

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY

NOCCA Anniversary Celebration at Jazz Fest

Data Zone Page 6

May 2 - May 8, 2015 50th Year Volume 1 www.ladatanews.com

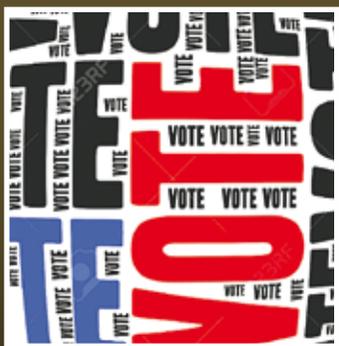
A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Lemonade Day 2015



All Set to be the Largest Ever

Page 2



Newsmaker

Data Endorsements for May 2nd

Page 4

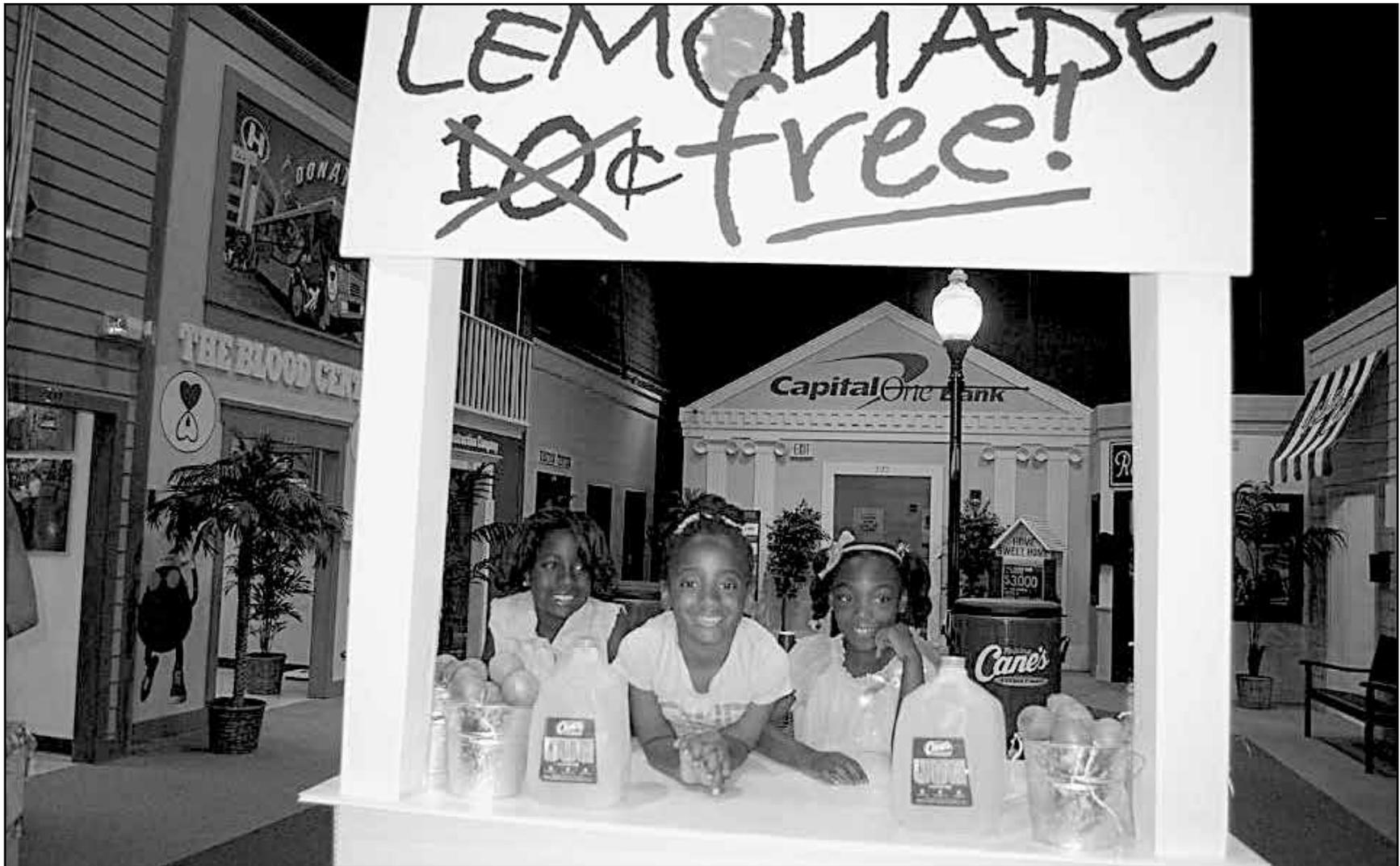
National News

Baltimore In Peril



Page 11

This Year's Lemonade Day Louisiana Set to be the Largest in History



Over the past five years, Lemonade Day Louisiana has provided more than 50,000 youth, like those shown above, across Louisiana with the opportunity to become entrepreneurs for a day. It is the goal, that this experience lights the fire inside these participants to become entrepreneurs when they become adults.

Editing and additional reporting by Benjamin Bates

Supporting the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Data News Weekly has become part of a great new tradition lending its support to Lemonade Day

Louisiana, which for the past five years has provided more than 50,000 youth across Louisiana with the opportunity to become entrepreneurs. While on Saturday May 2nd many things will be going on Jazz Fest and an Election. Saturday, May 2nd is Lemonade Day which is set to be the largest to date, since entrepreneurs John Georges and Todd Graves introduced the program in 2010.

“We have supported Lemonade Day from its beginning and we are glad to participate in something that is such a positive thing for our young people,” says Data News Publisher Terry Jones on his continued support of Lemonade Day.

Lemonade Day Louisiana was founded in 2010, by entrepreneurs John Georges and Todd Graves and has grown tremendously over the last few years. More

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary	8
Newsmaker	4	Health News	9
State & Local News . . .	5	Dollar & Sense	10
Data Zone	6	National News	11

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
 editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher	Contributors Roberto Alejandro Benjamin Bates Derrell Bradford	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com
Edwin Buggage Editor	Kichea S. Burt Charlene Crowell Data News Staff	Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria Executive Assistant	Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. Jazelle Hunt Rhodesia Muhammad	Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
June Hazeur Accounting	James Washington	bellsouth.net

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY. Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



than 17,000 youth across Louisiana from New Orleans to Shreveport participated in last year's program. Thousands of lemonade stands were set-up throughout the state. These young entrepreneurs donated thousands of dollars to charity. Louisiana is one of over 40 regions in the U.S. and Canada to participate in Lemonade Day.

