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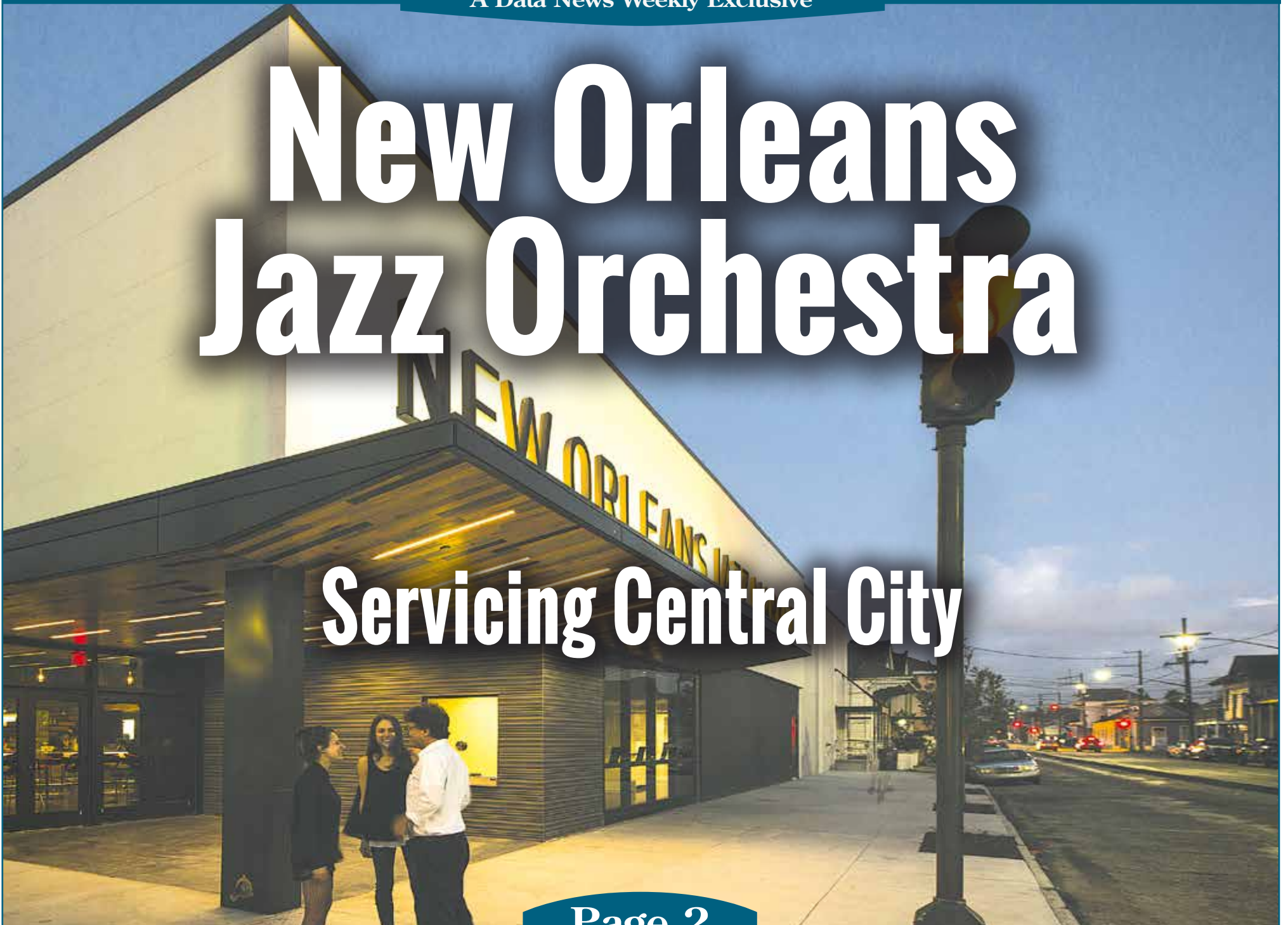
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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New Orleans Jazz Market Revitalizes Black Neighborhood



The New Orleans Jazz Market has year-round performances.

