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New Orleans

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# The Shots Heard 'Round the World

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# The Shots Heard Round the World



By Kai EL'Zabar  
Special Report by The Chicago Defender  
Newspaper

## The Power Of Protest: The Turning Point (1955 -2015)

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." ~ James Baldwin

Each generation has a wake up call and how they choose to address it is on them. After what seemed a long pregnant pause, the Generation X-ers have been awakened by their children, the Millennials, who have stepped to the issues at hand that face them and plague their future.

This awakening comes just when the Baby Boomer generation had lost all hope in the youth who seemed to have been in a deep sleep, symbolizing the conscious dream of what the Boomers had hoped for – a

world of peace, equality and prosperity, when in truth, reality was happening all around us.

Blacks continued to witness the disparity in how we are hired, admitted into colleges and universities, represented in corporate America, trained in skills and given employment opportunities, community development, given access to capital and funding, etc.

We watched the continued destruction and demise of our communities as drugs, violence, unemployment, and a failed education system send our youth to

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prison due to the lack of resources in our neighborhoods.

But worse, we observed the Generation X-ers do little to fight for civil change and the Boomers felt that they had failed in forcing that generation's hand in continuing the fight.

Then came the Obama campaign of hope, one that the Millennials could wrap their heads around. "Change" resounded in their psyche and here we are.

### Kill And Repeat

Facing the onslaught of deaths of Black men and women by the hand of White policemen or other officers of the law has been quite unnerving. But this is not new.

Chicagoans need only to recall the vicious murders of Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark while sleeping in their bed. It happened during a pre-dawn raid on their West Side apartment on December 4, 1969 organized by the office of Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan.

Months after the assassination, a federal investigation showed that only one shot was fired by the Panthers, although that number remained in dispute. Police fired 82 to 99 shots.

However, the introduction of the first camera phone in 2000 at the point in time Millennials were coming into maturity was a game changer, altering how we communicate, capture, and report the news. Since then technology has advanced every year, perfecting the smart phone and every other aspect of technology and further enhancing our ability to communicate in ways never before possible.

Though we make think the idea

of "selfies" is a bit self-indulgent, what has also evolved and emerged is that everyone has the ability to capture, record, share or broadcast instantly the news in the making.

suspicious incidents to law enforcement members.

And though Zimmerman, the son of a judge, was not officially a sworn police officer, he acted as

“As an African-American male, I am one step below an endangered species because endangered species actually have organizations that care about them.”

And there we go. Suddenly, what had been done in the dark or behind closed doors is in view.

Since then, many police officers and other law enforcement employees have been caught on camera displaying misconduct all over the country.

There is a litany of Black men killed by police or who died in custody under questionable circumstances. Because there are so many, I will begin with Trayvon Martin, who died at the gunpoint of George Zimmerman, neighborhood watch/crime watch coordinator, on February 26, 2012.

"Neighborhood watch" is a crime prevention scheme under which civilians agree together to keep an eye on one another's properties, patrol the streets, and report

one in his neighborhood and was protected as such. Since then, the barrage of senseless deaths of Black men at the hands of White police has continued and, accordingly, the youth have taken to the streets in growing numbers to protest and demand justice.

Seventeen year-old Laquan McDonald was shot 16 times by Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke on October 20, 2014, a shooting that was captured on dashcam video. After 400 days of nothing, the order of Cook County Judge Franklin Valderrama to release the video of Laquan's brutal execution caused young protesters from every race, culture and religion to mobilize their efforts in voicing their disgust and intolerance of such a hideous crime(s) through demonstration.

### The Black Friday Protests

Protests and demonstrations began the very day of the video release last Tuesday, culminating on Black Friday, one of the most profitable days for retailers after Thanksgiving.

With their savvy technology skills different and far more advanced than in the Civil Rights days past, today's protesters can assemble in a group of 500 to 1,000 in a matter of minutes. And they did.

Thousands came out Friday in the rain and inclement weather. They marched from Wacker and Michigan down Chicago's Magnificent Mile. They were together – the Millennials, the Gen X-ers, the old school Civil Rights activists, all uniting around political philosophies and plans of action.

In place was a series of damage control strategies to prevent happening in Chicago under Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Supt. Garry McCarthy what the city of Ferguson, Missouri endured from the countless protests and marches revolving around Michael Brown's murder.

What has been deemed a messy cover-up by the Chicago Police Department and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's office for the past 13 months has now been placed on the doorstep of the world – through the lenses of a police dashboard camera.

Maze Jackson, one of the organizers of the protests, said, "The representatives of the now generation organized the action to let the city of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department know that as active and involved parents of Black children, there is a consequence to killing our children. We will not

tolerate it."

