



Los Angeles Community Reflects on the Long-Lasting Imprints of Civic Leader *Mark Ridley-Thomas* as He Prepares to Embody the Title of City Councilmember
(See page A-9)



Iconic Actor and Noted Athlete *Tommy "Deebo" Lister*, Found Dead in Marina Del Rey Residence
(See page D-3)

How Mayor James Butts turned Inglewood Into California's Premier Sports and Entertainment City

SENTINEL SPECIAL REPORT

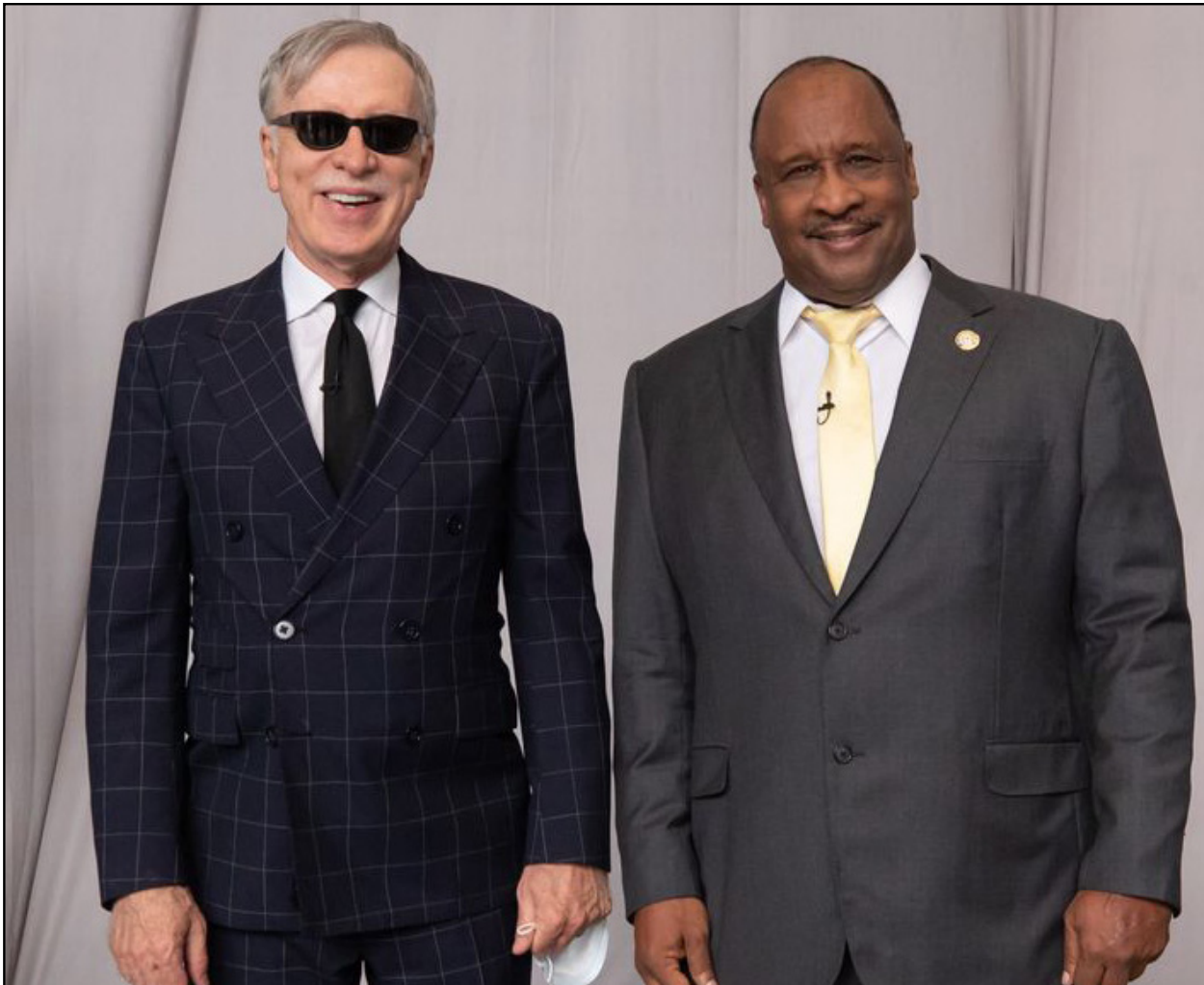
While many cities in Southern California and throughout the nation are wrestling with the economic and health impacts and fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic – laying off hundreds of employees, reducing municipal services to residents and delaying the completion of long-promised projects – the City of Inglewood is a sharp study in contrast. While also managing the consequences of the pandemic and ensuring the safety of both its citizens and staff, the Inglewood economic renaissance is not only keeping its momentum, it is also gathering speed.

The world's most famous one-day sports event, Super Bowl XVI, will take place in the new \$5 billion SoFi Stadium in February 2022, but that is only one of many international sporting events slated to take place in Inglewood. Others include Wrestlemania, the FIFA Soccer World Cup and the opening ceremony of the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Even in these challenging times, Inglewood's transformation from a South Bay city that once made headlines for its economic and crime struggles, has morphed into an economic powerhouse and development oasis that has attracted three professional sports teams – the Rams, the Clippers and the Chargers. It has become the home to the headquarters of the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, as well as the L.A. Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra program and its Frank Gehry-designed headquarters. Inglewood stands out as Southern California's most remarkable story of transformation and triumph.

Beach City Chief, South Bay City Mayor Compare Inglewood to its neighbors to the south and the west. Or simply compare it to nearby Santa Monica.

The coronavirus outbreak has shut down tourism, drying up the beach city's two main streams of revenue, hotel bed taxes and sales taxes. At the same time, it did not heed years of warnings about its enormous pension debt, and now, with severely reduced



Los Angeles Rams owner, Stan Kroenke, and Inglewood Mayor James Butts COURTESY PHOTO

revenues, is paying the price. Santa Monica is now looking at a \$226-million shortfall by June of 2021 and has authorized the layoffs or buyouts of 373 full time employees.

By contrast, Inglewood has enough reserves to see it through this fiscal year without furloughs or layoffs. It dramatically reduced its unfunded liabilities by eliminating non-funded lifetime retirement medical program and replacing it with an employee health savings plan.

{INGLEWOOD A-6 & A-7}

Brotherhood Crusade's Annual Navidad en el Barrio Brings the Spirit of Giving



{See FULL STORY B-3}

Senator Steve Bradford and Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer Make Calif. History as first Two African Americans to Chair the Public Safety Committees

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

It has been announced, State Senator Steve Bradford, has been appointed as the Chair of the California Senate's Public Safety Committee marking the first-time in our state's history both the Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees are chaired by African Americans.

This historic first is crucial at this time as



State Senator Steve BradfordCOURTESY



Assembly Member Reggie Jones-SawyerCOURTESY

{See CHAIR C-7}

California's 55 Electoral Votes Secures Electoral College for Biden, Harris



Tayte Williams a member of California's Electoral College holds up her ballot for Vice President-elect, Sen. Kamala Harris at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. Williams was selected by Harris' to represent her at the Electoral College. PHOTO



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Taste of Soul Black Business Spotlight



Entrepreneur and City Commissioner Karim Webb Sheds Light on Social Equity

Karim Webb, PHOTO BY LLA PHOTOGRAPH

{See FULL STORY B-2}

New Cal NAACP Chief Appoints Sac Woman Executive Director

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

The new president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) California-Hawaii State Conference is keeping in step with a national movement making strides to level the playing field for Black women -- long underrepresented in both private and public sector leadership roles. Like organizations and companies around the country, California's conference of the oldest civil rights organization in the country is leading by increasing professional opportunities and offering critical career support for Black women.



Betty Williams

Kickstarting his tenure, the NAACP State Conference President Rick L. Callender announced last week that Betty Williams has been hired as the organization's executive director.

Williams, a longtime president of the Sacramento branch of the NAACP, calls her new statewide

position a "blessing." "I had thought about it, and it was like, 'God this is my passion, I love the organization, I love the advocacy of civil rights, and being that voice (of NAACP) for almost 10 years,'" Williams told California Black Media (CBM). "I want to be a part of an organization that I absolutely adore, part of the decision-making process, the transition, and Rick Callender's vision of taking all the branches to a whole new level."

Williams was appointed with the full support of the State Conference board. In her new role, Williams will help Callender represent the organization and oversee the operations of 55

branches in California and Hawaii, serving as a spokesperson and monitoring developments in politics at the State Capitol.

Under Williams's leadership as the Sacramento branch president of the NAACP, she helped law enforcement agencies in Sacramento develop community partnerships that contributed to the reduction of crime and safer communities in some of the most underserved areas of the city.

Williams was also instrumental in effecting changes to economic and social policies in the Sacramento region. Her peers praise her for pushing for reforms in policing strategies, including police-use-of-force procedures.

"She is the right person at the right time to lead the California-Hawaii NAACP into the future," said Callender, who is also the chief executive officer of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Callender has joined NAACP Chairman of the Board Leon Russell to fire up the organization's members and delegates to become more engaged in the civic life of their local communities. He is also focused on promoting the participation of more Black women in politics in the state.

Callender and the California-Hawaii NAACP supported a resolution calling for Gov. Newsom to appoint an African American woman to fill the U.S.

Senate seat that will be vacant once Kamala Harris is sworn in as Vice President of the United States next month.

"The California voters sent a Black woman to the U.S. Senate. She was, and is, the only Black woman in the U.S. Senate," Callender stated. "It's the right thing that should be done. Let's all mobilize to make this happen."

Callender, former president of the San Jose-Silicon Valley NAACP, was appointed president of the California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP in November.

He assumed duties Dec. 1 after Alice Huffman stepped down due to health concerns. Huffman held the position for 21 years.



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Skyview Concessions, Inc.



Skyview founder **Apryl Stewart** and her diverse team serve up world-class service at restaurants and shops throughout LAX including Urth Caffee, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Reilly's Bar, California Pizza Kitchen, and the CNBC travel store.

Palazzo Concessions



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Albright International



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K&R Hospitality



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- Justin Erbacci, CEO, Los Angeles World Airports



Gov. Newsom Appoints Two Black Women to Air Board

By ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Months after Black employees called out widespread racism at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed two African American women to the board of the California agency that shapes state policy against air pollution.

Last week, the governor announced that he appointed Liane Randolph, 55, of Oakland, who was in charge of integrating the resource-planning processes at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as the new chair of CARB.

“Cleaner air is essential for California’s families and Liane Randolph is the kind of bold, innovative leader that will lead in our fight against climate change with equity and all California’s communities at heart,” Gov. Newsom said. “By committing to achieving carbon neutrality and a clean economy, my Administration is fighting for a healthier and more vibrant future for our families and our economy.”

Randolph is the first Black person to serve as chair of CARB.

Responding to the news of her appointment, Randolph said she is “beyond excited” about the work she will do at CARB.

“Governor Newsom and the Legislature have set California on a bold



Liane Randolph



Davina Hurt

path to address the air pollution that burdens our communities and the existential threat of climate change,” Randolph said. “Implementing these policies requires effective management and strategy that centers the people affected most by environmental damage. I am eager to step forward and continue California’s leadership in tackling these challenging issues.”

Randolph has been a Commissioner at the CPUC since 2015. Before that, she was deputy secretary and general counsel at the California Natural Resources Agency from

2011 to 2014. From 2007 to 2011, she was an attorney at the law firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Randolph, a Democrat, also served as chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission from 2003 to 2007. From 1996 to 1997, she was staff attorney there as well.

She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California Los Angeles School of Law. The CARB chairperson’s position requires Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$183,552.

Randolph replaces Mary Nichols, CARB’s

outgoing chair, who is reportedly President-elect Joe Biden’s top pick to be the next Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Another Black woman, Davina Hurt, will also serve on the air agency’s board. She joins other members: John Balmes of Berkeley, Los Angeles’ Gideon Kracov, and Tania Pacheco-Werner of Sanger.

Hurt, 45, has been a Belmont City councilmember since 2015. She has worked as a campaign manager at the Democratic Volunteer Center from 2014 to 2015.

Hurt is a member of the

Bay Area Air Quality Management District. This CARB board position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Hurt is also a Democrat.

In September, the Concerned Black Employees at CARB (CBE CARB) submitted a 13-page letter alleging discrimination at the agency. It stated that members had been the target of routine and systematic racism and that they had been excluded from promotions.

CARB, the letter points out, has a total of 1,627 employees and only 73 of them are Black. Only one

African American has held an executive position with the organization.

“Our intent in sharing this Letter and Action Plan is not to shame or belittle CARB, or to assign blame. We enjoy the work we do at CARB and want to do all we can to improve CARB for the future, and our future careers with the agency,” CBE CARB stated.

Last summer, at the height of the George Floyd riots and the national reckoning on race, Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Sacramento), who is African American, expressed disapproval and disappointment after Nichols posted a tweet comparing air pollution violations with the tragic death of George Floyd.

“How dare you use a dying man’s plea for help as a way to discuss your agenda. Have you no shame?” Cooper reacted to Nichols’ tweet.

Nichols posted on June 1, “‘I can’t breathe’ speaks to police violence, but it also applies to the struggle for clean air. Environmental racism is just one form of racism. It’s all toxic. Government needs to clean it up in word and deed.”

Nichols later issued an apology via Twitter, stating “I apologize for speaking at the wrong time about the wrong topic. Racism comes in many forms and I believe we must fight every instance of it in our society.”

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How Inglewood became the Sports and Entertainment of Southern California

{continued from Pg. A-1}



Inglewood City Council members, Alex Padilla, George Dotson, representatives from the Rams’ organization, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, and Council members Eloy Morales and Ralph Franklin. COURTESY PHOTO



L.A. Philharmonic’s Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles design model. Pictured:Frank Gehry,Gustavo Dudamel, James T. Butts, and Simon Woods COURTESY PHOTO

With a COVID-19 vaccine in the offing, it is possible that cuts to staff and services in this South Bay city will be minimal or nonexistent. While the differences between the two cities strain direct comparisons, they do, however, have one powerful factor in common: James T. Butts.

Butts, formerly the 15 year Police Chief of Santa Monica, has been at Inglewood’s helm for the past decade, and it is under his leadership that Inglewood has flourished.

Before Covid-19, Inglewood’s unemployment rate had plunged from 17.5% to 4.7 %, and employment remains a top priority with a 35% local hiring goal for Inglewood residents for the 50,000 construction jobs scheduled over the next 7 years. This means resi-

Inglewood contributed \$18 million of State Redevelopment funds to re-open the doors to the City’s most famous landmark.

The question, really the gamble, was whether a major arena could succeed without a resident sports team — revenue the Forum lost when the Lakers moved to Staples Center.

The answer was an emphatic “yes.” In its first year back in operation, the renovated Forum hosted 50 paid concerts, including ones by the Eagles and the Wu-Tang Clan -- almost twice as many as the Southern California area’s second-place finisher, the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Irvine, and double of downtown L.A.’s Staples Center.

“That put us back on the sports-and-entertainment



Ribbon cutting at the new Girl Scouts headquarters COURTESY PHOTO

Under Butts, the City has re-paved more street lanes, miles of roadway and fixed linear feet of sidewalk than any administration in the history of Inglewood.

end parking of the Hollywood Park site, (which is right across the street from the Forum) for residential housing development in the

out financially for cities as the bonds payments are structured over 30 years, with no guarantee that revenues will cover the pay-

Then the mayor laid out an alternate proposal:

He articulated the pros of building out the entire project to Stan Kroenke; “The land is less than 2 miles from one of the busiest airports in the United States and the weather is so good here, that when it rains hard, we have to buy new umbrellas because most of us forget where we put our umbrellas.”

He said; “If I were you, I would do a joint venture with Stockbridge Capital (the financial arm of Hollywood Park Tomorrow), adopt their entitlements and seek to expand it. Then you would have a revenue generating project 365 days per year. You have the 3 things it takes to bring football back to LA; you have a team, you have



A Black Lives Matter protest after the murder of George Floyd. COURTESY PHOTO



Rams childrens event COURTESY PHOTO

dents will be first in line for jobs pay prevailing wages, some paying between \$60-\$90 per hour. Already, hundreds of people, including parolees with the Iron Workers union, have found new careers by working on SoFi Stadium.

Moreover, property values had risen more than 200% since 2012 (finally affording Inglewood residents the opportunity to build and pass on generational wealth).

map,” Butts said.

Simultaneously, Inglewood was laying the groundwork to negotiate with major league teams, billionaire owners and developers by paving streets, trimming trees and laying miles of fiber optic cable underground.

“It doesn’t sound very exciting but when people ask me how I did it, I tell them by paving the streets,” Butts said. “First of all, it’s what the people asked me to

And Century Boulevard, Florence, Imperial Highway which were 20 years overdue was reconstructed.

Opportunity knocked



Mayor Butts and Clippers owner Steve Ballmer COURTESY PHOTO

once again when Stan Kroenke, the billionaire developer and owner of the Rams, drove down newly paved La Brea Boulevard to City Hall, to tell the mayor he wanted to move the Rams to Inglewood.

Deal took negotiations

Seated in the mayor’s sparsely decorated office, Stan laid out his plan and asked that Inglewood:

event the league would not allow him to move

3. Get Stockbridge Capital to sell him 100 acres to go with the 60

ments.”

Moreover, Inglewood could never rezone the north parking area to be rezoned for residential housing, he told Kroenke. The Forum was entitled back in 1967 with on 3,500 parking spaces under the belief that the Hollywood Race Track would be there in perpetuity. For sellouts that Forum needed up to 1,500 spaces across the street on the Hol-

the money to buy land and you can likely get the votes of the League owners. You can place an football team anywhere you can buy 170 acres, but only in Inglewood can you build Kroenkeville...a mixed use development in play 365 days per year.”

Stan sat back on the couch and said; “Huh. You’re a pretty smart guy.” In less than 2 hours each



Topping Ceremony at SoFi stadium, Mayor Butts with workers COURTESY PHOTO

How did he do it? Potholes, Pruning, Rock and Rap

“It began with re-opening the Forum” Butts explains. “I knew that if I could get the Forum to re-open then we would again be an attractive area for other major business entities.”

do when I ran for mayor. So after I got in office, we did a street survey, graded the roads from worst to best, and we have been paving them in a methodical and systematic way ever since. For our residents, this was essential. But it was also essential in order to make us business friendly.

acres that he had previously purchased from Walmart, because he needed about 160-170 acres for a stadium.

The mayor politely declined that deal.

“Most mayors would have fallen over themselves to bond for \$500 million. Just to have a chance at a stadium,” Butts recalled, “But I said no way. Not going to do it. “We weren’t interested in public financing a stadium and hoping for ancillary revenue to pay the annual bond payments.” “That usually doesn’t work



lywood Park site. The Forum could not operate without that space.

“I also told Stan that I did not want to take the largest contiguous block of open land in urban southern California and entitle it for a use that projected out (with one football team) to be in use less than 20 days a year.

man knew what the other could live with.