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

This one-year-old facility on Oretha Castle Hayley is revitalizing the Central City area one note at a time. Located on 1436 Oretha Castle Hayley Blvd., The People's Health New Orleans Jazz Market offers several

amenities to a Historically Black Neighborhood and the City of New Orleans.

Constructing the New Orleans Jazz Market

The People's Health New Orleans Jazz Market is one of the first buildings associated with the New

Orleans Jazz Orchestra. NOJO was founded by Irvin Mayfield in 2002 with the intentions of sustaining jazz culture in New Orleans.

NOJO has toured internationally. In 2010 the group won a Grammy for their studio recorded album "Book in One."

The Jazz Market is an expansion of that idea, serv-

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ing as a gateway to jazz-related culture and information that is available to the general public.

“We [The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra] always had plans to build a facility to celebrate jazz music,” said Ronald Markham, President and CEO of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

“You would think that in the City of New Orleans, where this music was created, you would already have a facility like that, but it didn’t exist,” he added.

The current Jazz Market is located on 1436 Oretha Castle Hayley Blvd., a historically African-American area in New Orleans. The building, in the early part of the 20th Century was the Dryades Market, that served the area as a general purpose store. When the building was acquired in 2013, it was a defunct Gator’s Department Store that has been inactive since Hurricane Katrina.

NOJO partnered with the New Orleans Library Foundation, a private non-profit that helps manage private gifts and donations for, and raises money for the development of, the New Orleans Public Library System.

The Jazz Market partnered with the New Orleans Library Foundation to fulfill the City’s need for a storefront branch that would service the Central City area. The library master plan was developed in 2008 to aid public library recovery in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

“Part of the plan for our organization was to pull together partners – private and public entities—to invest in the heartbeat of the City which is our culture and specifically Jazz music,” Markham said.

The Construction of The People’s Health New Orleans Jazz Market began in 2014. The \$10 million building was erected in 2015, serving as the official headquarters of NOJO.

The Jazz Market houses a performing arts venue, a library of community and jazz-centered books, a flex studio for band rehearsals and recordings, a bar and lounge area and many more accessible rooms.

According to Markham, the construction of the building was funded by sponsors, including People’s Health, Goldman Sachs, Community Development Capital, Anne and Neal Morris Foundation.

“[The Sponsors] came together

to fund the Division of a Community Center built in Central City to celebrate the richness of our musical culture. Most importantly to build a beacon of hope and beauty in this neighborhood,” Markham said.

New Orleans Jazz Market Services

The People’s Health New Orleans Jazz Market is open to the public and offers several free services for Central City and New Orleans residents to use.

The Jazz Market offers free wireless internet, a curated book collection that features children literature, classics, modern fiction and a recent jazz collection donated by Tulane University.

The Jazz Market offers several different shows in their performing arts venue, which can seat up to 450 people.

The market also has a digital interactive center that feature photos and videos from New Orleans Jazz Music Performance, public sheet music, and educational games for both children and adults.

“It’s a safe and welcoming warm place for all New Orleans citizen but specifically for the Central City neighborhood,” Markham said.

“We wanted to build a facility to celebrate jazz. We wanted to build a facility that opens its doors to people from all walks of life, music typically does to individuals,” he added.

Attendees may also find free pop-up concerts, financial literacy courses sponsored by Iberia Bank, Wellness classes and seminars funded by People’s Health and adult reading and writing classes. All of these services are free and open to the public.

“We are part of an effort to breathe life into New Orleans, in general, and to breathe life into Central City,” Markham said.

“When people across the globe mention New Orleans, they always talk about Jazz. They don’t talk about the French Quarter first, they don’t talk about jazz music first, they talk about Jazz music first because it is the most brilliant thing that we have created. We wanted to erect a facility that practiced that music and shared it with other people and more importantly shared the experiences of the jazz philosophy,” he added.

The People’s Health New Orleans Jazz Orchestra is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.



People from around New Orleans can access the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra Archive which carries sheet music and visuals of New Orleans Jazz Orchestra performances.