Organizer Mark Carter, founder of Group One Chicago, said, "First we wanted to send a message to Chicago and the world that we will not allow our children to be murdered by police."

When you look at the autopsy photographs of Laquan's mutilated body, you have to understand the sense of urgency the protesters have to stop the murders of Black sons and daughters.

Maze Jackson noted, "Difficult to look at, but necessary. When I saw the video, there was no sound, so I saw Laquan's body fall, hit the ground and yet because I've grown up on video games, I must admit I was desensitized enough, though I was outraged at the thought. But to see what they did, really see it, brings it home and changes the reality in your mind."

Mark Carter added, "Think about it, this is Emmett Till all over again. We want to make sure that they don't get away with it like they did with Emmett's murder."

Carter says, "In some ways, our own (Black) elected leadership is responsible. Too many of them turn their heads and therefore allow and perpetuate the terror acted out against Blacks."

### Blame All Around

At a press conference last week, public officials, one after the other, stood at the podium addressing the press displaying their anger at how this situation was handled by the involved parties.

There was also a sense of regret at how often they don't question the mayor on these matters. City

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.



# New Orleans City Council Passes 2016 Budget

Data News Staff Edited Report

## City Passes 2016 Budget

On Tuesday, the New Orleans City Council unanimously approved the passage of the City's 2016 Capital and Operating budgets, totaling \$483.1 million and \$601.7 million respectively.

"Today, the City Council unanimously approved our sixth balanced budget that is focused on, and a result of, the priorities that our citizens set out for all of us," Mayor Landrieu said. "This budget doubles down on our commitment to public safety and ensures that we take care of the things our residents have told us were important to them: job creation, affordable housing, infrastructure and streets and recreation. In five short years, we have gone from a massive budget deficit to a surplus, and we're delivering better services. I want to thank my partners on City Council for their hard work throughout

this process. Together, we're doing great things for the people of New Orleans. This balanced budget is a roadmap to New Orleans' future."

Mayor Landrieu hosted a series of community meetings this summer as part of the Budgeting for Outcomes process in each of the five Council Districts to hear from residents about their priorities for the 2016 Budget. About 1,500 residents attended these meetings and provided valuable input that shaped the Mayor's proposed budget.

On Oct. 15, 2015, Mayor Landrieu presented his 2016 Proposed Budget to City Council and in October and November, City departments and attached boards and commissions have presented their proposed 2016 budgets to Council in open public meetings.

City Council President Jason Williams said, "The 2016 Budget is aligned with the desires and concerns of our community. I take a special pride in being able to secure additional funding for our 911 Call Center. It has been woefully under-



funded for years. When our citizens call 911 they deserve a prompt response, from a well-trained professional. This is a basic service that helps our citizens in their worst moments. Overall, this budget represents a commitment to our citizens to focus on the most important issues—public safety, infrastructure, and increased quality of life."

District B Councilmember LaToya Cantrell said, "I am enthusiastic about the 2016 budget's direction. It reflects the Council's unified commitment to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It is especially important that the tools to address the housing crisis are being put in place through the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund and that operating funds are being provided for the creation of a low barrier shelter for the homeless. Council also placed

a high priority on public safety. Importantly, the 911 budget increase put forward by the entire Council will decrease emergency response times. Addressing and increasing the Department of Public Works' budget for streets, streetlights and school safety and the Sanitation Department's budget to remove unsightly trash from our streets are also crucial for residents to have an increased sense of well being."

District C Councilmember Nadine M. Ramsey said, "The 2016 budget process exemplifies many of the priorities that I am committed to support. This budget funds initiatives for our youth, criminal justice reform and quality of life improvements that will promote the growth of our City for the benefit of all."

District E Councilmember James Austin Gray II said, "The New Orleans City Council has worked tirelessly to craft a budget that will reflect the priorities of our constituents. We look forward to the implementation phase. Hopefully the New Year will bring a visible difference in the quality of life for everyone."

## Commitment To Public Safety

In 2016, NOPD will receive an additional \$10.5 million plus another \$300,000 increase in consent decree funding. NOPD's budget has increased for 6th straight year. The addition will be used to retain and attract new NOPD officers, hire 150 new police officer recruits trained in community policing, funds 50 new police cars, purchase 12 new firefighting apparatuses, Funds \$1 million more for 911 call center for more 911 call-takers operators and support future consolidation of NOPD, NOFD and EMS call services to improve dispatch and response times.

The budget also allocates more funding to Coroner, Public Defender, District Attorney and Criminal District Court, Funds Sheriff at \$61 million for 2016, double amount received in 2010. And the 2016 budget dedicates \$43.2 million to the Fire Fighters' Pension Fund plus pension obligation bond funding of \$17 million for a total of \$60.2 million to address those costs.

