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# Crisis In The Village

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

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# Crisis In The Village

## New Orleans

One of America’s Most Dangerous Cities Seeks Solutions to Crime and Violence



It’s been 8 years since Dinerral Shavers (pictured above) was killed in 2006, and though it has been at the forefront of discussions both in the City and across the nation, the fact remains that crime and gun violence is still an issue in the City.

By Edwin Buggage

**Crime and Violence in New Orleans**

As the summer is nearing an end, and as the City prepares for the nine year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees something that

forever changed the City. In what is nearly a decade it has been a tremendous climb back for a City that was on its knees being 80% of it underwater. But as the resilient people of a City fought to rebuild, today the City lies as an example of what people can do when they work together. New Orleans is becoming a new place and people from around the country are not only

coming to visit but planting seeds to live breathing new life into the City and adding to its rich cultural mosaic. While some things are changing one thing remains the same, that New Orleans is a City plagued with crime, and violence. Leaving residents in addition to those in law enforcement trying to figure out how do we come up with solutions?

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

Some would say that solutions lie in beefing up the number of police officers on the street, while others think arresting and incarcerating more people is the answer, and while still others feel the answer lies in more preventive measures or getting serious about addressing structural inequality. While any of these ideas posited are not cut and dried and is the silver bullet solution for combating crime and violence, all of these ideas are necessary elements to put together the pieces of the puzzle to create a better picture on how diverse groups of people can unite in the fight against crime and violence.

### Solving the Problem of Crime and Violence as a Social Problem not a Law Enforcement Problem

While some elected law enforcement leaders use strong rhetoric of getting tough on those who break the law, there is clear evidence that this approach does not work at making the City safer. Norris Henderson has been on the forefront in his fight for justice after serving 27 years in Angola State Penitentiary for a crime he didn't commit. He is on the frontlines leading two non-profits aimed at helping those who fall through the cracks of society re-enter and become productive citizens. He is the Co-Director of Safe Streets/Strong Communities and Founder and Executive Director of V.O.T.E. (Voice of the Ex-Offender). He is a staunch critic of the school of thought that believes that getting tough on crime and locking people up or adding more police on the streets is the answer. "In Louisiana we lead the nation in per capita incarceration, so if putting people in prison were the answer we would have the solution. And if we were a country we would lead the world in per capita incarceration, also putting more police on the street is not the answer either because they cannot be everywhere. These are social problems, we could have had 10,000 police and many of the things that happen would still occur."

Crime and violence and coming up with solutions is something that oftentimes is oversimplified or is dramatized in ways that does not get results. Simply saying putting more money into education or having a man in the home is very necessary, but a multi-pronged approach that is much more complex is often needed for those who are at risk to commit crime. "Crime is a deep seated social problem, and we cannot arrest our way out of crime. When I listen to the speech



"The general feeling I have is that after we had our march in 2007 things are not better. I still feel crime is a real problem," says Bart Everson.

I made in the March for survival I made at City Hall in 2007 those were not just my ideas, but so many other things I heard and tried to give a voice to what many of us felt at the time. One of the things I said was we need more police, in hindsight I think it was a bit simplistic, I would say now maybe we need more police. Because I feel the number is not the issue, I also feel that we are not going to solve these deep seated societal problems with more police. What we need to solve problems of inequality and poverty and that is not a police problem," says Bart Everson who is a Media Artist and founding member of the Green Party of Louisiana, past president of Friends of Lafitte Corridor, and close friend of Helen Hill, a filmmaker and animator who was killed in a home invasion in 2007. This murder along with the shooting death of Hot 8 drummer Dinerall Shavers prompted thousands of citizens concerned about crime and violence to march on City Hall in 2007 a story that made national news.

Since this time concerned citizens of various backgrounds have come together trying to come up with solutions but crime and violence continues to spiral out of control. This is happening while the administration under Mayor Mitch Landrieu glowingly reports statistics that show murders are at their lowest in decades, but the reality is that they are still eight times the national average. In addition to that startling number and because of the lack of confidence in the New Orleans Police Department many crimes that do not end fatally go unreported. So these numbers in many cases do not reflect the true severity and impact of the crime problem in New Orleans. "The general feeling I have is that after we had our march in 2007 things are

not better. I still feel crime is a real problem," says Bart Everson. Continuing he says because of crime people like the Paul Gailunas and Helen Hill who came to the City to help people and were a great addition to New Orleans, but because of the violence that took her life and wounded her husband who was shot three times in the hand shielding their child from a barrage of bullets. He took his son and moved away from New Orleans "It is rough, Helen's husband and son left the City, I was not sure I would ever see them again. It is very traumatic. I feel it was really a loss to the City because here was a guy who was a doctor who dedicated his life to working with the poor and this is a story that's been reported countless times people leaving because of crime and it's sad for a City that is so great."