Many from across the state have lent its support to Lemonade Day, something that is an investment in the future of young people across the state. Recently, there was a kick-off with many of its supporters including: Lemonade Day Louisiana Co-Founder, The Advocate Publisher, and Georges Enterprises CEO John Georges, Saints Alumni Player Deuce McAllister, First NBC Bank President and CEO Ashton Ryan, Rouses Markets Managing Partner Donny Rouse, Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge Foundation President and CEO Layne McDaniel, and Lemonade Day National President Ron Batts.

"Lemonade Day has become an annual tradition here in Louisiana and will have a significant impact on our future business leaders for decades to come," said Georges. "I am once again challenging the entire state to get involved and help us open more than 18,000 new businesses on Lemonade Day."

"We are overwhelmed by the success of this program in the past five years," said Todd Graves, Founder, CEO, Fry Cook and Cashier of Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. "We look forward to growing the next generation of Louisiana entrepreneurs for years to come."

In addition to Crescent Bank Chairman and CEO Gary Solomon, Sr., serving as this year's New Orleans City Champion for Lemonade Day, Acadian Companies Chairman and CEO Richard Zuschlag, Rouse, McDaniel, Saints Player Thomas Morstead, Miss Louisiana USA 2015 Candice Bennett, and Miss Louisiana Teen

USA 2015 Katherine Haik, will serve as Statewide City Champions and celebrity spokespersons for this year's program.

One of my fondest memories is my first business enterprise, I would sell my old toys" said Solomon. "I am honored to be involved in Lemonade Day and know this day will impact thousands of children today, as did selling my used toys impacted my life."

The New Orleans Advocate, The Advocate, The Acadian Advocate, and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, are among this year's leading sponsors for Lemonade Day Louisiana.

"We support Lemonade Day because we believe that it teaches children the lessons, not only to be successful in business, but to be successful in life," said McDaniel. "Lessons like setting goals, planning, budgeting, saving, working with others, and much more. "It is an organization and program that we truly believe in."

Lemonade Day Louisiana is a free, community-wide program that fosters entrepreneurship and character development among Louisiana's youth by supporting them in establishing and operating their own lemonade businesses. Young entrepreneurs are provided with a free backpack, which contains detailed support materials including an Entrepreneur Workbook, Marketing Tips and Mentor Guide to help them establish their lemonade stand.

"I am really excited about Lemonade Day Louisiana because of the business experience it gives to our youth and because it also promotes giving back to the community," said Zuschlag. "I encourage everyone in the community to support this organization in some way."

On Saturday, May 2nd, the entire community is encouraged to purchase lemonade from these young entrepreneurs as well as celebrate Lemonade Day's re-

markable five years of service to the State of Louisiana.

"We were once a food start up ourselves," said Rouse. "Lemonade Day gives our next generation of food entrepreneurs a head start."

More than 29 corporate sponsors have teamed up to once again bring Lemonade Day to Louisiana on Saturday, May 2nd including: Data News Weekly, the New Orleans Saints, the New Orleans

Pelicans, Acadian Companies, Bolinger Shipyards, Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge Foundation, Crescent Bank, First NBC Bank, Rouses, Ochsner Health System, Coastal Bridge, CenturyLink, Louisiana Society of CPAs, and US Agencies as well as over 100 partners including the Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), Louisiana SPCA, Lawrence D. Crocker Col-

lege Prep, Junior League of Greater New Orleans, Junior League of Baton Rouge, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, Spears Group, Diane Allen & Associates and a host of other statewide partners and sponsors.

We at Data News Weekly encourage people when they are out on May 2nd if they see a young entrepreneur please support them on Lemonade Day.

LEGAL NOTICE

If you paid for parking in the City of New Orleans in 2005, your rights may be affected by a class action lawsuit.

A class action lawsuit has been filed against the City of New Orleans and ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. ("Defendants") about the installation of the "Parkeon System" of parking pay stations ("Parkeon Pay Stations") in 2005. The lawsuit contends that it was illegal to install the Parkeon Pay Stations and that it was also illegal to collect parking fees, issue citations, and collect parking fines in connection with them prior to August 4, 2005.

As part of the class action, the Court will consider whether the Defendants violated the law and whether the Class members will be eligible to receive payments. The Defendants deny that they have done anything wrong and the Court has not yet decided who is right. No money has been awarded to anyone and there is no guarantee there will be an award. However, your rights are affected, and you have a choice to make now.

Who is included? The Court has certified a Class of all persons who were issued a parking citation for violation of Section 154-1086 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of New Orleans or other meter violation in connection with a multi-space pay station sometimes referred to as a Parkeon Pay Station located in the City of New Orleans through August 4, 2005, and all persons who

paid for parking in the City of New Orleans through a multi-space pay station sometimes referred to as a Parkeon Pay Station with a credit card, debit card, or smart card through August 4, 2005. If you are uncertain whether you are a member of the class, information to assist you in determining class membership is available at the website and the toll-free number below.

What are your options? If you wish to remain a member of the Class, you do not have to do anything at this time. If you remain in the Class, you will be legally bound by all orders the Court issues and judgments the Court makes in this class action.

If you do not want to remain a member of the Class, you must exclude yourself. A detailed notice available at the website or by calling the number below explains how to request exclusion. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you cannot receive money from the lawsuit—if any is won—but you will not be bound by any Court orders or judgments. The deadline to request exclusion is **June 15, 2015**. If you do not request exclusion, you can hire your own attorney, but you do not have to.

Detailed information about the lawsuit is available at the website and toll-free number listed below.

www.NOLAParkingClassAction.com • 1-888-653-7696

Data News Endorsements for May 2nd Election

By Data News Staff

New Orleanians again will be asked to go to the polls to vote on May 2nd. While there are not people running for elected office there are two ballot initiatives that are important and we at Data News encourage the citizens of our City go out and vote.