For more information on the budget visit [www.nola.gov](http://www.nola.gov)

Check out Data's  
"Calendar of Events"  
at [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com)



Stay up on all of the happenings  
in the Big Easy

# DSEF Announces Operation Give Back

By Nakita Shavers  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The Holiday Season is a time for family, for love, and for giving. We are blessed with the ability to bless others, but often times we fail to seize the opportunity. This Christmas, join the Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund in spreading the love to those less fortunate. DSEF is proud to announce its partnership with UNITY to bring holiday cheer to several of New Orleans' under served citizens. UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a leading nonprofit organization committed to providing housing and services to New Orleans homeless population. UNITY has housed hundreds

of families in fully furnished apartments. However these families are lacking the simple necessities such as food, toiletries, clothes, cooking utensils, and household items.

This Christmas, we are challenging New Orleans citizens to search inside their hearts, minds, and closets and help make this a holiday season to remember. The collection process will begin on Monday, November 23rd and end on Monday, December 28th. On Christmas Day, DSEF will adopt a lucky family to provide Christmas gifts to. And then on Saturday, December 26th at 1:00 pm, DSEF will arrive on Earhart Expressway & Oretha Castle Haley Blvd to feed the homeless citizens under the bridge. If you would like to join us in spread-

ing the holiday cheer, you can drop by the following locations to make your donation:

## Food, Clothing, Toiletries, and Household Donations

**UNITY's Warehouse**  
506 N. St. Patrick St.  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
Monday- Friday from 9:00  
am - 3:00 pm.

## Monetary Donations

**Dinerral Shavers  
Educational Fund**  
P.O. Box 6832  
New Orleans, LA 70174  
Or  
[www.dsefnola.org](http://www.dsefnola.org)





## This holiday, give the gift of Snoopy!

Celebrate the season with an old friend! Bundled up in winter gear, Snoopy comes complete with a backpack clip of Snoopy's sister Belle, all yours for just \$15.95. ©2015 Peanuts Worldwide LLC

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# Three Sisters Planting

By LMG Calla Victoria  
Data News Weekly Columnist

Dear fellow gardening enthusiast, I would like to take this time to pay homage to the ingenuity of our Native-American brothers and sisters for their contributions to the gardening industry. They invented an amazing and practical form of planting called "The Three Sisters" that has endured through the ages. This legendary method of planting is the most perfect example of companion planting ever. They would plant tall upright plants, climbing plants, and spreading plants all together; and the plants assist each other's growth. The tall upright plant, like corn, would serve as a trellis for the climbing plants, like pole beans; and spreading plants, like squash, served as natural mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds around all of the plants. What a simple yet sustainable system! The Three Sisters companion planting conserves space as all plants are placed close together. The process also eliminates the additional expense of buying trellises and mulch, while the nitrogen from the beans feed the soil providing long-term fertility. When using this planting method, the tall plant is always planted first, then in a couple of weeks your climbing and spreading plants are introduced. Staggering the plantings gives the taller plant some time to grow and get strong before it is seized upon by the climbing plant. There are numerous resources online for the Three Sisters companion planting system.

Of course the Native-Americans were all about edible gardening and their "Three Sisters Plantings" consisted of vegetables, however this same method



can be used with ornamentals. Lovely climbing plants like star jasmine or mandevillas can be planted along with stately tall sunflowers, and under-planted with petunias or other spreading flowering plants. We all know that sunflowers put on a fabulous display, but once that wonderful bloom is spent then comes the problem of yanking that big stalk out of the ground. However if you plant climbing plants along with the sunflower, by the time the sunflower has spent its bloom the climbing plants have grown up around the stalk and are ready to bloom. So that otherwise eyesore of a sunflower stalk is covered with lovely foliage and blooms.

With the Three Sisters planting system, you could think bigger, much bigger as I did with my canary palm tree (*Phoenix canariensis*), also called the pineapple palm because it looks like a giant pineapple. Palms, although majestic, have blooms that are hard to appreciate as they are so high up in the tall tree. Therefore I planted queen purple hearts (*Setcreasea pallida*) as a spreading groundcover around the base of my palm trees, and also planted hyacinth bean vine (*Lablab purpureus*) by the palm tree. The palm tree serves as a trellis for the hyacinth bean vines that intertwines their electric purple vines tightly through in the irregular patterns of the

pineapple palm's bark until they make to the top of the tree; and then the deep purple vines laden with tiny white flowers and psychedelic purple seed pods hang like ringlets off the palm fronds (branches of the palm trees).