Let’s Make a Deal

Hollywood Park Tomorrow, a development with 75,000 square feet of office, 450,000 square feet of retail space and 2,500 residential units, and 25 acres of park space had already been en-

{See INGLEWOOD A-7}

How Mayor James Butts turned Inglewood Into California’s Premier Sports and Entertainment City

{continued from Pg. A-6}

titled, back in 2007-2008, and was ready to go. But unfortunately, the recession hit, the housing market had crashed, and the project was dead. When the Forum reopened the Stockbridge Capital group received EB-5 pledges that allowed them to go forward. So when Kroenke approached them, Stockbridge wasn’t interested. They had been through the dance with the NFL in the 1990’s when Al Davis had negotiated a deal with Hollywood Park and the City to move the Raiders back to the LA market on that same land. Al Davis asked the City for \$10 million dollars non-refundable and Inglewood declined. Al Davis would get that \$10 million non-refundable from City of Irwindale. He never built a stadium in Irwindale and left with the \$10 million and returned to Oakland.

“Stan called to tell me Stockbridge won’t sell and they won’t even talk about it,” the mayor said. “I said okay. Let me see what I can do.”

What the mayor would do would was use Inglewood leverage to bring the parties together.

Hollywood Park Tomorrow wanted a minor modification in their development agreement; instead of having to put up a bond for the entire project as soon

um as the centerpiece of a 300-acre development that is 2½ times the size of Disneyland at a cost of about \$5 billion. An artificial lake will lie at the south end of the stadium and a 6,000-seat performing arts theater and a 200,000-square-foot building to house employees of the NFL Network are nearly finished.

The plan also calls for a

2) The developer to pay up front for the construction of both the private and public pieces of the development.

3) A hard to hire provision (Result – Over 100 convicted felons have worked on this project at prevailing wages and gained training and job skills to sustain them in the future.)

team. Massive litigation followed Ballmer’s decision, as Madison Square Garden (MSG) sought to block the Clippers from siting their headquarters in Inglewood. MSG (arranging financing of over a \$1 million dollars) backed a candidate to run against the mayor (who won with more than 60% of the vote), sued the Clippers, sued the City



Inglewood City Council members, George Dotson and Alex Padilla, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, and Council members Eloy Morales, Ralph Franklin COURTESY PHOTO

300-room hotel, more than a million square feet for residential, commercial and retail space and four parks.

Mayor Butts said; “Stan Kroenke’s vision that Inglewood was an overlooked jewel for the NFL’s return to the market was critical. We are forever appreciative that Stan and the NFL owners choose Inglewood over Farmers Field and the Carson stadium concept.”

4) Construction materials wholesaled to Inglewood site - This allowed Sales taxes on materials contracts in excess of \$5 million dollars to be collected by the City of Inglewood (averaged 15 million per year in additional revenue)

5)No bonding for the project by Inglewood (If Inglewood had bonded the City would have a bond

of Inglewood and sued Butts personally.

Eventually, Ballmer would write a \$400 million check, purchase the Forum from MSG and all parties settled in March 2020.

Inglewood Today

Today, the key components of the renaissance are either completed or nearing completion.

Madison Square Garden has gone back to New York and the “Fabulous Forum” is now part of Ballmer’s sports and entertainment footprint in Inglewood.

SoFi Stadium is the most magnificent and technologically advanced sport



Wrestlemania announcement COURTESY PHOTOS

structure in the world, and the Rams and the Chargers are midway through their first NFL Season in their new home.

The Clippers are edging closer to breaking ground on what will be the preeminent professional basketball arena in the world, and a practice facility, 18,000-seat NBA arena, open space and retail will take shape on land that has lain fallow for over three decades.

The NFL Network building is weeks of being ready for occupancy, and the 298-acre Hollywood Park Development is an aerial landmark for passengers approaching LAX.

In terms of quality of life, the challenges posed by COVID-19 cannot be dismissed. Real suffering has been visited on people who have lost both livelihood and loved ones.

Yet, with regard to public safety, the City continues to create a safer and more security environment.

Inglewood is in its 9th consecutive year of the lowest crime rates in its recorded history. In fact, the year 2019 holds the distinction of having the lowest level of crime in City records.

Lastly, the Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, fittingly, is in the final stages of a renovation that will give the organization is due as a key partner in Inglewood’s economic turnaround.

“I want to be clear – I haven’t done all of this by myself. I have a talented team of City Council Members (Eloy Morales, Alex Padilla, George Dotson and Ralph Franklin) along with our City Manager Artie Fields and our dedicated Department Heads that have worked night and day to make this happen,” Butts said. “Overwhelmingly our team is made up of people who live in Inglewood, who are connected to its past, and are deeply



The opening of the new Inglewood Senior Center COURTESY PHOTOS

as they broke ground, they wanted to be able to bond piece by piece. That’s a change the mayor said he would grant – under one condition.

“I will give you the modification, but only if I feel you’ve negotiated substantially with Stan Kroenke,” Butts conditioned.

And negotiate, they did.

An initiative was put forward by an Inglewood resident. It garnered over 22,000 signatures (far more than what was required to put it on the ballot). The whole city rallied to support the stadium, by supporting the initiative that would allow the entitlements for the expanded retail and office program (the original proposal had a 70,000 seat NFL stadium cleared environmentally) without a new EIR. The City Council adopted the initiative by unanimous vote. An overwhelming majority of residents united to bring the Rams to Inglewood.

With private funds, Kroenke built SoFi Stadium

Halimah Ginyard, President of the Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce said; “Stan Kroenke’s SoFi Stadium project employed over 1,200 Inglewood residents and spent over a half-billion dollars using minority led and disadvantaged businesses as local subcontractors. Stan Kroenke stood tall for Inglewood residents and small businesses....Stan even contracted with Inglewood businesses for catering of milestone construction events”

That’s how Inglewood did what many cities across the country had tried to do, land an NFL Team. But Inglewood did it without public funds or securing municipal bond indebtedness.

“We could do it because we aren’t Los Angeles. We could do it because we are small enough to have a nimble government that cut through layers of bureaucracy.”

What did Inglewood seek in return?

1) 35% Local Hire goal

payment due next year with no offsetting stadium revenue).

“We knew how great this is going to be for our residents in terms of jobs and diversifying our tax base, so we were going to make it happen — and we did it in a way that worked for the Rams and worked for Inglewood and our residents.”

Mayor Butts, who has an MBA from Cal Poly Pomona, says that it is his business background, not experience as a police chief or head of anti-terrorism at Los Angeles World Airports that has been most relevant to the business renaissance of Inglewood.

“It helps that I speak the language of business and understand the concerns those that risk large sums of capital investing in a city,” he said simply.

After the Rams came the Chargers. Then came the Los Angeles Clippers and owner Steve Ballmer, determined to build a state-of-the-art arena for his



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President-Elect Joe Biden Taps Former Ambassador Susan Rice for White House Domestic Council

By BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

The vision of inclusion continues to take shape in America. President-elect Joe Biden selected former ambassador of the Obama administration Susan Rice to lead the White House Domestic Policy Council. Biden’s “Build Back Better” mission is showcasing its effect, by rendering his future administration to focus on racial equity, healthcare, and the ever-present coronavirus pandemic.

At age 56, Rice has amassed over 20 years’ experience in foreign policy; her recent activity seen through the Obama administration as Ambassador of the United Nations. Rice later filled the role of a national security advisor. According to reports from CNN, her potential influence as leadership for the White House Domestic Policy Council “will elevate the profile” in the Biden cabinet, and create a sense of recovery from the previous presidential party

activity.

Rice has the potential to join other significant presidential advisors, which includes Democrat Leon Panetta and Republican James Baker; they concentrate on foreign policy and domestic initiatives. From, circulating reports from Yahoo News, democratic policymakers have contested Rice’s ability to receive approval from a “Republican-controlled” senate branch. Additionally, lawmakers are showing concern with Biden’s decision to consider Rice for a domestic advisory position, seeing how it’s polarizing to her strengths in foreign policy.

However, there is no need for the senate branch to vouch for Rice to secure the position, which is looking to work in her favor. Pulling from the analysis by USA Today, past actions that work against Rice would be her “criticized response” to the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission and her history in the “CIA Annex” in Benghazi, Libya.

Biden is still looking to



AP PHOTO/CAROLYN KASTER, FILE

In this April 29, 2016, file photo, then-national security adviser Susan Rice is seen on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. President-elect Joe Biden is naming Susan Rice as director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. The role will give her broad sway over his administration’s approach to immigration, health care and racial inequality and elevates the prominence of the position in the West Wing.

secure a place for Rice in his administration. A key connection between Biden and Rice was in 2008, they worked closely in the Obama administration. When Biden was active as Vice President and Rice served as the UN ambassador, both sides led activi-

ties that may have overlapped. As a promising contender, Rice will supervise the development, coordination, and execution of domestic policy in the White House.

As the potential leader of White House Policy, Rice will work directly with the

president to keep the administration aligned with its set agenda. Rice would manage the department’s staff and interns in specific policies that include education, energy, environment, health-care, immigration, infrastructure, labor, urban affairs, and veteran matters according to the official website of the White House.

Reflecting on the information found on Ballotpedia, former ambassador Rice was born in Washington D.C. in 1964, and she received her bachelor’s degree in history from Stanford University. Rice continued her education at Oxford University where she earned her Master’s in Philosophy (M.Phil) and a Doctor in Philosophy (D.Phil) in International relations.

Digging deeper into her background, Rice had a leading role as an international management consultant at McKinsey and Company in Toronto, Ontario in 1993. Expanding her political influence over the years, Rice had a hand in the Clinton admin-

istration. She was a member of the National Security Council, as director for international organizations and peacekeeping. Gradually, she became a special assistant to 42nd President Bill Clinton.

In 1997, Rice was recommended for the assistant secretary for the African Affairs position. She served under that title until 2001, Rice took on a senior position in foreign policy at the Brookings Institute soon after. She came back to Capitol Hill in 2008, to become the Ambassador to the United Nations and national security adviser from 2009 to 2017.

A key part to Biden’s “Build Back Better” Initiative is racial equity. In partnering with Vice-President Kamala Harris, selecting former General Lloyd Austin for Pentagon leadership, and now preserving Rice for White House Domestic Policy, Biden is showing the authenticity in his mission. The vision for a diverse population within the Biden Cabinet is well underway.

SC-VBC PROVIDES ONLINE RESOURCES AND COURSES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

By BERTRAM KELLER
Contributing Writer

The Southern California Virtual Business Center (SC-VBC) is an online facility designed to prepare business owners to scale and grow through the emphasis of corporate and government contracts. The SC-VBC hosts different programs for entrepreneurs at different stages of their busi-

ness, through the program’s curriculum, resources, and mentorships.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2020—The Los Angeles Sentinel (LAS) interviewed Founder and Program Director of the SC-VBC—Kimberly Kelly-Rolfe. We discussed topics like entrepreneurship, how to secure largescale partnerships, the significance of today’s digital market, and

starting a business during the pandemic. The following is a Q&A, but for the full interview go to www.lasentinel.net.

(LAS): Kimberly, for those who are not aware, how did you get to where you are today?

(K): I would say tenacity, a lot of hard work, and just a determination to succeed are probably my biggest success factors. I

always think back to something that I used to say in High School, ‘If there is a will, I will find a way! That’s sort of been my life’s moto, I suppose.

(LAS): Let’s talk about Southern California Virtual Business Center, what is your role with this program and what is the program’s objective?

(K): So, I am the director of the Southern California Virtual Business Center (SC-VBC), and our focus is that we are a center that focuses completely on preparing businesses to scale and grow through contracting. So, we do not offer a lot of different programs on different topics. Simply, all our programming focuses on how to prepare businesses to scale and grow through corporate and government contracts because we believe in a long-term sustainability of contracts. It is a true way that business owner can succeed.



COURTESY PHOTO

“We are going to train and teach you how to create a business that would be conducive to securing corporate and government contracts.” – Kimberly Kelly-Rolfe

as an educator and a business owner, I am a firm believer in education and continuing that education. I believe there is so much you can learn!

(LAS): Let’s talk about some of SC-VBC’s partnerships, and how did that come together?

(K): We have been fortunate to create partnerships with a number of different corporations. [Some] of our biggest partners and proponents of our program are Southern California Edison, we have also received significant funding from JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America, and now we are entering into a new partnership with the California Black Chamber of Commerce. In terms of the partnerships, our mindset was ‘How do we support our small businesses?’ ‘How can we provide them with the resources and the relationships that they need to scale and grow?’ One of the things that we do in our CBEST program is we actually foster a relationship between corporate partners and our small businesses because we recognize that as they’re seeking to submit RFP and Proposals, we want to make sure that somebody on the side of the table knows their name and truly understands what they bring to the table. We work very closely with our businesses and our partners to bring them into a relationship, and that’s important to us because we need to give our small businesses all the tools that they need to in order to succeed. So, every partnership that we have pursued is with the mindset of continuing to provide resources and

support to small businesses.

(LAS): What does a strong digital plan for a small business look like? Is there an ideal outline?

(K): I think that it’s unique for each business. I think that every business has the responsibility to explore their market. Meaning, what are the trends in your industry? What new technology is heading your way? What opportunities/problems do you see in the market that have not been solved? So, when you are thinking of providing a digital solution for your own company, it’s what resources can we utilize and tap into that’s going to keep us connected to our customer. What’s going to keep us operating efficiently? I guess if I were to breakdown our digital plan or programming, I would want to make sure it definitely includes: a social media platform to make sure we are staying connected, I’m looking at CRM—Customer Relation Platform, and also a dashboard that’s going to keep all the functionality of the company at the fingertips of the management.

(LAS): What advice do you have for anyone who would like to start a business during the pandemic?

(K): You’re going to have to be creative. You’re going to have to be innovative. I think what we have done in the past may not necessarily work. The reason is now businesses are forced to be able to service customers in-person and online. You’ve got to have a good strong plan for both because some people still

{See SC-VBC ONLINE RESOURCES on B-2}



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Los Angeles Community Reflects on the Long-Lasting Imprints of Civic Leader Mark Ridley-Thomas as He Prepares to Embody the Title of City Councilmember

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Los Angeles public officials must prove their loyalty and commitment every day they hold their position. Their oath includes preserving the

ley-Thomas is aligned with unprecedented moments in history.

Throughout Ridley-Thomas' career, the board meetings were long, and the list of concerns in his jurisdiction was extensive. Facing homelessness, vul-

nerable youth, and inequality in highly compacted communities, Ridley-Thomas looked at these generational milestones and honed into ways to meet them with a customized solution. For Ridley-Thomas, there is always a way to the idea of



Former Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas opening the press conference for the Safe Landing Community day event in February.

health, safety, and protection of the lives of the community. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has upheld that responsibility since 2008, and with much pride, Los Angeles watches him prepare for a new chapter in his public service career. Through his patience and

nerable youth, and inequality in highly compacted communities, Ridley-Thomas looked at these generational milestones and honed into ways to meet them with a customized solution. For Ridley-Thomas, there is always a way to the idea of

host ten local families in mobile homes of modern design. In its presentation, Ridley-Thomas revealed the speed of this directive coming forth in one month; he enlisted that as one of the miracles he has seen in his lifetime.

At the forefront of every platform Ridley-Thomas has stepped on, the mission for racial equity has always been present. Ridley-Thomas demonstrated his understanding of justice for all, in directives such as the ATI/ODR, and the Anti-Racism motion. More recently in his career, Ridley-Thomas orchestrated a six-page measurement, addressing institutionalized racism among the County walls of Los Angeles. In July, he made the call for recourse and a movement for anti-racist sensibility.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas held a virtual briefing, and broke down the benchmarks of the "establishing an anti-racist Los Angeles County policy agenda." During the wake of health and wellbeing, there needed to be an immediate action for equality for people of color in Los Angeles.

The COVID-19 outbreak did not distinguish the fire Ridley-Thomas had for equity. He did more than hold virtual meetings and socially distanced discussions. Ridley-Thomas physically moved and sought to help the community by providing them with supplies needed to waiver this viral pandemic. In May, Ridley-Thomas rallied for unincorporated areas to receive 1.8-million dollars in federally funded emergency rental assistance.

Areas under the second-district jurisdiction include Athens, East and West Rancho Dominguez, Florence Firestone, Ladera Heights, Lennox, View Park, Windsor Hills, and Willowbrook. Within his latest acts during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ridley-Thomas traveled for several weeks and passed out over 10,000 masks to essential workers across the second-district.

Since the pandemic has escalated to over 200,000 cases, masks have been in high demand. With the majority of Personal protective equipment (PPE)



Former second-district Los Angeles Supervisor being sworn-in.

reserved for medical centers and first responders, Jobs in underserved communities are left with even fewer preventative resources. This environment leaves them exposed to the risk of community transmission.

Ridley-Thomas acknowledged the vulnerability that left people of color, they still have the essential responsibility to work during COVID-19. This created tremors that could engulf underserved neighborhoods. Ridley-Thomas has shown persistence, unwavering commitment, and the necessary level of work needed to be done in the community.

Reflecting on his time in public service, Ridley-Thomas said, "I find this work fulfilling. I deliberately chose to stay here all

of my life, because I see so much opportunity to do good—to make a difference." Ridley-Thomas continued, "To me, that is what life is about, so it's pretty natural for me to salute servant leadership,

and that is essentially what I do." The community looks forward to the continual devotion and civic duty Councilmember Ridley-Thomas will put forward in the coming changes of history.



Former Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas opening the press conference for the Safe Landing Community day event



Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas

determination, Ridley-Thomas saw monumental works come to pass. He has devoted much of his life's energy to the betterment and improvement of Los Angeles.

Former Supervisor, Ridley-Thomas favored terms like "resolve," and "ingenuity," because that's what he found it takes for long-lasting initiatives and measurements to become a reality for underrepresented communities. As the former second-district supervisor prepares for his role as a councilmember, there is a permanent imprint of his journey over two-million people that benefited from his work ethic.

Councilmember Ridley-Thomas evolves in the heightened state of change. As he began to lay the framework down as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the economy had reached a point of recession. Additionally, the world witnessed the first Black President of America sit in the Oval Office.

In this new chapter, Ridley-Thomas finds his footing as a councilmember, as the world faces a moment of grave uncertainty during a viral pandemic. As well as, a new level of equality has erupted, and the masses heed the words of the First Black woman Vice President of the United States. One can say Councilmember Rid-

equity and making it a reality for all Angelenos.

His words riled thousands, as Ridley-Thomas spoke numerous times about the truth on what can be done for the people of Los Angeles. Ridley-Thomas stands for results; each day as the supervisor of the second-district, he prepared to exercise the oath as a public servant and hear the concerns of two-million people. He has walked the same blocks of every community member, and seen those laying on the ground with their palms stretched out. Ridley-Thomas never turned a blind eye to an imbalance that lives in the streets of Los Angeles.

Noteworthy acts like Measure H will honor the community long after the movement of Ridley-Thomas. Measure H is an initiative, combatting the escalated rise in the population of the unsheltered. In 2017, Angelenos voted to tax themselves, and fund directives that look to end the tragedy for thousands experiencing homelessness.

Ridley-Thomas sat as Board Chairman when Measure H was voted in, and his words were captured, "Thanks to voters' trust, generosity and compassion, we now have the means to implement proven strategies to end and prevent homelessness on a massive scale, and address the defining civic

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How African American-owned businesses are helping LAX passengers get back into the sky

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) has kept its doors open as an essential service throughout the 2020 global pandemic, adapting and maintaining safe facilities for those who need to travel. But, the airport and its many business partners have still faced economic hardship this year, as passenger numbers decline to levels not seen since the 1950s and 1960s.