### Too Young to Die: When Innocent People Become Victims

In one of the most recent shootings on Sunday August 10th, a gunman did a drive by shooting

striking seven people and fatally injuring two. One being a 16 year old Jasmine Anderson who was preparing for her first day of school the next day; others as is the case with many of these shootings is innocent victims including young children as young as four and two in one the most recent shooting that took place in the Lower 9th Ward. This is a sad state of affairs that no longer are those who are involved in illicit activities the victims of violence but innocent bystanders as well. Young children who have not even gotten a chance to be a child having to think about am I going to be shot today? "What is your responsibility to the children, children don't wake up and say they want to be a murder victim and we as a community should do things to prevent those things from happening," says Al "Brother" Mims, who is an anti-crime advocate and former member of the Louisiana Parole Board.

With passion in his voice he feels there is a disconnect between the police and the citizens that must be repaired if the City is to better deal with crime and violence. "The po-

lice needs help, we need to change our attitude about the police and yes it is true that some have had bad experiences with them, but we need them and they need us. If you have information people need to get involved because it is their community that is affected and their quality of life. It is about improving their community, because who wants to live in a community where there is the threat of gun violence on a daily basis."

### Teaching Morality, Character and Family Values Reduces Crime

While it is true that lack of economic and educational opportunities contribute to the potential of some choosing lives of crime and violence. And while there are obviously structural problems with racism, classism, and the historical reality of adversity between African-Americans and law enforcement the responsibility to make sure that people govern themselves correct-

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

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# UnitedHealthcare Donates 300 Laptop Computers to Community Organizations in Louisiana

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana will donate 300 computers to local organizations as part of UnitedHealthcare's efforts to increase computer and Internet access among people in underserved communities.

Prior to school starting, UnitedHealthcare will deliver 100 refurbished laptops to the Madison Preparatory Academy computer lab in Baton Rouge, and another 200 refurbished laptops to 17 community and faith-based organizations in the Lafayette, Shreveport and New Orleans areas.

Many community partners have expressed the need to connect via technology with the people they serve. In response, UnitedHealthcare has created computer labs to serve vulnerable populations, such



as inner city youth, the elderly and people with disabilities.

"We are excited and grateful for this donation of laptops from UnitedHealthcare," said Alisa Welsh, principal of Madison Preparatory Academy, which serves inner-city

students in grades 9-12. "They will afford our students the opportunity to take classes, which are only offered online, conduct educational research and enable them to better compete in an increasingly computer-savvy world."

The donated computers help community members gain access to health information, assistance programs and other online resources. UnitedHealthcare, to date, has donated more than 2,000 computers in 13 states since the program began in 2012.

"Being able to offer these new services to seniors and underserved members of our community will go a long way toward closing the technology gap that some of our most vulnerable residents face," said Monica Joseph, director of Israelite Community Development Corporation (CDC), a Lafayette-area organization that works with both youth and seniors. "Computer access to health, government assistance and other online information is key to helping people, especially

seniors, connect with the services they need and deserve, as well as socially with family and friends."

According to Pew Internet and American Life Project, more than half of seniors use the Internet and email, but only 39 percent of seniors have broadband at home, which means many are left to access the Internet from shared or public computers such as those at libraries, internet cafes, and community and senior centers.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to help so many members of our community gain access to critical information and resources through these laptops, and hope it will enable them to lead healthier and happier lives," said April Golenor, president of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana.

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## Stallings Gentilly Pool to Remain Open until Sunday, August 31

The City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) announced that the Stallings Gentilly Pool at 1600 Gentilly Boulevard will remain open to the public until Sunday, August 31, 2014. All other City outdoor pools are still scheduled to close for the summer season this Sunday, August 10, 2014.