When you are working with a well-established tall tree you can plant your climbing and spreading plants any time. I think the Three Sisters planting method is great for palm trees, especially the very tall ones that reach into the skies. The spreading plants add interest around the base of the tree, at the same time the climbing plant dresses up the otherwise lanky and bland column-like trunks of these stately giants.

While jazzing up your trees with the Three Sisters planting system, do not forget about those shrubs. If you have large broad-leaf foliage like philodendrons and elephant ears, think of pairing them with a finer textured climbing foliage and spreading plants. Broad-leaved plants are garnered for their big bodacious leaves and not their blooms, if they bloom at all. Also the bases of most broadleaved plants are not really interesting. I paired my huge, sculptural, agave century succulents (*Agave Americana*) with the weeping, feathery, pink gaura and the end result was magical. The fine texture of the gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri* 'Siskiyou Pink') softened the look of the strong large upright metallic blade-like arms of the agaves, and the delicate rainfall effect of the pink blooms of the gaura made it look like the agave was blooming. Genius!

Find the full story and more images on my website at [www.thegardening-diva.com](http://www.thegardening-diva.com)

**Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!**

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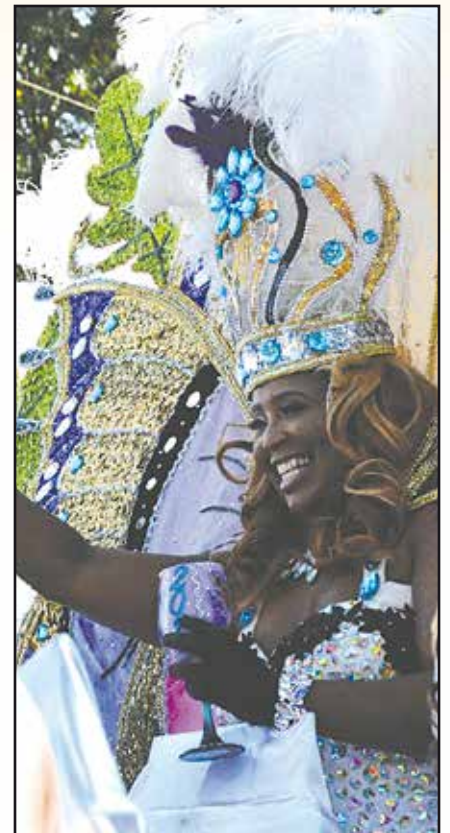


# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Lady and Men Buckjumpers Annual 2nd Line

By Kichea S. Burt  
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Original N. O. Lady & Men Buckjumpers held their Annual 2nd Line Parade on Sunday, November 29th. The parade featured Queen Regina Rankins and King Joe "Rollin Joe" and music by Rebirth Brass Band and Stooges Brass Band.





# Black Man Asks for a Light, White Woman Points Gun at Him



**Bill Fletcher, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

The story is nothing short of remarkable. In one instant it told us more about the United States than any number of documentaries. Sherry McLain, a 67 year-old White woman from Tennessee was loading her car in a Walmart parking lot. James Crutchfield, a 52 year old Black man approached her seeking

a light for a cigarette. McLain allegedly pulled a gun on Crutchfield allegedly fearing for her life. She later stated that she had never been more afraid.

Crutchfield is quite lucky to be alive. McLain was, interestingly enough, arrested, though she protested that this was unfair and that Crutchfield was the problem.

In reading about the case, I found myself thinking about the manner in which it illustrated so much about the reinforcement of racism. Cameras that filmed the incident apparently indicated no evidence of aggression on the part of Crutchfield, yet McLain felt that she was well within her rights to pull a weapon on an unarmed man.

The McLain incident reminds us that in the U.S., the presumption of guilt always hangs over the head of those of us of the darker persuasion. About a year ago I was driving through South Carolina on my way to a conference in Myrtle Beach. I said to my wife that there were certain places along the route where I would fear breaking down, not because they were cell phone dead zones, but because they were White areas and that I would fear for my life knocking on the door of some resident in order to seek help. While some would consider this paranoia, you only have to remember the tragic killing of Renisha McBride in Michigan for doing just that. Her car apparently broke

down and she knocked on the door of a White man for help, only to receive a bullet as a reply.

It is not just that incidents such as the McLain vs. Crutchfield run-in, or the killing of McBride are unjust and tragic. These incidents flow from the deeply held view among so many whites that black people are dangerous, volatile and prone to violence. It is a notion that is rooted in slavery and the fear that the white population held that the slave might someday revolt and bring violent revenge upon Whites for the oppression we have suffered. This fear has existed wherever there has been slavery and/or colonialism. The fear of the Black; the fear of the Native American; the

fear of the Asian; the fear of the Latino. In each case we are portrayed as unscrupulous and as wild as the worst animal, ready to pounce upon a White at a moment's notice.