African American-owned companies that operate at LAX play an important role in supporting the second-busiest airport in the United States as passengers slowly return to the skies.

Justin Erbacci, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports, shared, “Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is committed to the businesses and partnerships that support our recovery and transformation. Our success is rooted in our diversity, and we



Hudson News in multiple terminals at LAX

are proud to recognize African American-owned businesses at LAX for their exceptional service to our guests and the role they play in creating a world-class airport.”

Palazzo Concessions, owned by **Simeon Stewart II** and **Michael Washington**, manages multiple restaurants, gift shops, newsstands and specialty stores at LAX. They include the very popular Michael Kors, Fred Segal and Victoria’s Secret stores



Cassell’s Hamburgers at LAX Terminal 1

in Tom Bradley International Terminal. During normal times, international travelers make up a significant amount of concessions spending at LAX, making the Tom Bradley International Terminal a coveted location for many companies that tailor products to the international market.

Kerman Maddox is owner of Dakota Communications and president of K&R Hospitality, a joint-venture partner with Delaware North Corporation. K&R Hospitality jointly operates the Los Angeles Farmers Market in Terminal 5, bringing a Los Angeles flair to the airport terminals while providing travelers with all the fresh and healthy delights that the iconic L.A. Farmers Market has to offer.

Apryl Stewart, founder of Skyview Concessions, is among the many LAX concession operators who worked with the airport to implement the new online ordering system, and allows for online order and contactless pickup at two of her concessions – Urth Caffè and California Pizza Kitchen, both located in Terminal 1. LAXOrderNow.com is a new digital platform and part of LAX’s expanded digital marketplace. LAXOrderNow.com allows LAX guests to browse restaurant menus, pay and pick up food and beverages directly from their mobile devices, creating less physical contact. So Cal-favored locations like Stewart’s Urth Caffè,

which offers its organic coffee and fine teas as well as a fresh and sustainable menu, also provides unique



LAX’s Tom Bradley International Terminal

options for guest at LAX who are looking for healthier options while on the go.

Owned and operated by hospitality veteran **Greg Plummer**, Enjoy, Repeat! operates eight different food and beverage locations and is part of LAWA’s award-winning airport dining program, including Cassell’s Hamburgers, Trejo’s Tacos, and Einstein Bros. Bagel, which are all located in Terminal 1. Greg inspires his team to provide warm hospitality that both nourishes and offers comfort for travelers. A longtime culinary favorite, Cassell’s Hamburgers brings a bit of the city of Los Angeles to travelers at LAX.

Albright International owner **Stella Albright** part-

ners with the Hudson Group, a global news and gift company operating five stores in Terminal 6, including Sunset News, Access Hollywood and LA Magazine; iconic names that conjure the glamorous life found only in Los Angeles. Guests at LAX also enjoy Albright’s MAC Cosmetics store and popular women’s clothing shop, M. Fredric, as well as various food and beverage locations in Terminal 1.

These are just a few examples of the many African American-owned businesses at LAX that continue to show resiliency and determination in serving the traveling public during this uncertain time.

African American business owners and workers

African American community while always ensuring inclusivity, diversity and social responsibility. As LAWA continues building the airport of the future, including continuing work on the LAX Automated People Mover, the new Midfield Satellite Concourse, and coordinating with its partners for terminal upgrades, it remains focused on ensuring that African American businesses and local workers are an integral part of this world-class modernization program.

LAWA’s Business, Jobs and Social Responsibility Division (BJSR)

The BJSR team collectively brings a long history with LAWA, the city of Los Angeles and the local business and non-profit community, and are dedicated to engage, train and assist African American business owners to be successful at LAX.

Whether you are a business owner thinking about breaking into the aviation marketplace, or an individual looking for a new career opportunity in the aviation or hospitality industry, LAWA welcomes you to explore those dreams and make those visions into



LAX Tower at Sunset

travelers get back into the skies safely and with the amenities and services they want. For LAWA’s part, LAX is committed to strengthening business partnerships with the

reality in 2021. Contact businessandjobs@lawa.org to connect with someone who can help guide you. Those interested in jobs at LAX can visit www.jobsat-lax.org.

LA County Small Business Owners Face \$60 Billion Capital Gap, Magnified Due to Pandemic

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

A new report found that minority-owned small businesses in Los Angeles County face a \$60B capital gap and suffer disproportionate revenue losses and closure rates as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report written by Next Street and Common Future explains that small business revenue in Los Angeles County decreased by 26 percent from January to September 2020. During the same period, the number of small businesses open for business fell by 27 percent.

Black, Latinx, and Asian-owned businesses across Los Angeles County are overrepresented in

industries directly impacted by the pandemic including restaurants, performing arts venues, and personal and laundry service businesses, according to the study.

“Despite boasting the largest small business economy in the country, Los Angeles small businesses continue to feel the strain of inequality, disenfranchisement, and discrimination,” says Charisse Conan Johnson, managing partner at Next Street.

According to the report, the situation in Los Angeles is also similar across the country as businesses owned by people of color reported nearly twice the closure rates and revenue losses compared to White-owned firms

JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.

JP Morgan Chase Logo

during the first two months of the pandemic nationally.

The report’s researchers attribute these disparities to systemic barriers to accessing affordable capital and high levels of segregation that restrict access to networks and opportunities to build wealth through business ownership.

“Our new report on Los Angeles small businesses shows that geography, class, and race matter significantly when it comes to the success of a

business. They just need more capital providers to step up and support them to survive in this tough

The report was commissioned by JPMorgan Chase and developed in partnership with Lendis-

strengthen businesses and corresponding responsible capital providers.

Sarah Bowles, vice president of Global Philanthropy for JPMorgan Chase, commented on the research, “This research is important to identify the right support and resources needed in Los Angeles to help diverse

COMMONFUTURE.

CommonFuture Logo

economic time, and to thrive beyond it,” says Rodney Foxworth, CEO of Common Future.

The report finds that while Black and Latinx residents make up 8 percent and 49 percent of L.A. County’s population, they only own two percent and 11 percent of all local businesses, respectively.

try and Concerned Capital.

It goes on to provide community-informed solutions to address the immediate issues facing minority-owned small businesses, including increasing the availability of free and low-cost, flexible capital and money to better finance and

small business owners overcome the challenges to grow stronger from this year’s economic crisis but also to encourage more and new diverse businesses to start in the years to come.”

Read more about the state of the L.A. County small business ecosystem here.

next street

Next Street Logo

Metro’s CBO Partnering Strategy Team Shares its First Draft for Better Community Outreach and Partnerships

By SAYBIN ROBERSON
Contributing Writer

Since last year, Los Angeles Metro has worked to enhance, reconnect and deepen its relationship with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with goals of aligning and coordinating Metro’s current partnerships and to create a structure for the future. This past Friday, December 10, 2020, Metro’s CBO hosted a virtual meeting to discuss the strategy and recommendations with community leaders across Los Angeles.

As stated in the draft, “The CBO Strategy establishes clear and consistent parameters for Metro to continue partnering with CBOs, as appropriate, by formalizing partnership structures and developing mutually beneficial, equity-focused relationships that bring real and tangible benefits to the Agency, CBOs, and Los Angeles region.” The meeting held over Zoom was the first glimpse into a long journey of education and

preparation for a better and more cohesive strategy to better serve those in underserved and compromised positions, much like the work done on Metro’s Blue Line which improved much of the programs delivery methods. For nearly two hours, several Metro staff workers who make up Metro’s CBO Partnering Strategy team discussed possibilities while also laying out the purpose, goal, and pre-determined recommendations for the project.

Led by KeAndra Cylear-Dodds, Metro’s executive office of Equity and Race, the meeting began with opening remarks as she welcomed each person and detailed exactly what Metro aims to fix. “The core objective is to increase access to opportunity for all and it recognizes that there are disparities that exist within our community that prevent full access for everyone, so our charge is really to understand and identify those disparities, and then come up with solutions that help



KeAndra Cylear-Dodds, Metro's Executive Office of Equity and Race

address and eliminate those disparities. And so that's, that's what we're working towards,” Cylear-Dodds explained. She continued on to say one of the main pillars of focus, to listen and learn, is largely based on community engagement which fuels CBO partnerships and the reason for the virtual meeting.

According to CBO Partnering Strategy Draft, Metro added the Equity Platform Framework as a recognition of its influential role in Los Angeles and its duty to aid in reversing the disparities



Elizabeth Carvajal, Senior Director

Cylear-Dodds spoke of. The draft details the four project phases and was of which Metro builds and maintains successful partnerships. The draft then goes into depth detailing the seven recommendations developed and designed from both internal and external sources to ensure the goals of reaching across the entire agency.

The recommendations listed are to establish a central home for the CBO Partnering Strategy, develop and maintain a comprehensive CBO partner database, use criteria to determine the

compensation threshold, establish an internal library of resources and sample templates for CBO partnering, use a standard CBO partner chartering process, train Metro staff how to effectively partner with CBOs, and lastly, build CBOs’ capacity to navigate and partner with Metro.

During the call, listeners were also able to add their additional hopes for recommendations to several Metro staff members including Ayda Safaei, director, Construction Relations and Mitigation Programs, Elizabeth Carvajal, senior director, and Michael Cortez, Community Relations manager. Many of the recommendations suggested and heard by the team revolved around community involvement, outreach, accessibility, and determining ways to identify programs and proposals that best fit the surrounding community.

“I am hopeful it's in the right direction, I know we really want to be able to compensate CBOs and bring

them to the table, especially on a lot of these opportunities in procurement,” Cortez stated during the meeting. “Also training Metro staff on how to work with CBOs ... having Metro understand how to work with the different communities out there is also going to be critical and that's why we're advancing that in these recommendations.”

Cylear-Dodds added in her remarks that clarity is going to be very necessary moving forward as well as acknowledgment of the needs of the community when thinking, building, and obtaining partnerships with CBOs. “I really look forward to figuring out how we improve upon this and how we continue to do all this work that's necessary to move us along in this to a more equitable Metro and processes,” she continued.

Before closing, the group reassured that they would continue to hold virtual meetings to ensure that the strategy programs hit the mark.

COLOR ME DIGI, AN ONLINE SEMINAR FOR EMPOWERMENT

By BERTRAM KELLER
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, December 12, influencers, professional travelers, and life coaches all gathered for Color Me Digi, an online seminar sharing ideas for self-empowerment through lifestyle. The six-hour event was hosted by Color Me World Founder—Karisma Shackelford and finished with Olympian and World Championship Gold Medalist Mechelle Lewis Freeman as the keynote speaker.

The panelist focused on topics like travel hacking, healthy relationship advice, women’s empowerment, managing generational wealth, and spiritual empowerment which seemed to be at the core of each topic.

Guest panelists include Relationship Coach—Christy Little Jones, Lifestyle Influencer—Derron Walker, Plant Based Nutritionist—Erica Nicholson, Lifestyle Influencer—Hadiatu Dumbuya, Entrepreneur—Johnathan Quarles, Generational Wealth Strategist—Jonelle Roche, Travel Influencer—Josh Valentin, Travel Influencer—Julia

Menez, Holistic Health & Wellness Coach—Kena Hodges, and many more.

The online event launched with a warm welcome from Karisma Shackelford, with an audience of 100+ viewers streaming worldwide. Shackelford guided her audience through a 5-minute meditation. She recited positive affirmations that allowed everyone to sit back and enjoy the online workshops that offers solutions for empowerment through lifestyle change.

Shackelford eyes were closed as she took a deep breath and said, “I want all of you to sit back and allow your minds to be like a parachute and be open... Mother nature has taken her course. We are all blending and coming together to become a colorful world.”

Generational wealth is an uncommonly discussed topic unless it is specifically searched for; however, the information presented in the generational wealth workshop was informative and inspirational. Sharing ideas of making sound economic decisions through the purpose of an everlasting family legacy.

Being the first speaker of the day, Generational Wealth Strategist, Jonelle Roche gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of what to consider when building and maintaining generational wealth. Roche stated “70% of wealth that is passed down is lost in the second generation, and then over 90% is lost by the third generation. So, you have to put the work in now and prepare your beneficiaries.”

According to Roche, it takes a “wealth mindset,” beliefs that spend time, resources, and energy on work that continues to pay off long after the effort has been invested. Roche says, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. You have to give your money an assignment. If you do not tell it where to go, then guess what? It’s going to disappear.”

A strong sense of spirituality was at the core of each workshop, repeating phrases and affirmations like “I am a money magnet!” or “Unlock your personal power!” Each panelist acclaiming their success from practicing stern self-awareness and positive self-talk.

Lifestyle Influencer,

Hadiatu Dumbuya advised streamers to “acknowledge your imperfections as areas to grow.” As well as “trying different learning tactics” like reading outside of formal education. Lifestyle Influencer, Derron Walker says, “Take ten-minutes, and write-out some pros and cons about your life. Right now! And start focusing on the small things that you can control to empower yourself to grow.”

The travel hacking workshop shared insight of manipulating our existing rules of traveling and finding new ways to maximize your travel experience. Such as, earning free flights, lodging, and many other upgrades common travelers are unaware of.

Travel Influencer, Julia Menez claims “I travel using credit cards, points and [flight] miles, which a lot of people sometimes are thinking ‘that is financially irresponsible,’ but I show people how to do it in a way that is very sustainable.” Discussing one of his favorite ‘easy to use’ travel hacks; Travel Influencer, Josh Valentin mentioned “When you first get to the reception at any hotel, give [the recep-

tionist] a compliment and smile. Then when you are asking for your room, ask for an upgrade because there is that reciprocity between you and the person at the reception. A lot of time they will upgrade you complimentary because you were nice and gave them a compliment.”

The online seminar culminated with Mechelle Lewis Freeman as she shared her experiences as a World-Class Olympian struggling with fear. By combating her fears with discipline, consistency, as well as visualizing short-term and long-term goals, she has found that the momentum of taking positive action silences the negative voices that live in each of our minds.

Freeman said, “Here I am, my first race back. I am like ‘Okay, it’s time to go!’ I have been training hard, my faith is deep, and I’m still fast. I got it! The race goes off, and boom! I get dead last... So, now you have the mental part, and that’s why consistency is so important. Now you know how to compete against that [fear]. So, when you feed that that faith and feed that vision, when



COURTESY PHOTO
Karisma Shackelford Lauches "Color Me Digi," Online Seminar for Self-empowerment!

you’re in those moments of conflict, you can get that one up on fear in that moment!”

Each panelist was full of energy, and the live commentary of streamers were all supportive, as well as inquisitive of the deep subject matter presented. If you struggle with self-love, self-awareness, and self-discipline, then you may want to explore the Color Me World community. An online community that has over 10,000 people of color who share the passions of unplugging from the norm to elevate life no matter where they are in the world.



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Entrepreneur and City Commissioner Karim Webb Sheds Light on Social Equity

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Karim Webb is in the business of prosperity. As an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and city commissioner, Webb has found the mold to shape success, and brought it back to the collective community. He shares his formula with community-building in mind. Webb has an unwavering dedication to encourage business ownership in underrepresented groups. Through his work ethic, Webb has proven every bit of his advisory to be true.

The company Webb created looks to “invest in human beings.” 4thMVMT focuses “on communities impacted by institutional racism.” Webb has an eye for people who have a dream of having their legacy, and uses that fire to ignite the process of bringing that vision to life.

4thMVMT envisions the future pathway for business. The creation of Webb’s company derived from the past; the birth of the company was conceived through the knowledge of initiatives of Martin Luther King Jr. They addressed the oppression, and socially constructed racism that continues to keep people of color in a second-class environment.

Webb credits 4thMVMT to the goals of Martin Luther King Jr. Webb stated, “King said, ‘if the experience of African Americans in the United States was described in the form of a symphony,

one of the greatest activists in history. 4thMVMT partners with individuals from underserved communities to endure the process of business ownership. He was enlightened by this platform, Webb concluded that the formula to successful business ventures consisted of funding, experience, relationships, and valued service.

As city commissioner, Webb highlighted the framework around relationships, “In any relationship, whether its employee/employer, personal, family, or the relationships between business and its customer—it’s about an equal exchange of value.”

With those components set in motion, social equity will be more than a dream passed down through the words of an activist. It will be present in physical existence among all communities. Webb acknowledges the matters of oppression that block the pathway for many people of color; keeping them from achieving their goal of ownership and better quality of life. 4thMVMT bypasses the obstacles of limitations in resources, and becomes a stream of wealth for anyone seeking a new financial course for their family line.

Webb found his way to be an activist, by uplifting the confidence of the collective community. Before unlocking his true nature in building empires for social equity, Webb assisted with generating PCF Restaurant Management, and became



Karim Webb PHOTO BY LLA PHOTOGRAPHY



Buffalo Wild Wings Hand Breaded Sandwiches COURTESY OF BUFFALO WILD WINGS

bation Department. Webb also sits on the board of the Brotherhood Crusade.

As an uplifting member of the community, Webb was tapped by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to be Commissioner of the City of Los Angeles Airport and Co-Chair of RENEW task force. The mayor reached out to Webb based on the reputation of growth that surrounds him. He shared a bit of the conversation he had with the mayor during the nomination period, Webb told Garcetti, “You might be nominating me for this position, but you got to know that I am about the equity first.” The mayor’s response was,

“That’s why I want you.”

In philanthropic efforts, Webb reflected on an event that put him on the pathway to a deeper understanding of his purpose. He said, “I taught an entrepreneurship class at Dorsy Highschool after I had opened the Buffalo Wild Wings on Crenshaw, and working with those young people I had an epiphany. Which was oh, I’m not in the chicken and beer, or sports bar business, I’m in the people development business.” Webb explained that opened his perception, and it commanded more energy out of him to push the agenda of social equity forward.



Karim Webb talking at a BLOOM event at a HBO Shop. PHOTO PROVIDED BY K.WEBB



Karim Webb talking at 4thMVMT Partners event. PHOTO BY JASON CLARK.

the first movement would be the abolition of slavery, the second would be civil rights, the third would be voting rights, and the fourth would be economic equality.”

When asked about the mindset needed to succeed in business, Webb said, “Have an idea about where you are going, and the best way to do that is to be clear about your quote-on-quote why—why did God put you on the planet.” He explained that a personal set of experiences indicates the destiny of oneself.

The 4thMVMT founder shared the understanding of goals begets the consistency needed in life to accomplish the set vision. Webb referred to this laser-beam focus as a personal “North Star,” that navigates the transformation of oneself.

Webb is a nourished seed, that took root in the spoken affirmation from

a franchisee of the beer and chicken eatery, Buffalo Wild Wings.

Working through a strategy of opulence, and being “best-in-class,” the current operating franchise location on Crenshaw is recognized for reaching the highest sales percentage (2012, 2013, and 2014).

The Buffalo Wild Wing franchisee gave credit to his staff and highlighting their interests, Webb said, “I call it exercising the muscle of excellence.” He painted the picture of all of one’s experiences point to the reason for their creation. Webb mentioned if one is open-minded during the process, one can see the skills that accumulate along the way.

PCF Restaurant Management is looking to develop three more locations in Los Angeles, creating opportunities and jobs in those communities. Through great tenacity, and keen ability to

see the potential in every person, Webb created an environment in his Buffalo Wild Wing franchise that surpasses other regional and national locations.

