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New Orleans

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**Newsmaker
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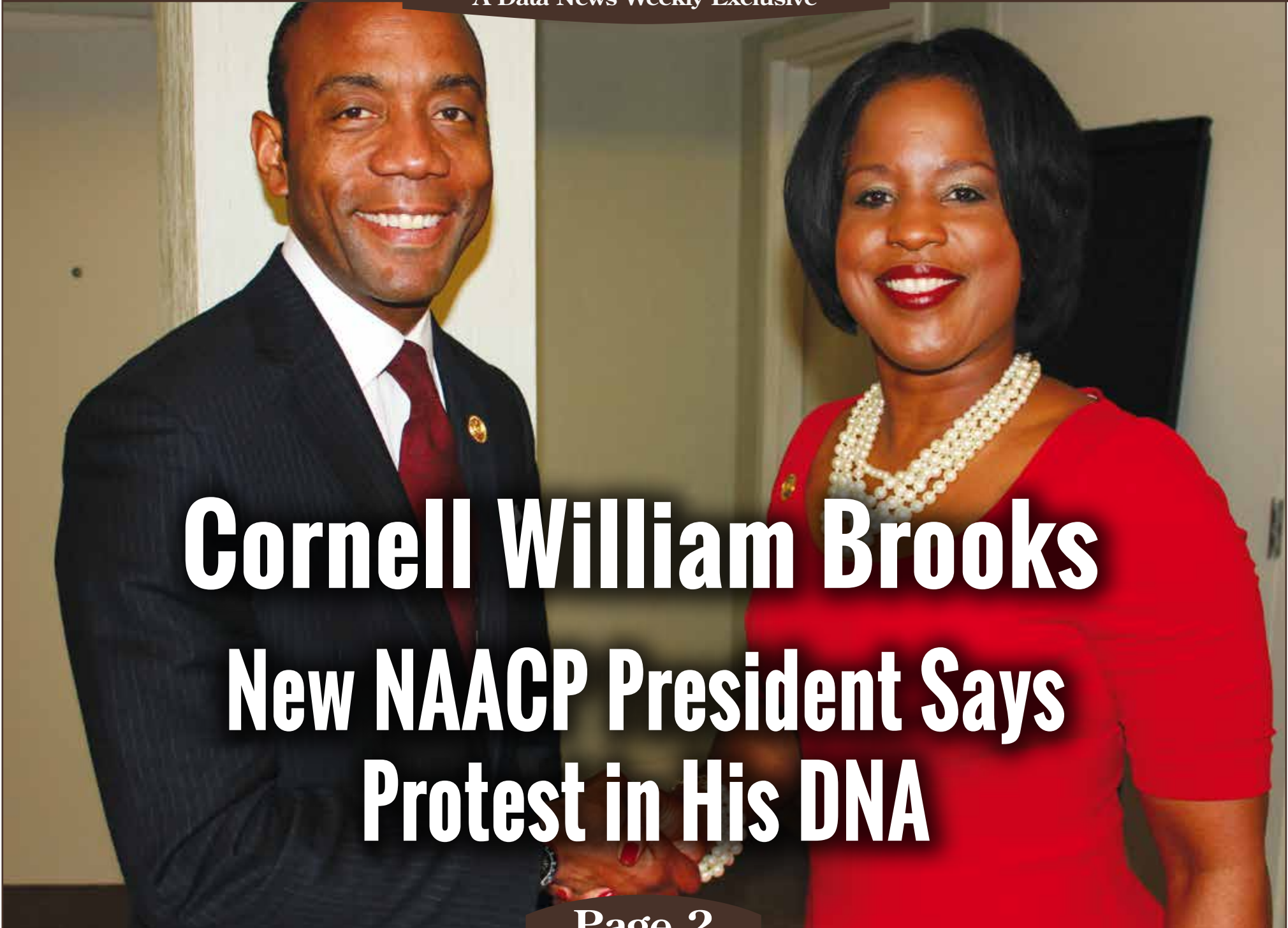
**Data
Remembers
Toya Hayes**



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Cornell William Brooks

New NAACP President Says Protest in His DNA

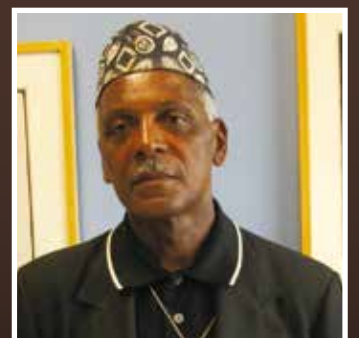
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New NAACP President Says Protest in His DNA



Cornell Williams Brooks, picture above, is not among the Who's Who of national civil rights advocates, but feels his entire life has prepared him to become president and CEO of the NAACP.