YES: Parish-wide Public Library Proposition (New Millage)

Shall the City of New Orleans (the "City") be authorized to levy and collect annually, in addition to any other authorized tax, a special ad valorem tax not to exceed 2.5 mills on all property subject to taxation within the City (an estimated \$8.25 million reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 25 years, beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2040, which tax shall be collected in the same manner as all other ad valorem taxes and which shall be dedicated to and used by the New Orleans Public Library System for the purpose of adequate-

ly funding its continued operations, said tax to be levied and collected in addition to the current 3.14 mills previously approved by the voters of New Orleans for the benefit of the City's public libraries, which current 3.14 mills shall expire December 31, 2021?

We at Data News advise people to vote YES on this proposition New Orleans has 14 public libraries. The sole support for the libraries is a 3.14 millage passed in the 1970's. It is time for us to move forward to support our libraries that have become more than just places to check out books. It is the center of cultural activities that enrich the people of our community. The City of New Orleans is cash strapped and it is important we vote YES to invest in our public libraries. Last year over a million people used the New Orleans public libraries and almost 400,000 people used the library computers. We must keep this valuable resource available for the people of our City.

It is a free gateway to literacy and opportunity for many of our



citizens. When you look at the cost for a homeowner in New Orleans it is money well spent. The request is that voters increase the current

millage by 2.5 mills for 25 years to support operations and maintenance of the entire library system. The price for the total millage on

the average home in New Orleans will be less than \$11 per month we feel this is a worthwhile investment for our City and our future. If this proposition is not passed we may have cutbacks to library hours and services and possibly even branch closures. This is something we cannot allow to happen, so we encourage you to go out and vote YES on this proposition.

YES: Law Enforcement District Proposition (Millage)

Shall the Sheriff of Orleans Parish, as the governing authority of the Law Enforcement District of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a tax of not exceeding 2.8 mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$9,366,050 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2016 and ending with the year 2025, for the purpose of providing additional funding for the operation, maintenance and upkeep of jails and related facilities, the District and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, with said millage levied each year to be reduced by the millage rate levied that year for the District's currently outstanding General Obligation Bonds?

We support this proposition and want to explain to our readers that this is not a tax increase, instead it gives the City more flexibility to use monies to fund the Consent Decree to improve the operations of our jail. Presently, the Law Enforcement District millage in place for 2.9 mills, but can only be used in building projects but cannot be used for operations, programs etc. With voters' consent, this new proposition would change that.

We need to support this re-purposing of monies because regardless of the outcome of this vote the federal courts are likely to order the City to invest anywhere from \$10 million to \$22 million to fund the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office consent decree and improve operations in the jail. The proposition if it passes would allow us to use the money we already have to fund this without making cuts to other City services or raising taxes on our citizens. So we say vote YES on this Proposition.

We at Data News Encourage you to Get Out and Vote.

This is why

you work so hard to pay the mortgage.

MAKING HOME AFFORDABLE.gov

888-995-HOPE

We are a free government resource that can make paying the mortgage easier. Call now to talk one-on-one with a housing expert. Now more options are available.

Ad Council

Supporting Our Own and Circulating the Black Dollar

by Rhodesia Muhammad
Special to the NNPA from The Final Call

On a recent Saturday, organizers and over a dozen participants met at the Black-owned Half Shell Restaurant at 9 a.m. for a bus tour to explore Black businesses in the city.

The inspiration for the Black Business Bus Tour originated with Brother Asad El-Malik and Brother Reuben De Tiege. In an effort to continue the spirit of the Kwanzaa principle of Ujamaa (co-operative economics), those men in conjunction with the Man Up March committee and Brothers for Better Business wanted to figure out a way to increase circulation of the Black dollar.

“The idea behind the tour came from the Montgomery Bus Boycott,” said Asad El-Malik. “I was thinking about how much effort it took for our people to pull off the boycott. Then I began to think how would a boycott look and work today? What we came up with was the opposite of a boycott. Instead of avoiding a business, we decided to support Black businesses. What we hoped to accomplish was to raise awareness of different Black-owned businesses, support those businesses, and show the importance of investing into self. I think the tour was great. We introduced a bunch of people to Black-owned businesses in this city, Black businesses made a few more dollars,



Walter Umrani patronizing Ray Brown, Jr. Cleaners in New Orleans (Courtesy of The Final Call)

and gained potential customers.”

The bus traveled to several Black business corridors, stopping at each to allow riders to sample and purchase goods and services. The bus visited such businesses as Swilling Plaza, a shopping center owned by former New Orleans Pro-Bowl Linebacker Pat Swilling, 1st Lady Lingerie and Novelties owned by Evelyn Sullen, Beauty on de Bayou owned by Dwana Makeba, The Chair Studio Hair and Nail Salon co-owned by Chelette Smith-Jones and Keysha Dennis, The Aquatic Shop owned by Brother Vincent, the Community Book Center owned by Vera Warren-Williams and newly-opened 9th Ward cleaners, Ray Brown, Jr. owned by

La'Shield Butler. The tour ended at Half Shell Restaurant where food was available for sale.

The event was free to all riders who RSVP'D and they were escorted to the various businesses by Brother Walter Umrani of Mosque No. 46 and The PeaceKeepers and Brother Shack of the True Love Movement.

“The intent of the organizers was to use the collective buying power of the ‘Black dollar’ to support Black-owned businesses within our community. Too often small Black-owned businesses suffer because there isn’t a determined and concerted effort made on behalf of the Black community to support those businesses. The Black Business Bus Tour is an at-



Participants on the bus tour entering 1st Lady Lingerie and Novelties Shop. (Courtesy of The Final Call)

tempt to combat that lack of support in a creative and nuanced fashion,” said Bryan Turner.

“My objective for the tour was to expose lesser known businesses to the masses, showing people where they can go to support businesses owned by African Americans. The highlight of the tour was the people that came out. We are strategizing on how we can improve the bus tour in the future, getting more males involved and getting people more enthusiastic about supporting their own,” Brother Reuben De Tiege added.