Webb shares his wisdom as an advisor for the Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA). This non-profit organization digs into the goldmine of “cultural intelligence,” and how diversity is not only essential to the evolution of humanity, but highlights the value of being inclusive.

Naturally geared to shape the future, Webb sits on the Board of Directors of the California Community Foundation (CCF), and from that platform, he spreads his knowledge as a spokesperson for BLOOM. It’s a CCF initiative that focuses on young men in South Los Angeles who haven’t tapped into their potential, resulting in run-ins with the L.A. County Pro-

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LAPD PARTNERS WITH PVJOBS TO GIVE AWAY TOYS AND FOOD TO 1,000 SOUTH LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS

PVJOBS celebrates the Christmas season with local community members by hosting an LAPD toy and food drive in South L.A.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

To help uplift spirits during the Christmas season, PVJOBS partnered with the

to about 1,000 community members in need. Co-sponsored by PVJOBS, the toy and food drive took place at the South Park Recreation



LAPD Officer Gabriel Flores hands out a toy to an anticipating child during the Christmas giveaway event.

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) on Saturday to give away toys and food

Center in South Los Angeles and was coordinated by the LAPD's nearby Newton



PVJOBS volunteers approach a car filled with family members who awaited a food package at the drive.

Division.

The toy and food drive was organized as a drive-thru event to meet social distancing guidelines. A steady line of cars were wrapped around the block as drivers awaited their turn to drive up and receive the donated items. LAPD and PVJOBS staff and volunteers handed out a toy for each child per family as well as food and COVID care packages.

"Our toy and food drive was such a great event for everyone," said Laura Padilla, executive assistant for PVJOBS. "We were able to impact so many families in our community through this event."

LAPD Officer, Gabriel Flores, helped organize the annual event on behalf of the Department. He says that the LAPD holds the event each year as a meaningful way to

reach out to neighborhood residents. "Our mission is to bridge the gap between the precinct and the community," said Flores, who represents the LAPD Newton Division's Community Safety Partnership initiative. "Through events like these, people can see us in a different way. It shows them that we're human."

The food packages were

provided by the Office of Ninth District Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price, and toys were donated by OKK Toys. Other event community partners were Avalon Carver Community Center, Community Safety Partnership South Park, GRYD, Porsche Downtown Los Angeles, Resilient, Soledad Enrichment Action, and Volunteers of America.



A Ninth Council District truck is shown stationed at the Christmas toy and food drive.

BlackLine and Members of its Executive Team Donate to the Brotherhood Crusade

Generous donation to help create 1,000+ internships for local community; BlackLine also to provide technology-focused internships

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Brotherhood Crusade announced a generous gift from LA-based accounting automation software leader BlackLine and members of its executive team. The donation recognizes the tireless racial equity and social justice efforts of Brotherhood Crusade and will be used to both further these efforts as well as to inspire other partners and supporters to give.

The timing of this donation is impeccable. Normally, this time of year, Brotherhood Crusade is preparing for its largest fundraising event, the Annual Pioneer of African American Achievement Award Gala, which was scheduled to take place on December 4, 2020. In light of the COVID-19 crisis

and other significant occurrences, the event will neither be held in-person or virtually. As such, BlackLine's gracious gift helps ensure the under-resourced children and families Brotherhood Crusade is honored to serve will be able to continue their pursuit of a better quality of life without interruption.

Brotherhood Crusade Scholarship Recipient Tayte Williams said, "Brotherhood Crusade has instilled in me the importance of service to others and my community. As a scholarship recipient of the Brotherhood Crusade, the financial burdens of college have been greatly reduced and my focus on education has increased. I am a business major and would love to have my own business one day and with

the partnerships that the Brotherhood Crusade has with companies like BlackLine, I look forward to the possibilities of an internship that can help propel my goals. Volunteering with the Brotherhood Crusade and serving the community, side-by-side with caring and loving staff, has been an example of how all people should take care of one another. Brotherhood has helped shape my future and my dreams into realities. Thank you, Brotherhood Crusade, for supporting me, guiding me and believing in me."

Brotherhood Crusade President and CEO, Charisse Bremond Weaver said, "I'm so grateful to BlackLine and its executive team for their incredible generosity. Not only are they providing

monetary support, BlackLine is also partnering with us to build out and implement a technology-based internship program specifically purposed to benefit 18-24-year-old disconnected young adults and facilitate their transition into sustained middle-wage or higher STEAM-based careers (science, technology, engineering, arts and math career pathways)."

Brotherhood Crusade anticipates the BlackLine donation will enable the creation of more than 1,000 internships through its STEAM program.

"BlackLine is committed to supporting the fight against racial inequality and systemic injustice in an effort to build a more inclusive society," said Susan

Otto, BlackLine's chief people officer. "How we treat one another – how we serve one another – is the foundation of BlackLine's core value system. We are aligned in our vision with Brotherhood Crusade to serve our local community by providing opportunities that can change the path forward for under-resourced children and families."

In addition to helping create internships through Brotherhood Crusade, BlackLine also will provide internships for members of the Brotherhood Crusade community across several departments at the LA-based accounting automation software company.

"We look forward to welcoming members of the Brotherhood Crusade com-

munity into our internship program where we strive to promote diversity in technology while providing more than just a work experience," Ms. Otto added. "BlackLine's internships offer specific programming intended to open a door into the options and opportunities that prevail in the world of technology innovation, encouraging exploration of choice in careers and the future and ensuring that both choice and open doors are equitable, inclusive and available to all."

To learn more about Brotherhood Crusade and its programs, call (323) 846-1649 or visit brotherhood-crusade.org.

To make a matching donation or contribution to the Brotherhood Crusade, click below.

South Coast AQMD Governing Board Adopts Plans to Reduce Air Pollution in Southeast L.A. and Eastern Coachella Valley

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Last Week, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board adopted two Community Emissions Reduction Plans (CERPs) identifying actions to reduce emissions and exposure to toxic air pollution in two environmental justice communities.

The communities of Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) and Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) were designated for the second year of the community air program established by Assembly Bill 617 (C. Garcia), which requires local air districts to reduce the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice communities.

"We have worked tirelessly over the past two years to better understand the air quality concerns

within these two communities," said Ben Benoit, South Coast AQMD's Vice-Chair. "Today's Board action allows us to continue this process so that when finalized, these plans can provide both short and long-term emissions reductions that can have lasting impacts to the health of those who live and work within these communities."

The CERPs include air quality priorities identified by the Community Steering Committees (CSCs), which consist of members of the public who live, work or go to school within each community, including active residents, community leaders, local business owners or workers, community organizations, local agencies, schools, universities, hospitals, tribal organizations and elected officials.

The plans include specific actions that go beyond existing efforts by South Coast AQMD, to reduce air

pollution emissions and/or exposures, including efforts to conduct community air monitoring, focused enforcement and outreach in these communities.

Eastern Coachella Valley CERP: Aims to reduce air pollution from the Salton Sea, pesticides, fugitive road dust, the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant, diesel mobile sources, open burning and illegal dumping. Specific actions include:

- Reducing emissions by paving unpaved roads;
- Establishing a notification system for permitted agricultural burning;
- Working with scientists at public health agencies with expertise in pesticide toxicity to identify key pesticides of concern for air monitoring;
- Expanding the monitoring network to address concerns about H2S and PM emissions from the Salton Sea, agricultural

pesticide use, open burning and fugitive road dust through collaboration with various entities;

- Installing air filtration systems in schools, homes and community centers near sources of air pollution; and

- Incentivizing the replacement of older, higher polluting on-road and off-road equipment with cleaner technology.

Southeast Los Angeles CERP: Aims to reduce pollution from stationary and mobile sources; and make reducing community exposure to air pollution a top priority. Specific action targets include:

- Reducing pollution from trucks such as prioritizing incentives for zero-emission replacements;
- preventing truck idling via outreach and enforcement;
- encouraging a clean truck lane on the 710 freeway;

- identifying and reducing emissions from metal processing, rendering and other industrial facilities;

- conducting air monitoring near railyards; and
- increasing green spaces.

To develop the CERPs, South Coast AQMD held a total of 116 public and individual meetings with ECV and SELA CSC's to identify and prioritize emission reduction actions and discuss community air monitoring plans.

This year provided challenges of tight schedules due to AB 617 statutory requirements with time lost due to transitioning to a virtual format due to COVID-19. South Coast AQMD will continue to work with the ECV CSC to further develop the CERP and return to the Governing Board by mid-2021 for approval of the revised plan, which will then be submitted to the California

Air Resources Board (CARB) for final approval. Following CARB's approval, implementation will take place over approximately five years.

Under the first year of the AB 617 program, South Coast AQMD led community steering committees in Wilmington/West Long Beach/Carson, San Bernardino/Muscoy and Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles/West Commerce. CERPs for these communities were approved by CARB in September 2020.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

{Contiued SC-VBC ONLINE RESOURCES from A-8}

want to walk into the store and get helped, and others are very happy to visit and do business online. I think both during this time is very important.

(LAS): What are some grants/loans that a small business should be taking advantage of right now?

(K): The one good thing that has come out of the COVID-19 pandemic is that you do have a number of programs out there. You have a number of corporations who are standing up and saying, 'Let's support small businesses!' So, I

encourage small businesses to go to the different websites like Amazon.com or Facebook.com. You have a lot of corporations who have put initiatives in place to support small businesses. I think those are things that small businesses have to look for. You also have a number of cities that are doing programs that also provide some sort of grant or relief. Now, I am going to tell you that it is not significant enough to keep your business operating, but it's a little bit of help along the way. You can do a search to

find these different programs, they are available more than I've ever seen in the past. You [also] have business development centers that are doing informational meetings to update you on the latest.

(LAS): Can you give me some common mistakes small business are making right now, and how should they be avoided?

(K): I would say not being innovative. This is a time where you have got to get as creative as possible. You have got to talk to people around you, find out

what the problems are, what the needs are, and quickly present a solution. Then I would say being willing to pivot. As a business owner, you have got to figure out how to pivot as a company into what could be a new way of doing business. So, I think businesses that stand there and watch, it's definitely as mistake.

(LAS): You mention creativity and innovation, if you were starting a business right now, how would you be innovative and creative?

(K): I'm glad you asked that! One of the things I

teach business owners to do is costumer discovery. Get out there, talk to people, and find out what they are looking for. You have to jump in a learn your industry very, very well. Getting involved with the industry, getting involved with trade shows is important because they are going to teach you sort of what is trending in your industry. As you learn that, it's going to help you to not only serve the current needs but understand where your industry is going in the future. I definitely believe in social media; I think put-

ting out all your products and services on social media is really important. Staying connected to your costumers and growing your customer base. Do whatever you can as a business owner to show costumers that you are continuing to bring about solutions. Then figure out how you can create a business that is going to position you for corporate and government contracts because in the long term, the sustainability that comes from those contracts' opportunities are just huge.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

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B-3

Brotherhood Crusade's Annual Navidad en el Barrio Brings the Spirit of Giving

E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Staff Writer

On Saturday, December 12, the Brotherhood Crusade filled a large section of the Crenshaw District with car-lines of people, spanning from Crenshaw Blvd. and 39th St., and stretching around the entire block, hoping to receive much needed resources at Brotherhood Crusade's annual Navidad en el Barrio, or Christmas in the Neighborhood event. Brotherhood's administrators, staff, along with select community volunteers, gave their time to help out other community members in need, serving up to 3,000 families. Charisse Bremond Weaver, president and CEO of the Brotherhood Crusade, reflected on the importance of giving during the pandemic. "We are here at our annual Christmas in the neighborhood, Navidad en el Barrio, providing food baskets, toys, forty-dollar gift cards, ppe to families who are struggling right now. COVID-19 has impacted so many of our families in our communities, this is one of our ways that we give back every year. So, we're

just thankful ... thankful that the Brotherhood Crusade could be here," said Charisse Bremond Weaver, president and CEO of the Brotherhood Crusade. She also thanked the many sponsors and supporters for their donations.

According to Stacy Hill-Williams, executive vice president of Brotherhood Crusade, due to COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers were limited; 98 percent of those working the event were Brotherhood Crusade staff, who happily served the community with smiles and optimism. "We couldn't do this work without our staff and volunteers. We were up to midnight, making these bags and making this possible for everyone in our community. But a labor of love; it's never a problem for my people. Anytime we can give back to our community, giving food and toys, especially in this pandemic; I'm glad Brotherhood Crusade, the Sentinel and all our sponsors could help to make this happen," Hill-Williams said.

*See the full story and
video online.*



The Brotherhood Crusade, along with community volunteers, come together in the spirit of giving at the annual Navidad en el Barrio event. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the workers distributed food, toys, and much needed resources to people-in-need, grateful for the loving generosity towards them.

Brotherhood Crusade's Annual Navidad en el Barrio Brings the Spirit of Giving

{continued from Pg. B-3}



Charisse Bremond Weaver, president and CEO of the Brotherhood Crusade, along with staff and volunteers, including entrepreneur and political analyst, Angela Rye, and restaurateur, Karim Webb, and Heather Hutt, State director and Sr. Advisor to Kamala Harris, along with colleague, Cynthia Morales, help pass out food, toys, and other needed resources to appreciative community members at the annual Navidad en el Barrio event. PHOTOS E. MESIAH MCGINNIS / LA SENTINEL

COVID-19 Vaccine Arrives as Surge Continues to Overwhelm Hospitals

As the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed to specific locations, the surge continues to rise with a rising number of healthcare workers getting infected.

By BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

“I want to thank the many people who made today possible starting with the scientists and researchers who have shown incredible diligence and ingenuity under the most pressing circumstances, the volunteers who participated in the clinical trials, the production teams who found ways to quickly manufacture this life-saving vaccine, and the transportation teams who have managed the crucial work of getting the vaccine to facilities across the country so that vaccinations can begin immediately,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health.

She continued, “And to all the public health practitioners at federal, state, and local health departments, thank you for the 24/7 work to ensure the safe and equitable distribution of this vac-

cine across every community. Because it is likely to take a few months to have enough vaccine available to immunize the millions of individuals who live and work in L.A. County, in the meantime, we all must continue to remain extremely diligent in reducing transmission of the virus.”

Los Angeles County, like most across the nation, are in a holding pattern as they wait for the COVID-19 vaccine. According to the L.A. County Department of Public Health website, 9 shipments of the vaccine arrived Monday and were distributed amongst prepositioned sites. It was stated the initial allocation of the vaccine in L.A. County is 82,875 doses with two additional allocations expected with the month. This does not include allocations for the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena, which have their own independent health departments and are

receiving their own allocations.

Those nine prepositioned locations are working with the L.A. County Dept. of Public Health and EMS to deliver the vaccine to acute care hospitals that serves COVID-19 patients. Public Health has hosted webinars, held office hours, and is distributing information to prepare acute care hospitals for the large endeavor ahead. A second allocation of the vaccine will arrive later in the month for a distribution to all health care personnel and residents at nursing facilities, along with continued distribution to frontline healthcare and EMS personnel.

As of Monday, December 14, the L.A. County Dept. of Public Health confirmed 48 new deaths and 7,344 new cases of COVID-19. There were 4,203 people with COVID-19 hospitalized with 21% of these peo-



AP PHOTO
The initial allocation of the vaccine in L.A. County is 82,875 doses with two additional allocations expected with the month.

ple in the ICU. Since the beginning of the surge in November, cases have increased 625% with younger people being the largest source of transmission in the county. More than 70% of cases are from people under the age of 50-years-old. Residents over 80-years-old have the highest rates of hospitalization among all age groups in L.A. County followed by residents 65 to 79-years-old,

and residents 50 to 64-years-old.

Due to the recent surge in cases, there has been an increase in cases among healthcare workers. Over the last two weeks, it's been reported there are 3,400 new cases among healthcare workers. In early November, it was stated there were 40 new cases among healthcare workers a day; last week there were nearly 250 cases among healthcare workers a day.

As of Monday, December 14, Public Health identified 532,730 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 8,345 deaths.

Laboratory confirmed total cases show 532,730 with Los Angeles County showing 507,226 cases, Long Beach with 20,697 cases and Pasadena with 4,807. By race and ethnicity, COVID-19 statistics show: American Indian/Alaska Native with

740; Asian with 17,475; Black with 15,834; Hispanic/Latino with 207,749; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander with 1,682; White with 47,630; those of other race and ethnicity with 51,058 and 165,058 under investigation.

Dr. Ferrer had this to share about the recent surge of COVID-19 and residents who refuse to comply with the temporary restrictions, “We continue to see extremely high numbers of new cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 - the surge we are experiencing is alarming. If you are not playing by the rules, to be blunt, you are part of the problem, and at this point, you are contributing to these distressing increases in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.”

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

Cal Safety Workgroup Endorses COVID Vaccine Ahead of National Rollout This Week

By QUINCI LEGARDYE
California Black Media

With concerns still lingering about the safety and side effects, the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has passed the full approval process and it is ready for distribution in the U.S. The first doses will arrive at California hospitals this week.

On Dec. 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine to be distributed to individuals 16 and older. In a statement, the FDA said that Pfizer's clinical trial data showed that the “known and potential” benefits of the vaccine outweighed its risks.

“Today's action follows an open and transparent review process that included input from independent scientific and public health experts and a thorough evaluation by the agency's career scientists to ensure this vaccine met FDA's rigorous, scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization,” said FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D.

On Dec. 12, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended the

Pfizer vaccine. CDC Director Robert Redfield, M.D., accepted the recommendation on Dec. 13, passing the vaccine through the final step needed for distribution. On



SHUTTERSTOCK

the same day it received CDC approval, the first batch of vaccines was shipped out of a Pfizer plant in Portage, Michigan.

"This is the next step in our efforts to protect Americans, reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and help restore some normalcy to our lives and our country," Dr. Redfield said in a statement.

In addition to governmental reviews, state officials and public health organizations are also reviewing the safety of the Pfizer vaccine. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, made up of scientists and experts representing California and other states, independently reviewed and endorsed the vaccine's safety on Dec. 13.

“This morning, the Workgroup recommended the Pfizer vaccine as safe for

public use. With shipments of the vaccine soon on their way to California, we are working hand-in-hand with local public health officials to get the vaccine out to the first

phase of recipients. Their work will continue as data becomes available on other potential vaccines,” said Governor Gavin Newsom.

The National Medical Association, the largest national organization representing African American physicians and patients, has also formed a COVID-19 task force to offer a recommendation regarding the vaccine.

California state officials expect to receive 327,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in the upcoming week. The Moderna coronavirus vaccine is also expected to be approved by the FDA this month, and it's expected that California will receive about 2.16 million doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines combined by the end of December.

The Pfizer vaccine is given as two shots, adminis-

tered 21 days apart. FDA documents note that the vaccine seems to provide “some protection” after the first shot, but it takes both doses to reach an efficacy of 95 %.

Once the vaccines arrive in California, they will be sent to hospitals and other facilities that can store them at around minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit. Storage facilities confirmed so far include Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and UC San Francisco Medical Center.

Priority for receiving the vaccine will go to health workers most likely to be exposed to COVID-19, as well as residents and staff of nursing homes and long-term

care facilities. According to public health experts, vaccines will most likely be available for the general public in spring or summer 2021.