By George Curry

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – When Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III of Dallas, Texas learned that the NAACP Board of Directors had chosen Cornell William Brooks over him, Attorney Barbara R. Arnwine and several other better known candidates to succeed outgoing president Benjamin Todd Jealous, his response was “Who?”

And he wasn't the only one responding that way.

In an interview from Florida, where trustees had just made their selection, a board member who asked not to be identified by name said, “We turned the whole nation into a collection of owls,” he said. “When they learned of our decision, everyone in the country was saying, “Who? Who? Who?”

Though he is not among the Who's Who of national civil rights advocates, Brooks feels his entire life has prepared him to become president and CEO of the NAACP. He graduated from Jackson State University in Mississippi with honors, earned a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in systematic theology from Boston University School of Theology—where Dr. Martin Luther King earned his Ph.D. in the same area of study—and graduated from Yale Law School, serving as a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and a member of the Yale Law and Policy Review.

After serving as a law clerk for Judge Sam J. Irvin III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Brooks' first job was as an attorney at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law headed by Barbara Arnwine. He later worked as an attorney for the Justice Department, a senior attorney for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and was executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, D.C.

His most recent job was as president of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a Newark-based organization founded in 1999 by the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation. According to its website, the institute seeks to expand economic opportunity for peo-

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ple of color and low-income residents; promotes holding local, state and regional government accountable for fulfilling the needs of urban residents and protects the civil rights of the disadvantaged.

"When you look at the arc of my career, it has not been singular or linear in focus, but really touched on many of the challenges facing the country – whether it be in business, the criminal justice system, the juvenile justice system, the housing market – so I think I bring a multi-dimensional, multi-disciplined, multi-faceted focus on work," Brooks said. "That does not make me unique, but perhaps distinctive."

Brooks will need that and more to be successful as the 18th president of the NAACP.

At 53, Brooks, who grew up in Georgetown, S.C., feels he is uniquely positioned to serve as a magnet for young people.

"I represent not just the younger end of the Baby Boomer generation, but the older end of the hip-hop generation," he explained. "In other words, I came of age musically with R&B yet with hip-hop because it was born when I was in college."

When pressed to share his vision for the NAACP, Brooks repeatedly declined, saying that's something he will present when he addresses the NAACP membership at its July convention in Las Vegas. However, he said clues can be found in his past activities.

He has worked on numerous issues including small businesses, civil rights litigation, assisting ex-offenders by getting companies to not ask about past incarceration on employment applications, Black colleges, churches, education, housing, criminal justice issues, training women for nontraditional jobs, and politics.

Brooks, who still maintains a house in Virginia, ran for Congress in 1998 as the Democratic nominee for the 10th District in Virginia, but was soundly defeated in the general

election by Republican Frank Wolf. He was a member of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's 2010 transition team, but is quick to add that he was appointed to various local and state posts, including the board of the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority, by Democrats as well.

"My grandfather, Rev. James Prioleau, in the 40s ran for Congress in the 6th Congressional District of South Carolina," said Brooks, a fourth-generation ordained minister and an associate pastor at Turner Memorial AME Church in Hyattsville, Md. "He ran for Congress not because he thought he could win, but rather because he wanted

to register African Americans to vote and enlist in and engage in the membership of the NAACP. That legacy is part of my moral DNA."

With the upcoming mid-term elections and the passing of voting laws that adversely impact Blacks, some critics worry that Brooks will not be able to hit the ground running when he assumes office in July. However, he strongly disagrees.