This is what is truly at the core of the gun debate. It has little to do with the 2nd Amendment. It has to do with the gun as a definition of Whiteness; a symbol of authority over, first the African and Native American, and later the Latino and Asian. It appears that Ms. McLain was following in this very sick and tragic legacy, and doing her best to reinforce it.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook, and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).

# What Does Terrorism Look Like?



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

I am among the tens of millions who had to be peeled away from their television set on Friday, November 13 and in the days after ISIS terrorists randomly massacred at least 130 people and wounded hundreds more in Paris. Then, there was the nearly 30 people executed at a hotel in Bamako, Mali. And there were the several threats against New York City, and the presidential and police responses to those threats. This terrorism has caused fear and insecurity in France, Belgium and the United States.

Terrorism is defined as the use of criminal acts to inspire human fear. ISIS engages in their criminal acts to create a sense of instability in parts of the Western world. Days after the massacre, those who planned and participated in the car-

nage were found, and some were killed (or blew themselves up). Catching these few terrorists will not stop.

Some political pundits that appeared on news programs urged the United States and others to consider the "root causes" of ISIS, while others think that actions in the West are to blame (consider the Charlie Hebdo attack and those who blamed a magazine cover for the assassination of journalists). I'm not sure that this is the most appropriate or compassionate response so quickly after the terrorist attacks. Still, these are questions that must eventually be answered. What should our response be? Is this war? Are we prepared to endure another Vietnam, committing U.S. lives to a ground war that is perhaps unwinnable?

We can expect more security and scrutiny, and appropriately so. It is also unfortunately likely, however, that some of the scrutiny will have an element of profiling (especially racial profiling) involved, since many (perhaps most) of the ISIS terrorists are young, male, and Muslim. But despite Donald Trump's jingoistic insanity, do we want to stop everyone who "looks" like a Muslim. What does a Mus-

lim look like? What does a terrorist look like?

Just a few days before the Paris massacre, the news was dominated by Black student protests around country, at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and at Ithaca College, Yale University, Smith College, Claremont McKenna College and the University of Kansas. Many of these protests were in solidarity with the Mizzou students and in solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. There is no comparison between what happened in Paris and what has happened on many campuses, it occurs to me that the "n—" word bandied about is an act of terror that is designed to make African American students feel insecure and unsafe. This is why the students who ask for "safe space" should be encouraged, not ridiculed.

Strewing cotton balls on the lawn in front of the black culture center on Mizzou Campus is an act of terror, designed to exploit feelings of insecurity. It is neither a trivial act, nor a prank, but an act of hate. It is especially hateful when the perpetrators are fairly certain that they will not be caught and that there are few consequences for their actions. In the domestic context, any-

mous terrorism is especially unsettling because one rarely understands exactly who the terrorists are. Anonymous terrorism reminds me of the KKK, the criminals who only felt safe when they hid behind hoods and sheets.

Campus racism has long-term consequences for young African Americans. Some will learn how to protest and carry the spirit of protest with them for the rest of their lives. Others, unfortunately, will learn to "go along to get along", internalizing the lessons of intimidation. They are the young people who dismiss racism as "no big thing". But it was a big thing when White Tulsans burned down Black Wall Street, and no one stood in solidarity. Lynching was a terrorist act, but Congress would not pass anti-lynching legislation. Those terrorist actions took place in the early 20th century, but later, Bull Connor was a terrorist. George Wallace was a terrorist. Comb our history and you'll find any number of terrorists who perpetrated criminal acts against African Americans. Those who ignored those criminal acts create a climate where racial terrorism can occur.

The White thug who massacred nine people at Emanuel AME

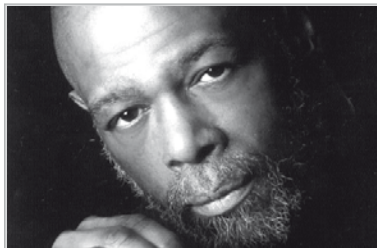
Church in South Carolina committed a heinous act of terrorism. The people of Emanuel fought back with a loving defiance. They wouldn't stop going to church, they wouldn't stoop to hate. Still, the slaughter of nine people had a national impact.

The people of the United States mourn with our brothers and sisters in Paris as they sort through the aftermath of death, wounding, and destruction. We stand in solidarity with them against the evil that ISIS represents. And we stand in solidarity with the domestic terrorism that pollutes the atmosphere at some of our nation's college campuses, and in other public spaces. The University of Missouri President Timothy Wolfe who refused to address campus racism was sanctioning terrorism. I shudder about what happened in Paris, and I also shudder at those who find domestic racial terrorism acceptable. If carnage in France provokes war, what should racial terrorism in the United States provoke?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" will be released in 2015 and is available for preorder at [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com).