Stallings Gentilly Pool Schedule  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \*

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

\* Lap Swimming Only - Monday thru Friday 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

### Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

ly and within certain boundaries begins at home. The question becomes when factoring out schools and law enforcement where the bar for some code of ethics and standards begin? Speaking of the crisis in the community Rev. Tom Watson of Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries who is also has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is involved in programming to help with preventing young people especially males from making bad life choices. "There is a Ghanaian proverb that says, 'The ruins of a nation begin in the homes of its people' what we see manifested in the streets of New Orleans is a problem of what happens in the homes. You cannot disconnect family functions and breakdowns to problems in the streets."

He feels that the moral code and breakdown of two parent homes and a sense of community contributes to the problems of crime. Harkening back to a time during his youth where he speaks of the community having the same ills that exist now, but because of a strong family unit and sense of community serving as a moral compass things were different. "In the 60's when I was growing up in the St. Bernard Project almost everyone had a father in the house, today we don't see that as much and it has affected our community especially our young men. Now you have young men raising themselves and don't know what it means to respect

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# Rep. Richmond, Responds to Department of Education's Revised Parent PLUS Loan Eligibility Standards



Two members of Congress who have Xavier, Grambling, Dillard, Southern, Bethune Cookman and Florida A&M in their states offered the bill to reverse the Parent PLUS loan change Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida and Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond. "There must be a fair standard when determining eligibility for this program, one that reflects the tough financial challenges of the past decade," said Rep. Cedric Richmond.

The Department of Education proposed new regulations that will update eligibility standards and improve access for student and parent borrowers under the federal Direct PLUS loan program. The new rule would clarify and update the regulations on adverse credit history and represents the result of negotiations between the Department of Education and various stakeholders.

"I am glad the Department of Education is moving forward with these new standards," said Rep. Richmond (LA-02). "I have worked with the Department to change the unfair eligibility standards that denied students across the country the opportunity to attend a college they are qualified for but couldn't afford. These standards hurt students and damaged schools across the country, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the 2nd District."

"I am proud of the work my colleagues in the CBC and HBCU community have done on this matter. I applaud the Department of Education for taking this first step and hope they will act quickly to finalize it so that students and schools can begin to see the results."

This rule comes about after the Department of Education changed its standards on adverse credit history in 2011. That change resulted in a large number of families being denied loans, including many that had previously qualified, and caused financial problems at colleges and universities nationwide. Rep. Cedric Richmond has been a leading advocate for revised standards to increase access to the program and has introduced legislation and written letters to the Department addressing the problems with their standards.

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Blessed 26 College Send Off Celebration

On Tuesday August 5th the Blessed 26 Organization had a College Send Off Celebration for student Darrell Howard. Special recognition to the host Shawn Barney and his staff for accommodating the event and hosting the premiere the pilot of the "Illumination of Invisible Men" produced by the American New Wave Group. Blessed 26 is a Non-Profit Organization whose purpose is to teach respect, networking, and social skills to help combat the negative images the public has on African American teenagers from New Orleans helping with giving these teenagers options for life after foster care.

This documentary we are creating details the effects of the cutting of Louisiana's Young Adult Program, a program that helps teenagers from foster homes transition to young adulthood. This documentary highlights how Blessed 26, is helping teenagers currently in foster care with that transition without the help of state resources. It also follows the graduates of this program and of their respected high schools as a follow-up for life after.



Data Zone, Continued on next page.

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

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# Low Black Employment in Hi Tech Silicon Valley



**Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

The nation's digital technology and social media companies are helping to transform how people throughout the world communicate and do business. In the process, Silicon Valley has become more than a geographical headquarter for digital and social media companies. It's where cutting edge technological research is being conducted.

There are, however, some glaring contradictions and serious disparity issues involving some of the most financially profitable social media companies in the world. They are the issues of economic inequality and inequity. The companies lead the world in technology but ranks at the bottom when

it comes to workforce inclusiveness and overall economic fairness toward Black Americans and Latino Americans.

Recent research on tech and social media company workforce diversity in America revealed that Black Americans are over indexed when it comes to high tech and social media products and services. But that's not reflected in the workforce. For example, of Yahoo, Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and eBay each hired Black Americans at a rate of only 2 percent or less. The boards of many of these tech and social media companies are even whiter—some with no Black board members or top executives.

At a time when the U.S. economy is recovering, this is not the time for racial exclusion, inequality, and economic disparities concerning race. Doing business with Black-owned businesses must also be included in the remedies that now have to be planned and implemented to rectify this terrible and devastating retrenchment of civil rights and economic equality.