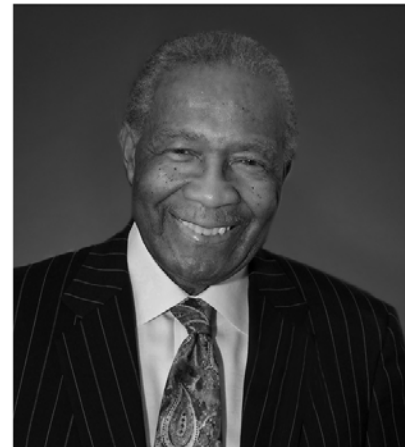
"I think I am well prepared to do the work," he said confidently. "I am as confident in my colleagues as I am my own abilities. I don't think I'll have any problem hitting the ground running simply because there are a lot of folks running with me."



Pictured are Cornell Williams Brooks newly appointed president and CEO and Roslyn Brock, Chairman of the Board of Directors, National NAACP.

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Remembering Toya Hayes

*Data News Weekly pays tribute to Daughter of Data
News Weekly Founder and Publisher's Sister.*



Pictured (l to r) are Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones, Raghann Durousseau, Gabriel Jones, Toya Hayes and Kim Maria Brown at the 2013 Data News Weekly Anniversary Gala.

Toya Jones Hayes was born on February 28, 1951 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended St. David Elementary School, and graduated from Joseph S. Clark High School. She then attended University of Houston and concluded her post-secondary education at the University of New Orleans, where she earned dual degrees in both Medical Technology and Mechanical Engineering.

A fiercely independent young woman, Toya early on, gravitated towards Astronomy and other interests not common for women of her time. With that in mind, her dreams and aspirations led her on a career path which was both exciting and astounding.

Beginning as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Charity Hospital of New Or-

leans in 1974, Toya was responsible for performing clinical testing in Chemistry, Microbiology, Hematology and Blood Banking. She also worked at United Medical Center and West Jefferson Medical Center in the same capacity. She wanted to do more. In 1986 after returning to the University of New Orleans, Toya earned a second degree in Mechanical Engineering and passed the Louisiana State Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors as an Engineer.

In August of 1987, Toya became Ship Superintendent at the Puget Sound Naval Ship Yard in Bremerton, Washington where she was qualified as a ship safety superintendent of nuclear submarines during their overhaul. She also completed a six month Engineer-in-Training in Navy design, acquisition and logistics

management program. She acted as liaison between production shops and the radiological departments overseeing nuclear regulatory issues.

From there Toya's path lead her back home as the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair for the US Navy in New Orleans, Louisiana. This position utilized several of her capabilities that included, Project Engineering, Noise, Shock and Vibration Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

Toya retired from the Navy because of medical issues but always cherished and missed her moments at sea. She would often describe the contentment she felt, the quiet beauty of the ocean and the majesty of the stars while out on deck late in the night. She remained in New Orleans among family and friends and has always

been an integral part of the lives of her nephews.

Toya was preceded in death by her father, Data News Weekly Founder, the late Joseph Madison "Scoop" Jones; partner David Wells; daughter Jori Hayes and a host of uncles, aunts and beloved cousins.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving mother, Agatha (Randolph) Jones, her siblings Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry B. Jones and Kim Maria Brown, nephews Glenn and Gabriel Jones, Ronald Helmstetter, Keith (Lacy), Justin and Seth Brown, and great-nephews Hiram Jones and Keenan Brown and great-niece Jade Brown.

She also will be missed by Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, and Friends from both New Orleans and across the nation.

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Donald Chopin

Working to Build a Better Community

by: Edwin Buggage

He is a man who has for several decades worked at bettering his community. Donald Chopin calls himself a "Community Builder," an all-encompassing term that deals with improving the whole of humanity. "I call myself a community builder; it is something I prefer that I feel more accurately describes what I do. I feel a community is about helping all human beings regardless of race, creed, color and people's background, it is about working together doing the right thing and trying to better humanity."

The seeds were planted in what has become his mission to help others early in life, "The passion to help others was something that started during my childhood. My mother and father Joseph and Ruth Chopin were very active in my life and helped shaped my passion for service. And I had people around me who took serving others very seriously." Continuing he says of others who mentored him, "Many people I've come across taught me a lot over the years, "Ernest Stieb of the NAACP, a man called Fumpe, who was a community organizer in the late 50's to Mr. Jacob, who painted houses on St.

