1855. Our founder, Charles Colton, believed in making bank-

SEE SPRADLEY B2



PAUL DAVID SPRADLEY, ED. D.

Should I borrow from my 401(k) plan?

Comedian Earthquake said, "Being in debt is worse than being broke. When you're broke, you simply need money. When you're in debt, you need money so that you can have an opportunity to be broke." Comedian Jimmy "JJ" Walker said, "Interest rates better go down soon or the murder rate is going to go up."

Americans are drowning in debt! In the past when people found themselves in a financial jam, they'd tap into the equity of their home to do a debt consolidation. If the situation was extremely dire, they'd file bankruptcy. Now that mortgage lenders and the bankruptcy code have tightened up their guidelines, millions of people are running out of viable options that would allow them to reduce their monthly payments and get a better handle on their money.

Because of diminishing options, people are looking at their retirement plans as their saving grace. There's a loan provision under 401(k) and similar retirement accounts that allow people to borrow the lesser of \$50,000 or 50-percent of the vested balance. You can get up to \$10,000 without regard to your vested balance. The loan under your retirement plan has to be paid within five years. You're entitled to a longer repayment term if you use the proceeds from the loan to purchase a home. There are no credit checks. Interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally lower than interest rates on other commercial loans. Lastly, when repaying a loan secured by your retirement account, you're in effect paying yourself back. No credit check, guaranteed approval, favorable interest rate,

and you're paying yourself back. Sounds good! But is it wise to borrow from your retirement plan?

I'm of the opinion that a retirement account should serve its intended purpose, which is retirement. With Social Security on the brink of insolvency and Company Sponsored Pensions on the brink of extinction, saving for retirement and preserving your retirement savings has become more important today than it was in years past. As a result, I'm reluctant to advise anyone to borrow from his or her retirement account.

Here's my reasoning:
Double Taxation: 401(k) loan payments do not reduce your taxable income in the same manner as 401(k) contributions. As a result, loans are repaid with after tax dollars. When it's time to withdraw money from the retirement plan, contributions and gains, which were previously taxed deferred, will be taxed along with loan payments that were already taxed at ordinary tax rates.

Hard to Pay Back a Loan and Continue to Make Contributions: When money is being deducted from your paycheck to repay your 401(k) loan, it reduces your disposable income. Most people are unable to repay the loan, pay general household expenses, continue to make retirement contributions and have a life. As a result, future retirement savings

suffers.

No Company Match: Many companies will match your contributions dollar for dollar up to a certain limit, helping you accelerate the growth of your retirement savings. No company is going to match your loan repayments. If loan repayments force you to suspend making contributions to your retirement account, you forfeit company-matching contributions during that time.

Low Rate of Return: One of the pros of borrowing from a 401(k) plan is a low interest rate. When you're investing money, the goal is a high rate of return with acceptable risk, not a low rate of return. The investments inside your retirement were more than likely earning you a higher rate of return than the interest you're paying yourself.

Potential Taxes and Penalty: Should you leave your job willingly or be downsized from your job unwillingly the outstanding balance on your loan becomes due in full. If you're unable to pay the loan in full, the loan is considered to be an early distribution. You'll have to pay federal and state taxes on this money and you may have to pay a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty if you're under age 59 1/2 at the time of an early distribution. Taxes and penalties can run as high as 45 percent, depending on your tax bracket.

Damon Carr

The Carr
Report

I believe that the reason why seniors are awarded Senior Citizen discounts isn't because the government and corporations are charitable. Senior Citizens are awarded Senior Citizen discounts because the government and corporations know that most Senior Citizens are broke. The median income for seniors is \$12,000. Only 4 percent of seniors have annual incomes that exceed \$35,000. How can this be? Many of these Senior Citizens had 401(k) plans and Individual Retirement Accounts. What happened? They tapped into their retirement accounts by way of loans and early withdrawals for various reasons, such as emergencies, debt consolidations, home purchase, home improvements, sending children to college, vacation, etc. When it came time to retire, their retirement account amounted to a meager savings.

To avoid going into retirement with no money, I encourage people to avoid tapping into their retirement savings prematurely. After all, money inside a retirement account is protected from creditors. As an alternative to borrowing or prematurely withdrawing from your retirement account, I recommend that you temporarily suspend contributing to your retirement plan. By temporarily stopping making contributions, you'll gain increased cash flow to help pay the bills. More importantly, you'll allow the money inside your retirement account to continue to benefit from the power of compounding.

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

McDonald appointed executive director at Uptown Partners

The New Pittsburgh Courier has learned that Uptown Partners announced it appointed Brittany A. McDonald to serve as the organization's newest executive director. McDonald replaced Jeanne McNutt who served in the role previously over the past 12 years.

"I am most excited about engaging with the residents and businesses of Uptown, and working together through continued collaboration, a shared vision, and staying true to the mission," McDonald said in a press release. "Uptown will be a healthy, inclusive, and safe community with prosperous businesses."

Previously, McDonald spent 11 years at PNC Financial Services Group Inc., working in its lending and business analysis division.

McDonald, who has a Ph.D. in Community Engagement and an M.B.A., both from Point Park University, currently serves on the board of directors of La Escuelita Arcoiris.

McDonald also serves on the board of trustees for the Carnegie Library of Homestead.

Douglas Anderson

ANDERSON FROM B1

and senior citizen exemptions), tracks tax increment financing, and performs audits designed to help business taxpayers to submit returns correctly. The Department is also the designated tax collector for the Pittsburgh School District as well as the Carnegie Library.

As Deputy Controller and Chief of Staff to City Controller Michael Lamb, Anderson oversaw the implementation of several government transparency initiatives including the creation of Open Book Pittsburgh, a website and searchable database of City of Pittsburgh contracts, campaign finance contributions to candidates running for office in the City of Pittsburgh and database of lobbyists that do business with the City; oversaw the annual preparation of the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR); and managed

many other roles, including assigning audit work to performance and fiscal audit staff and approving all Controller's office expenditures.

"As Pittsburgh faces the fiscal challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, I am honored to have the opportunity to lead and work with the great staff of the Department of Finance to help the City through these unpredictable times," Anderson said.

Anderson was formerly an auditor for the Pennsylvania Auditor General and public information officer for the Allegheny County Office of the Prothonotary before joining the City Controller's office in 2008. He has a Bachelor's degree in political science from Duquesne University and a Master's Degree in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College.

Doris Carson Williams

WILLIAMS FROM B1

"Doris is one of our region's most respected and accomplished leaders and community advocates," said David A. Blandino, MD, chair of the AHN board of directors.

"She is deeply committed to building a stronger, healthier western Pennsylvania, and to promoting equitable health care outcomes for the many communities that AHN serves. We are extremely honored and grateful that she has agreed to join the AHN board, because we

know that her expertise, experience and passion will be incredibly valuable in helping us to transform health care and fulfill our charitable mission," Dr. Blandino said.

Ms. Williams has also held leadership positions at Hartford Insurance, the Service Bureau Company (a division of Control Data Corporation), Dollar Bank, and Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Paul David Spradley

SPRADLEY FROM B1

ing affordable to any person regardless of gender, race or religion. We are confident Dr. Spradley will help insure our employees carry this powerful promise forward in serving our current and future customers."

In his new role, Paul will ensure Dollar Bank's diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts are aligned with the Bank's mission, vision, and strategic initiatives. Paul will be instrumental in bolstering Dollar Bank's continued commitment to an inclusive culture through positive organizational strategies. Working with senior management, he will foster diversity and inclusion programming and implement policies that successfully attract an increasingly diverse workforce.

Paul is a native of Pittsburgh and a proud graduate of Pittsburgh Public

Schools. His undergraduate and graduate degrees were obtained at Robert Morris University and he received his Doctorate in Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Paul has conducted over 200 presentations on topics including, racism, bias training, improving diversity hiring practices, restorative justice, effective communication, and culturally responsive education.