As of Sunday night, the COVID-19 death toll in the United States since the pandemic was declared in March reached nearly 300,000. An estimated 16.2 million Americans have been infected. In California, there have been an estimated 21,043 deaths and 1.5 million reported cases.

According to FDA documents, the vaccine does have some common adverse effects, including pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle or

joint pain and fever. Long term effects of the vaccine are not yet known.

The FDA has also warned against using the Pfizer vaccine for people who have had severe allergic reactions to ingredients used in this vaccine. Though severe allergic reactions to vaccines are rare, some participants in the Pfizer trial did experience adverse reactions, and the trial itself excluded people with a history of the severe allergic reaction anaphylaxis.

In a Dec. 12 press conference, the FDA said it will continue to monitor severe allergic reactions associated with the vaccine.

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Concerning Kwanzaa, Race and Religion: Particular, Universal and Common Ground

This is a revisiting of an early and ongoing conversation about the shared meaning of Kwanzaa, its particular cultural message to African people, and its core values that speak to the best of what it means to be African and human in the world and for the world. It raises the constantly relevant issues of race and religion and how they relate, not only to Kwanzaa as a holiday, but also to us as a people.

Each year the coming of Kwanzaa brings a sense of joyful satisfaction of having created something unique, beautiful, and beneficial for our people. It also reminds me of the extensive and enjoyable research, study and thought pursued to conceive and create Kwanzaa, and the overall and ongoing labor of love offered to make Kwanzaa a living, lasting and transformative tradition worthy of the name, history, and culture African. As an activist-scholar, I sought to build into Kwanzaa’s Kawaida philosophical framework answers to questions that would be raised, not only about the daily practice and values of Kwanzaa, but also about its origins and intent, its relation to religious and other holidays, and our self-conscious insistence on the special and particular meaning and message it has for us as African people.

I think too of how millions of African people all over the world have embraced and celebrate this pan-African holiday Kwanzaa and how Kwanzaa unites us in ways no other holiday does. And I think of how it reaffirms our identity, dignity and excellence as African people, grounds us in our culture and pro-

vides us with a value system in the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles) which serves as framework and foundation for our internal strengthening and flourishing and our bringing good into the world. These are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Given the phenomenal growth and solid grounding Kwanzaa has achieved in the world African community, it’s no wonder claimants and controversies rise around it. Indeed, if it had remained a small organizational holiday as in its first years, no one would think it worthy of either claim or comment. For success always has numerous fraudulent fathers and pretentious mothers, but failure is almost always an orphan. Thus, there is an increasing parade of pretentious contributors to Kwanzaa’s conception, revisionist “histories” claiming discoveries of new authors and collective origins of its creation, and a persistent stream of right-wing, left-wing and liberal criticism around contrived issues of race and religion.

The first problem of quaint and curious claims of creating Kwanzaa is easily solved by testing the claimants for evidence of competence in African cultures and languages relevant to the conception of Kwanzaa, for indications of relevant research and associated intellectual activity, and for demonstration of continued contribution beyond anecdotal references and imagined assistance in wishful ways. The second

reconception and misrepresentation of Kwanzaa poses a more serious problem. For it seeks to interrupt Kwanzaa’s continuing expansion, undermine its acceptance, and question and deny the right of Black people to celebrate themselves, embrace their own culture and have their own holiday without needing to explain away themselves or deny the special and particular meaning the holiday holds for them. And the criticism is posed in racial and religious terms to appeal to emotion and render reason almost irrelevant.

The issues of race and racism are raised around the strange and confused contention that Kwanzaa is too Black and we are being too Black by insisting on its Africanness, its Blackness and its particular meaning for Black people. Moreover, it is asserted that Kwanzaa and Black people must be less Black, if we are to be accepted and acceptable in the dominant society. Now, it should be noted that there is no public parallel conversation like this for others; no calls for Jews or Hanukkah to be less Jewish, or for the Irish and St. Patrick’s Day to be less Irish. Indeed, no other people are criticized for being too much of themselves or called separatist for having and celebrating a holiday that has a special and particular message and meaning for them, regardless of its meaning to others.

Yet there is among some a racial uncomfortableness about Black and Kwanzaa and thus, attempts to discredit it or redefine it to make it socially “accept-



FILE PHOTO
DR. MAULANA KARENGA

able” like with King and Malcolm. One such attempt is to redefine and re-present Kwanzaa and them as universal and not particular to Africans, as if we can’t be both. Indeed, Kwanzaa is culturally particular, but its essential message is both culturally particular and universal in the human sense of the word. To say that it is culturally particular is to say that it is culturally rooted, rises out of a particular people’s history and culture, bears the imprint and content of that people’s ideas and values, and speaks to the people in a special and particularly meaningful way. Therefore, Cinco de Mayo speaks to Mexicans in a particularly meaningful way; Chinese New Year to Chinese; Hanukkah to Jews; and St. Patrick’s Day to the Irish. And no one asks these cultural groups to redefine their holidays to de-emphasize their origins, make them less Mexican, Chinese, Jewish or Irish or redefine them so that they lose their particular historical and cultural meaning. And likewise, no one should ask that Kwanzaa be redefined and adulterated in such ways.

Kwanzaa is, of necessity, an African American and pan-African holiday and requires no permission or external acceptance for its practice, profound meaning or worth. Nor can it deny its special and particular meaning to African people without undermining its essential message and meaning as a celebration of African family, community and culture and a unique contribution to the diverse richness of human life and culture. And because Kwanzaa builds on the best of African culture, its message, like all ethically-expansive and world-encompassing messages, has both a particular and universal meaning. It speaks first and foremost to us, originates from us and is an expression of the special cultural truth we speak to the world. And in this, it speaks not only to the best of what means to be African, but also the best of what it means to be human and thus offers a common-ground message to other humans in the world.

Therefore, religious resistance to Kwanzaa is also misplaced and is provoked and promoted by manipulation of uninformed apprehension and misunderstanding. There is no Kwanzaa competition or conflict with the various religions Black people embrace, for as we’ve said for years, Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday not a religious one. Kwanzaa builds on the best of African tradition and opens up cultural space for Africans of all faiths. And thus, Africans of all faiths can and do celebrate Kwanzaa: Black

Christians, Muslims, Hebrews, Jews, Buddhists, Bahá’í, and Hindus, as well as those who follow the ancient African spiritual and ethical traditions of Maat, Ifa, Ashanti, Dogon, etc. For Kwanzaa offers is not an alternative to their particular religions or faiths, but a common ground of African culture which they all share and on which they meet and are reaffirmed in the expansive meaning and sacred beauty of their being African in the world.

Thus, all over the world, African people rightfully celebrate Kwanzaa, embrace and find common ground in its cultural and ethical values, in its insistence on the oneness and sacredness of life, social justice, due respect of persons and people, responsibility and care for the vulnerable, repair and preservation of the environment, the end of oppression everywhere, a just peace, and the shared obligation to constantly bring and sustain good in the world through righteous and relentless struggle.

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

•DARREN WALLACE•

I disinfect the rooms of COVID patients at Kaiser, We urgently need a hero bonus to recognize and retain staff

I’ve worked at Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center for 37 years in the environmental services department, where we’re responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the hospital. Although environmental service workers aren’t always the most visible members of the healthcare delivery team, we’re absolutely essential for infection control, especially during this global pandemic. We take deep pride in our work, but we’re struggling during this vicious third COVID wave as many of our coworkers have been infected. We need Kaiser executives to give back to

their workforce in order to recognize and retain staff, so we can ensure safe care for our patients.

Sanitizing COVID patients’ rooms is very difficult, detailed and dangerous work. After they are discharged or pass away, we have to scrub the walls and other surfaces, clean the beds, and even wipe down the vents using powerful chemicals to make sure every room is completely

sterilized. In my department, we’ve had five coworkers who’ve gotten sick from COVID since the pandemic began. Some Kaiser workers have made



DARREN WALLACE

the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.




Because we’re so understaffed and overwhelmed

with patients, I’ve sometimes worked three shifts in a row, 24 hours straight in order to get all the work done. Healthcare workers throughout Kaiser have dedicated our lives to quality patient care, but we’re wrestling

with nerve-wracking fears and anxieties about the health of ourselves and our loved ones. I’m worried every day about bringing the virus home to my mother who is 79-years-old and blind. It would crush my heart if I ever inadvertently caused her harm.

{See WALLACE C-7}

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•TIM WATKINS & MARK RAVIS,•

Destination Watts, Then And Now

Watts is a historic place. It's where oppressed people from the Deep South and, more recently, from around the world, have come to start a new life in fabled California. They fled the remnants of slavery, Jim Crow, the Klu Klux Klan, lynchings, and corrupt political and legal systems. They fled oppression and political exclusion and came with great hope in search of a new life.

While better than the lands they fled, Watts was far from paradise. Until the mid-1900's, the Klan was in Watts too and segregation and political exclusion were political norms in Los Angeles. It has always been rough in Watts but a community managed to take hold and was proud of its new struggling place in the sun. People established roots and took pride in Watts. They fought political battles to make Watts a better place and a place they proudly called home. They lived and died there, buried their loved ones nearby. They stayed and tried, and tried very hard, to be treated with respect and dignity.

Although Watts has been very much like an

abused stepchild of Los Angeles since its annexation in 1926, it has managed to achieve international fame because of its history, cultural icons, as well as being the site of the largest urban uprising in American history in 1965 when residents violently resisted political and economic abuse by the City of Los Angeles.

Watts itself is a monument to the great universal struggle for civil rights and to the hope for a better country and a better world. It should not be dismantled piecemeal by those who did not build it, those who have not lived it, and by those driven by self-interest. For example, Watts does not need more so-called "affordable housing" structures which would line the pockets of Westside developers and their political friends. It is already the most densely populated, most impoverished, and most contaminated section of Los Angeles. It doesn't want and doesn't need housing built and owned by outsiders which will inevitably transform, undermine, and destroy the legacy of Watts.

Instead, Watts could

and should become a world-class tourist attraction, a living monument to all people seeking to overcome oppression whether it be political, economic, or racial. Imagine a transformed Watts with main streets renamed Emancipation, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks Boulevards, Lillian Mobley, Caffie Green, Cesar Chavez, Charles R. Drew, Kobe Bryant, Jackie Joyner, Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Maria Elena Durazo and hundreds more, there are so many more heroes than streets. You get the idea.

And, all of those newly-named boulevards and avenues lined with gas lamps, ethnic restaurants, clubs, music venues, all owned by and employing locals.... safe for tourists and locals alike. And, of course, all of these newly-named streets and boulevards converging on the long-promised Cultural Crescent, a grand complex consisting of the historic train station, museums, and other monuments to the remarkable tenacity of the people of Watts and their struggle for an equal place in the sun.

The Cultural Crescent has been a repeatedly-



TIM WATKINS



MARK RAVIS

promised development during uprisings and protests for over the 55 years. The community has been planning for it and waiting for it. The time has now come to keep that long-overdue promise. Doing so will be transformative. Tourists will come in droves to Watts, to enjoy the food and entertainment, and to learn of a community's struggle for fairness and equality which mirrors our nation's struggle to right past wrongs. It will be an inspiration for people everywhere who are hoping for and struggling for a better life.

Just think of it....

Destination Watts! This is what Watts could be and should be. A place where people go for inspiration and go to experience an authentic culture. This is the dream of Simon Rodia when he was building the world-famous Watts Towers and it has been the dream of other local giants. The dream cannot die.

Among other things, Watts is a central transportation hub linking together all parts of the city and county and deserves access to right-of-way revenue that has always been diverted elsewhere. Watts could easily make a powerful argument for cityhood. Yet, Watts should, if possible, remain

part of Los Angeles instead of becoming separately incorporated. Nonetheless, all options should be on the table in the political confrontations that may present themselves in the fight for a just future. Politicians should be listening to the growing sounds of justice and equality. Watts must have its fair share of political power and public resources.

Watts must not allow concealed forces of destruction, disguised in the name of urban development, progress, affordable housing, or anything else that would destroy the dream of Watts; a place that deserves to be preserved as a national memorial to oppressed people everywhere and to those who continue to fight for a just and fair society. It's time to accelerate our fight and call for meetings to set the agenda. We need to stand together and be counted in order to continue the fight that so many others before us fought.

*Tim Watkins, CEO
Watts Labor Community Action Committee
Mark Ravis, Attorney
Public Interest Law & Litigation Los Angeles*

•REV. JESSE L. JACKSON, SR. •

Georgia and its long history of voter suppression

Now that Donald Trump's baseless lies about voter fraud have been summarily dismissed by the courts, perhaps some attention can be paid to the true threat to free and fair elections: systemic and massive voter suppression.

Voter suppression, not voter fraud, could have critically important effects in Senate runoff elections in Georgia that will determine which party controls the majority in the U.S. Senate.

In Georgia, voting rights groups, including the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the Black Votes Matter Fund, have filed a lawsuit challenging the wrongful purge of nearly 200,000 voters from the voting rolls over the last two years. They are seeking, with the aid of counsel provided by the National Bar Association, injunctive relief to reinstate these voters prior to the Jan. 5 Senate runoff races.

As a September report

from the Georgia American Civil Liberties Union states, the voters purged are likely to be "young voters, voters of lower income and citizens of racial groups that have been denied their sacred right to vote in the past."

With Republicans in control of the state, it isn't surprising that these are voters who are likely to vote overwhelmingly for Democrats. Nor is it surprising that the state chose not to use a licensee of the U.S. Postal Service — as required by law — to carry out the mailing designed to confirm that the voters were no longer at the address. Instead, it was done by a one-person firm located in Nebraska.

An independent analysis of over 300,000 voters purged from the rolls after 2018 showed that over 60% wrongfully lost their right to vote because of an incorrect assumption that they had changed their address. Too often, these voters never discover they



REV. JESSE L. JACKSON, SR.

have been purged until the time to vote, when it is too late.

The ACLU and Greg Palast, the independent investigator who discovered the wrongful purges, tried repeatedly to get the Georgia secretary of state to agree to meet to review the proof of unjustified purges. After receiving no reply, voting rights groups decided they

had no choice but to file the lawsuit.

Georgia has a long history of voter suppression, dating back to the post-Civil War period when the Ku Klux Klan used widespread violence to intimidate Black and Republican voters in order to re-establish white supremacy. Georgia was one of the states that perfected Jim Crow laws to limit Black votes. Now, as Rev. William Barber II notes, "Jim Crow did not retire; he went to law school and launched a second career. Meet James Crow, Esquire."

Georgia has employed all of the modern techniques of voter suppression. It has closed polling places disproportionately in areas of Black concentration, forcing voters to wait in lines for hours to cast a vote. It has repeatedly purged the voting rolls, striking far more voters off than the average state across the country. It required "exact match"

voter signatures on registrations, with up to 80% of those disqualified people of color (a lawsuit brought that ploy largely to an end in 2019). When Republicans assumed total control of the state in 2010, the resulting gerrymandering was, as Rep. John Lewis stated, "an affront to the spirit and the letter of the Voting Rights Act."

What has been happening in Georgia has been happening in states under Republican control across the country. Increasingly a minority party in a diverse and young nation, Republicans have been perfecting ways to gain power without capturing a majority of the votes.

In Georgia, a hearing on the lawsuit — backed by a record of independent and authoritative expert analysis of the voters purged from the rolls — was slated for Dec. 10. Hopefully, this injustice can be corrected before the runoff in January.

Donald Trump's false

claims about voter fraud have captured the front pages and immediate attention of courts across the land. Ironically, the authoritative challenge to brazen voter suppression has received far less attention.

In Georgia and elsewhere, it will take constant attention, citizen mobilization and litigation to challenge the increasingly sophisticated efforts to suppress the vote.

The Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, is one of America's foremost civil rights, religious and political figures. Over the past forty years, he has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice. On August 9, 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Reverend Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Greater Los Angeles VA Begins COVID-19 Vaccinations

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to frontline health care employees and Veterans residing in long-term care Community Living and Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder centers today.

VAGLAHS is part of the initial group of 37 VA medical centers across the country that began receiving and administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine this week.

The sites were chosen for their ability to vaccinate large numbers of people and store the vaccines at extremely cold temperatures.



"The Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System is proud to be a part of the initial 37 VA medical centers receiving the vaccine," said Steven E. Braverman, M.D., Director, VAGLAHS. "We are dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receiving care at VA and our employees are ultimately offered the vaccine."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration stated that in clinical trials the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses, 21 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

COVID-19 vaccine



implementation will include an initial limited-supply phase followed by a general implementation phase, when large sup-

plies of the vaccine will be available.

As increased vaccine supply becomes available, VA plans to distrib-

ute these vaccines at additional facilities to offer the vaccine to more Veterans and employees.

VA will report directly to the CDC data on all vaccine doses administered by VA. The department will also provide general, public updates on the number of people who receive the vaccination at these sites, similar to how VA posts COVID-19 testing figures.

Veterans seeking additional information can sign up to get updated information through VA's COVID-19 Vaccine Keep Me Informed tool, visit the VA Coronavirus Vaccine FAQs webpage, contact their care team, or visit their facility website.

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Good Enough

When you hear the phrase “good enough,” what do you think? Most of the time we take it personally and we think that WE are not good enough. We start thinking about our shortcomings, and mistakes and we even go as far as to look at things like our bodies, hair, clothes, and everything else in between. Once we get past taking it personally and all our physical frailties, we then start sizing up our accomplishments or the lack thereof. We think about the unfinished projects on our desk, the list of things on our “to do” list that continues to grow. And let us not forget about the laundry that is still on the floor.

I was recently listening to a podcast and the guest was talking about how she has learned that sometimes, “Good Enough” is good enough. The person talking was someone that I have long admired and followed, and I thought she was a perfectionist. So when I heard her say this, it caught me by surprise. The more I thought about her statement, I had to challenge myself with the question of, how often do I hold myself back from achieving something because I was striving for perfection, rather than accepting that good enough would do? There are some things that will suffice if they are not perfect.

As I reflect on the various seasons of my life, especially after I was first married with children, I had to learn what was important and when I should just take a chill pill and relax. For example, for those that know me and have ever been in my home, I pride myself in keeping it nice and neat. But when you have a young family and you are being pulled every which way, I had to realize that if everything was not dusted or put up in its proper place, it was okay. As long as I made sure we did not live-in filth and craziness, it was good enough. Funny story, one day a girlfriend came by for a cup of tea and she went to my daughter’s bedroom and when she looked inside her toy chest, she said, “oh my goodness Wendy, even Courtney’s toy chest is organized.” Well, that did not last for long.

Over time, there have been different things that have come across my path that I had to make decisions on, and I had to decide if it was worth me giving my all or was it fine if I just get it done? I agree, there are some things that we cannot sacrifice on; but we must learn how to discern the difference. As the saying goes, do not major in the minors. Seek balance in all that you do if you want to achieve peace. The sad thing is, most of us work hard to get all we can, can all we get, and then just sit on the can. We really do not need a lot of things. Usually, the person that tries to please everybody (by being perfect) ends up pleasing nobody and becomes sad and lonely.

One of the gifts of getting older is your perspective changes. I have started focusing more on things that have an eternal value or lend itself to my legacy. The things I believe I should always seek perfection on include, being the best wife and mother (including grandmother), my word, my character, and my commitment to others. The rest in life is negotiable. I want my loved ones to always know they are loved and valued, as well as for people to believe I have done my best when and where it counts. By the way, when it comes to the physical aspect of how God has made us – that is good enough too!