Charles Avenue by day, but he was very generous with his time and helped many people throughout his life and a playground in Mar-rero is named after him; and Rev. Lewis, shared a with me a great amount of wisdom."

Of his early years and efforts in the struggle for equality he says, "I remember being part of the Junior Voters League, which was the beginning of working in the community, something that has always been very close to my heart. I went to Lincoln High School and it was very community oriented. I was chosen to go to Bayou Boy's State; it is a program where students from area schools around the State of Louisiana are chosen to take a part in a program at Southern University in Baton Rouge where they learn about good governance. Today a lot of them are in government and in business. It made you realize that being active is important and if you did not participate you would be ruled."

Chopin is active in several organizations aimed at helping people especially those who are imprisoned or formerly incarcerated. "I am presently involved in V.O.T.E Voice of the Ex-Offender, OPRC Orleans



Parish Reform Coalition, making improvements in our parish jail; also the Peacekeepers, who are concerned about cleaning up our neighborhoods around issues of crime and promoting empowerment in the community."

With the problems of the community Chopin feels education is key, but feels this must be first done in the home and then in the community. "It is about us doing what we do in the community to help ourselves. Some of this needs to start at home, we

opportunities that exist in this City and that is something that needs to be addressed." Continuing he says of the importance of education, "School by itself is not the real measure of education, my philosophy of one that is educated is One who is educated has the ability to get what they want or its equivalent without stepping on the rights of someone else."

While race continues to be an issue in New Orleans, Chopin feels that one cannot apply it to every issue without minimizing its importance in the struggle towards justice for all. "In New Orleans we need to deal with issues of race and economic inequality and problems within the criminal justice system. It is a shameful state that we are a world class City that people from around the world come to enjoy but it is the local people especially African-Americans who cannot enjoy the same quality of life." But conversely, he feels that people can move

past racial animosities and find common ground when they realize there are more things that unite them than divide them, "There are solutions to issues regarding race, it is time for us to begin gathering around common interest, around principles of what's right and not caught up in arguments about whose right. I feel racism is on the retreat, and at this point I feel it is about good people building on good things and a good result coming from that." He feels that everyone regardless of their background has the capacity to give back and serve humanity. It is as simple as finding something they feel passionate about and work to eradicate it whatever it is, "They must tap into their passion, it might be crime on the streets, it might be illiteracy, whatever that passion is you have to tap into that. Everybody has a passion and once they understand that they will move to help create changes to build a better community."

JMJ
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Continuing Education Fund



Dishonoring Our Vets



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The last Monday in May, Memorial Day, was designed to honor those who died in service to our country. It is tragically ironic that around the same time we are honoring and remembering the dead, we are learning about deficiencies in the Department of Veteran's Affairs that negatively affects the quality of life for those who were injured during their term of service.

Allegations that many veteran's hospitals and medical centers do not assist those veterans needing medical care within the mandated 30 days are troubling. Some say that the lengthy waits may have been a factor in the deaths of as

many as 40 veterans. The access problem is compounded by poor record-keeping at some veteran's hospitals, making it impossible to verify how many veterans waited for medical attention and the length of their wait.

The controversy has led to calls for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki to resign, but it is unclear whether his resignation will serve any but a symbolic purpose if the medical treatment of veterans does not change substantially. In this highly partisan environment, it makes no sense for the White House to offer Shinseki's head on a platter to satisfy the hyper partisanship of growling Republicans. Veterans, and those who represent them in Congress, come from all parts of the political spectrum. It ought to be in everyone's interest to improve access to health care for veterans.

There are other issues regarding fair and compassionate treatment for veterans that must be considered. The recent killings at Fort Hood, Texas suggest that there is

insufficient focus on mental health issues for our military, with the rate of Army suicides doubling between 2004 and 2009. Many veterans say that one of their stressors is the inaccuracy involved in evaluating their disabilities that have come from their service. Missing limbs, impaired mobility, extreme stress and insomnia are all factors included when a monthly disability check is calculated. Many take issue with the evaluation, and challenge an evaluation may take several months (or years). Even inaccurate claims are difficult to obtain for some veterans. More than 611,000 claims were backlogged (which means veterans had waited for more than four months for their claims to be processed.) The number dropped this year to 344,000 claims, which is still too many veterans waiting too long for help.