Every rider was asked to complete a survey regarding their experience with the Black Business Bus Tour. Four questions were asked and here’s how people rated:

- 1) How did you find out about the Black Business Bus Tour? (0%) Radio interview, (45%) Social Media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (55%) Friend.
- 2) How would you rate the Black Business Bus Tour experience? (45%) Really enjoyed it! (45%) Good, (9%) Fair, (0%) I did not like it.
- 3) Will you begin to patronize any of the Black Businesses we visited after the bus tour? (64%) I definitely will. (27%) I will try to do so. (9%) No, I will not. If you said you will, which business or businesses will you begin supporting? Book Center 55%, Beauty on de Bayou 55%, 1st Lady 18%, Aquatic shop 9%, Half Shell 9%, Chair Studio 9%.
- 4) Will you inform other friends and family members about these business establishments? (91%) Yes, I will. (0%) No, I will not.

The Black Business Bus tour was a follow-up event to the Man Up March hosted in October 2014. “I think this tour was a good test run. If we decide to do another tour, we will work more with business owners to help them be better prepared to receive the tourists. Also, we will consider branching out to other parts of New Orleans,” said Student Minister Willie Muhammad, one of the organizers of the Man Up March.

“Depression doesn’t have to keep us down.

The healing is in me, and the healing can be extended to others.”

- Thabiti Boone

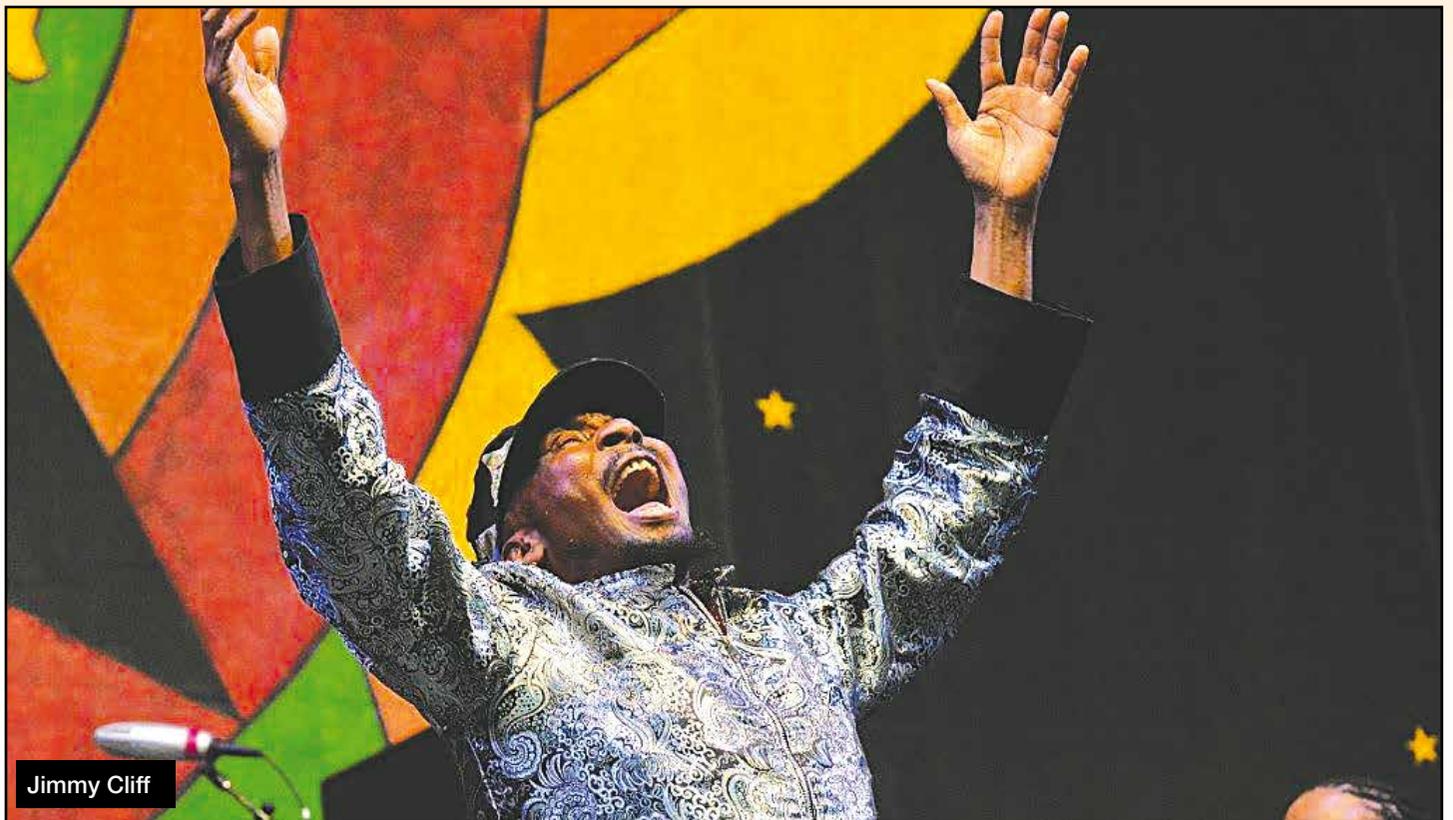
mental health  SHARE OURSELVES... HEALING STARTS WITH US

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Jazz Fest Celebrates 40th Anniversary of NOCCA

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

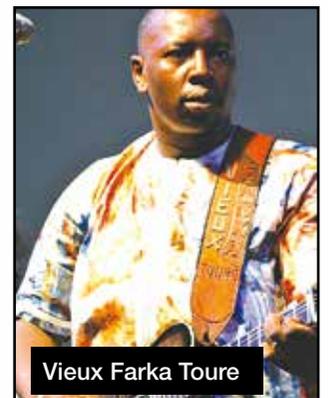
The 2015 Jazz Fest celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the New Orleans Center For Creative Arts (NOCCA). The high school, which was created in 1974 to focus exclusively on the arts, is recognized as a powerful cultural and economic engine in New Orleans. Many NOCCA alumni were first seen at Jazz Fest, which provided an early professional opportunity to showcase their talent. Alumni who have earned accolades in the arts and appeared regularly at Jazz Fest include world-class jazz musicians Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard and Donald Harrison, New Orleans funk star Troy Andrews a.k.a Trombone Shorty; visual artists Terrance Osborne and Brandan Odums, and cookbook author Poppy Tooker.