As an active member of the community, Paul serves on several boards and councils in the region and has been recognized with the Pittsburgh Cares Hero Award. His accolades include induction into the New Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40 under 40, and he has received the Theodore Jones Award Outstanding Service to African American Students. Paul will start his new role with Dollar Bank on July 27.

CFPB gives green light to predatory payday lenders

by Charlene Crowell

For New Pittsburgh Courier

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc throughout the country, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently took an ill-advised and untimely action. On July 7, the agency gutted its own 2017 payday rule that required lenders to first determine whether a consumer could afford to repay the high-cost loan.

This regulatory reversal represents a financial favor to payday and car-title lenders, and certain harm to consumers who are just a few hundred dollars short for their monthly expenses. In very real and measurable ways, the agency created to protect consumers gave a green light to predatory lenders to continue to prey upon the nation's poorest and most vulnerable consumers.

"There is never a good time to enable predatory loans carrying 400 percent interest rates," noted Mike Calhoun, President of the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), "but this is the worst possible time. The pain caused by the CFPB gutting the payday rule will be felt most by those who can least afford it, including communities of color who are disproportionately targeted by payday lenders."

The COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized the ability of people to safely go to work, altered how students try to continue their studies, and imposed grim realities in meeting life's most basic needs like food, shelter, and utilities.

Consumers affected by job layoffs should also mark their calendars for July 31. On that day, the additional \$600 in monthly federal unemployment benefits through the CARES Act will expire. Additionally, renters who have managed to preserve their housing even when they could not pay, should also be mindful of whether eviction notices will come their way. Either of these circumstances carry the potential for America's most cash-strapped consumers to seek and become financially trapped in unaffordable predatory loans.

The lure of 'quick and easy' cash entraps an estimated 12 million American consumers each year. Instead of a short-term financial fix, most loans last several months or longer to fully repay.



CRL research finds that the typical payday loans are in strings of 10 or more. Further, the amount of interest paid on the loan often exceeds the dollars originally borrowed.

Even with decades of consumer advocacy, triple-digit interest on payday loans remains legal in 34 states. In these locales, the profusion of payday and car-title stores located in Black and other communities of color increases the likelihood of consumers becoming financial prey that ensures lenders of an annual \$8 billion in fees alone. The growth in online lending increases access to these loans.

"By disproportionately locating storefronts in majority Black and Latino neighborhoods," observed Rachel Gittelman, Financial Services Outreach Manager with the Consumer Federation of America, "predatory payday lenders systematically target communities of color, further exacerbating the racial wealth gap."

Historically Blacks have been disproportionately affected by unemployment compared to other racial and ethnic groups. That trend continues to hold in the midst of the pandemic. As of early July, and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17.8 million people were unemployed. Black unemployment at 15.4 percent, was closely followed by that of Latinos at 14.5 percent. By comparison, only 10 percent of Whites were unemployed. However, multiple news outlets report that the nation's total unemployed since the spring onset of the pandemic is 30 million.

"The CFPB has no basis for gutting the heart of common-sense protections that merely required payday lenders to do what responsible lenders already do: ensure that the borrower has the ability to repay," noted Lauren Sanders, the National Consumer Law Center's Associate Director. "The evidence to support the debt trap of payday loans is overwhelming and the CFPB's flimsy excuses for repealing protections do not stand up."

Earlier this year, a poll conducted by Morning Consult and commissioned by CRL found strong and bipartisan support for a 36 percent rate cap on payday and installment loans. With a 70 percent national majority, voters supported the double-digit rate cap. On a state-by-state basis, voter support for a rate cap had a range of 64-73 percent. Further 62 percent of polled voters had an unfavorable view of payday lenders.

With nearly half of American adults living in households that have experienced a loss of income, and more than 40 percent of adults delaying medical care due to financial concerns, there is no justification for abandoning consumer financial protections.

If a 36 percent rate cap is good enough for the nation's military be protected from predatory lending—which is the law for service members under the federal Military Lending Act—it is time to extend that same protection to the civilian population.

(Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.)

Fair housing still a distant journey

DISTANT JOURNEY FROM B1

one million low-income households who live in federally-assisted housing, the rule is an affront to fair housing advocates across the country.

In an August 3 letter to HUD's Carson, The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities ("CLPHA") and Reno & Cavanaugh, PLLC wrote in part, "[R]ather than enforce an act of Congress, which they are obligated to do, HUD and the Administration endeavor to demonstrate Congressional support for the New AFFH Rule simply by relying on statements by individual members of Congress that "every community should be free to zone its neighborhoods and compete for new residents according to its distinct values."

"As HUD is fully aware," CLPHA continued, "phrases like "distinct values" have historically been used to justify segregation, discrimination, and overt suppression of the economic advancement of minority communities and communities of color. As HUD is also fully aware, public housing was often intentionally developed in segregated neighborhoods of high poverty and historically has been chronically underfunded because of these same "distinct values."

Days earlier on July 27, three U.S. House leaders: Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee; Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary; and Congressman William Lacy Clay (D-MO), Chair of the Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance issued a joint statement.

"The Fair Housing Act makes housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability illegal," wrote the lawmakers. "The law includes a requirement that recipients of federal housing funding and the agencies of the federal government must "affirmatively further fair housing," meaning that they must administer funds and programs in ways that actively undo

and do not perpetuate patterns of historic residential segregation and systemic disinvestment... This senseless and misguided decision to roll back that important progress comes as the President peddles racist rhetoric that is reminiscent of the fearmongering tactics of those who supported racial segregation prior to the Fair Housing Act."

The House Members also announced in their statement, that legislation to reinstate the AFFH rule would be introduced.

Also adding its voice and collective influence to preserve fair housing is the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the nation's largest trade association, representing more than 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

According to its President, Vince Malta, "NAR maintains that a strong, affirmative fair housing rule is vital to advancing our nation's progress toward thriving and inclusive communities. With the pandemic's disproportionate impact on people of color reminding us of the costs of the failure to address barriers to housing opportunity, NAR remains committed to ensuring no American is unfairly denied this fundamental right in the future."

NAR's Malta makes a timely point. With federal stimulus funds expired, not only has \$600 weekly unemployment aid ended; but one in five of the 110 million renters face the looming prospect of eviction by the end of September, according to an Aspen Institute research report entitled Strong Foundations: Financial Security Starts with Affordable, Stable Housing. The report also found that nearly all very low-income renters, half or more of their monthly income is spent on housing.

This housing unaffordability finding is also held by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition that measures affordable housing as no more than 30 percent of monthly income. In its 2020 report, however, America's housing affordability challenges were

widespread even before the pandemic:

- 11 million extremely low-income households are priced out of local market rate apartments;
- Minimum wage employees need to work an average of 79 hours — just shy of two full weeks—to afford a one-bedroom apartment. That same minimum wage worker would need to work 97 hours to afford a two-bedroom dwelling; and
- A full-time employee needs an hourly wage of \$19.56 to afford a one-bedroom apartment, or \$23.96 an hour to afford a two-bedroom unit.

According to an early July U.S. Census Bureau survey nearly 43.4 million Americans—or 25.3 percent of the adult population—either missed last month's rent or mortgage payment, or have little to no confidence that they can pay next month's rent or mortgage on time.

These and other societal ills were the focus of a recent op-ed authored by 27 U.S. mayors representing 13 states. Published by the Washington Post, mayors from large cities like Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston and Philadelphia joined with mid-sized cities including Durham (NC), Eugene (OR), Lansing (MI), and Ithaca (NY), made a public plea for housing.