The recent exposure of long waits for medical treatment just scratches the surface of the way that veterans are welcomed back into our society. Military skills are not easily converted to civilian labor

force skills, unemployment rates for recent veterans (those serving since 2001) are often high – 9 percent for veterans, compared to 6.3 for the entire population. President Obama has urged private sector employers to give priority to hiring veterans who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, but unemployment rates, though falling, remain high. Minority and women veterans had even higher unemployment rates, and often greater challenges.

More than 58,000 veterans are homeless, representing about 12 percent of the homeless population. More than half have disabilities or mental health problems. As many as 70 percent have substance abuse problems. There would be fewer homeless vets if the mental and physical health needs of veterans were addressed when these soldiers leave the military.

When our soldiers return from fighting for our country, they face a new fight – a fight to be treated fairly. That means shorter waits for medical attention, more focus on

mental health issues, more assistance in reentering the job market, and more counseling to help families adjust to new household dynamics. Veterans should not have to fight for this kind of assistance. Haven't they fought enough?

Regardless of whether we agree with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we often thank our military for their service. Thanking a homeless veteran, or one who has waited more than 30 days for medical attention is lip service if the "thank you" is not accompanied by the assistance that so many veterans need. Memorial Day ought to be a day to commemorate the dead, and improve the ways we treat the living.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

To Be Equal

Mayor Baraka

A New Direction for Newark



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"When I become mayor, we all become mayor." Ras Baraka, new mayor of Newark, New Jersey

Add Newark, New Jersey to the list of big cities now being headed by a new wave of progressive mayors. On the heels of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's successful "economic inequality" campaign last year, another urban crusader, Ras Baraka, was elected mayor of

Newark on May 13. A Newark native, city councilman, high school principal and son of the city's most well-known poet and activist, the late Amiri Baraka, he will be sworn in on July 1.

Baraka succeeds interim mayor, Luis Quintana, who became the acting mayor last October when former mayor, Cory Booker, was elected to the U.S. Senate. Facing an unemployment rate of 13%, a resurgence of homicides, and a budget deficit of \$93 million, Baraka ran a populist campaign highlighted by his local roots, his experience as an educator and a promise to fight to regain local control of Newark's public schools, which have been under the jurisdiction of the state for the past two decades.

Education was an over-riding issue in the campaign, as it has in-

creasingly become in communities across the nation. Baraka staunchly defended public education and received enthusiastic support and financing from the Newark Teachers Union. He also stressed his progressive roots, as the son of renowned poets, Amina and Amiri Baraka, a family that has lived in Newark for more than 70 years.

Further distinguishing his progressive background during the campaign, Baraka touted his 20 years as a community organizer, his stint as Deputy Mayor in 2002 and his 2010 election to the Newark Municipal Council representing the South Ward. He has also served as principal of Newark's Central High School and taught elementary school for 10 years.

Undaunted by opposition from Cami Anderson, New Jersey Gov-

ernor Chris Christie's appointee as superintendent of Newark's public schools, Baraka has been in the forefront of widespread community resistance to the state's One Newark reorganization plan, which involves closing and consolidating some neighborhood schools to make space for more charter schools. While not categorically opposed to charter schools, Baraka rallies against what he sees as a top-down, profit-driven privatization of Newark's schools. He is calling for more community input and, ultimately, a return of decision-making to local authorities.

As urban America faces a plethora of challenges stemming from worsening educational, income and economic inequality, a growing number of cities and mayors are fighting back with progressive poli-

cies that put people above profit, support living wages, and are designed to give more working families a real shot at the middle class. In addition to the new mayors of Newark and New York, Marty Walsh, a former union leader, is the newly-elected mayor of Boston. Also, Edward Murray, who became mayor of Seattle in January, has called for raising the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Like Murray, who describes his administration as "committed to progressive principles and practical solutions," Ras Baraka and a new wave of progressive mayors are taking the lead for urban America as Washington continues to be mired in gridlock.

New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board Advises Residents to Protect Themselves from Mosquitoes

NEW ORLEANS, LA – The City of New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board (NOMTCB) has detected an elevated number of mosquitoes in the area, including the “southern house mosquito” which is the primary carrier of the West Nile virus. At this time, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals has not reported any cases of West Nile virus in 2014.