Jimmy Cliff



NOCCA All-Star Alumni Jazz Jam



Vieux Farka Toure

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

Connect to the Source

Data News Weekly, your one stop for what's happening in New Orleans.



ladatanews.com



WBOK 1230AM

A BAKEWELL MEDIA COMPANY

Real Talk for Real Times...

1639 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70119 (504)942-0106

www.wbok1230am.com

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Jazz Fest Celebrates 40th Anniversary of NOCCA

Photos by Kichea S. Burt



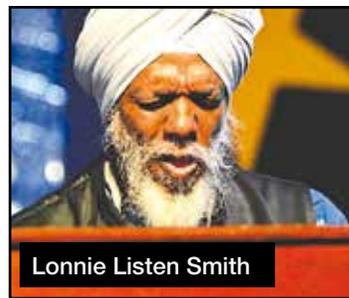
John Legend



Robin Barnes



Jewel Brown



Lonnie Listen Smith



Cassandra Wilson



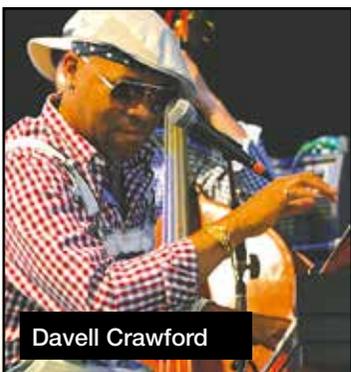
Angielique Kidjoe



Karen Andrews



NOCCA Vocal Student



Davell Crawford



Katlin Harris NOCCA Vocal Student



BRB

Baltimore

We have Been Here Before



By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr
Founder & President, Rainbow
PUSH Coalition

with new restaurants, new condominiums, the stadiums that house the Ravens and the Orioles. West Baltimore, in contrast, is marked by boarded up stores, abandoned homes, and too many people with no hope. The jobs are gone; the schools crowded, the streets harsh. Here the police – many of whom live in the suburbs – are tasked with waging a war on drugs and enforcing order. The inevitable result is a tinderbox, a spark away from bursting into flame, one incident of police misbehavior from eruption.

We've been here before; Baltimore is not unique. We've seen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in Staten Island New York, and Trayvon Martin in Sanford Fla. Now that demonstrations have put the question of police violence on the front pages, each week brings another horror, another victim, another injustice.

Much focus has been put on cameras as a technical fix, but we need a change of culture, of char-

acter, of circumstance. Police need new training, and a new relationship with the communities they patrol. But at the end of the day, police are not the answer. They are the occupying force, but they are not the cause of the underlying distress.

We've been here before, too. In 1968, after race riots had erupted in Watts,

Chicago, Detroit and Newark, Lyndon Johnson convened the Kerner Commission to investigate the causes of the riots. The Kerner Report desecrated a nation "moving towards two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal." It called for better training for the police, but also for new jobs, new housing, an end to de facto segregation. Police misbehavior was often the match that sparked the eruption, but there would be no answer without fundamental change.

Baltimore and America have changed, but for too many in our ghettos and barrios, the reality is the same. The New York Times re-

ports on 1.5 million "missing black men," one of every six aged 24 to 54 who have disappeared from civic life. They are either dead or locked away. Jobs have dried up as manufacturing plants closed and where shipped abroad. Mass incarceration – with African Americans still suffering from racial profiling and injustice – destroys possibility. The official Black unemployment rate is twice that of whites, but that does not even count those who want a job but have given up trying to find one.

The stigmatization of African Americans continues. African American children are more likely to be suspended for the same misbehavior than Whites. African American men are more likely to be stopped, more likely to be arrested if stopped, more likely to be convicted if arrested. The result hurts African Americans generally. The Harvard sociologist Devah Pager has found that a White with a criminal record has a better chance getting hired than Black with no record whatso-

ever. Being Black in America today is just about the same as having a felony conviction in terms of one's chances of finding a job," she concludes.

We need a serious plan for urban redevelopment. We need a plan to put people to work, a public works project that hires and trains and employs people in work that needs to be done. We could provide guarantees to pension funds to invest in re-building the boarded up homes. We could train young people to retrofit buildings with solar and energy efficient insulation and windows. We could insure that transportation exists to take workers to where the jobs are.

Baltimore has put us on notice once more. Our cities are at a breaking point. There are more horrors to come, more explosions to follow. 50 years after the Kerner Commission, we ignore its teachings at our peril.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is president and founder of Rainbow PUSH coalition.

Parent Choice is the Answer When You Can't Move



Derrell Bradford
NNPA Columnist

against my outside windows. In the winter, I heated the place with my open stove. And if anything broke, it took forever to get it fixed.

I paid about three-fourths of what I made to live in that apartment, and my landlord knew that. And because of this, our relationship was uneasy. I only pushed so hard to get things fixed because I couldn't afford to move. She only did enough to make it barely livable. And we both knew there were hundreds of kids, just like me, ready to take my spot if I decided to head back home. It was all win for her and, because I could not move, all lose me.

My relationship with my old landlord is the same relationship most parents and children of color, particularly in cities, have with their neighborhood schools and school districts. The quality of instruction is poor and, according to

the Office of Civil Rights, students are far more likely to be taught by a teacher who is out of subject specialization than elsewhere. There are 90 schools in New York City, for instance, where not one minority child passed the recent round of state tests. These kids and families are stuck with their schools just like my old landlord and I were; the school only giving what it must, and the family desperate to get more for their child's education.

Eventually I got lucky, got a new job, and moved to a better apartment. For most folks, however, moving to a better "building," or a school or school district in this case, just isn't an option.