# He Who is Without, Shout!



**James Washington**  
Guest Columnist

My pastor preached on this Sunday and although the subject is not new as this column isn't either, I thought some might need reassurance, as I certainly did. Do you have an addiction, a weakness, something you are aware of but just cannot shake on your own? It may be a secret, your secret, something you dare not reveal for it goes the complete opposite of who you believe yourself to be and counter to the person whom you are truly trying to become. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 says, "To keep me from becoming

conceited, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." If I'm the only one shouting right now, it's okay. I know many of you are shouting silently, internally, privately.

You know some things in the Bible reverberate over and over again and we still don't get it. I don't mean to infer that we don't understand the words because most of us do. The point is we do not or cannot incorporate what we're reading into our daily lives. In this passage Paul lets us know that there is indeed a reason to accept our shortcomings and deal with our flaws and faults with a basic understanding that in doing

so, God will invariably show up and then proceed to show out. It is through our warts that God demonstrates to us and the world that He is Lord. Can you imagine experiencing the "perfect power" of the Lord? Apparently it's as easy as looking in the mirror and making an honest assessment of who you really are and who you should be striving to become. To put it into proper perspective, you are who you are only in relationship to God. And don't forget to take your imperfections with you. If you know and accept yourself to be a child of God, then you must attempt to be an example of God's Word and His work. The only thing standing in your way is admitting to yourself, you can't go it alone. You and I need help and that help comes only from one source. It's the perfect source and comes with consequences. The consequences begin with recognizing that there is divine purpose

in your particular set of weaknesses. I know that's hard to believe, but it is true.

Dare I say most of us would reject the notion that sinful could be anything more than just sinful. The text however says it is our duty to understand through spiritual recognition that God chooses your problems to show off His righteousness through you by doing miraculous things. When you get a hand from the Lord to overcome your addictions, your passions, your vanity, your shortcomings, you get so much more than you bargained for. According to this part of the bible, you also get Christ's power to work with. Isn't that something? No wonder Paul continues by saying, "That is why, for Christ's sake I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

By itself, you might wonder how

Paul comes up with this conclusion. But when taken in the context of the entire passage, isn't it true that out of many impossible situations and circumstances, God rescued you? How many testimonies do you need to hear before you give God the praise He deserves? Or is it that you can testify on your own about frailties that have become strengths to be relied upon and give you wisdom to share? All I'm saying is stop fighting yourself. Stop denying your insecurities. Accept them and give them too, over to the Lord. Then step back and watch God do His thing with your life. He'll do things you never could. Then watch Him revel in those who see His divine work through you. It's that let go and let God thing again. Paul just reminds us that even on your worst day, it's not about you. If you just remember it's all about Him; not your good, your bad and your ugly.

**May God bless and keep you always.**



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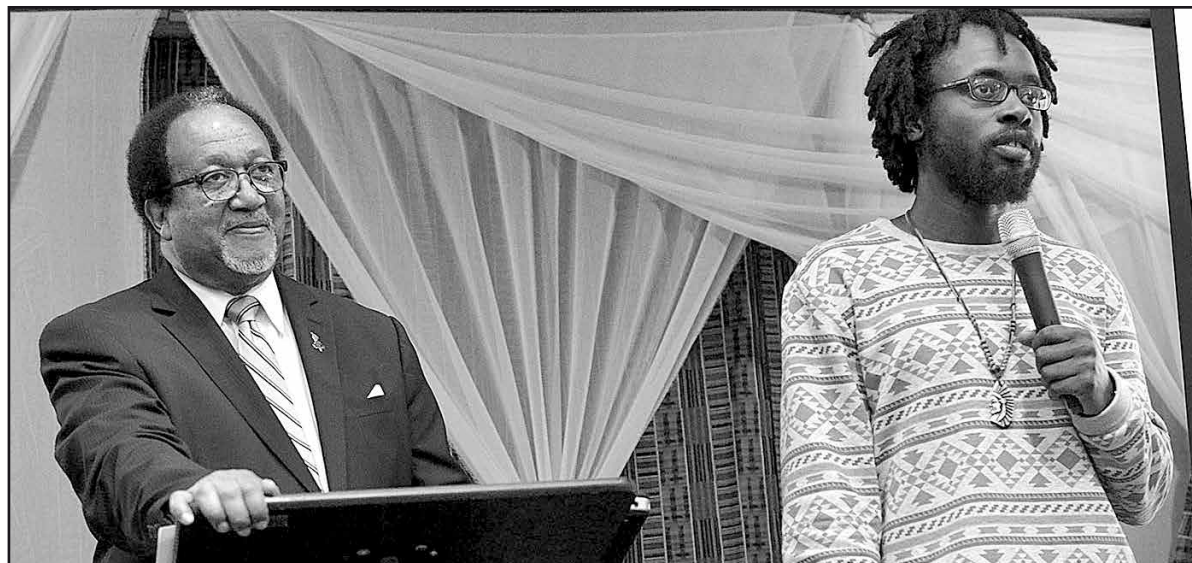
# Benjamin Chavis Urges Support for Black Lives Matter Movement