The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra has a public book collection.



The Jazz Market has a bar area that is opened from 10-4 p.m.

Officials Reflect on Recent Baton Rouge Shooting

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Sunday, July 17th, the Baton Rouge Police Department was ambushed by a lone gunman.

The suspect killed three police officers and wounded three others at a Baton Rouge Police Station located on Airline Drive. According to CNN, the 29-year-old man used a high powered semi-automatic rifle. None of the names of the victims have been released. According to Nola.com, authorities believe the gunman was actively searching for police targets. The suspect was shot and killed on Sunday.

Officials identified the gunman as Gavin Long, a 29-year-old veteran from Kansas City, MO. Long was a member of the U.S. Marine, serving as a data network specialist for five years. According to WAFB, Long was deployed to Iraq, between



Long used an AR-15 Semi-Automatic Assault Rifle. Photo by Louisiana State Police.



Gavin Long was caught on surveillance footage moments before the shooting.



Photo of Gavin Long from his YouTube video "Convos With Cosmo on Protesting, Oppression, and how to deal with Bullies."

June 2008 and January 2009.

In a YouTube videos posted by Long on Sunday, July 10, he voiced his opinion on fighting back against law enforcement, saying "Zero have been successful just over simple protesting."

In an official statement from Rep.

Cedric Richmond (LA-02), he disapproved of Long's actions, calling them cowardly.

"I call upon everyone in the community to condemn this act, the actors, have come together to begin to heal from this horrible tragedy. If you know anything, no matter

how big or small about these perpetrators please contact the police as soon as possible," Richmond wrote.

On Monday July 18th, Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden spoke at a press conference regarding the detail of the shooting. The mayor called for the public to help fix and solve the problem.

Holden alluded to the bible when defining the aftermath of the shooting. Referring to the book of Job he said, "Ye though you have slain some law enforcement official, this city, this state and this nation will rise again," Holden said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards also spoke on the shooting in Baton Rouge on Monday's press conference. Edwards noted that before the shooting, there have been no protest-related arrest for the past six days in Baton Rouge.

Edwards said that his top priority right now is to maintain safety in the height of distress

across the state.

"I have no higher priority than public safety and I am absolutely confident that we have a team on the ground to not only complete this investigation but to maintain law and order, and to ensure the safety of our public: those people who live here and those people who are visiting," Edwards said.

Edwards denounced the actions of the gunman. He continues to stand with the public, asking the community to work together to prevent similar instances.

"There is nothing more fundamentally important than maintaining law and order so that people can have good quality lives. And that's what he attacked, the very fabric of our society. And that is not what justice looks like," Edwards said.

"These are trying times. Please don't let hate infect your heart. This city must and will get better," he added.

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Xavier University Coach Wins Sugar Bowl's Louisiana College Coach of Year

Data News Staff Edited Report

Xavier University of Louisiana's Alan Green earned another award Monday when he was named Outstanding College Coach in Louisiana for 2015-16 by the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

The Sugar Bowl-sponsored Greater New Orleans Sports Awards Committee selected Green, who led XU Men's Tennis in May to second place at the NAIA's National Tournament in Mobile, Ala. It was the first XU team in any sport to reach the championship round of an NAIA National Tournament and the first XU Men's Team to advance past the quarterfinals. The Gold Rush were

voted No. 2 in the postseason NAIA coaches poll.

"It's truly an honor to win this award considering the candidates and the sports," Green said. "I could not have done this without the help of my assistant and players on the team. My athletics director, SID and administration also played a key support role in all of our accomplishments this year. This is an award for Xavier."

On Friday the Gold Rush were named an NAIA Scholar-Team for producing a collective 3.03 GPA during the 2015-16 academic year.

Green and other recipients — including the winners of the Corbett Awards, which recognize the top male and female amateur



Coach Alan Green

athletes in the state — will be honored at the Greater New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame Banquet Aug. 6th at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

According to Sugar Bowl records, Green is the first from Xavier to win one of the annual awards.