We resolutely agree with the frontline advocacy and effective leadership of Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition on these issues. In a timely televised interview on the Bloomberg Business Channel, Jackson asserted, "Patterns of real racial segregation are in Silicon Valley. The evidence is that we over index in purchasing their products. But when it comes to employment.... There is evidence of a pattern of racial exclusion. Their profits are soaring, yet the disparities abound. eBay does not have a Black or a Latino on their board. Inclusion must be intentional. There is no job in Silicon Valley that a Black or a Latino could not hold. I hope EOC will go to Silicon Valley and conduct hearings. We intend to have a fair equitable relationship."

We all are aware that our long struggle for freedom, justice and equality is today still very much needed. In fact, due to Black American and Latino American large percentage participation in social media that ranges from 30 percent to

40 percent, we have an obligation to speak out and stand up to show our support for equality. Central to the goal of establishing the "Beloved Community," as articulated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. years ago, was the prerequisite of attaining economic justice for all.

There is no question that Jesse Jackson is on the right road at the right time to challenge Silicon Valley. We should all join in this important movement for equality, fairness and justice. Too often some of us sit idly by on the sidelines of history as spectators while social change unfolds. We should all support the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's leadership on this matter. This is a struggle that we must win. The benefits will help immeasurably to advance to cause of economic empowerment of our families and communities throughout the nation.

Social media should exemplify social change and equal justice. Racial disparity and economic inequality contradicts the very notion of "social media." Racial segregation was wrong years ago and it is still wrong, evil and sinful today.

In an article in the August 5, 2014 edition of *Crains* headlined, "Jesse Jackson has Silicon Valley's number," The civil rights leader concluded, "The country's moving toward tech — it's the fastest-growing, most lucrative opportunity.... The biggest growth engine is social media...."

We're being left behind. The deplorable statistics in tech had to be confronted. Now is the time to challenge the industry."

Yes, now is the time! Let's organize and mobilize. Let's raise more public awareness about these inequalities. Silicon Valley should not be permitted to remain being a valley of prosperous inequity. Let's challenge and transform Silicon Valley into a valley where "Justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the Interim President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org); and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>

## Hip Hop Corner

# LL Hasn't Lost His Street Cred



**By Jineea Butler**  
NNPA Columnist

I had the honor of sitting in on LL Cool Jay's private listening session in New York City. He was previewing excerpts from his upcoming release of the *G.O.A.T II*. When super producer Alize Jones from Beatbrokerz Ent. invited me to the session, I was thinking, what's he trying to do with the hood? You would think that he would have lost some of his street cred being in Hollywood but he represented the evolution of Hip Hop. His demeanor was well versed and professional but his swag was hood. Everybody in the studio was

Hip Hop, the vibe was Hip Hop, the love was Hip Hop, LL is Hip Hop.

It was the ultimate atmosphere of what Hip Hop is supposed to look like. It was opportunity in the air. Young producers playing their best tracks for The Greatest of All Time? LL checking for the tastemakers to whip their head back and forth? Where they do that at? I was waiting for Ashton Kushner to pop out and say 'You just got Punked.'

It wasn't until he spoke about what he was trying to accomplish with the project did I understand that he is the Greatest of All Time. LL said that he realized New York's voice was missing on the Hip Hop scene and he wanted to use his celebrity status to reach back to those who didn't get an opportunity to step in while the South manhandled the airwaves. Only a real MC can understand that no matter where you at in life, if the place that birthed you is not all right, then you are not all right. His sincerity was written all over his face, he knew

that it was his duty to revive something that was the cornerstone of his heart. New York Hip Hop. Being the GOAT is about more than just making music.

I remember LL from as far back as the movie, "Krush Groove." The infamous scene where he bust into the audition with Jam Master Jay, Rick Rubin, Jekyll and Hyde and they told him no more artists. LL motioned to signal, "I'm not trying hear what you saying," and turned to his hype man, I believe it was B, holding the Boom Box and yelled 'BOX.'

He was so intense that Jam Master Jay reached for his gun. But LL kept rocking and won them over in a matter of seconds because he spit Hip Hop. That's the true essence of Hip Hop, digging deep and producing something that you love. LL's kick in the door mentality is what many have forgotten in Hip Hop.