By Sarafina Wright  
Special to the NNPA from The Washington Informer

For many elders who participated in the Black Liberation Movement of the '60s and '70s, the burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement is history repeating itself — in a good way.

Benjamin Chavis, famed civil rights leader and president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, emphasized on Thursday, November 19 the need to support the youth on the front lines during his first of 10 lectures in a series at the Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage in Northwest, Washington, D.C.

"This lecture series will be a part of an accumulation of archives and documents to be made available



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (left) and Sam P.K. Collins, founder of All Eyes on D.C., take questions during a lecture on the Black Lives Matter movement and the Civil Rights Movement at the Thurgood Marshall Center in Washington, D.C. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA News Wire)

to those in D.C. and around the world," Chavis said. "It's our re-

sponsibility to make sure our young people know more than what we know."

Chavis spoke of the significance of the lecture series being held at the Thurgood Marshall Center.

"Thurgood Marshall was much more than the first African-American on the Supreme Court. He was a freedom-fighting lawyer and intellectual," Chavis said. "Everybody talks about the Brown decision, but you have to look at all of the struggle before that."

"What does Thurgood Marshall have to do with Black Lives Matter? Everything," he said.

Sam P.K. Collins, journalist and founder of All Eyes On D.C., a grassroots public affairs program, joined Chavis for his discourse, insisting that the movement must be all-encompassing for everyone who is part of the African diaspora.

"We need African unification all across the world," Collins said. "We have to realize that we are all one. Our unification and our salvation is on us."

Chavis contended that Black Lives Matter was birthed out of the insidious disregard for Black life by law enforcement, the judicial system and people who are sworn to uphold the law. However, he said, many problems the Black community faces can be solved by themselves.

"I'm concerned about what is going on in Chicago," he said. "Our mark of excellence is not about taking somebody's life, that's playing right into the enemy's end game."

"The little brother got killed in Chicago. ... You are going to take this grown man's son because you can't get the grown man. You're a coward, and it needs to be said," he said.

Chavis subsequently called out Black clergy in Chicago.

"Black preachers in Chicago need to stand up more. I can't understand why we're not out there more," he said. "These are our children. We have to stop the self-destruction of our people. We have to get the guns and drugs out of our community, not the police."

Chavis reiterated that the establishment of America has no concern for the interest of Black Americans.

"Just last night, Democrats and Republicans voted against Obama's climate change bill. You ask, what does that have to do with us? Sixty-eight percent of our people have asthma," Chavis said.

He also acknowledged that the connotations of the Black Lives Matter movement scares many people, which is a good thing.

"Black Lives Matter disrupted the consciousness of America, even with some Black folks," he said. "I want to remind you [that] when Black power, came it was met with the same uncomfortableness (sp). Prior to 'Black is beautiful' and 'Black power,' Black was a negative term and not a powerful term. This is another 'Black power' — in your face."

"Quite frankly, some of us need to be shaken up, some of us are too comfortable," he said. "It's not just a hashtag, it's a movement. I'm here not to judge our young people, but to be encouraging. It has always been historically necessary for us to get in the face of our oppressors...We cannot afford to have young people marching by themselves — we have to march with them, and stand with them."

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## Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

Council approved the \$5 million settlement to Laquan's family back in April without raising questions regarding the case.

At a press conference held the day after the video was released publicly, members of the Black Aldermanic Caucus spoke to reporters at City Hall about practicing transparency in moving forward in policy and accountability as it relates to police misconduct and abuse.

The most apparent observation at these press conferences was the lack of presence by young leaders who are rarely seen speaking alongside familiar and older faces when discussing issues that affect their community. There has been a growing disconnect between generations and this latest blackeye of police brutality and cover-up brought it to the surface.

Out on the streets on rainy Black Friday, three large groups of protesters descended on the Mag Mile. The first frontline of marchers included a fearless group of community activists sharing their disdain for Black City Council members, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Superintendent Garry McCarthy and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

They marched passed the P.A. system set up by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition at the original Water Tower building to make their way to the front doors of the Water Tower Mall demanding entry. Police officers on bicycles blocked the entrance.