If you have money or influence in America, you don't even blink when your local school doesn't deliver. You know you can "move" to a private school or another school dis-

trict, and the local school does too. So if that power is good enough for the wealthiest and most influential, why shouldn't we give low-income families in southwest Baltimore where I'm from, or Newark, or New York the same options?

As a child I got a scholarship to an excellent school and that changed my life, forever, and there is no day I don't wake up and know how blessed I am because of it. "Parent Choice" in education is the one thing that can help families, just like mine, and help them today. Take a lesson from my old landlord. Your zip code and your income might dictate where you live...but they shouldn't determine your child's future.

Derrell Bradford

Exec. Director
The New York Campaign for
Achievement Now (NYCAN)



Find us on:
facebook®

more photos
more stories
more data

Police Violence Coverage Takes Mental Toll

By Jazelle Hunt

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Police have killed at least 369 people in the first four months of 2015, with 103 Black Americans – 28 percent – making up a disproportionate number of the victims, according to Ferguson protester project, Mapping the Police.

But a growing number of medical experts say the damage inflicted extends far beyond the number of actual victims.

Unarmed Black male victims are currently en vogue in the media, with images of the victims' last moments on loop hour after hour. And each incident adds a fresh layer of offense – from Deputy Robert Bates in Tulsa, Okla., who was charged with the manslaughter of Eric Harris but allowed to vacation in the Bahamas after the court hearing, to Officer Dante Servin in Chicago, found not guilty for Rekia Boyd's murder because the prose-

cutor deliberately filed lesser, inappropriate charges.

“The repetitive nature of this, the fact that this is chronic.... Chronic experiences of racial discrimination, and I'd include vicarious discrimination, can influence mental and physical health outcomes,” says Amani Nuru-Jeter, associate professor of public health at University of California-Berkeley and researcher on racial health disparities. “I'm not saying it's the same as post-traumatic stress disorder, but we do some similarities in how people cognitively respond.”

Other depressive or schizophrenic symptoms (such as paranoia or emotional numbness) can emerge, as well as physical health problems such as cardiovascular disease. On an individual level, racism in general has gradual, but potentially life-shortening effects on the mind and body.

These effects can be even more acute for those who make their



The repetitive nature of this, the fact that this is chronic....Chronic experiences of racial discrimination, and I'd include vicarious discrimination, can influence mental and physical health outcomes,” says Amani Nuru-Jeter (pictured above), associate professor of public health at University of California-Berkeley and researcher on racial health disparities. “I'm not saying it's the same as post-traumatic stress disorder, but we do some similarities in how people cognitively respond”.

Blackness the most important part of their self-identity, and/or those who internalize the racism against them.

“We found that it's associated with ‘cellular aging,’” Nuru-Jeter says, referring to a body of public health research to which she has contributed. “We used a measure called telomeres, which are biologi-

cal indicators of the age of the cells in our bodies and indicate premature biological aging.”

On a communal level, being under the threat of police violence backed by the authority of the local, state, and sometimes national government, is enough of a burden on its own. When this oppression stretches from the mundane

to the life threatening – such as the discriminatory fines up and the National Guard deployment in Ferguson after Officer Darren Wilson was not indicted – it is easy for Black communities to fall into a sense of hopelessness.

The more a community feels bound by the same identity (be it racial, socioeconomic, or otherwise), the more deeply the effects of chronic racial discrimination are felt.

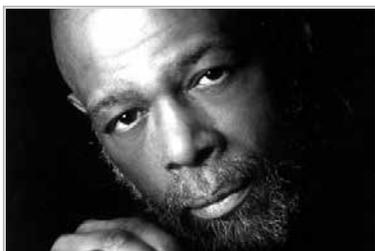
“There's also collective racial identity. There's [an academic field] called social capital...and in that, there's a concept called bonded social capital,” Nuru-Jeter explains. “Identity can increase solidarity. For example, what we saw in Ferguson was an outcry of, ‘We're tired of being treated like this, we're raising our voice to say Black lives do matter to us.’”

There's also the matter of images. Some media outlets have routinely

Health, Continued on page 10.

In The Spirit

Yeah, I Love You Too



James Washington
Guest Columnist

I just had an experience that had me look up this previously written column. I was losing my mind as in my Christianity in the midst of going off on someone whom I believed deserved it. Fortunately for me, I remembered that the road to spiritual salvation is sometimes so obvious, so apparent that we just miss it. Like most of Jesus' message, it doesn't seem possible that by simply changing ones' outlook, the Kingdom of heaven is yours. “Teacher which is the greatest commandment of the law?” Jesus

replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is just like it; “Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40. It is not always through guile and deceit that the devil works his evil. He can accomplish his goals if he can convince you that what is very important is of little matter and no consequence i. e. “going off on somebody.” With some sense of angst I recalled that this love your neighbor thing is pretty well documented throughout the bible and Christ certainly clarifies its importance in the above passage. Remember this is the Son of God talking. The single most important thing I can do to abide in God's will is to possess love in my heart for God and my fellow man. That's it? Yeah, that's it! If that's as close to a guarantee as we get, why

are many of us hell bent on doing the things that will insure our place at the kitchen table in hell?

I personally think the concept of loving God is pretty easy to comprehend. Most of us dare I say, are arguably trying to accomplish this in one way or another; at least I hope so. It's the loving your neighbor as yourself that's causing the problem. The devil is having a field day on this one. He certainly was with me. Count how many people you can't stand at this very moment. Take your shoes off and add to your list those people, who if they died tomorrow, you would be among those who would think, if not say ‘good riddance.’ The devil has us so confused and dumbfounded on this issue that we can't see that the hatred we harbor for others, the contempt we feel for people we don't even know, masks an underlying reality that won't allow us to love our neighbor. In actuality, we hate ourselves. You see the devil has tricked

us into hating the mirror image of us. Deep down inside we hate in others that which we might become, because we really don't like what we have become. Think about that for a minute.