We sometimes forget on whose shoulders we stand. I saw a young LL in rare footage from Ralph

McDaniel's Video Music Box Archives; his energy was pure and he was genuinely grateful and elated to be not only in the presence of Uncle Ralph but to have finally made it to Video Music Box. He stated, "I know I made it if I'm on Video Music Box." And he was right. LL has defied what a rapper from Queens is expected to accomplish. Father Time has granted LL a career to be studied. He grew up in front us and became the GOAT. The ultimate test of time I'm sure for him as well is after you cross over do country music, host the Grammy's, get nominated for daytime Emmys, star in a few movies, can you still rep that mic on your arm?

What I have seen looking in was remnants from a young LL doing what he loved and recognizing that he has grown into a formable man under the umbrella of Hip Hop. He couldn't shake his love of lyrics and hardcore tracks and surely he can't live without his radio. The unsung hero on the project was Bimney

Antney, whom LL referred to as the Quarterback.

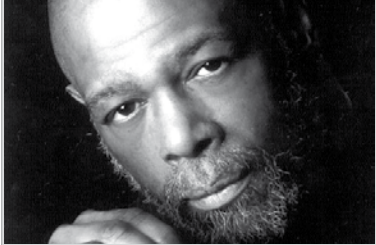
It was Bimney's job to round up New York's hottest talent and give them some shine next to the GOAT. The love for Bimney was evident in the shouts he got from every artist that blessed a track. LL was making everybody step up their game up and, consequently, the album was incredible. He had a crazy cut with Movado, a sick joint with Maino, and a record with Murda Mook, "Yeah I'm Nice, Yeah, Yeah, I'm Nice." I was mad that I couldn't take the music home with me. That's Hip Hop, the anticipation of what an artist is going to come with lyrically, how are they going to make the track talk to us. Well, LL gambled on the hood and definitely won.

Jineea Butler, founder of the Social Services of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Union is a Hip Hop Analyst who investigates the trends and behaviors of the community and delivers programming that solves the Hip Hop Dilemma. She can be reached at [jineea@gmail.com](mailto:jineea@gmail.com) or Tweet her at @flygirladyjay



## Spiritually Speaking...

## Can't Run, Can't Hide



**James Washington**  
Guest Columnist

In this world, yours and mine, it is almost impossible for people to lead with their weaknesses, as opposed to showing the world their perceived strengths. We all want the world to see us at what we think is our best light. It's for those other reasons, the ones we're most ashamed of, that we want to keep our shortcomings hidden in the dark, hopefully never to see the light of day. Some of us can even

fool ourselves into believing that our true self is the one we show to others and not the one we take to bed with us each and every night. The longer we hide from ourselves, the more we're likely to have difficulty understanding and then dealing with who we really are. Some might call this denial.

The problem with spiritual denial is that it's impossible to do. You cannot deny your own sinfulness. You cannot hide from your own sins. There is no rationalization for the exclusion of God in your life. Regardless of how much you want to show the world your high moral and spiritual standing, when it comes right down to you and God that dog simply will not hunt. In order to put your life in balance, you must first recognize the futility of trying to come off to others as if sin is not a part of who you are, or

at best who you were at one time. The truth is, it's how you come off to God that really matters and He, sorry to say, for most of us, cannot and will not be fooled by a fool.

After all, when the lights go out and it's just you, are you really alone? That might be why some people need to have anything but silence and solitude as companions. In relation to God it's not a very comfortable situation to know that you're never alone in His eyes. You can't run. You can't hide. Wherever you are, He is. Whatever you are, He knows. Whatever you did, well, that's the nature of God. And the nature of God dictates that you must lead with your weaknesses. Bring Him your sins. Confess and then, only then, maybe you can begin to take some positive actions about your life, with God's help of course.

But first you've got to take care of the basics. Empty the closet. Acknowledge the dirt. Understand its nature, which is truly who you are, and then bring it into God's house. After all, He's the only one who can clean up that mess anyway. He's the only one who can and by His nature, the only one who's really interested in doing so. That's one of the many beautiful things about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. His life and death and life paid for and took care of the need for you to think that you have to hide your sinful nature from anyone. "He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but he whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Proverbs 28:13.

Confession allows God to enter the picture. Confession is a declaration that comes from that place

deep inside you that you mistakenly think is controlled by you. Once you recognize and accept who really is in control, from that point forward you become an example to the world that openly declares, "My name is—and I am a sinner who is saved. God has accepted me for who I am really am. I am who He made me to be. Now it's your turn. Look at me and learn about you. Examine me and see God in yourself. You too, are who he made you to be. I am blessed. And you are too." We live forgiven by God's grace and Jesus' sacrifice. Deal with that and life becomes so much better. You will begin to live guilt free as God intended and Jesus' life and death and life guaranteed. May God bless and keep you forever.