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‘Keep What You Got!’ ‘Your Pot of Gold’

If you get rid of “it,” there’s someone or some others who want it and who can use it. Not only that, if you throw “it” away, could be the one who receives it can do more with it than whatever you did with it when you had “it.” So, be careful of what you get rid of. It may presently seem of little or no value to you now, but that doesn’t mean “it” won’t be of greater value over a period of time. For example, fashions change, but if you wait long enough, the same clothing you have had for many years will come back around. Have you noticed lately (I bet you have, but I’m sort of slow to know some of the latest happenings; my attention is drawn to other areas) however, have you noticed the ladies tops have gotten shorter and more “butt” is showing? Oh’m.y. Well, not only that some women have flat behinds, but some are adding pads to make like they have “bigger butts” too! Oh’m.y. What’s going on? Somebody likes it! Right. It’s okay if you wish your backside was bigger and you want added. That’s your business, but it is out in public. So, Dr. Jeanette, where are you going with this seemingly nonsensical talk. Here’s the thing, some people want what others have, but if they were born with it, they might not like it. If you want a bigger “butt” and you can use it and when you want to take it off when you don’t want it that’s up to you. But, sometimes when you want what others have you may not want what all comes along with it. Some people want tanned skin. Well, they can get rid of it whenever they want to, but not all honey colored skin can be removed at will. And big butts are also desirable when you’re born with it. So, you want tanned skin, but you want to remove it whenever you want to for convenience. Not everything can be removed for convenience. You got it. You were born with it. So there. But, let’s summarize: value and protect “big butts.” Value and protect natural skin colors. Okay, let’s change the subject a little bit and say, “Why, Dr. Jeanette you have the title “Pot of Gold?” Good question. Consider your mind a “Pot of Gold.” Yup. That’s right, “your mind is a “Pot of Gold.” How is that? Many underestimate the power, capacity or value of the mind. Your mind is priceless. From your mind come great ideas. You solve problems through arriving at solutions. You take steps to come to answers. Think about it. What is your problem you need solved today? Part of the hindrance is that some people don’t think things through to come to a solution. Not only that some become discouraged “at the blink of an eye!” Your mind is sort of like a muscle. You see the body-builders. They exercise and their muscles expand and become stronger. Same thing with your mind. If you push yourself to solving problems, your mind expands with knowledge and understanding. If you read more, you understand more. Read different types of materials; therefore, you learn to comprehend increasingly more difficult materials and learn to love reading more and your comprehension greatly improves. You see how it works....your mental muscle absorbs and your “Pot of Gold” grows greater and more valuable. Think about it like that. Your capacity for solving problems is much greater than you think. ALSO, your knowledge expands, your value is greater. Here’s the thing, some people just don’t want to challenge their minds to expect more of themselves. Your “Pot of Gold” is greater than you ever thought or imagined. You walk taller. Your back is straighter. Your value is increased, multiplied exponentially:::greater and greater.

Thanks for reading!

Jeanette Grattan Parker, Founder-Superintendent Today’s Fresh Start Charter School 323-293-9826 www.todayfreshstart.org; Askdrjeanette@gmail.com Askdrjeanette.successtheway@gmail.com tm “Inquiring Minds Want To Know.”© All rights reserved©Askdrjeanetteparker.com tm Today’s Fresh Start Charter School



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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

\$50,000 REWARD NOTICE

The City of Los Angeles offers a reward payable at the discretion of the City Council to one or more persons in the sum or sums up to an aggregate maximum total sum of \$50,000 for information leading to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the SHOOTING DEATH OF Oz'Taz Massey, in the City of Los Angeles. On August 18, 2020 at approximately 6:10pm, 17-year-old Oz'Taz Massey was standing and talking with friends and family members in the driveway of a residence located at 618 West 91st Street in Los Angeles, when he was fatally shot by an unknown individual. The suspect, who is described as a black male wearing a hoodie and driving a blue BMW, then fled the scene. Detectives are continuing to investigate this crime, but have not been able to identify any suspect or suspects. Detectives believe a reward may compel members of the public to provide information on the person or persons responsible for this crime. The person or persons responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this crime. Unless withdrawn or paid by City Council action, this offer of reward shall terminate on, and have no effect after, JUNE 14, 2021. The provisions of payment and all other considerations shall be governed by Chapter 12 of Division 19 of the LAAC Code, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 158157 and 166666. This offer shall be given upon the condition that all claimants provide continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to this case and is not available to public officers or employees of the City, their families, persons in law enforcement or persons whose misconduct prompted this reward. If you have any information regarding this case, please call the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-LAPD-24-7, 24 hours. C. F. No. 20-00010-s19 12/17/20

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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

CIVIL

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Petition of: Donna Jean Hightower for Change of Name
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Petitioner filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Donna Jean Hightower to Donna Jean Jenkins
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: Feb. 23, 2021, Time: 11:00 AM, Dept.: 20, Room: 310
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: Nov. 9, 2020
David J. Cowan
Judge of the Superior Court
12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3424926#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 20TRCP00278
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Sonyo Estavillo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Sonyo Estavillo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Sonyo Estavillo to Sonyo Zofia Gray
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 01-15-2021, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept.: M, Room: 350
The address of the court is 8255 Maple Ave., Torrance, CA 90503
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: Dec. 9, 2020
Gary Y. Tanaka
Judge of the Superior Court
12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3424922#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

AMENDED SUMMONS

Cross-Complaint (CITACION JUDICIAL-CONTRADEMANDA)
SHORT NAME OF CASE (from Complaint): (Nombre de Caso):
Gonzalez v. Vasquez
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):
18STLC13207

NOTICE TO CROSS-DEFENDANT (AVISO AL CONTRA-DEMANDADO):
YVETTE SILVA, SILVA COMMUNICATIONS, ANGEL GONZALEZ, an individual, and Roes 30 to 40, Inclusive YOU ARE BEING SUED BY CROSS-COMPLAINANT (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL CONTRADEMANDANTE): Leticia Vasquez

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al contrademandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protege. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o onándose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
The name, address, and telephone number of cross-complainant's attorney, or cross-complainant without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del contrademandante, o del contrademandante que no tiene abogado, es): Ronald N. Wilson, Attorney at Law, 3415 S. Sepulveda Bl Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90034
DATE (Fecha): 07/17/2019
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/ Clerk of Court, Clerk, by (Secretario), Della Ramos, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual cross-defendant.
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20
CNS-3422690#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 20VECP00384
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Milesia A'lann Hill for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Milesia A'lann Hill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Zuri Elise Morales to Zuri Elise Hill
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to

be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 01/05/2021, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept.: W, Room: 610
The address of the court is 6230 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: Nov. 9, 2020
Virginia Keeny
Judge of the Superior Court
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20
CNS-3421666#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 20NWCP00286
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Roxillinn Victoria San Paolo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Roxillinn Victoria San Paolo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Roxillinn Victoria San Paolo to Roxillinn Victoria Martinez
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 01-11-2021, Time: 10:30 AM, Dept.: C
The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: Nov. 25, 2020
Margaret M. Bernal
Judge of the Superior Court
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20
CNS-3421679#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP02896
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Hannibal Cinque Hatcher for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Hannibal Cinque Hatcher filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Hannibal Cinque Hatcher to Amethyst Cinque Hannibal Breaux
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: January 12, 2021, Time: 11:00 AM, Dept.: 20, Room: 310
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: Sept. 9, 2020
David J. Cowan
Judge of the Superior Court
12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20
CNS-3421671#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20STCP03790
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Kelly Stephanía Lazo for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Kelly Stephanía Lazo filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Kelly Stephanía Lazo to Kelly Stephanía Lazo Arias
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: March 01, 2021, Time: 9:00 A.M., Dept.: 26, Room: 316
The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street Room 102, Los Angeles CA 90012
Unlimited Civil
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
Date: November 16, 2020
Elaine Lu
Judge of the Superior Court
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421196#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2020200646
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. ZEN'S BOTANICAL, 2. ZENS BOTANICAL, 3700 CARMONA AVE 4, Los Angeles, CA 90016 County of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s): DANIELLE DURUISSEAU, 3700 CARMONA AVE 4, LOS ANGELES, CA 90016
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant(s) started doing business on 11/2012.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/ DANIELLE DURUISSEAU, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/30/2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3425111#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020192841
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
WE OUT HERE 365 LLC, 8913 HARGIS ST., Los Angeles, CA 90034 County of LOS ANGELES
Mailing Address: 9854 NATIONAL BLVD. #143, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034
Registered owner(s): WE OUT HERE 365 LLC, 8913 HARGIS ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90034; State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
WE OUT HERE 365 LLC S/ TRACI AUSBY, CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/19/2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3425068#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020210076
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MORNINGSTAR OF PASADENA, 951 S. FAIR OAKS AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91105 County of LOS ANGELES
Mailing Address: 1000 LEGION PLACE SUITE 1600, Orlando, FL 32801
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: LLC/AI No 202029610065
Registered owner(s): OLYMPIC SENIOR CARE LLC 1000 LEGION PLACE SUITE 1600, ORLANDO, CA 32801; State of Incorporation: DE
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant(s) started doing business on 11/2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3425099#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020198540
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
COURT'S NOTARY EXPRESS, 8927 S HARVARD BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90047 County of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s): TERESE C PAYNE, 8927 S HARVARD BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90047; State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/2020.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/ TERESE C PAYNE, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/25/2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new

Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Public Notices

Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3425074#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020208204
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. STEWART INSURANCE SERVICES, 2. SAVVY TOPS AND HATS, 20003 HARLAN AVENUE, Carson, CA 90746 County of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s): SHAWNDA LYNNET STEWART, 20003 HARLAN AVENUE, CARSON, CA 90746
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/ SHAWNDA LYNNET STEWART, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/07/2020.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

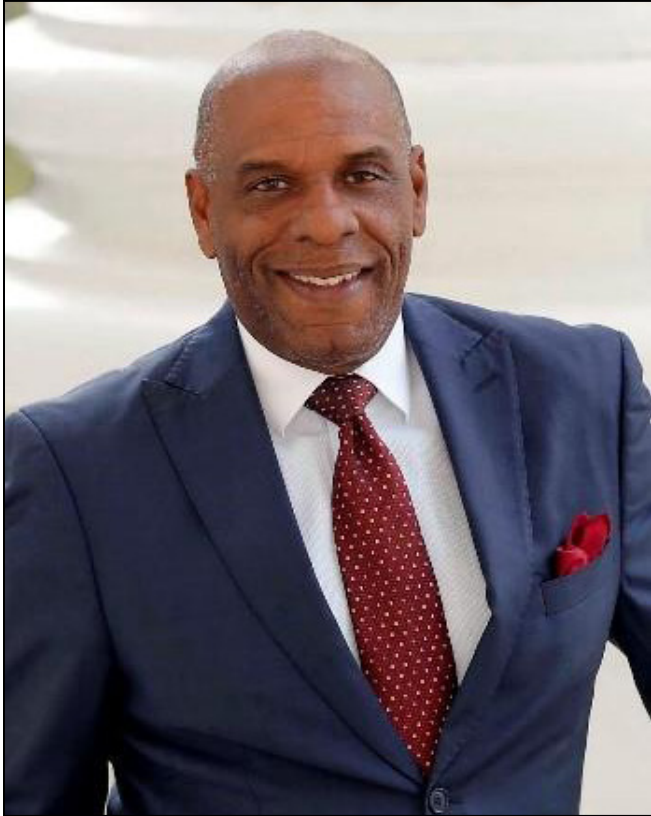
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20, 1/7/21
CNS-3425111#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020210076
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MORNINGSTAR OF PASADENA, 951 S. FAIR OAKS AVENUE, PASADENA, CA 91105 County of LOS ANGELES
Mailing Address: 1000 LEGION PLACE SUITE 1600, Orlando, FL 32801
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: LLC/AI No 202029610065
Registered owner(s): OLY

Senator Steve Bradford and Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer Make Calif. History as first Two African Americans to Chair the Public Safety Committees

{continued from Pg. A-1}



Senator Bradford COURTESY PHOTO



Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer COURTESY PHOTO

both Senator Bradford and Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer take on the challenges of police reform, prison guard standards and their modes of operation.

Jones-Sawyer released a statement thanking Assembly Speaker Anthony Ren-

don and Senate President pro Tempore Atkins “for recognizing that in order to meet this moment amidst the outcry for criminal justice reform, voices from over-policed communities must be elevated to lead all Californians forward.” Sen-

ator Bradford and Assembly member Jones-Sawyer both represent districts with constituents desperate for reform and positive change in our criminal justice system. Their efforts over the years have been focused on introducing legislation that em-

phasizes rehabilitation and education over incarceration, the closing of private prisons, and establishing a police culture of transparency and interaction with local communities.

“The role as Public Safety chair will be chal-

lenging especially in light of all we are facing as a state and nation, but I welcome the opportunity to provide substantial changes and improvement to the system,” said Senator Bradford. “As Chair, I will work toward improving the safety of our residents, offering justice to victims of crimes, passing true criminal and judicial justice reform measures that hold those in authority accountable for their actions, increasing transparency between communities and their officers, cultivating a real system for rehabilitation and actively supporting the formerly incarcerated. The recent reporting that California’s police agencies have upheld less than 2% of racial profiling complaints demonstrates that reform is desperately needed. Californians are counting on us to pass meaningful and comprehensive reform, such as SB 2, which the Pro Tem and I introduced last week to decertify bad officers. I will not be able to accomplish these efforts alone,

but by working collaboratively with my fellow committee members, law enforcement, community organizations, advocate groups, and all Californians.”

The two legislatures and their respective committees are poised to take on progressive policies aimed at transformational reforms in public safety. The goal is to help modernize and create exemplary officers in state and local departments. Their commitment remains to ensure public safety is consistent with California’s values of equity, fairness, and justice.

Other members serving on the Senate Public Safety Committee are: Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa) as Vice Chair, and Senators Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) and Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

For more information, please visit the committee website at: <https://spsf.senate.ca.gov/>.

I disinfect the rooms of COVID patients at Kaiser, We urgently need a hero bonus to recognize and retain staff

{continued from Pg.C-1}

Many lower-wage Kaiser workers, such as environmental services, nursing assistants and dietary workers—who are disproportionately people of color—also worry about being able to provide for our families if we get sick and possibly face long-term health impacts from the virus.

While frontline Kaiser workers have been struggling, Kaiser’s finances have been extremely

healthy. In the second quarter of this year alone, Kaiser had \$4.5 billion in profits, and is sitting on \$44 billion in cash and investments. In the first half of this year, Kaiser’s patient membership grew by 183,000 to a total of 12.4 million.

That’s why thousands of Kaiser healthcare workers throughout California and the rest of the country recently signed onto a petition to management calling for a

“Hero Bonus.” My coworkers and I in the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions believe that this bonus is urgently needed to honor our sacrifices and retain staff for safe, quality patient care.

Kaiser can easily afford the bonus with their unprecedented growth and financial success, which has been built on the foundation of our hard work. It is our hope that executives remember the spirit of the holidays and

recognize that in order for Kaiser to thrive, frontline workers and our families must thrive as well.

Darren Wallace is a lead environmental services tech with almost four decades of service at Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center, and is a member leader of his union, SEIU United Healthcare Workers West.



Darren Wallace KAISER

Public Notices

does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Original Filing 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/20
CNS-341963#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2020185752
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SABAN GLASS, 10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD. #2600, LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 County of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s):
CHERYL SABAN DESIGNS LLC, 10100 SANTA MONICA BLVD. SUITE 2600, LOS ANGELES, CA 90067; State of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)).
CHERYL SABAN DESIGNS LLC
S/ GREG IVANCICH, CFO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/12/2020.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Original Filing 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/20
CNS-3419463#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

GOVERNMENT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
IFB NO. P0844-21
SIGNAL HOUSE – CP CAPITOL CP DAYTON
The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is seeking bids for Signal House – CP Capitol CP Dayton. The maximum dollar value for the contract will be for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$850,000.00. Bid documents may be obtained via download by visiting SCRRA's website at <http://www.metroinktrains.com/agency/page/title/doing-business>. Vendors must register for no fee on the website in order to download the documents. All bids must be electronically submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. (PST) on December 22, 2020.
The Contract to be awarded will be subject to a financial assistance agreement between Authority and U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) under grants issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). As a condition of financial assistance, the Authority has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and overall DBE goal in accordance with Title 49 CFR, Part 26. Authority's overall DBE goal for the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) is 12%.
In conformance with the Authority's DBE Policy and Program the Authority has established a 4.02% DBE contract-specific goal on this project. Bidders will be required to either meet the 4.02% goal or submit an adequate Good Faith Effort (GFE) demonstrating intent to meet the goal, for their bid to be deemed responsive to DBE Program requirements.
For further information contact: Melissa Cousart, Contract and Compliance Administrator at 213.452.0207 or email Cousartm@scrra.net.
12/17/20
CNS-3423068#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Notice is given that proposals for A/E Services, Utilizing Construction Manager at Risk Delivery Method, for Hall of Administration Seismic Upgrade (BRC0000205) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works, Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803 until 4 pm, on January 21, 2021. An RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/>

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contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 300-2325 or TDD at (626) 282-7829.
12/17/20
CNS-3422000#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Smart Business Recycling Program (BRC0000183) will be received via BidExpress until 5:30pm, Monday, January 11, 2021. An optional proposers' conference will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 2 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting Online Events. To participate, the proposers will need to sign-in using the electronic sign-in-sheet through the website listed in the RFP Notice. Estimated contract amount is \$1.5M for the initial 2-year term. An RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at <http://pw.lacounty.gov/brodf/servicecontracts/> or will be mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-4072 or TDDat(626) 282-7829.
12/17/20
CNS-3421021#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
IFB NO. P0844-21
LAUS SWITCH MACHINES - CP MISSION CP TERMINAL
The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is seeking bids for LAUS Switch Machines - CP Mission CP Terminal. The maximum dollar value for the contract will be for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500,000.00. Bid documents may be obtained via download by visiting SCRRA's website at <http://www.metroinktrains.com/agency/page/title/doing-business>. Vendors must register for no fee on the website in order to download the documents. All bids must be electronically submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. (PST) on December 22, 2020.
The Contract to be awarded will be subject to a financial assistance agreement between Authority and U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) under grants issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). As a condition of financial assistance, the Authority and U.S. DOT, the Authority has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and overall DBE goal in accordance with Title 49 CFR, Part 26. Authority's overall DBE goal for the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) is 12%.
In conformance with the Authority's DBE Policy and Program the Authority has established a 4.97% DBE

Public Notices

contract-specific goal on this project. Bidders will be required to either meet the 4.97% goal or submit an adequate Good Faith Effort (GFE) demonstrating intent to meet the goal, for their bid to be deemed responsive to DBE Program requirements.
For further information contact: Melissa Cousart, Contract and Compliance Administrator at 213.452.0207 or email Cousartm@scrra.net.
12/17/20
CNS-3420937#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROHMI REID CASE NO. 20STPB09904
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROHMI REID.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by HAROLD BALL in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that HAROLD BALL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/04/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner WHITNEY DAVIS-HOUSTON SBN 188746 - WDH FIRM 2425 OLYMPIC BLVD. #4000-W
PMB #093
SANTA MONICA CA 90404
12/17, 12/24, 12/31/20
CNS-3424917#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

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appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner DARIUS BALLARD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to

Public Notices

take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/04/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
In Pro Per Petitioner DARIUS BALLARD 9400 CROESUS AVE. LOS ANGELES CA 90002
12/10, 12/17, 12/24/20
CNS-3421784#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

CASE NO. 20STPB09567
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ERICA FRANCES D. OWOLABI.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ERICKA MCGEE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ERICKA MCGEE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 12/28/20 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
In Pro Per Petitioner ERICKA MCGEE 333 S. LOS ANGELES STREET APT. 308 LOS ANGELES CA 90013
12/3, 12/10, 12/17/20
CNS-3420897#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

www.lasentinel.net

D-1

Force Indy Aims to get More African Americans in Motorsports

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Business leader Rod Reid is using his passion for motorsports and experience with being a road manager to create the Force Indy race team. The team is set to compete in the 2021 Copper Tires USF2000 Championship.