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, housing has always been the primary contributor to this country's massive racial wealth gap," wrote the mayors. "Systemic racism created a society where White households have 10 times the wealth of Black households. We are at risk of history repeating itself if federal COVID-19 relief measures primarily benefit White households...After decades of disinvestment and denial, now is the time for Congress to show its commitment to housing programs that support the stability and mobility of people of color."

How much longer must Black America and other people of color wait for fair housing?

(Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.)



NO ONE ABOVE THE LAW—“It’s clear that the NRA has been failing to carry out its stated mission for many years, and today, we sent a strong and loud message that no one is above the law,” New York State Attorney General Letitia James said recently.

New York State attorney general alleges widespread corruption at the NRA

by Stacy M. Brown
For New Pittsburgh Courier

(NNPA)—New York Attorney General Letitia James has launched what many may perceive as a proverbial David v. Goliath battle, filing a suit that seeks to dissolve the powerful National Rifle Association (NRA).

In a news conference held on Thursday, August 6, Attorney General James announced the charges levied against the organization.

The filing alleges illegal conduct and corruption, stating: “...their diversion of millions of dollars away from the charitable mission of the organization for personal use by senior leadership, awarding contracts to the financial gain of close associates and family, and appearing to dole out lucrative no-show contracts to former employees to buy their silence and continued loyalty.”

The State of New York alleges that the organization, its vice-president Wayne LaPierre, former CFO Wilson Phillips, former Chief of Staff and Executive Director of General Operations Joshua Powell, and Corporate Secretary and General Counsel John Frazer failed to manage the NRA’s funds and failed to follow numerous state and federal laws, contributing to the loss of more than \$64 million in just three years for the NRA.

“The NRA’s influence has been so powerful that the organization went unchecked for decades while top executives funneled

millions into their own pockets,” said James. “The NRA is fraught with fraud and abuse, which is why, today, we seek to dissolve the NRA, because no organization is above the law.”

James cites numerous examples where the four defendants listed in the complaint “failed to fulfill their fiduciary duty to the NRA.”

She alleges that the accused used millions of dollars from NRA reserves funds for personal use, including trips for them and their families to the Bahamas, private jets, expensive meals and other private travel.”

In addition to shuttering the NRA’s doors, Attorney General James said she’s seeking to recoup the millions in lost assets and stop the four defendants from serving on the board of any not-for-profit charitable organization in the state of New York again.

According to the Attorney General’s filing, the four individuals “instituted a culture of self-dealing, mismanagement and negligent oversight at the NRA that was illegal, oppressive, and fraudulent.”

“They overrode and evaded internal controls to allow themselves, their families, favored board members, employees, and vendors to benefit through reimbursed expenses, related party transactions, excess compensation, side deals, and waste of charitable assets without regard to the NRA’s best interests,” James noted.

When board members challenged LaPierre and others over their financial govern-

ance and leadership of the NRA, it’s alleged that LaPierre retaliated and turned the board against those who attempted to challenge the illegal behavior.

According to the lawsuit, LaPierre, Phillips, Powell, Frazer and other executives and board members at the NRA allegedly abused their power and illegally diverted or facilitated the diversion of tens of millions of dollars from the NRA.

“These funds were in addition to millions of dollars that the four individual defendants were already receiving in grossly excessive salaries and bonuses that were not in line with the best practices and prudent standards for evaluating and determining compensation.”

Leadership at the NRA also failed to assure standard fiscal controls, failed to respond adequately to whistleblowers, affirmatively took steps to conceal the nature and scope of whistleblower concerns from external auditors, and failed to review potential conflicts of interest for employees, according to the complaint.

According to James, the NRA violated various laws, including the laws governing the NRA’s charitable status, false reporting on annual filings with the IRS, and the OAG’s Charities Bureau.

She further alleged improper expense documentation, improper wage reporting, improper income tax withholding, failure to make required excise tax reporting and payments, payments above reasonable compensation to disqualified persons, and waste of NRA assets in direct violation

of New York’s Estates, Powers & Trusts Laws; New York’s Not-for-Profit Corporation Law; the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act; and New York’s Executive Law.

“The illegal nature of the four individual defendants’ action also violated multiple rules of the NRA’s bylaws, the NRA’s employee handbook, and the NRA’s policy manual,” James stated.

The NRA’s failure to comply with multiple fiduciary responsibilities and state and federal laws resulted in the NRA’s seeing substantial losses on its balance sheet, the complaint stated.

The organization went from enjoying a surplus of more than \$27.8 million in 2015 to a net deficit of more than \$36.2 million in 2018 — contributing to a total loss of more than \$64 million in just three years.

James said that her office began looking into the NRA in February 2019 and now seeks to dissolve the organization.

She’s asking a federal court judge to order LaPierre, Phillips, Powell, and Frazer to make full restitution of funds they unlawfully profited from along with the salaries earned as employees along with additional penalties. The State of New York is also seeking to recover illegal and unauthorized payments to the four individuals, remove LaPierre and Frazer from the NRA’s leadership (the NRA no longer employs Phillips and Powell), and ensure that none of the four defendants can ever again serve on the board of a charity in New York State.

Biden campaign commits major ad dollars to Black-owned media

by Stacy M. Brown
For New Pittsburgh Courier

(NNPA)—Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden is ramping up his campaign with a record-setting \$280 million advertising buy.

During a telephone call on Wednesday, August 5, with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Biden campaign officials said they will spend \$280 million for television ads, print and digital advertising, as well as for social media in the run-up to the General Election on November 3, 2020.

The Biden Campaign will also spend on ad buys with African American-owned media, including the NNPA, TV One and others. Campaign officials said they will continue to add other media outlets targeting African Americans as the campaign moves forward.

“We are not taking any chances; the Black vote is very important,” a campaign spokesperson said. “We will engage at a much higher level with NNPA and other outlets than we did for the primary. We are trying to reach all Black American voters, and we must reach all of the outlets.”

The campaign has hired Truxton Creative, owned by Terrance Green, an African American media strategist and creative director who was a key contributor in President Barack Obama’s cam-



COMMITMENT—“This is just who [Joe Biden] is as a candidate and person,” Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-La.), co-chair of the Biden campaign, told NNPA Newswire. “He got into politics because of civil rights, and he understands the value that African Americans bring to the country, to the campaign and the electorate.”

paigns.

Green has also enlisted the services of Converging Media, a predominately Black-owned media buyer, to aid his company’s efforts.

“This is just who [Biden] is as a candidate and person,” Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-La.), co-chair of the Biden campaign, told NNPA Newswire. “He got into politics because of civil rights, and he understands the value that African Americans bring to the country, to the campaign and the electorate.”

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA President and

CEO, responded, “Black Lives Matter. Black Voters Matter. Today’s announced commitment by the Joe Biden for President Campaign is timely and welcomed news for the Black Press of America. Black-owned media is the most effective approach to mobilizing the largest Black voter turnout in history for the November national elections. The NNPA continues to be the trusted voice of Black America.”

Congressman Richmond continued: “Joe Biden understands the value that the Black Press has always brought, and that

is the unvarnished truth directly to Black people in a way they understand it. That is very important, it’s crucial to the survival of those outlets, and we want to reach the people they reach, and we want to support them for who they are and what they mean to society. It’s not a secret that we got here with overwhelming African American support, so this is what we do.”

Biden’s live interview with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., in South Carolina in February and the subsequent endorsement of Rep. James Clyburn (D-

SC), help to catapult the campaign.

“I got started in the African American community. I got involved in the Civil Rights Movement when I was a kid. I helped de-segregate a movie theater, that kind of thing,” Biden told Chavis.

Biden opined that the Black vote would likely determine the next president.

“It’s going to be the determining factor in who the nominee is going to be, and I hope that means who the next president will be,” Biden pronounced.

He added that the Black

Press serves a vital role in the political process.”