"I am so glad to hear that news," said three-year XU Letterman Tushar Mandlekar. "This season was really special and I would like to thank Coach Green for all his help and support. He deserves this award because of the hard work he has put in on and off the court during all these years. Congratulations, Coach!"

Said two-year Letterman Manav Chakma, "What makes him an outstanding coach is the way he

motivates his players. He is willing to work out with the players to push them to improve."

The Sugar Bowl award is Green's third this year. In May he was named ITA/NAIA Region IV Coach of the Year and ITA/NAIA National Coach of the Year. Green, who will enter his 14th season at Xavier in 2016-17, has received 12 awards for coaching XU's men and 10 for his work with the XU women's team.

Previous winners of Outstanding College Coach in Louisiana include five NCAA-champion Coaches, including LSU's Les Miles and Paul Mainieri, and Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame members such as Dale Brown of LSU and Eddie Robinson of Grambling.

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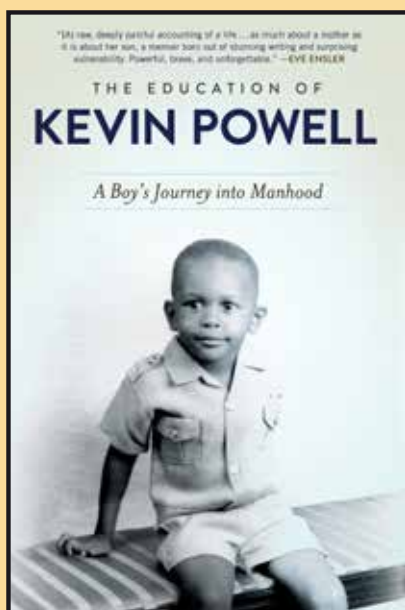


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The Education of Kevin Powell



“The Education of Kevin Powell”
by Kevin Powell
c.2015, Atria
\$15.00/\$22.00 Canada
287 pages

By The Bookworm Sez
Data News Weekly Guest Columnist

You never knew what you didn't have.

There were times in your childhood when cereal was supper because there was nothing else. When birthday toys seemed gently pre-loved, hand-me-downs were new to you, and you were none the wiser. Your family didn't have much and you never realized it then but in the book “The Education of Kevin Powell” by Kevin Powell, getting schooled later was rough.

Born in the spring of 1966, Kevin Powell entered the world and, though his mother had moved to Jersey City from “Down South” to escape it, slid directly into poverty. They shared a rat-and-roach-infested apartment with Powell's aunt and her son, and their us-against-the-world closeness was “something safe, something magical...”

At age four, Powell “did not know what the word ‘drunk’ meant,” but he learned at a party, and was beaten by his mother for getting drunk-sick. At age six, his grandfather died, but although Powell barely knew the man, he understood that he was a wife-beater. At thirteen, he impulsively joined a fight and lost his cousin, who angrily shunned Powell for the rest of their lives.

As he grew and matured, Powell began to realize that his family was poor. His home turf was bleak and there were times when it seemed like a dead-end, but his mother told him that he needed an education to become something. She'd

never hugged him. He received no physical affection from her; in fact, she beat him regularly. She said he wasn't “gonna make it,” but she got him a library card anyway. Books opened up his world, he hungered to read, and he decided that he wanted to be a writer.

But then life intervened.

Powell went to college, but his temper got him into trouble time and again. He joined a mosque, but left it just as quickly. He'd learned to hate White people, and that got him into trouble, too. He found success in the entertainment world, but he started to drink and commit petty crimes; he hit bottom, then hit it again... until a search for his lost past gave him what he needed.

Imagine, if you will, that you're in the ring with a pro-wrestler.

He picks you up, and slams you to the mat. Then he does it again. And again. That's what it's like to read “The Education of Kevin Powell”: a series of literary body-slams, over and over and over.

Part of that effect comes from Powell's style: there are times when he pulls out a sense of childlike innocence that'll make you chuckle uneasily. But beware – there are teeth behind the wide-eyed schtick, and his next memory gnashes them. In a way, that can be quite relentless – but it's also very interesting and oh-so-entertaining.