The devil knows man is not perfect so he entices us into hating the imperfection in others; their flaws and faults, their weaknesses and shortcomings. All the while, being imperfect ourselves, insures that we cannot live up to the greatest commandment of loving our neighbors as ourselves. Isn't it interesting that most people, who claim being saved, tell you they first had to realize that God through Jesus' sacrifice loved them warts and all? The stories come from former drug addicts, adulterers, petty gossips, murderers and greedy self absorbed takers in life, who wished they knew how to have a healthy respectful loving relationship with another human being. One by one, they, we, I line up and confess that

once we accepted that God indeed loves us, then and only then, were we able to love ourselves and subsequently love others just like they are; all imperfect, all flawed children of God, all welcomed at His eternal kitchen table. At this point one sees God in every man, every woman and every child, because once you accept that God resides in your own sinful soul, you can see God in others. God knew you before you knew you. And He loved you anyway in spite of what He knew you were going to do. As incredible as that sounds, it's true. It's called love. God's point is so simple. If He's got it for you, the least you can do is have it for others. Step back satan. I love me and I ain't got nothing but love for you too. I apologized to the person I was going off on and asked for his forgiveness.

May God bless and
keep you always.

James, jaws@dallasweekly.com

Credit Arbitration Clauses Favor Corporations

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

Although arbitration is often associated with labor unions, millions of consumers are also affected by it and don't even know it. Often consumers find the extremely small print of credit agreements difficult to read. Others become bewildered by the legal jargon embedded in these clauses.

In either case, consumers should take note. The adage, 'the devil is in the details' still holds true.

A new report released by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) found that more than three in four consumers surveyed did not know whether they were subject to a credit arbitration clause. Checking accounts, credit cards, mobile wireless providers, payday loans and prepaid cards were the six financial areas that CFPB analyzed.

Even worse, CFPB determined that despite arbitration clauses dominant presence in consumer credit agreements, the clauses work more in favor of corporations than consumers. All too often, credit terms are seldom negotiable. Only in a few instances are consumers given a one-time chance to opt out of these terms. Additionally, when disputes arise, consumers seldom choose the arbitrator and creditors typically pay for arbitration services.

As consumers accept credit terms, they often forfeit their rights to legal action as an individual or as



part of a class action. In short, from a consumer perspective the choice becomes 'take it or leave it'.

"Tens of millions of consumers are covered by arbitration clauses, but few know about them or understand their impact," said Richard Cordray, CFPB Director. "Our study found that these arbitration clauses restrict consumer relief in disputes with financial companies by limiting class actions that provide millions of dollars in redress each year."

In reaction to CFPB's new report, business lobbyists and organizations spoke up on how arbitration remains a cost-saving tool and as a

result, helps to preserve affordability in financial services.

Yet many consumer advocates held a near-opposite view.

"Forced arbitration isn't an alternative forum for resolving disputes; it's a get-out-of-jail-free card for corporations," said Ellen Taverna, legislative director of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

"The findings of the CFPB study are crystal clear," said David Seligman, an attorney with the National Consumer Law Center. "These clauses are written by corporations to set up a secret and lawless process that prevents consumers from holding corporations accountable for unlawful conduct."

Over a five-year period, CFPB

analyzed evidence from consumer contracts, court data, surveys and more to determine whether arbitration clauses offered a fair and transparent resolution of consumer complaints in six consumer financial markets. The findings were as eye-opening as they were broad in impact.

Payday loans and prepaid cards were found to have the highest usage of arbitration clauses, at 99 and 92 percent, respectively. It should be noted that in California and in Texas, two states with some of the highest numbers of payday stores, CFPB obtained data on more than 99 percent of store locations.

The remaining credit areas studied still made significant use of arbitration agreements: mobile wireless (88 percent), private student loans (86 percent), credit cards (53 percent) and checking accounts (44 percent).

Other CFPB findings include:

Over the five years studied, 1,847 arbitration disputes were filed but the total amount of relief and debt forbearance that consumers received was less than \$400,000;

Corporations obtained decisions that required consumers to pay \$2.8 million, largely for disputed debts during the same period;

Nearly 34 million consumers could have been eligible for at least \$1.1 billion in cash payments; and

At the same time, among those not affected by forced arbitration clauses, at least 160 million class action members, were eligible for \$2.7 billion in cash, in-kind relief, expenses and fees through federal

legal proceedings.

"Companies claim that arbitration is simpler, easier, and cheaper – but they fail to mention that forced arbitration rarely provides the impartiality or meaningful review that a consumer can get in a court of law," says Mitria Wilson, a vice-president with the Center for Responsible Lending.

"In the worst examples, we've seen consumers being asked to travel to faraway places to try to enforce their rights only to find out that the 'impartial' arbiters were selected exclusively by the companies that their dispute is with. These proceedings are virtually impossible to get overturned through a court of law – even if blatant mistakes are made."

In 2010 and as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, Congress directed CFPB to conduct a study and provide a report on the use of pre-dispute arbitration clauses in consumer financial contracts. Dodd-Frank also banned the use of arbitration clauses in most residential mortgage loans. The issue of arbitration's effects on consumers was also brought before Congress in 2007 when it enacted the Military Lending Act.

"This report is an important one – and we hope it serves as a precursor to a strong and robust rule prohibiting this practice," concluded Wilson.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Health, Continued from page 9.

reported on the victim's past crimes and encounters with the justice system, and used either an old mugshot or image of the victim dead or dying to accompany their coverage.

Some outlets have come under fire for what many consider insensitive treatment of the deceased. One Change.org petition specifically asked the Washington Post to stop using victim mugshots in covering police violence. After some outcry on social media, CNN began to air a blurred version of the footage of Walter Scott's killing, as captured by bystander, Feidin Santana.

Nuru-Jeter points to neuroscience research involving fMRI scans (which map both brain activity and structure) that show how images or films can create a vicarious

experience for the viewers.

"Some of these studies show that the same parts of the brain light up compared to when people have their own experience. I'm extrapolating here, but the suggestion is [there]," she says, especially for people who see themselves and their loved ones represented in the victims on TV.

As police killings continue to be a hot topic in the news – and as police departments continue to use lethal force in their interactions with civilians – it is likely that media coverage of this violence will continue. Nuru-Jeter highlights two ways to protect one's self and loved ones from the mental toll of these tragedies.