The second wave of protesters was led by Rainbow/PUSH and included members of the Chicago Teachers Union and SEIU marching separately and approximately 30 minutes behind the first group.

There was a distinct difference in this second wave, with the protesters being older and more seasoned. They gathered at the steps of the old Water Tower, where elder Black public officials stood, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., Congressman Bobby L. Rush, Commissioner Robert Steele, Cong. Danny Davis and other notable figures.

Addressing the group that included a large contingent of media, Reverend Jackson began to engage the crowd with his signature chant, "I am somebody."

Within three minutes of Jackson's rhetorical cry to arms, community activists from the West Side interrupted him, shouting, "Indict Rahm!" This kind of outburst is not in keeping with the traditional civil rights school of thought, but pushes the buttons of public officials in high profile situations, often questioning their agenda.

On Black Friday, this display of

agitation exorcised suppressed feelings of many of the younger protesters, often feeling left out, desiring instant resolution, being impatient with the process of political negotiation and perhaps not understanding proper representation.

Dr. Carol Adams, who participated in the protest, commented, "First, I am proud and excited to see our youth go full tilt and galvanize and energize a movement. To see this generation go full out is a starting point. The question is, what is their end game. I was trained to march during the Civil Rights Movement. It's about discipline. It requires discipline. So there is much to learn from the old masters."

"However we must recognize that it is their (the youth's) time. I think it's important for us to all understand that we must consider what it's going to take to rebuild our community and realize that it is a multi-generational task."

### The Next Generation Arrives

The third wave of marchers included younger protesters who dispersed themselves strategically along Michigan Avenue in smaller groups to block entrances of key retail stores. This group was also more diverse in numbers and carried over from the first night of protests.

For them, it was important to take part in this particular march, many of them experiencing the power of protest for the first time. From the Black Youth Project 100, #LetUsBreathe Collective, Fearless Leading by the Youth (FLY) to Black Lives Matter (BLM) and other groups, the new model of protest has transcended to a demand for social justice through the in-

fluence of social media.

BYP100 Organizer Rachel Williams said, "We are calling for an immediate resignation of Alvarez, Emanuel, and McCarthy, in addition to a U.S. Department of Justice and United Nations investigation into the Chicago Police Department."

"The tape cover-up conspiracy of Laquan's death is proof that Alvarez, Emanuel, and CPD do not stand for justice and are corrupt public servants. Our communities are less safe because of their decisions and they are unqualified to lead and protect our city."

With the protest marches taking place into the foreseeable future, given that it has already forced the firing of Supt. McCarthy, each group understands the importance of maintaining the basic blueprint that has been practiced by fearless leaders before them. It is the power of practicing "peaceful" protest.

At the age of 22, Terry felt the need to participate in the Black Friday protest as a way to show his distaste for the latest occurrences that have taken place in his backyard. He had to take a stand.

Terry said, "As an African-American male, I am one step below an endangered species because endangered species actually have organizations that care about them. I'm out here to raise awareness to people who aren't in the streets - that this is happening to people that look like me, regardless of whether you acknowledge or not. It is still happening and people are dying. The cops don't see anything but color in the city of Chicago."

Being a part of the new movement of young activists, Terry believes his generation must take a stand now and not later.

He explained, "I had to come on my own and I encouraged my friends to come. If it meant taking off work, it was important to be a part of the protests. Why not do this while I'm young? When you get older, they say 'the world breaks the soul of a Black man'. So, why not do this while I'm still young?"

About the end game, the Chicago Defender wanted to know, what is the ultimate goal other than asking for the resignation of Alvarez, McCarthy and Rahm?

Carter responded, "We want to be assured that the cry of the people is heard. We're starving from a lack of resources on every level and it's killing, it's destroying the community."

"The lack of resources (like education, training, child care, etc.) breeds broken homes, unemployment, vagrancy, homelessness, drugs, thief gangs/gang activity, senseless deaths and other criminal activity. That must end."

In light of the latest scrutiny of how CPD handled the dashboard cameras in the McDonald case with no audio appearing with the video, Mayor Emanuel announced that the city will expand its current body camera program for Chicago police officers.

On Sunday, the Mayor and Supt. McCarthy announced that the city will expand the program into six additional police districts by mid-2016. The program will be paid for with a \$1.1 million grant from the United States Department of Justice, matched by \$1.1 million in city funds.

Then, on Tuesday, the mayor announced that he had asked for McCarthy's resignation, stating, "Now it is time for change and for Chicago to move forward."

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