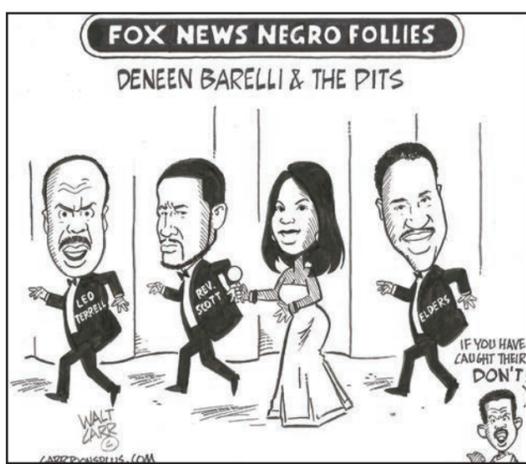
“The Black Press is the way I did my politics. You go where people are,” he stated. “You walk into a Black barbershop or beauty salon, and your newspaper was there. It’s who we are. The neighborhood we come from. It’s incredibly important; you’re incredibly important.”

Despite a lack of cash during primary season, Richmond said that Biden still spent money with the Black Press. “We did a buy with the NNPA in the primary when the truth is that everybody reported that we were broke, but we wanted to do it,” Richmond stated.

“We couldn’t do a Bloomberg number at that time, but we did [an ad buy] because it’s who we are.”

During the primary, former Democratic Presidential Candidate Michael Bloomberg spent \$3.4 million on an ad buy with the NNPA on behalf of the Black Press of America.

“The way you spend your money shows your value. This is the same person who says he will have the most diverse administration in U.S. history,” Richmond said. “He’s picking a woman as vice president, and he’s committed to having an African American woman on the Supreme Court. That’s just who Joe Biden is, so as much as people try to paint another picture, you can’t because this is who he is.”



Guest Editorial

Suppress voter suppression

It's no secret that President Donald Trump has been slipping in the polls when assessing the possible outcome of the 2020 presidential election. He is so concerned that he has waged an ongoing attack on voting by mail. He alleges that the process is flawed and will result in voter fraud, even though voting by mail has had very, very few hiccups in the past. Yes, Donald Trump is running scared.

Quite a few people have noted that there IS a problem with our mail, however. Packages are taking very long to reach their destinations. Some people are saying that they are getting mail deliveries only twice a week, if that. It has also been revealed that some post offices are suspending service altogether. Trump has appointed a new postmaster general, and there are questions as to whether or not that appointment is contributing to the snafus being experienced by those who rely on the mail.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is something that we have relied on and taken for granted in America. Mix ups and delayed or lost mail can have very negative consequences, as this is how almost everyone takes care of business. There is an online option for a lot of things, but there are things that cannot be handled digitally. People could lose out on job opportunities, or very important notices regarding mortgage payments, taxes, medical information, and more. It is next to impossible to imagine our lives without being able to rely on USPS.

So, even though voter fraud, up until now, hasn't been a problem with mail-in votes, there might be some concern since the system is in a state of transformation. The reasons USPS gives for the extra-long delivery times is staff shortages and transportation issues related to COVID-19. It is feasible to assume that there would be problems in that regard, since the pandemic is impacting every other aspect of our lives. But it is true, from a voter suppression standpoint, to think that the pandemic could actually work in Trump's favor, especially since a smaller voter turnout among his opponents would benefit him.

Donald Trump is so concerned about his current status in the polls that he has actually floated the notion of postponing the elections. This is not an option, and he doesn't have the authority to do this. It's ironic however, that COVID-19 is a good enough excuse to delay elections in his mind, but he still wants schools to open. The message here is that our children's health and wellbeing is not as important as a vote for him.

One of the major flaws that Trump has repeatedly exhibited is his tendency to project, to accuse others of those things that are actually characteristic of his own behavior. Because of this, we should remain suspect and read between the lines of anything that he says so that we can gain a better understanding of what is really happening.

For example, if he expresses concern about others committing voter fraud, then we should be extra vigilant to make sure that HE is not involved in voter suppression tactics. If he accuses others of cheating, we can rest assured that he is not dealing with the American people on an honest basis. Actually, his tendency to prevaricate profusely is widely known.

This election is extremely important, and because of this, we need to ensure that all barriers to our participation are removed.

Sadly, the machinations of voter suppression have been evident for quite some time now. There are districts where polling places have been closed with only one remaining open, which will result in people standing in line to vote for hours on end.

Actually, people are going to be faced with exercising their right to vote while placing themselves in jeopardy if they opt to vote in person. Even though this is the case, a lot of Americans are prepared to do just that—risk their lives to vote, because they know how important casting that ballot is when our democratic rights are being threatened.

This is a sad state of affairs, but in times like these, tough decisions must be made if victory is to be gained. In this regard, people must figure out a way to vote by any means necessary, and if you're going to vote by mail, do it very, very early!!!

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A 'dirty' word?

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Commentary



(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Politics can be strange! Sometimes the analysis of a political campaign can raise as many questions as it answers. From discussion around the current Biden campaign we have learned that, depending upon one's perspective, the word AMBITIOUS holds both positive and negative connotations. Some seem to think of ambitious as synonymous with arrogance.

As a former teacher, I'm almost tempted to offer a short presentation on the denotative and connotative qualities of words. Instead, I'll ask a few simple questions, "What's wrong with ambition?" "When did it become a negative?" Since the word was cast upon a Black female potential Vice-Presidential candidate as a negative aspersion, "What is the problem with an ambitious Black Woman?"

Given the examples of ambitious Black Women in the history of this nation, we can ask whether a woman like Harriett Tubman was arrogant or ambitious, or whether her goals, over objections of the slave-holder class, served a higher purpose. She was a no-nonsense freedom-seeker who tolerated nothing less than total commitment from others as well as herself.

Who would dare question the motives of women like Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Baker, Diane Nash, Amelia Boynton, Fannie Lou Hamer or Dorothy Height? Did Rosa Parks keep her seat out of arrogance or did her ambitions for 'her people' supersede her concerns

for personal safety? Were the efforts of Mary McLeod Bethune undertaken for anything other than providing an opportunity for Black youth to educate themselves? Can we evaluate the actions of Baker, Nash, Boynton or Hamer as anything more than altruistic ambitions for the benefit of our race? At great risk, they placed their convictions and bodies between those who would attempt to hold-on to the social and cultural restrictions that established the boundaries of Jim Crow-ism. Did Dr. Height, who conjoined the interests and goals of civil rights and women's rights do so for the purpose of self-aggrandizement? The ambitions of all these women were selfless and based upon service for a greater good.

The tradition of Black women in service to our communities is highlighted with women of great ambition. Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Black woman candidates for a major political party to run for the Office of President of the U.S. Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman was elected

to the Texas legislature, and later the first Black woman elected to Congress from the deep south. Chisholm and Jordan ambitiously laid the foundation for the current lineup of Black women politicians.

It's doubtful that in 2013, when Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi founded Black Lives Matter they realized it would evolve into a human rights movement with the ambitious goal of eliminating violence and systemic racism towards Black people.

Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells and Black women by the thousands number among those in history who overcame, instilled, motivated, and supported their own and the ambitions of their families. We wouldn't see the brilliant Black women being considered for Biden's VP running mate were it not for their ambition to play a large part in leading this country to "a more perfect union." Ambition is the fuel that propels us to the goal of being our better selves. AMBITION is not a dirty word. Instead of viewing the concept or quality of ambition through the lens of negativity, race or misogyny, thank God for ambitious Black women. If we think critically and answer honestly, where would our communities, our nation or our world be now without the ambitions of strong, thoughtful women of color? Without argument, women shape the world and there's nothing wrong with the desire to shape it in its best form.

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

Trump's housing announcement: 'It's not even a dog whistle anymore'

Stacy M. Brown

Commentary



(NNPA)—President Donald Trump has rolled back a Barack Obama-era housing rule intended to halt racial segregation and eliminate racial disparities in American suburbs.