First, having strong racial iden-

tity can be a buffer, if it is experienced in a proud way. By focusing on Black pride, and drawing strength from the positive aspects of the Black American experience, individuals and communities can balance out the painful parts.

Finally, supportive people and systems are key for overall wellbeing.

"What happens when we see a constant message of devalued Black life in society? One way people can cope with this is to share the experience, and not hold it in," she says. "Even if you're not getting individual support, simply being a member of a group [as in protest] can help. 'There's strength in numbers' counts as a cliché, but I think the evidence is there to support that."

Dr. Robert J. Spears, DDS

General Dentistry

- Extractions*
- Tooth Colored Fillings*
- Crowns * Teeth Whitening * Veneers*
- Dentures * Root Canals * Cleanings *
- Dental Implants * Gum Re-Contouring

Schedule an
appointment today!!
Call 241-8214

9235 Lake Forest Blvd. New Orleans, LA

City Struggles to Balance Transparency vs. Investigation Integrity in Gray's Death Probe

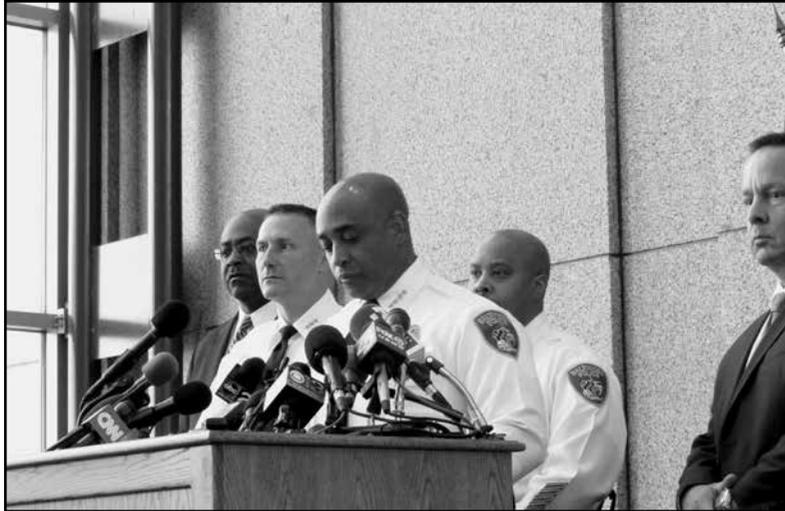
by Roberto Alejandro
NNPA Newswire

NNPA (The Afro American) Baltimore City officials are walking a tightrope as they seek to balance the public's right-to-know and frustration against protecting the integrity of the investigation into the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody.

"I recognize that there's frustration over this investigation," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on April 24, speaking to members of the local and national media at City Hall. "But I want to be clear: there is a process, and we have to respect that process. In order to have justice, and not just seek justice, the investigation has to follow procedures."

Surrounded by clergy members from the Baltimore area, the mayor offered condolences to the family of Gray, the West Baltimore man who died on April 19, one week after suffering three broken vertebrae in his neck and a crushed voice box while in police custody on April 12. Rawlings-Blake also, praised demonstrators for staging what have been peaceful protests, said she demanded answers in what happened to Gray, and indicated that all information collected by the Baltimore Police Department in the investigation of Gray's death would be turned over to Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby on May 1 for independent review.

The city has seen five straight days of demonstrations—with a major action planned for April 25—from residents demanding not only answers, but indictments. Many protestors have expressed frustra-



Baltimore City Police Commissioner Anthony Batts updates the media on his department's investigation into the in-custody death of Freddie Gray. (AFRO Photo/Roberto Alejandro)



A man walks past a burning police vehicle as the patience of a few erupted into violence on Monday, April 27, 2015, after the funeral of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. (AP Photo)

tion with what feels to them like the glacial pace of information being released by the city about what happened to Gray; but as Baltimore City Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said at his own press conference about two hours after the mayor's press conference, doing otherwise could compromise the

very quest for accountability the community is seeking.

"What you see us tap dancing on and balancing here is that if someone harmed Freddie Gray, we're going to have to prosecute. And so giving too much information out to you on the front here now may jeopardize that prosecu-

tion. So we're trying to be as open and transparent as possible, but if somebody harmed him, they have to be held accountable, and we don't want to give all the information that we have."

The commissioner did give a number of updates of what he said the Baltimore Police Department's investigation had uncovered so far. Gray was not secured with a seatbelt in the transportation wagon that was transporting him from the scene of the arrest to the Western District police station, "as he should have been," said Batts.

"No excuses for that, period," said the commissioner.

Batts also said that officers failed to provide Gray with medical attention "in a timely manner, multiple times."

Later on in the press conference, Baltimore Police Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis, after describing the foot chase that ended in Gray's apprehension on the 1700 block of Presbury St., said, "And quite frankly, that's exactly where Freddie Gray should've received medical attention."

According to Batts, five of the six suspended officers have given statements, while one has continued to invoke his or her "rights." Because of the nature of the investigation, officers are protected both by their Fifth Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution against self-incrimination, as well as their rights under Maryland's law enforcement officer's bill of rights, which gives police officers 10 business days to attain legal counsel before they can be questioned in an administrative (internal) investigation. It was not clear which set of rights the officer was invoking.

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

Mailboxes by Mark



You pay for the bricks or maybe you have bricks already. You provide the mailbox.

I will provide the cement, wood, mortar, nails etc. You choose or create the design. Prices vary according to the design.

Contact: Mark (504) 723-7318

AVON

The company for women \$\$\$
\$\$\$\$\$

Can you use some extra cash? Try Avon!!! Avon is easy to sell, no experience necessary. It cost only \$10.00 to start.

Become your own boss or just earn extra money. Whether you are interested in purchasing Avon products or becoming an Avon Representative yourself, I can assist you.

Call June - 504-606-1362
I will explain everything and help you to get started.

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421



Find us on:
facebook®

subscribe

to data chatta

New Orleans in your inbox



NO MORE

“BUT HE GOES TO MY CHURCH”



There is never an excuse for domestic violence or sexual assault. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.

No more excuses.
No more silence.
No more violence.



NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

www.nomore.org

CCH Pounder