The City is taking proactive measures to protect citizens. NOMTCB has responded by applying insecticides targeting mosquito larvae and adults. Adult mosquitoes are being treated by fog trucks and by airplane. The City will continue these efforts throughout the summer. Residents should protect themselves from the mosquito borne diseases by reducing the number of mosquitoes around their homes.

NOMTCB urges all residents to drain or treat standing water which

are breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

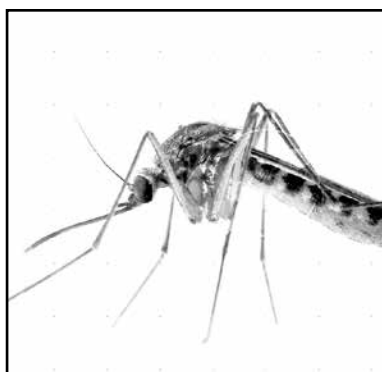
Remove trash and clutter, including discarded tires, buckets, tarps and any other items that could collect water;

Empty containers and change water weekly in containers that cannot be removed, such as bird baths and kiddie pools;

Make sure culverts and ditches are clear so that water can flow through them during heavy rains; and

Report illegal dumping, abandoned swimming pools and water leaks by calling 311.

Residents living in the French Quarter and Downtown Development District can place up to four (4) tires curbside in front of their occupied properties that are eligible for garbage collection by the City on Wednesdays of each week. Residents must call 311 to schedule



this service. All other residents can place up to four (4) tires curbside in front of their occupied properties that are eligible for garbage collection by the City once per week, which will be picked up on the second collection of that week. Businesses are not eligible for this service.

Citizens can also bring up to four (4) tires to the City's Recycling Drop-off Center on the second Sat-

urday of each month which is located at 2829 Elysian Fields Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Drop-Off information can be found at <http://nola.gov/sanitation/recycling/drop-off/>.

Avoid mosquito bites by limiting outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, use CDC-approved repellants and maintain screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes from getting in.

For additional information regarding West Nile virus, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/prevention.htm>.

Residents are encouraged to contact NOMTCB to treat standing water or with any other questions or concerns regarding mosquitoes or West Nile virus at (504) 658-2400 or email mosquitocontrol@nola.gov.

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XU's Alexander Jumps to All-America Honor



Angelica Alexander became Xavier University of Louisiana's second All-American of the 2014 NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships when she placed fifth in the high jump Saturday.

Alexander tied her school record of 1.68 meters (5 feet, 6 inches). It's the third time this season that Alexander – a senior from Shreveport, La., and a graduate of Byrd High School – cleared that height.

Alexander, who earned her bachelor's degree from Xavier two weeks ago, entered the meet tied for 13th in the NAIA season rankings. Her best jump of 2013 was 1.57 meters (5-1 3/4).

"I'm proud of Jelly," XU coach Joseph Moses said. "This was not

unexpected by any means. She got to concentrate on field events this year because she wasn't splitting time with basketball. She worked hard all season, got better and more consistent, and you see the result today."

Alexander was one of eight to clear 1.68 and was awarded fifth place because of the third-fewest misses in that group. Oklahoma Baptist's Akela Jones was the champion at 1.78 meters (5-10), and Westmont's Becky Collier was second at 1.71 (5-7 1/4).

Teammate Devinn Rolland was named All-America on Thursday after placing fourth in the long jump.

This was Xavier's final athletic competition of 2013-14.

XU's Jackson to Conduct Skills Camp for Boys June 9-12



Dannton Jackson, the winningest coach in the history of Xavier University of Louisiana men's basketball, will conduct a skills camp June 9-12 for New Orleans-area boys age 7-16.

Xavier's Convocation Center will be the site of the DJ Hoops Skills Academy. Featured guest coaches and speakers will include Brandon Bass of the Boston Celtics, DJ Augustin of the Chicago Bulls and Mo Williams of the Portland Trailblazers.

The camp costs \$165 and is open to a limited number of participants.

To obtain a registration form, visit djhoops.com or call (504) 521-7849.

Jackson is 249-107 in 11 seasons at Xavier and was selected Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year each of the past three seasons. He was the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Small College Coach of the Year in 2014. Jackson's teams have won five GCAC regular-season championships and qualified eight times for the Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I National Championship.

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