The USF2000 will last from February to August, with competitions in Canada and several states including Florida, Alabama, and Indiana. Force Indy will compete in its' inaugural race at the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg on March 5-7, 2021.

Reid has been around motorsports for many years. Back in 1984, he was manager of Scorpion Racing; the team began racing in Laguna Seca in California.

"We were running a class that was called Super-Vee," Reid said. "That was an open wheel racing class."

Reid will make an emphasis on hiring African

Americans for Force Indy as staffers, engineers, mechanics, and drivers. He also wants to help them have a thriving career in Motorsports; Force Indy will also provide a mentorship with Team Penske.

"When the IMS and INDYCAR acquisition happened a year ago, I was pleased to learn of the work Rod Reid was doing," Indianapolis Motor Speedway Chairman Roger Penske said. "Together, we'll work to not only get this new team off the ground but continue to support it and its mission as it continues down a path to compete at the top level."

Because of the mentorship, Force Indy will be located in Concord, North Carolina for its' first season. Team Penske has won 16 NTT INDYCAR SERIES and 18 Indianapolis 500 championships. Reid mentioned how the expertise and help from Team Penske is invaluable.

"To get mentored by the best it's certainly important," Reid said. "That's



(left-to-right) Nadeem Ali, Stuart Kelly, Rod Reid and Derrick Morris. Stuart Kelly and Derrick are both NXG Youth Motorsports Alum.

common in racing ... when they build a race team and you try to find folks that can give you support."

Force Indy will have No. 99 on their car to honor the legacy of Dewey "Rajo Jack" Gatson. Gatson was one of the first African American racers in America, he competed during the 1930s and 1940s. He won several races throughout the West Coast.

In 2003, Gatson was inducted in the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame. He was also inducted into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in 2007.

In 2000, Reid and his partner Charles Wilson created the Nexgeneracers program which helped teach youth from 11-15 about Indy racing. The program ran under the non-profit organization NXG Youth

Motorsports Inc. Nexgeneracers was created to teach youth how to race and how to advance in a motorsports career.

"We bought go carts and we would provide all the assets, all the equipment that kids would need," Reid said. "NXG Youth Motorsports has had over 2000 kids in the program in those 14 seasons."

In a program that con-

sists of five different levels, youth learned life skills and STEM lessons through Nexgeneracers.

"We'll compare what it's like to traverse and to try to drive on a road course, compare that to driving in your own life," Reid said. "We will compare everything from tire pressure to atmospheric pressure in our lives to peer pressure that you may have as a child."

Youth also learn about financial literacy and how to operate tools. On every class level, the students learn how to drive and they get into competitive racing at the fifth level.

Force Indy is part of the "Race for Equality and Change" initiative that INDYCAR and Indianapolis Motor Speedway have.

"They were gonna put dollars and efforts behind programs like our program," Reid said. "My biggest concern was it wasn't a hollow program, that it's really genuine that they would stand behind it and Roger Penke certainly has done that."

Clippers Add Skillful Youth and Experienced Veterans on Roster

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Clippers are going into the 2020-2021 season with an upgraded roster and with thoughts of their second-round 2020 Playoffs exit behind them.

On December 10, forward Paul George signed a four-year \$176 million deal with the Clippers. Last season George played in 48 games, scoring 21.5 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. In the Playoffs, George scored 20.1 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

George mentioned how he wants to build a foundation with the Clippers and playing for them is a childhood dream come true.

"I love being here, I love the family that I created in my first year," George said. "It's a priceless deal to me, having the opportunity to play here and be in front of my family, my friends and leaving my mark."

In making his decision, he notified forward Kawhi Leonard with the hope that he will stay in the future.



During his career, forward Paul George has scored 20.0 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

Leonard can opt out of his current contract with the Clippers at the end of the 2021 season to become a free agent.

Last month, center Serge Ibaka signed with the Clippers in a two-year deal for \$18.9 million. Ibaka spent the last four years

with the Toronto Raptors, helping them win an NBA championship in 2019. In 11 playoff appearances, he has averaged 11 points, 6.6 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game.

"[Ibaka] is a stretch five, more of a power player but is also able to protect the rim and protect the basket," Clippers head coach, Tyronn Lue said. "That's what he does well from day one of his career."

Other new additions to the front court are forwards, Nicolas Batum and Malik Fitts, and center, Daniel Oturu. Batum has been in the NBA for 12 years, having a career scoring-high of 15.1 points per game during the 2016-17 season with the Charlotte Hornets. Lue noted that Batum has a "great basketball IQ."

"The biggest thing with [Batum] is he's a great passer," Lue said. "Being that size and being able to look over defenses and make plays and pass the basketball, it's huge for us."

Oturu was a second-round pick in the 2020 Draft. In the Clippers first

preseason game, he scored six points after playing for 15 minutes against the Lakers. Lue applauded his ability to rebound in his preseason debut.

"That's something I definitely think I can do is taking up space, rebounding, getting up for blocking

for Saint Mary's College. He was named on the All-WCC First team for the 2019-20 season.

The Clippers also added a fleet of guards which include Luke Kennard, Rayjon Tucker, and Ky Bowman. After spending three seasons with the

clocked in 32 minutes of preseason competition each after two games. When it comes to playing time, Lue is more concerned with rotations than the amount of minutes he gives players.

"With a shortened preseason, it's kind of difficult," Lue said. "We're just



Clippers head coach, Tyronn Lue is keeping an eye on how well players compete with each other during the preseason.

shots," Oturu said. "Even on the offensive side, just trying to create room and space for the guys to drive through."

Fitts is a native of Rancho Cucamonga and played

Detroit Pistons, Kennard averaged 9.8 points and 2.8 rebounds per game.

Most of the roster has seen playing time throughout the preseason. Both George and Leonard

trying to see who matches with who, who plays well together."

The Clippers will battle the Lakers in their first in-season game on December 22 at 7pm.

NFL Executives on Diversity: 'We've Got to Do Better'

By STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Ron Rivera of the Washington Football Team was the only minority head coach hired in the NFL heading into the 2020 season and, to the highest-ranking African American in the sport, that's unacceptable.

"When you look at mobility of Black men and Black women in professional sports, it's poor," said Troy Vincent, the league's executive vice president of football operations. The only person in a higher post in the NFL is Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"The facts are the facts, none of the sports leagues

are doing well," Vincent noted on a conference call with journalists, including the Black Press.

"We have done a thorough examination of what we're doing wrong, what doesn't work. But there are no best practices in sports," Vincent declared.

"Let's be straight. Let's be honest. We can go to every sport from basketball, hockey, baseball, here: Diversity, we do not see what we all hope for. We do not see true inclusion."

The league announced earlier this year that it had enhanced its Rooney Rule.

This policy requires teams to interview ethnic-minority candidates for head coaching and senior football operation jobs.



Just two of the 32 teams have African American general managers – Chris Grier of the Dolphins and Andrew Berry of the Cleveland Browns.

The expanded rule requires teams to interview at least two external minority candidates for head coaching openings and at least one minority candidate for any coordinator job.

Additionally, teams

must interview one external minority candidate for senior football operations and general manager jobs.

Clubs and the NFL league office must also include minorities and female applicants for sen-

ior-level positions, including club president jobs.

"It goes without saying that we have to do things differently," said Dasha Smith, the NFL's Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. "We are hopeful we will see different outcomes at the end of this GM and coach hiring season."

There currently are four minority head coaches in the NFL, including Rivera, Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Brian Flores of the Miami Dolphins, and Anthony Lynn of the Los Angeles Chargers.

Just two of the 32 teams have African American general managers – Chris Grier of the Dolphins and Andrew Berry of the Cleveland

Browns.

"We're a month away from 2021. And we're still talking about women in senior-level positions? In coaching positions? Come on. Gimme a break," Vincent demanded.

"These young men and women today in high school and college, they're used to seeing women in leadership positions. And they pause because they get to this level? The closer you get to the playing field, the least opportunities there are for women? Come on.

"We've got to look at ourselves and be frank and call truth. Facts and data do not support where we are across the entire sports industry. So, we've got a lot of work to do."



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ENTERTAINMENT

D-2

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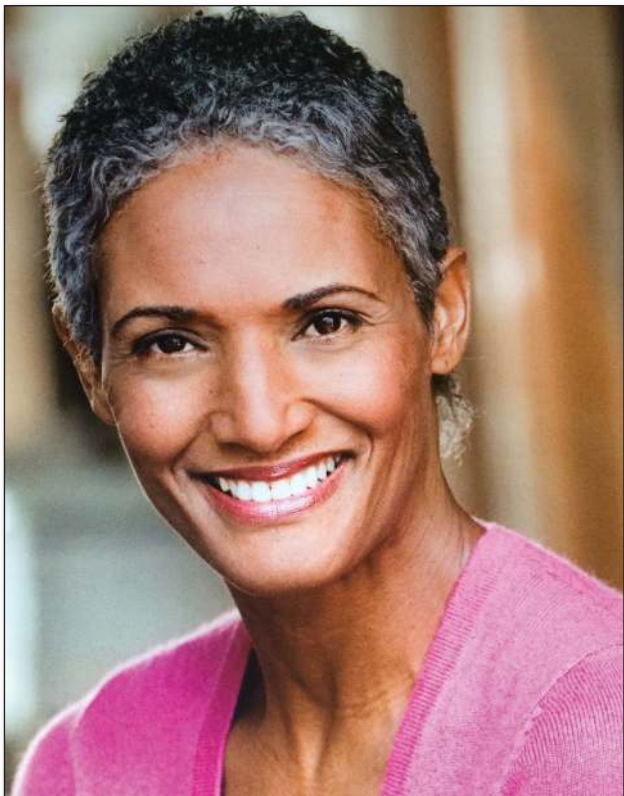
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

The Work of Women Empowerment Found Behind New Novel, ‘Through My Mother’s Eyes’

By BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Eloise Laws is a woman of many talents, her creativity is captured through different mediums of art. Laws embedded her energy into music, acting and writing for over 30 years. She developed an eye for talent and looks to nourish the gifts of others. Through recent projects, Laws encouraged those who look to exercise their passion for expression, to penetrate the world of storytelling. In collaborative efforts with ingenious visionary Melba Johnson, they produced the new visual depiction, “Through My Mothers Eyes,” a book that serves as a window into the human soul and the manifestation of a dream.

The first flicker of development in the realm of writing developed in 2013. Laws reflected on her book, “The Healing Shower,” focusing on her triumphant



Melba Johnson

Laws recounted her expedition to the finish product. She grew enamored with the metamorphosis of her thoughts coming to life on paper; knowing

manifestation of her writing career.

Johnson shared her life, and started with her being the middle-child of seven. She elaborated on the con-



Eloise Laws

capitalized on her message from the great beyond, her mental download included the layout of each page. Johnson said, “I knew that I wanted pictures of people you know, people you don’t know and people you need to know.”

The age range of the faces one would see in the book are between 7-100-years-old. Johnson confessed she had no idea who those people were going to be, but she pushed forward, making sure not to diminish the glimpse into the future that was revealed in her dream. Johnson explained that each face that looks up from the pages in “Through My Mother’s Eyes” has a unique story behind their existence within the series.

Johnson reminisced on the connection she had with Laws, “Eloise Laws, singer/songwriter, who I’ve known for years now—she was always polite, beautiful, and wise.” They connected over the yoga sessions Johnson would have with Laws and discussed the idea of the book. From there, Laws worked her multiple channels to get the book produced. Doing what is best for creation, the book is published under Knowledge Power Books. Johnson and Laws shared the journey through each page together alongside artistic director, Chadwick Williams.

Johnson stated, “As a first-time author, I had no set limitations or rules on how this book was going to be published, only one

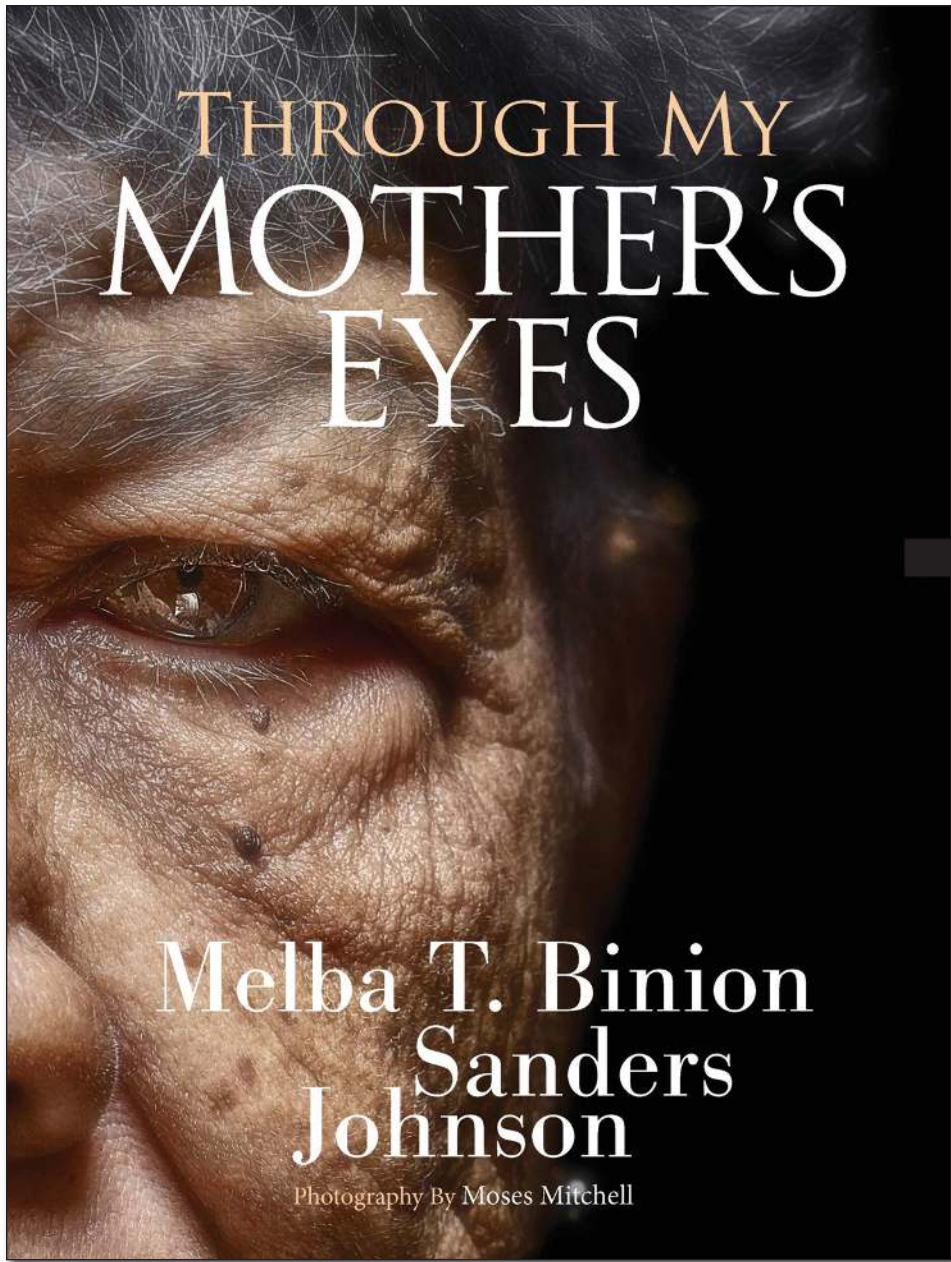
friend that I know of has personally published a book. Fortunately, it was all a part of the journey to figure it out along the way. I was determined, no matter what, from start to finish that it would manifest on its own. As long as I did the work.”

Laws cherished the act

I also learned how to persevere knowing that there is a starting and ending point, and staying focused on what I set out to accomplish. Moreover, I also learned to be more open minded and use my critical mindset without judgement, which allows my acceptance of what the other individual wants to achieve.”

Laws is always working on propelling forward; she leaves the audience clamoring for more. She shared in the near future, there will be a memoir of her years as a recording artist, Broadway, and theatrical actress. She stated, “... It is a work in progress, that has taken more than two years of collecting material from the beginning of my career that began in 1967. When you have to go as far back as I do, it takes some time to put this all together. I look to release this book sometime in 2021.”

“Through My Mother’s Eyes,” will also have an eight-part filmed series in the future. Johnson explained, “Along with the Book, ‘Through My Mother’s Eyes’ I simultaneously



recovery from cancer. The occasion known as a healing shower is similar to any celebration or milestone; family gather in unity to focus their energy to uplift a special moment.

Emphasizing the significance of healing, loved ones congregate with the intent to provide a service to the one who needs it. Noting an excerpt about the book found on Amazon, “A Healing Shower’ is similar to how we celebrate life’s milestones: weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and baby showers. The difference is that instead of wedding gifts, birthday presents and so on, guests arrive prepared to help the loved one with a deed(s) ...” The book was published by Knowledge Power Books, headed by one of Laws’ mentor, Willa Robinson.

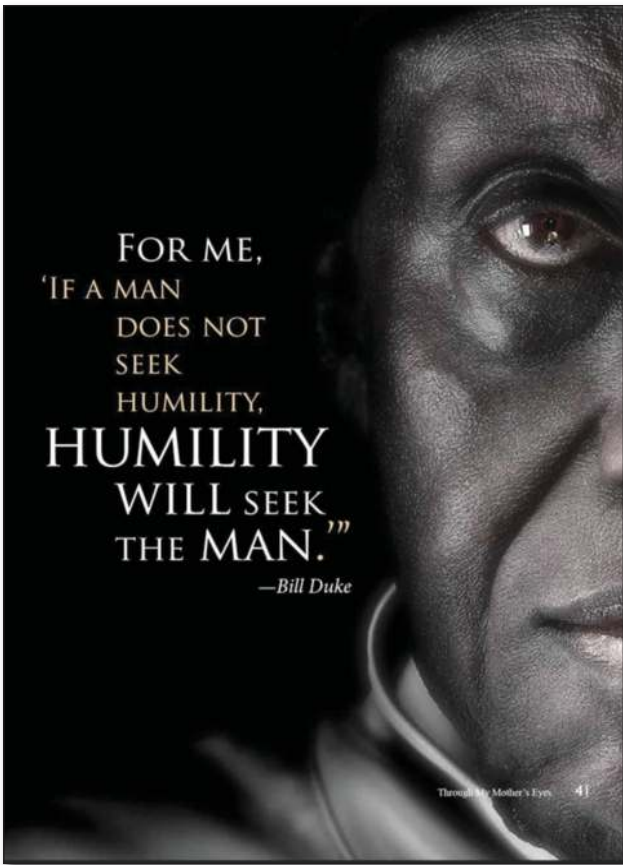
there is a gem on each page crafted for someone else to find. During the pressure of birthing a story about healing, Laws was inspired to create her own publishing company.