Trump announced on Wednesday, July 29, that he officially eliminated the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule that Obama put in place in 2015.

The rule required local governments to identify and address racial segregation patterns outlawed under the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

The law tied federal funding to efforts to bridge inequalities.

The AFFH helped low-income and minority households, many of whom now face housing uncertainty because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some interpret the move as an attempt to stoke fears in Trump's base, which could drive supporters to the polls in November.

To others, the president is no longer using dog whistles. Instead, it's apparent he has issued a clarion call for White supremacists and other racists that African Americans and other non-Whites represent a danger to suburbia.

That the formal announcement of the rule change came on the day before Obama eulogized Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) in Atlanta, wasn't lost on many who expressed exasperation with the president.

"Oh my. I mean, it's not even a dog whistle anymore," Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) wrote on Twitter. "Our president is now a proud, vocal segregationist."

"Vile, despicable, racist," Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition,

tweeted about the decision.

"Secretary [Ben] Carson has worked to undermine fair housing since the day he stepped into the HUD building, so this action is not surprising. But it is abhorrent for Trump to use a critical fair housing tool for election year race-baiting, particularly during a time of reckoning for racial injustices," Yentel said.

Trump called the rule a threat to "the suburban way of life."

"I am happy to inform all of the people living their Suburban Lifestyle Dream that you will no longer be bothered or financially hurt by having low-income housing built in your neighborhood," the president tweeted.

Trump continued to brag about the move during a campaign stop in Midland, Texas.

"I ended it two days ago. I signed out the bill. I signed out the article, the rule," Trump declared. "And it was a bad rule, and it was causing tremendous housing prices going down and crime going up. I ended it. It had been hell for suburbia, now enjoy your life. Now we don't win the election, that's going to be reinstated."

He continued: "You know the suburbs; people fight all of their lives

to get into the suburbs and have a beautiful home. There will be no more low-income housing forced into the suburbs."

Carson added that the AFFH rule was unworkable and "ultimately a waste of time for localities to comply with."

ABC News reported that Trump is again "counting on the suburban voters he won in 2016—apparent by his repeated false and fear-invoking claims that Democrats want to 'abolish' suburbs—but his divisive rhetoric may not be working this time around."

The network cited a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll showing the president trailing Biden in those neighborhoods by 9 percent—the most significant margin in the suburbs that polls had recorded since the 1980s when Republicans were winning there by double digits.

ABC News further reported that a New York Times/Siena College poll from June found 38 percent of voters in the suburbs approve of Trump's job performance compared with 59 percent who disapprove.

The key demographic disapproved of Trump's handling of recent protests and race relations by an even wider margin, according to the Times.

Meanwhile, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law said the elimination of the Obama-era housing rule would "eviscerate all oversight of state and local government compliance with fair housing laws."

"It's a full-frontal assault on the rule of law," the group wrote. "The civil rights movement will fight this tooth and nail."

With 150,000 dead and polls in freefall, Trump seeks a culture war

Lauren Victoria Burke

Commentary



(NNPA)—With less than 100 days left until Election Day, President Donald Trump has increased his references to uncertainty around the election results.

Trump responded, "I have to see" after journalist Chris Wallace asked him if he would respect the results of the 2020 election. Trump has disparaged mail-in voting at a time when it looks as if in person voting may not be possible because of COVID-19.

"If Trump does try to hang on to a presidency he's lost. However, he can't actually do very much all by himself. Running the executive branch requires help. Thankfully, there are laws that stop others from using the authorities of the executive branch on behalf of anyone other than the legitimate president," read an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

"He's gonna run a racially-tinged campaign unlike anything we have seen before, like George Wallace," said Stuart Stevens of The

Lincoln Project on July 26 during a television appearance.

"He's always over promised and under-delivered. That's what he's done his entire life," Stevens added on July 26.

Trump's poll numbers indicate he will have an uphill battle defeating Joe Biden. In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost the electoral college but won the popular vote over Trump by 2.8 million votes. Trump's poll numbers in vital battleground states are in freefall and he continues to ratchet up conflict in the U.S. in what appears to be an attempt to drive bring out Re-

publican base voters.

A Fox News poll from July 23 showed Biden was ahead of Trump in Michigan 49 percent—40 percent, in Pennsylvania 50 percent to 39 percent and in Minnesota 51 percent to 38 percent. On July 26, with 100 days until the election, President Trump was behind in CNN's polls conducted in Arizona, Florida and Michigan.

In a tumultuous year dominated by a deadly pandemic that has taken the lives of over 150,000 people and created massive job loss and economic uncertainty, Trump is slowly creating an environment of hostility and suspicion around the coming election. States are now grappling with the question of in-person voting vs. mail in ballots. Recent primary day controversies in Georgia and Kentucky have alarmed voting rights advocates.

(Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA.)

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Welding Instructor, American Welding Certification (AWS) and SENSE Plates Certification required
Clinical Coordinator/Surgical Technology Associate degree required, bachelors preferred Must possess CST/CSFA
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
 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

PCBC REPORTER

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting is an independent, locally owned, community-supported public media organization and is Pittsburgh's NPR News station, 90.5 WESA and 91.3 WYEP, Pittsburgh's Adult Alternative Music. PCBC is seeking reporter to cover the region's economic recovery from the pandemic. For complete job description and to apply, go to: pittsburghcommunitybroadcasting.org/ and follow the employment link. Please no phone calls. PCBC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and actively seeks diversity in its workforce.

PCBC DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting is an independent, locally owned, community-supported public media organization and is Pittsburgh's NPR News station, 90.5 WESA and 91.3 WYEP, Pittsburgh's Adult Alternative Music. PCBC is seeking a Director of Membership to join the team. This position oversees individual giving and car donations, both critical revenue streams. For complete job description and to apply, go to: pittsburghcommunitybroadcasting.org/ and follow the employment link. Please no phone calls. PCBC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and actively seeks diversity in its workforce.

CODE/ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Borough of West Mifflin will be accepting resumes for the position of Code/Ordinance Enforcement Officer. A complete job description and qualifications can be viewed at westmifflinborough.com or a copy can be obtained at the Borough Administrative Office at the Borough Building during normal business hours. Resumes will be accepted until 4:00PM Friday August 21, 2020. Mail or email resumes with cover letter to
 The Borough of West Mifflin
 Attn: Brian Kamauf
 Borough Manager
 1020 Lebanon Church Rd
 West Mifflin, PA 15122
bkamauf@westmifflinborough.com

MECHANIC

The Borough of West Mifflin will be accepting resumes for the position of Mechanic in the Public Works Department. A complete job description and qualifications can be viewed at westmifflinborough.com or a copy can be obtained at the Borough Administrative Office at the Borough Building during normal business hours. Resumes will be accepted until 4:00PM Friday August 21, 2020. Mail or email resumes with cover letter to
 The Borough of West Mifflin
 Attn: Brian Kamauf
 Borough Manager
 1020 Lebanon Church Rd
 West Mifflin, PA 15122
bkamauf@westmifflinborough.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:

NOTICE OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

The Trustee named below gives notice of the death of **William H. Sullivan**, late of Mt. Lebanon Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, who died on **June 24, 2020**. During his lifetime, the said Decedent established the **William H. Sullivan** under Trust Instrument dated **February 19, 1998** and the same has been mostly recently restate in its entirety by writing dated **November 7, 2019** of which **Daniel W. Sullivan** is the Trustee. The Trustee requests all persons having claims against 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: **Daniel W. Sullivan, Trustee, 107 Olde Manor Lane, Moon Township, PA 15108** or to: **Todd A. Fuller, Atty. Brenlove & Fuller, LLC, 401 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017**