James  
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# Research Shows Activity Helps Combat Childhood Obesity

Research led by Dr. Melinda Sothorn, Professor and Director of Behavioral & Community Health at the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health, reports that a turn-key intervention program significantly increased physical activity levels among children in daycare. The treatment groups also achieved 91% of the physical activity goals in the improvement plans submitted by the directors of the daycare centers where the program was implemented. The results are published in the August 2014 issue of the journal, *Childhood Obesity*.

"Physical inactivity has been recognized as a major contributing factor to the obesity epidemic, and research has shown that children in daycare are generally inactive and not meeting physical activity recommendations," notes Dr. Sothorn. "A goal is to intervene when the children are young, to prevent obesity and build the habits that will promote lifelong health."

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program was devel-



oped to be used in preschool settings as a toolkit to promote healthy weight and help prevent childhood obesity. It was designed to facilitate gradual change and promote continuous quality improvement, and it is one of the few interventions that targets both physical activity and nutrition.

"From a behavioral standpoint, it is far easier to accept and adapt to smaller changes over time than wholesale changes," says Dr. Sothorn.

Although this program has generated interest, there had not been objective, well-designed scientific studies to evaluate and measure outcomes that would support policy decisions and implementation recommendations. Dr. Sothorn's research team designed this study to determine objectively whether the NAP SACC program would improve physical activity levels in randomly selected licensed Louisiana daycare centers.

This study compared the physical activity levels of children in 26 daycare centers, randomized into treatment and control groups. Of the 209 three-five-year-old children participating, 104 were male and 105 female. The children wore wireless activity monitors that captured data from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for two days before and immediately after a six-month intervention taking identical measurements. Pre-intervention results revealed that the children in both groups combined were sedentary 89.9% of the time.

Dieticians with physical activity training experience implemented the NAP SACC program by conducting workshops for the staff of each treatment facility with information on overweight, nutrition, physical activity and growing, healthy kids. They maintained regular contact with the treatment facility staff and provided support. They also distributed educational information to the parents/guardians focusing on physical activity and nutrition recommendations at home. Each treatment facility de-

vised an improvement plan.

Total physical activity in the treatment group increased by 21.9% compared to 4.4% in the control group. Vigorous physical activity rose by 50% in the treatment group and 3.8% in the control group. Moderate physical activity in the treatment group improved by 32.7% compared to 0% in the control group. The control group showed no significant changes in physical activity and remained relatively unchanged.

"This study demonstrated that the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care program is a viable tool for increasing physical activity in children in day care," concludes Dr. Sothorn. "Turn-key programs like this are beneficial to many daycare centers that do not have the resources to design, identify and implement the types of improvements that are necessary to address childhood obesity."

The study was funded by the Office of Public Health-Maternal and Child Health of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

## Cover Story/ Continued from Page 4

themselves and each other. And that is another major hurdle we need to deal with. In my work with young men this is what we teach: that they must know themselves, accept themselves, for our job as a community is to help them de-

velop themselves and then they can give of themselves. They take property because nobody ever taught them how to give and respect themselves and others and these are important ideas we have to turn around the lives of

some of our people who go out and commit acts of crime."

### Coming Together to Solve the Crisis in the Village

The problem of crime is not just an issue in the Black community; it is a problem that affects the entire community. When someone is fatally wounded or a victim of crime we are all victims. As a society we all pay a cost, when crime is committed. And as it is all our charge to come together finding those

common threads that connect us as a community that the answers lay. Echoing this fact is Bart Everson who stresses the importance of community involvement, "It is absolutely essential for us to take time to get more involved, whether there are neighborhood, social aid and pleasure or other things that help those in need. If you are not involved presently get involved and become active in solving the problems of our community. That really helps build up the community. We need to do things that will strengthen the sense of community in new ways with civic engagement. Faith groups, political groups and others, if you started talking to people you would see there are a lot of people of good conscience that want to make the community better that are all working in their small ways."

And while the historical inequities continue to exist, it is time to reconsider old arguments and look within for solutions inside the homes, neighborhoods and immediate communities and then look to unified with others who are doing the same things, "We need to stop looking at other communities

and pointing the finger and look at ourselves and what we need to do better as a community. I don't think others should help people when they don't want to help themselves. Moving forward I feel it is about good people pulling together around a common cause like fighting crime and violence and not simply looking the other way," says Al Mims.