Empowered by the ingenuity and tenacity, first-time author, Melba Johnson, connected with Laws to produce a one-of-a-kind story about the range in beauty that funnels through human synergy. Johnson has practiced mindful connection through yoga for over 40 years. As an instructor of the sacred practice, she looked for ways to inspire her students. Holding herself accountable to be a light within her classroom, Johnson often would journey outside herself to find resources to bring back to her yoga students. One of those excursions lead to the

nection she had with her parents, Johnson said, “Every child has a unique relationship with their mother.” She went on to explain that she fell ill often when she was growing up, resulting in needing more attention from her nurturing mother.

Johnson went through the different stages of aging, bringing her to the recent part of her life that carried her to the significance of a vivid dream that she remembers. She recalled from the lucid moment, she envisioned herself writing a book entitled, “Through My Mother’s Eyes.”

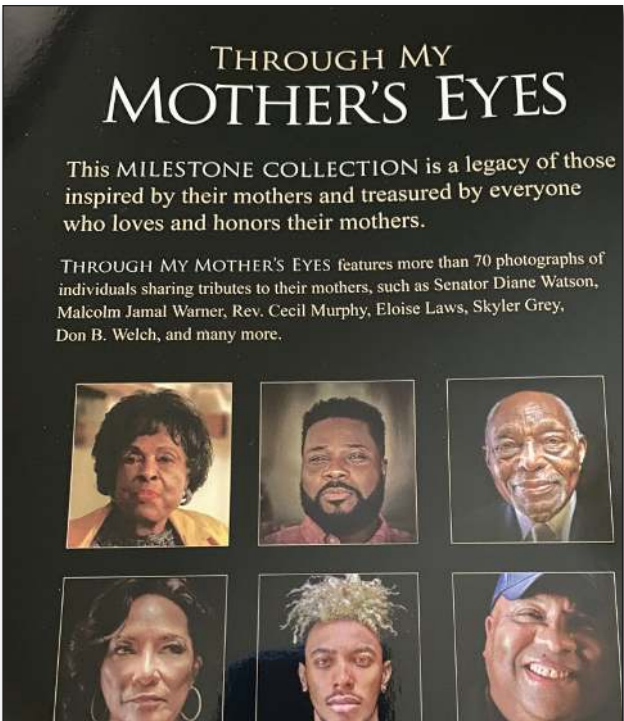
“I saw every page of the book, and I woke up and said, ‘I am going to write a book.’” Johnson declared. Confused by the late night murmur, Johnson’s husband reacted inquisitively. She



of polishing gems that surfaced during the making of a physical copy of the book. She recounted the strength needed throughout her 50-year career of performing for others that proven to aid her publishing skills, “I have learned patience. Patience has taught me to listen, and digest what the other person is feeling and saying, at that very moment.

filmed a docuseries in eight parts; in the making of ‘Through my Mother’s Eyes,’ over 80 plus people interviewed ages, 7-100-years-old, I sat with each one for at least 30 minutes and some of their stories were so awesome, that it just had to be created and shared ...”

Johnson had a closing statement that captures the book’s mission, “I’ve learned that my vision is my vision. Don’t look for every other person to validate what you see and feel. Also, the greatest stories are the ones inspired by experiences. I can’t tell you how many people share their similar experiences and felt heard when they saw my book and asked, ‘If I thought they could be an author.’ My response, ‘I did not look for permission and neither should they.’ The ability to make a dream come true was success within itself.” One can find this photography-based depiction online, and buy it for the creative soul in their life, for the holidays.



Iconic Actor and Noted Athlete Tommy “Deebo” Lister, Found Dead in Marina Del Rey Residence

By BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Known for his iconic character “Deebo” in the Cube Vision production series “Friday” Tommy Lister died on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Lister lived a colorful life, crossing entertainment lines as a pro-wrestler to a noted actor, the 275-pound performing artist was known as the “Gentle Giant,” to all his fans and loved ones.

According to reports by TMZ, there was a release from the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department as his friends and family began to grow worrisome after not hearing from Lister since Wednesday night.

Law enforcement completed a “welfare check” at his home located in Marina Del Rey. Cops showed up in the 4100 block area where Lister lived and found him unconscious in his apartment. With current information, Lister at age 62 was pronounced dead at

the scene, more information should come to light when the official autopsy is performed.

Also known as “Tiny,” Lister was showing symptoms of COVID-19 in the days leading up to his sudden death. Feeling unwell, the actor canceled showing up on-set for an unknown production. Lister wasn’t transferred to the hospital to be revived.

Learning about the tragic news, the creator of the movie series “Friday,” “Next Friday,” and “Friday After Next,” hip-hop icon and executive producer Ice Cube posted his respects on Twitter. Ice Cube tweeted, “...America’s favorite bully was a born entertainer who would pop into character at the drop of a hat terrifying people on and off camera. Followed by a big smile and laugh. Thank you for being a good dude at heart. I miss you already.”

Lister’s manager, Cindy Cowan confirmed Lister was displaying symptoms



PHOTO BY JOHN SALANGSANG/INVISION/AP, FILE
In this Monday, Aug. 10, 2015 file photo, Tommy ‘Tiny’ Lister greets fans as he arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of “Straight Outta Compton” at the Microsoft Theater. Tommy “Tiny” Lister, a former wrestler who was known for his Deebo character in the “Friday” films, has died. He was 62.

of COVID-19 in recent weeks and was diagnosed with the virus earlier this year. The 6-foot-5 entertainer was pronounced dead without the true nature of the cause on Thursday. “He was a gentle giant,” Cowan said. “He had a smile as broad as you could imagine. He’s going to be missed by so many. We’re all devastated.”

Lister was born as

Thomas Duane Lister on June 24, 1958. He had an athletic spirit, paired with the fire to perform. In 1982, he was an NCAA Shot-Put champion (division two), and he played for New Orleans Breakers of the United States Football League. Marrying the passion for sport and acting, Lister began to pursue the acrobatic art of wrestling. Lister proved to be agile



PHOTO WILLY SANJUAN/INVISION/AP, FILE
In this Friday, Aug. 2, 2019 file photo, Tommy ‘Tiny’ Lister attends the Mike Tyson Standing United and the Tyson Ranch Celebrity Golf Tournament in Dana Point, Calif. Tommy “Tiny” Lister, a former wrestler who was known for his Deebo character in the “Friday” films, has died. He was 62.

Although, he is most recognized as his character “Deebo,” there can be no replacement to parallel his performance. Sentiments go out to his close circle of friends and family, including his spouse Felisha Forbes and son Thomas Duane Lister III. Lister went by many names, “Tiny,” “The Human Wrecking Ball,” and “Zeus,” but Dad and husband will be the titles that hold the most weight.

Amber Rasberry Secures the Title of Senior Film Executive for Amazon Studios

By BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

In the season of racial equality and diversity in leadership, former development director, Amber Rasberry accepted the position of a senior film executive at Amazon Studios. With a long history in the film production industry, Rasberry has a portfolio supporting the well-deserved position as a senior film executive.

In general terms, the responsibilities of senior executives in the film industry include budget planning, scheduling, and production for series and pilots. They work closely with show producers and production managers. Rasberry will be in charge of day-to-day production and development of original movies and series for Amazon Studios. The report states that she will work with the following studio leaders: Julie Rapaport and Matt Newman.

Before her new role at Amazon Studios, Rasberry held numerous leading titles for some of the top film powerhouses. She has served as the vice president of development for Paramount Players. Rasberry

worked with Director Lee Daniels on the film, “The United States vs. Billie

Before making her name known throughout Paramount, Rasberry

secured the rights to the awarded drama, “Precious.” Rasberry has done a

fresh talent pool of directors. According to their biography, they stream in over 200 countries and territories. Amazon Studios provides entertainment for thousands of homes. Their categories range from trending pop culture to traditional drama, horror, and action film production lines.

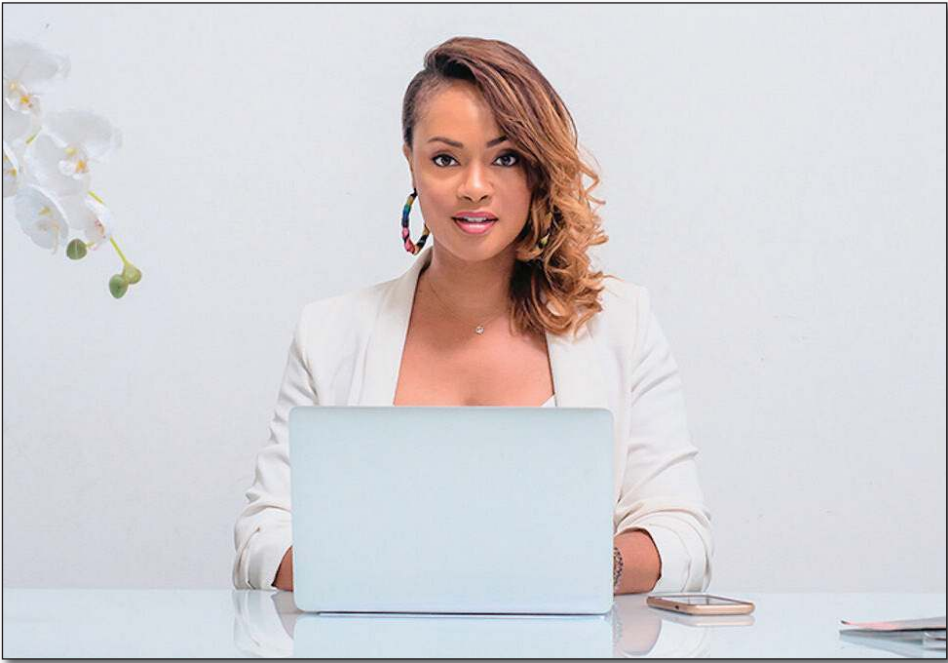
Maintaining the speed of Amazon Prime, theatrical films are released early, exclusively for members to enjoy. They became the first streaming service awarded multiple Oscars for Best Screenplay (winner, Kenneth Lonergan) and Best Actor (winner, Casey Affleck) in the production of “Manchester by the Sea.”

Rasberry's work ethic has been described as “pioneering innovation, with the entertainment history.” As seen on her personal LinkedIn account, her most prominent assets include trend forecasts, in-depth knowledge of the film industry, and licensing and negotiation. Looking at her background, Rasberry graduated from University of Southern California (USC) and started her career in the commercial and music video industry. She has

worked with a plethora of notable directing talent, including Little X, Hype Williams, Dave Chappelle, and Sam Bayer.

Knowing the type of grit and tenacity it takes to remain present in the production industry, Rasberry began to freelance as a music video rep. According to reports from Hollywood Black Film Festival, Rasberry moved on to assist Hype Williams, and worked on videos for top artists such as Jay-Z, LL Cool J, No Doubt, Jessica Simpson, Jennifer Lopez, and countless more. Rasberry stepped into the film industry and became the production and development assistant of Simmons-Lathan Media Group. She was also able to work on impactful films such as “Barbershop,” “Barbershop 2,” and “Roll Bounce.”

Landing a senior executive role at Amazon Studios is a monumental stepping-stone for Rasberry’s career. During this time of transition, Amazon Studios is in alignment with the world’s awakening to culturally-diverse leadership. Through the history of recent films, Rasberry has shown her ability to create historical moments in the industry.



Amber Rasberry

Holiday,” looking to come out next year.

Rasberry was responsible for bringing on Kenyan director, Wanuri Kahiu to curate “On The Come Up,” based on the bestselling novel by noted Author Angie Thomas. Other films Rasberry had her hand in includes “Bounce,” starring Nickelodeon sensation Jojo Siwa, and “Daring to Live,” derived from the book by Sheri Hunter.

widened her platform when she headed Kevin Hart’s “Laugh Out Loud” project. She assisted with the development of Hart’s full-service production company that highlights the culture of comedy.

Rasberry held the title of director of development at Tyler Perry’s 34th St Films. It’s a sister production company under Tyler Perry Studios. She made her mark there after she

multitude of work to strengthen the representation of Black women in the film industry. As a production executive, Rasberry gave strength to the casting of the hit movie, “For Colored Girls,” delivering A-list talent like Kerry Washington and Janet Jackson to be in the film.

Amazon Studios is a central hub for creative archives. Original dramas and movies come from a

Award Winning Producer/Director Debbie Allen and Dr. Guy Fisher ‘The Real Godfather of Harlem’ Bring His Life Story to Screen in 2021-2022

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Dr. Guy Fisher is known as “The real Godfather of Harlem,” and is the former owner of the world-famous Apollo Theater. Fisher became respected as the Robin-Hood for the people was released October 28 from Yazoo Mississippi Federal Prison after serving 38 years for being involved in the heroin enterprise with the infamous drug lord Nicky Barnes' The Council. Nicky betrayed him and Guy was sent to prison for life.

While in prison Guy earned a Master's Degree and PHD. in Sociology. After being introduced by Gene Anthony Ray (Fame/Leroy) Debbie

Allen took a real interest in his novel “VICIOUS CIRCLE,” and helped him start



Dr. Guy Fisher

a writing program for a class of his fellow inmates.

Miss Allen has long believed that his true story is as gritty, and dynamic...as “American Gangster,” “The Godfather of Harlem” and “New Jack City” combined could become a symbol of possibility and change.

Dr. Fisher says “The one thing that took hold of me, and freed me from hatred, was when I started writing. I have known Debbie Allen Nixon for almost 35 years and I have been writing manuscripts and true stories but I wanted to start writing a screenplay and asked her to send me a few samples. Shortly thereafter, I received approval to open a Book and Screenplay writing Class while in prison. Because of Debbie Allen more than 100 men



Debbie Allen

have published books and screenplays.”

Ms. Allen says "Guy has chosen education and creativity over hate. The fact that Dr. Fisher can be a real architect of change for so many young men who

get lost every day in the criminal justice system is what interests me."

Debbie Allen is currently serving as executive producer/director for "Grey's Anatomy" and has directed more than 50 television and

film productions. Remembered as Lydia Grant (Dance Teacher) in the musical drama TV series "Fame" she received a Golden Globe Award and two Emmy Awards Outstanding Choreography and was a 4-time Emmy Award nominee for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. As a Producer/Director her credits include “A Different World,” “Amistad,” “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “That's So Raven,” “How to Get Away with Murder,” “Empire” and “Scandal” among many others.

In 2001, Allen opened The Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA) where she currently teaches young dancers.



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Words of the Week - Stuff That's Driving Us Crazy

BY REV. DR. KELVIN
CALLOWAY
Pastor, Bethel AME – L.A.

*Scripture: Mark
5:1-11*

It has been said that if you don't have a sense of humor, then you don't have any sense at all. Laughter, according to the wisdom writer in Proverbs 17:22, is good medicine for the soul.

One of my favorite comedians was George Carlin. Carlin was born May 12, 1937, in New York and died June 22, 2008, at the age of 71 in Santa Monica, CA. He was widely regarded as one of the most important and influential stand-up comedians of our time. One newspaper called him "the dean of counter-cultural comedians." He was second on Comedy Central's list of 100 greatest stand-up comedians.

While he was a good comedian with great critique of the social, political, and economic realities of his times, perhaps his most memorable comedic routine was performed in 1986 for the HBO special, "Comic Relief." In his classic routine about the "stuff" in our lives, Carlin said that our houses are only places for our "stuff."

Carlin made us laugh at our desire to own, collect, and hoard "stuff." When our houses become too small to house our stuff, Carlin said, we go buy bigger houses, or rent space, to store our "stuff." An entire business Carlin said has been created just to store our "stuff."

The man in this text had



Rev. Dr. Kelvin Calloway

stuff, but his stuff was no laughing matter. Verse 1 says that when Jesus had come to the country of the Gadarenes immediately after he got off the ship, he was met by a man who had some "stuff." Verse 2 says that the man had some unclean spirits. He had some stuff in his life that was driving him crazy.

His stuff had him living in a graveyard among the tombs (v.3a). His stuff had often caused him to be bound with chains and fet-

ters (vv.3b-4). His stuff had him crying and cutting himself with stones (v.5).

This appears to have been the sentiment of our nation for the last four years. The stuff of our President, Donald J. Trump, has been driving us crazy. Whenever we thought it couldn't get any worse, it did. The disinformation and habitual lying about anything - you name it, he lied about it. He is on record having lied more than 20,000 times over the

last four years.

His disrespect for the rule of law has been driving us crazy. From welcoming foreign interference with our elections, to using the office of president for personal financial gain, to frivolous lawsuits one after another to advance his political agenda, his disrespect for the rule of law has been driving us crazy.

Not only that, but his deception has been driving us crazy. The things that he

knew to be serious, he down played not to be as serious as it was - primarily the COVID-19 virus - has driven us crazy. Holding super spreader events at the White House and rallies in states where the virus is surging with no social distancing or face coverings has been driving us crazy.

In the text, Jesus recognized that this man had some "stuff." And in Verse 8, Jesus speaks not so much to the man, but He speaks to the unclean spirits in the man. Jesus speaks to the man's "stuff" - "come out of the man you unclean spirit (v.8)."

Then Jesus named the man's "stuff." In Verse 9, Jesus ask the unclean spirits what was their name? In the second part of that verse, the unclean spirits said that their name was Legion for they were many (v.9b).

After naming the man's "stuff," Jesus drove the "stuff" out of the man. In Verse 10, the unclean spirits asked Jesus not to send them out of the country. They saw a herd of swine, Verse 11 says, on the mountain and asked Jesus to let them go into the swine. But Verse 12 says that when the man's "stuff" became the swine's "stuff," they violently ran down the mountain into the sea and were choked or drowned in the sea (v.13).

After 18 interviews with President Trump, Bob Woodward drew two conclusions in his book, "Rage." The first was that Trump had lost his way, not only as president, but also as a human being and the second was that he was not

fit for the office of president.

That appears to be the sentiment of the nation with more the 77 million Americans who cast their vote for Joe Biden to be the next President. The nation is casting Donald J. Trump out.

As Jesus did in this text, we must cast out his narcissist "stuff" that has been driving us crazy to a place where it can never affect our national sanity again. We must cast it out to a place where racism, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny, and lying are no longer tolerated as normative.

We must cast it out to a place where the rule of law is applicable to everybody and not even the president is above it. We must cast it out to a place where every vote cast is a vote counted and no vote is suppressed. We must cast it out to a place where civility, and truth telling, and facts, and data, and science, and national intelligence are valued and inform national decision-making.

Then will we be found clothed and in our right mind. Then will our ancestors rejoice and be glad knowing that their living was not in vain. Then will the fore parents of our nation shout for joy knowing that we are becoming a perfect union. Then will all heaven rejoice because the soul of our nation has been restored.

Let us once and for all rid ourselves of the "stuff" that has been driving us crazy. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen!


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