Estate of **Ms. Martha J. Cynkar, Deceased** of 2105 Monongahela Boulevard, White Oak, PA 15132. Estate No. 02-20-03346, Mr. Louis Andelmo, 176 Old Ridge Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108, Executor, c/o Max C. Feldman, Esquire and the Law Office of Max C. Feldman, 1322 Fifth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

Estate of **Carolyn Jean Kerr aka Jean E. Kerr, Deceased** of Pittsburgh, PA. Estate No. 022003325, Date of Death: 06/16/20, PNC Bank, National Association Attn: Sharon L. Whitney, VP, 300 Fifth Ave, FL 31 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 And/or: Tracey L. Zihmer, Esq., 3244 Washington Road Suite, 210 McMurray, PA 15317

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Notice

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT AND PUBLIC HEARINGS HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH FY 2021 MOVING TO WORK ANNUAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020 MOVING TO WORK ANNUAL PLAN REVISED MOVING TO WORK HOMEOWNERSHIP PLAN

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) is a participant in the federal Moving to Work Demonstration Program (MTW). The **FY 2021 MTW Annual Plan** takes the place of the Capital Fund Annual Statement, Five-Year Plan and the PHA Annual Plan normally required under the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA). The HACP must also revise the HUD approved, **FY 2020 MTW Annual Plan** to include information pertaining to development activities. The HACP is revising the Homeownership Plan to incorporate a new category for a Loan Program and for clarity of existing content as applicable.
 The **HACP's FY 2021 MTW Annual Plan, Amendment to the FY 2020 MTW Annual Plan and the MTW Homeownership Plan** will be available for review from **August 10, 2020 to September 9, 2020** on the HACP Web Site www.hacp.org. Copies of the draft FY 2021 MTW annual plan, **FY 2020 MTW Annual Plan and the MTW Homeownership Plan** may also be obtained by contacting the HACP Executive Office at 412-456-5012.
 Written comments on the **FY 2021 Annual Plan, Amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Plan and the MTW Homeownership Plan** must be addressed to **FY 2021 MTW Annual Plan, Amendment to the FY 2020 MTW Annual Plan and the MTW Homeownership Plan**. Comments must be received by close of business (**5:00 p.m.**) on **September 9, 2020** and sent to the following e-mail address: marsha.grayson@hacp.org or call **412-456-5075**
Public Hearings to receive comments on the Plan will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom:
12:00 p.m. via Zoom at Meeting ID: **97596237900** Password: **663158 (US) +1 301-715-8592** Passcode: **663158**
5:30 p.m. via Zoom at Meeting ID: **99795375031** Password: **553318 (US) +1 929-205-6099** Passcode: **553318**
 Persons with disabilities requiring assistance or alternative formats, or wishing to submit comments in alternative formats, can contact the HACP ADA/504 Coordinator at **412-456-5020, Extension 2504; TTY 412-201-5384**. All other questions should be addressed to the Executive Office at **412-456-5012**.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

Request for Proposals

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Latinx Community Needs Assessment. Proposals are due by **3 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, September 18, 2020**. For more details and submission information, visit: [www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Doing-Business/Solicitations-\(RFP/RFO/RFI\).asp](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Doing-Business/Solicitations-(RFP/RFO/RFI).asp).
Marc Cherna
 Director

SONNY BOY

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The following surplus equipment will be offered for sale to the highest bidder(s):
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION 200825
SALE OF SURPLUS COMPUTERS, MONITORS, TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT, BALL FIELD MOWER, 1999 FORD F-250 XL SUPER DUTY TRUCK, ETC.

Bids are due in to the CCAC Purchasing Department no later than **2:00 PM on Tuesday, August 25, 2020**.

For more information, contact **Mike Cvetec** at mvcvetec@ccc.edu.

Community College of Allegheny County
 Purchasing Department
 800 Allegheny Ave.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH

Sealed bids will be received in the Bellefield Avenue Lobby, Administration Building, 341 South Bellefield Avenue until **11:00 A.M.** prevailing time **September 1, 2020** and will be opened at the same hour in the administration building cafeteria:

Window Cleaning-Variou Locations

General Information regarding bids may be obtained at the Purchasing Office, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, RM 349 Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The bid documents are available on the School District's Purchasing web site at: www.pghschools.org Click on Our Community; Bid Opportunities; Purchasing-under Quick Links.

The Board of Public Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or select a single item from any bid.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY LEGAL NOTICE CONTRACT NO. 1719

Sealed Bids for **CONTRACT NO. 1719 MISCELLANEOUS SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS** shall be received at the office of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, 3300 Preble Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15233, until **2:00 P.M., Prevailing Time, Thursday, September 24, 2020**, and then shall be publicly opened and read. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held via a video conferencing call on **Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 10:00 A.M., Prevailing Time**. **ALCOSAN** encourages businesses owned and operated by minorities and women to submit bids on Authority Contracts or to participate as subcontractors or suppliers to successful Bidders. Successful Bidders are to use minority and women's businesses to the fullest extent possible. Contract Documents may be examined and obtained at the Engineering office of the Authority. A non-refundable fee of **\$100 (no cash or credit cards will be accepted)** will be charged for each set of Contract Documents received. Bid Security shall be furnished by providing with the Bid a Certified Check or Bid Bond in the amount of **10% of the Bid Price**. Any questions regarding the Contract Documents should be directed in writing and submitted to **Mr. Joseph Sparbanie, ALCOSAN** via email at joseph.sparbanie@alcosan.org. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in any bid and to accept any bid should it be deemed in the interest of the Authority to do so.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY
Jan M. Oliver
 Director,
 Regional Conveyance

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS... THE ONLY WAY TO GO!

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Bids/Proposals

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Electronic Proposals will be received online at the Port Authority of Allegheny County's Ebusiness website (<http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>). Proposals/bid submittals will be due **11:00 a.m. on September 4, 2020** and will be read at **11:15 a.m.**, the same day, at Port Authority's Heinz location (Please contact the respective Contract Specialist for Tele-Conference dial-in information for the Bid Opening), for the following: **Electronic Proposal - Ebusiness website (<http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>)**

	Bid Number	Bid Name
1	B200764A	VMware Horizon Support & Subscription Services
2	B200766A	Maintenance Inspect Test - Fire Protection Systems
3	B200868A	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

No bidder may withdraw a submitted Proposal for a period of **75 days** after the scheduled time for opening of the sealed bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held via tele-conference on each of the above items at **10:00 a.m. on August 18, 2020**. Please contact the respective Contract Specialist for Tele-Conference dial-in information. Attendance at this meeting is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. **Questions regarding any of the above bids will not be entertained by the Port Authority within five (5) business days of the scheduled bid opening.**

These contracts may be subject to a financial assistance contract between Port Authority of Allegheny County and the United States Department of Transportation. The Contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations.

Contractor is responsible for expenses related to acquiring a performance bond and insurance where applicable. All items are to be FOB delivered unless otherwise specified. Costs for delivery, bond, and insurance shall be included in bidder's proposal pricing.

Port Authority of Allegheny County hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Board of Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE AT&T MOBILITY, LLC

is proposing to construct to modify an existing facility located at 5700 Bryant Street, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (**N40° 28' 33.3"; W79° 55' 16.5"**). AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act **Section 106**. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Megan Gomez, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Gomez can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. **U2026b/CMJ**

REQUEST FOR BIDS AUTO INSURANCE

The Westmoreland County Housing Authority (**WCHA**) is requesting bids for Auto Insurance for its fleet of vehicles. Sealed bids will be received by Michael L. Washowich, Executive Director, until **Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.** (Eastern Standard Time) at the office of the Westmoreland County Housing Authority, 167 South Greengate Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, at which time they will be opened publicly. Interested respondents can obtain hard copy bid documents from the WCHA Administration Office at the address listed above. Electronic Bid Documents can be obtained by emailing Rachel Fritz at rachel@wchaonline.com. Perspective Bidders shall register with WCHA via email in accordance with the bid requirements.