There is truly a crisis in the village and we need all hands on deck to help come up with the solutions to the many problems that plague the City. Rev. Tom Watson likens the City to a gunshot victim saying, "I imagine New Orleans as a patient in the emergency room with every possible person helping us to get through this crisis and there must be people from all walks of life to help us resituate and revive and restore and help us bring back a healthy community." There is an African Proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child" and similarly in the case of New Orleans it will take a village to solve the problems of crime and violence if this City is to reach its full potential in this great renaissance and rebirth.

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# West Florissant Explodes in Protest of Police Shooting, more than 30 Arrests

(NNPA) ST. LOUIS — What started as a peaceful prayer vigil for Michael Brown, the unarmed teen who was killed by Ferguson police, ended in an explosion of looting and destruction in the North County area surrounding where the tragedy took place – and beyond.

Hundreds gathered at 8 p.m. for a peaceful candlelight vigil in the young man's honor. Before 9 p.m. police would summon surrounding municipalities as the crowd turned aggressive.

The Target parking lot of the Buzz Westfall Shopping Center was filled with dozens and dozens of police vehicles and the area of West Florissant from Jennings to Ferguson was blocked off. Helicopters and tanks – as well as vehicles from a host of area departments – descended on West Florissant as looting and vandalism got underway.

Incidents kicked off with the damage of police cars along West Florissant and a KMOV-TV news van.

By 10 p.m. the Ferguson QuikTrip – initially thought to be the



catalyst for the turn of events that led to Brown's death- was targeted. Before night's end, it would be up in flames.

Hundreds of police were in the area as several area businesses were besieged in North County.

According to KTVI.com, the list of establishments that experienced varying degrees of damages included:

Zisser Tire and Auto, AutoZone, Family Dollar, Walmart, Footlocker, Ross, Walgreens, Shoe Carnival,

Hibbett Sports Taco Bell, Sprint Store, K-Mart, DTLR, Phillips 66 and Meineke.

It would be nearly 2 a.m. before the situation was under control.

Early on in the evening after the protest transitioned from the initial vigil, a member of the Brown family condemned the actions while speaking with Fox 2.

"[We] just want everyone to know and understand that the stealing and breaking in stores is not what Mike will want, it is very upsetting to me and my family. Our family didn't ask for this but for Justice and Peace.... Please let my family grieve in Peace in stop the violence in the street tonight, we don't want this happening when we protest for justice for my cousin Mike Brown, please get this message out to the people that the Mike Brown family do not want this."

According to County Police, nearly three dozen were arrested as a result of last night's activities.

(Information from KMOV.com and Fox 2 contributed to this report.)

## Jesse Jackson Calls Michael Brown Shooting 'Crime of Injustice'

By Chris King  
The St. Louis American

ST. LOUIS — Jesse Jackson told The American he hopes that the U.S. Department of Justice sees the Ferguson Police shooting of Michael Brown on Saturday and resulting community violence as "systematic of a national crisis."

Jackson said, "It was a crime of injustice," Jackson said.

The injustice, he said, was twofold: a police shooting of an unarmed black teen followed by black youth from high-unemployment neighborhoods erupting in rage.

"Black men should not be the objects of target practice," Jackson said of the shooting. "It's not a unique situation. It's a prototypical American situation. Police departments do not reflect the population. It's awful, but it's not unique."



Michael Brown Vigil: Protesters gather in response to the killing of unarmed teen Michael Brown Sunday morning in Ferguson. Brown, 18, was shot to death by a Ferguson Police officer on Saturday afternoon. Photo by Wiley Price/St. Louis American

The resulting community violence on Sunday, following a non-violent candlelight vigil to commemorate Brown, should be

seen in the context of a chronic urban crisis, he said.

"Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction," Jackson said. "Poverty

is in the community, guns are in, drugs are in, jobs are out. Banks are bailed out without meaningful community reinvestment. Too many people have no stake in the culture."

Jackson said that chronic urban problems remain to be addressed after the shooting of Michael Brown and the community's outrage are resolved.

"These kids need educations, skills, job training, jobs, scholarships to college," Jackson said. "We need a national forum on urban policy, justice and repression. This is a national crisis that has manifested in Ferguson."

Asked for advice to organizers on the ground, Jackson said, "That's tough. I saw a sign that said we need quietness. Quietness is not the answer. Quietness is the absence of noise. We need the presence of justice."

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