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PIZZA PLACE

HEY, MISTER! I WANT A PIZZA WITH 100 CANDLES ON IT...

IT'S FOR MY GREAT GRAND MOM'S BIRTHDAY!

PIZZA SALE!

ELL MURRAY

Black women are rising despite obstacles

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—Women won the right to vote a century ago. On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment passed. The White women's equal rights struggle began in 1776, though, when Abigail Adams, the wife of our second president and member of the constitution-drafting Continental Congress, sent her husband a letter. She urged him to "remember the ladies." She further wrote, "All men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

The Continental Congress did not remember the ladies, and it reduced African American enslaved people into a fraction of a person for census and political representation. The National Women's Suffrage Association (NWSA) because White women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony refused to support the 15th Amendment, which gave Black men, but no women, the right to vote. Ain't I A Woman, thundered Sojourner Truth. The battle lines were drawn between Black men and White women. And few were willing to notice the Black women on the sidelines. It reminds me of a Black Enterprise cover, circa about 1980, where a Black man and White woman were arm wrestling, presumably over who should benefit from affirmative action. There

Julianne Malveaux

Commentary



was no Black woman on that cover, not even standing on the sidelines. When Akasha Gloria Hull, Patricia Bell-Scott, and Barbara Smith wrote their book, *All the Women Are White, All the Men Are Black, But Some of Are Brave* (Feminist Press 1982), Black women cheered. These sisters realized that with race/gender conflict, Black women are too often discounted, by Black men, but especially by the White women who purport to be allies.

History will reveal that White women have used their whiteness as a shield against both Black men and women, especially as they have falsely accused Black men of rape. Their false accusations resulted in the destruction of several Black communities. Very recently, the Women's March leaders asked Tamika to step down from their Board (she stayed until her term was up) because she embraced the intersectionality of unapologetically Black activist and gender-affirming warrior. In this era of racial reckoning, White women have much to explore and grapple with. Too many of them are so myopic that they don't get it.

Black women get it. Gwen McKinney, Patricia Ann Ford, and a coterie of their friends have launched a great website that explores the intersection of suffrage, race, and power, (srp@unerased.com) and the ways that the majority narrative has too often erased the contributions that Black women have made to suffrage and justice. Most feminists know about Susan B. Anthony, but how many White feminists know of Nannie Helen Burroughs or Ida B. Wells? Black women often advocated for the same rights that White women did, but in protest, thanks to southern women and their racist mindset, Black women were excluded from public activity or asked to march at the end. That nonsense did not discourage the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1913 when they pushed their way into the center of the march.

The historical relationship between Black and White women is ugly, but in this era of Black Lives Matter, Black women are rising. Despite extremely nasty shade, which I won't dignify with a reference, there is at least a 60-40 chance that a Black woman will be Joe Biden's running mate. The Higher Heights for America PAC is named after Dr. Dorothy Height (higherheightsforamerica.org) and supports Black women running for political office. They describe their space as "a political home for Black women," and they seek to elect, mobilize, and amplify Black women. They are among those who celebrated Cori Bush's surprising victory over incumbent William "Lacy" Clay in the St. Louis congressional primary. Actually, it shouldn't be much of a surprise. Bush planned her work and worked her plan as a visible presence in St. Louis, an organizer for Black Lives Matter and a grassroots activist. Her win is a victory for Black women, for progressives, and activists.

Even as Black women are rising, ugly racism too often attempts to put us in our place. In Aurora, Colorado Brittney Gilliam had planned a girl's afternoon with her sister, nieces, and six-year-old daughter. Instead, they were confronted by the police because they mistakenly identified her car as "stolen." Our "law enforcement" officer pointed guns at the young, innocent Black women and girls, and they were forced to lay, face down, on hot asphalt as they were handcuffed. Later, the police tepidly acknowledge their "mistake." Later the police chief, Vanessa Wilson, apologized and offered therapy for the children. Brittney told a CNN anchor that the chief could "shove it" as she found it insincere. Incidentally, Valerie Wilson is a White woman who beat out three Black men for the job. Would they have handled this differently?

As always, the pace of progress oscillates with two steps forward and one step back. Black women are rising politically, but some things change slowly. Where are the majority women's organizations in Aurora, Colorado? Pandemic notwithstanding, why are they silent? Would the Aurora police have treated a White woman with four young people in the car? Ain't I A Woman?

The guns of August or the 'woke' side of history

J. Pharoah Doss

Check It Out



I noticed a recent CNN headline that said: What is Black August and how is it different from Black History Month?

I knew "Black August" was the title of a 2007 biopic of George Jackson. Jackson was convicted of armed robbery in 1961 and became a political activist in San Quentin State Prison. In 1970, Jackson and two Black prisoners were charged with murdering a White prison guard. That same year, Jackson's teenage brother Johnathan was killed in a police shootout after he stormed the courthouse and took a judge hostage in an effort to secure his brother's release. On August 21, 1971, a gun was smuggled to George Jackson; Jackson took a prison guard hostage, forced the guard to open several jail cells, then Jackson was killed during the prison escape. Jackson authored "Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson" and co-founded The Black Guerrilla Family while in prison. The BGF characterized itself as a Black Marxist-Leninist revolutionary organization whose goals were to promote Black power, prison reform, and overthrow the U.S. government, but, in actuality, it was a prison/street gang known primarily for criminal activity.

I immediately wondered, has "Black August" been a commemorative month before or after the 2007 biopic? In other words, was the movie named after a pre-existing month-long celebration or did the inspiration to start a commemorative month develop after the film *Black August* was made? It's hard to tell, but the earliest promotion I found for Black August was in 2012, on the website Critical Resistance. Critical Resistance is an organization that is dedicated to eliminating prisons, policing, and surveillance.

The site said: For many of us fighting the ravages of the prison industrial complex, George Jackson is a source of inspiration and discipline. The month of August bursts at the seams with histories of Black resistance—from the Haitian Revolution to the Nat Turner Rebellion, from the Fugi-

tive Slave Law Convention and the foundation of the Underground Railroad to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, from the March on Washington to the Watts Uprising, from the births of Marcus Garvey, Russell Maroon Shoatz, and Fred Hampton, to the deaths of W.E.B. Du Bois and George Jackson's own younger brother Jonathan. We celebrate Black August, commemorating the anniversary of George Jackson's death while understanding his life as a revolutionary.

Obviously, there are more details to the George Jackson story. If you're a revolutionary romantic, watch the movie "Black August," but if you're not, watch the documentary: *Day of the Gun*.

But what caught my attention in CNN's headline was the distinction made between "Black August" and Black History Month. I was reminded of the distinction between Juneteenth celebrators. Some celebrators simply honor the emancipation of slavery, others refer to Juneteenth as Black Independence Day and celebrate Juneteenth instead of the 4th of July. The former is festive and the latter is antagonistic. There's a similar distinction between Labor Day and May Day (International Workers' Day). Labor Day celebrates organized labor while May Day commemorates the 1886 Haymarket massacre in Chicago, where a bomb blast and gunfire between police and workers on strike left seven police officers and four laborers dead.

There appears to be an effort to make a similar distinction between Black History Month and Black August. CNN quoted an activist that said, "Black History Month is beautiful, but unfortunately like all Black culture, it has been co-opted by neoliberal capitalists and we rarely learn about all the contributions Black radicals have made in resistance to this settler colonial nation state."

Former President Barack Obama cautioned about being on the wrong side of history, but the "woke" side of history is all about throwing caution to the wind.

Address Pittsburgh's systemic racism

African Americans are two and a half times more likely to be killed by a police officer than their White counterparts. This sad reality and a plethora of other data indicate that institutional racism and police violence against people of color constitute two interrelated public health crises in America. As such, there has been a national outcry, including Pittsburgh residents, regarding the unjust deaths of unarmed people of color such as George Floyd, Elijah McClain and Breonna Taylor. Theirs and other unwarranted deaths have spurred a national movement demanding the defunding and, in turn, reinvesting in programs that prevent poverty, crime, dysfunctional families, social alienation and other social ills for which police officers are not trained to address.

Recognizing the above complex problems, leaders in 19 U.S. cities have begun to cut law enforcement budgets and/or reallocate funds, e.g., [1] the Baltimore City Council approved a \$22.4 million budget cut for the police department; [2] Portland, Oregon, cut \$15 million from its police budget; [3] Los Angeles, California, cut the LAPD Budget by \$150 million; and [4] Washington, D.C. slashed \$15 million from the Metropolitan Police. It is likely that other cities will take such constructive actions.

Given the extent of the current "defund the police" and reinvestment initiatives, it is critically important that we not only acknowledge the voices of those marching in the streets but also provide a legislative platform for them to directly engage in the governance and policing of our city. Such a platform was advanced by criminal justice experts Seth W. Stoughton, Jeffrey J. Noble, and Geoffrey P. Alpert in an Atlantic article entitled, "How to Actually Fix America's Police." Therein, they suggest various reforms and strategies federal, state and local government should implement.

Recently, the City of Pittsburgh approved six pieces of legislation designed to substantively address the matter of Pittsburgh police reform. Those six significant pieces of legislation include: [1] Establishing a Hiring Freeze in the Bureau of Police; [2] Banning the purchase of surplus U.S. military equipment and weapons; [3] Requiring police officers to step in and stop other police officers from using illegal or unnecessary force or any other violation of a person's constitutional right; [4] Establishing STOP the Violence Fund: violence prevention social service programs; [5] Banning chokeholds from being used by the Pittsburgh Police; and [6] Allowing Pittsburgh voters to strengthen the powers of the Civilian Review Board.

As opposed to an "attack" on our police department, it is very important to note that "defunding police" consists of legislative reforms that build on the programs and reforms designed by the Pittsburgh Police Department in partnership with community leaders and City Council. Those foundational and progressive programs include the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (now called the Group Violence Initiative), the Maryland

Lethality Assessment Model, and the National Initiative to Build Community Trust. Of special importance is the fact that these programs have produced an historic reduction in crime, and led to changes and upgrades to the department including: [1] online department standard operating procedure; [2] annual reports;

[3] ShotSpotter, the gunshot detection system; and [4] training in domestic violence prevention, implicit bias, procedure justice and racial reconciliation training. With these programs, the Pittsburgh Police Department is rapidly becoming one of the best trained police departments in the nation.

As we continue to address the systemic public health issues we face, it must be understood that the real problem we face is not police but rather what transpires when policing is part of an unjust, systemic racism-fed criminal justice system which disproportionately arrests, prosecutes, convicts, incarcerates and recidivates African Americans. As Michele Alexander wrote in a New York Times Op-Ed, the resistance to change emanates from the fact that "too many citizens prefer to cling to brutal and unjust systems than to give up political power, the perceived benefits of White supremacy and an exploitative economic system."

Unfortunately, here in Pittsburgh, despite earnest efforts, African American Pittsburghers continue to be plagued by a deeply embedded, racist political and economic system. Fortunately, we have taken the first step in truth and reconciliation by publicly acknowledging racism as a public health crisis. Now we must continue the process of racial reconciliation across all institutions, organizations, policies and practices in our city. Fundamental to the process of Pittsburgh's racial reconciliation is the transformation of African American communities into thriving mixed-income neighborhoods replete with high-quality housing, business schools and other amenities such as a police force truly committed to protecting and serving all members of the community.

As we continue to implement fundamental police reforms and significantly fund evidence-based violence reduction and social service programs, we cannot cling to the misguided idea that more policing can solve a broad range of community problems. Rather, African American communities need more direct investment in things such as: [1] high-quality affordable housing; [2] educational reforms that close the achievement gaps; [3] counseling for trauma and addiction; [4] youth development and empowerment; [5] workforce development for the 21st century; and [6] essential public transit.

Jesse Jackson Sr.

Commentary



We don't need Trump's thugs in Chicago

(TriceEdneyWire.com)—"Hitler had his Brown shirts and Mussolini had his Black shirts, now Donald Trump has his camouflage shirts." Thus began a statement signed by 15 distinguished interdenominational religious leaders in Chicago that I joined, including ministers, priests, and rabbis.

Comparisons to Hitler are always explosive, but the comparison is apt. "Hitler's bullyboys," the statement continues, "operated on the fringes or outside of the law to violently intimidate Germany's leftists and finally to exterminate Jews. Trump's bully boys are operating on the fringes or outside the law to violently intimidate America's progressives and people of color who are exercising their First Amendment right to protest racial injustice."

Portland, Oregon, provides the model. Trump dispatched untrained, unidentified, camouflage-wearing, military-uniformed, no name-tagged bullyboys who are literally kidnapping protesters, stuffing them in unidentified vans, taking them to unknown locations without charges — and against the wishes of local law enforcement officers the mayor of Portland and the governor of Oregon.

Trump has announced that he will send similar teams to Chicago, New York, Detroit, Atlanta, Baltimore and other "liberal Democrat-run cities," to use his phrase. The excuse is to defend federal property. The reality is that this is a cynical re-election ploy. As Portland shows, Trump's gambit will spark a large, hostile reaction which he hopes to use to scare suburban voters into supporting this law-and-disorder president.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has warned Trump not to try this in Chicago. "[N]o troops, no agents that are coming in outside of our knowledge, notification, and control that are violating people's constitutional rights." Lightfoot told CNN's Jake Tapper on Sunday during an appearance on "State of the Union." "We can't just allow anyone to come into Chicago, play police in our streets, in our neighborhoods, when they don't know the first thing about our city. That's a recipe for disaster. And that's what you're seeing playing out in Portland on a nightly basis."

We support her resistance — and the opposition expressed by the Pentagon, members of Congress, former U.S. military officials, historians and constitutional scholars — to Trump's effrontery.

We don't need the president's thugs in Chicago, but we would like real federal assistance. While overall crime has decreased compared to last year, violent crime — particularly murders and shootings — has soared.

Chicago has no gun shop and no gun range. The guns come from outside of Chicago, generally across the border from Indiana. We need common sense regulations on guns to stop the pipeline into Chicago. Trump could help because it is Republicans and the gun lobby that stands in the way.

Real federal assistance wouldn't be dispatching bullyboys to terrorize citizens exercising their First Amendment rights. It would help with jobs and training for the young. It would help with rent and mortgage forgiveness during the pandemic lockdown when people can't work. If Trump and Senate Republicans don't act immediately, literally millions will be on the verge of eviction.

We need real investment in our schools, so the savage inequality with suburban schools can be reduced. We need health care to be a right, not a privilege, and at the very least for the federal government to cover all medical expenses related to COVID-19. In a pandemic, we all have a stake in ensuring that the sick can afford to get the treatment they need.

Our sons and daughters volunteer to serve in the military. When Vladimir Putin puts a bounty on the heads of our soldiers, we need Trump to defend them, not to ignore the attack.

Trump scorns real assistance to cities. He scorns meeting with our elected leaders before announcing that he plans to dispatch his thugs to our city. And he disgraces our democracy with this cynical and dangerous campaign ploy.

Black Lives Matter Chicago and other organizations are going to court to get an injunction to prohibit Trump's agents from "interfering in or otherwise policing lawful and peaceful assemblies and protests" in Chicago.

The religious leaders who issued the statement pledged that if Trump dispatched bullyboys to Chicago without the permission of the mayor, they would be met with a "massive, disciplined, nonviolent ... march of resistance." We will not let the president trample our Constitution, suppress our rights, and terrorize our citizens with impunity.