I thought for a minute that I wouldn't recommend this book (now out in paperback) but I ended up liking it a lot. It's an up-and-down journey with humor and strength, and if that's what you need, then “The Education of Kevin Powell” is what you should have.

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#StrangeFruit2016

A New Orleans Panel on Police Brutality



Kaelin Maloid Data News Weekly Contributor

When Alton Sterling and Philando Castille became victims at the hands of police officers, many cities took to the streets to protest as a form of honoring the lives of the slain men while taking a stand against police brutality.

On Thursday, July 13th, a panel titled #StrangeFruit2016 had five speakers answering questions on police brutality. The speakers were 100 Black Men President, Jonathan Wilson; Moore; Kelisha Garrett; and Activist Rashida Govan. The panel was held at the People's Health New Orleans Jazz Market.

While every speaker had something different to say on the topic of police brutality, each one was in agreement with one thing: it was a real problem that needed addressing—and quickly.

“What I don't hear is a lot of us taking charge of what that conversation should be like with the police,” Wilson said. “In demanding changes in policies, in demanding policies on how our government is governed. There is nothing too small we can do to get those changes.”

However, Govan, who does policy work, was in disagreement with Wilson on his theory of changing policies.

“I do not like policy work mainly because I think public policy won't change because the systems are going to do what the systems are going to do,” said Govan. “They are going to sustain themselves no matter who the players are. I believe it will change when the hearts and souls of people change.”

Govan also stated that people need to take a look at police culture. She said when it came to police brutality,

people needed to undo the system it was seeded in.

“When you see me as a sub-human,” Govan added, “I cannot expect you to treat me in any way other than you are. There is a culture that supports the riffraff in the system. That has got to go.”

Thomas agreed that the change in policies weren't going to help.

“They're just words on a paper,” Thomas said. “A policy won't help. We have plenty policies.”

Thomas stated that making another policy wouldn't help, but holding police officers and law enforcement accountable to those policies would spark the change.

He also said that change had to happen in the community, too. Some of the worst crime he had seen was from the hands of “African-American to African-American.” Thomas felt that the community needed to work with the police as a community partnership.

On the other hand, Moore stated that police brutality was a much larger problem that went deeper than Darren Wilson and any of the bullets that police officers had let go.

“I said White supremacy five times for the sole reason it is the seed of the ideology of the systems,” said Moore. “It protects that system; it keeps it going. Even when you have knowledge of the system, they prevent you from speaking on it.”

According to Garrett, one way to speak on the issues, though, is by getting out and voting. In order for the Urban League to help fight for equal representation, Garrett said the community must be present.

“If you're not going to vote,” said Garrett, “don't bother to protest because you're giving up your right.”

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Deconstructing Reconstruction in the Aftermath of Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights and Dallas



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

After Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Falcon Heights, Minnesota there was Dallas, Texas. After rogue cops unceremoniously killed two Black men, a deranged shooter killed five police officers. The shooter, identified as Micah Johnson, reportedly said that he wanted to kill White police officers. Too many commentators referred to his middle initial 'X.' in an effort to be more racially provocative. Too many, like the unrepentant racist and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, used the shooter's actions to excoriate the Black Lives Matter Movement.

The phrase "Black Lives Matter" is not racist, because it simply

reflects our nation's history. From our founding until today, there have been too many opportunities to legalize the misguided notion that Black lives do not matter. The fact that our Constitution reduces enslaved African Americans into a fraction of a person suggests that Black lives did not matter, at our nation's founding, as much as White lives did. The differences in the terms and conditions of indentured servitude for Whites and enslavement for Afrodescendants further cemented the notion that black lives did not matter as much as white lives did. The persistence of enslavement, and the contradictions that came from the practice of "breeding" (i.e., treating Black people as animals to increase "stock") heightened contradictions, because the slave owners were selling their children and siblings. What did they think of themselves, if they felt they had to couple with people they found "subhuman?"

Has former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani ever read a history book? Does he understand that

if revenge were ever a motive in Black/White interactions it would have been all over but the shouting between 1865 and 1876? Formerly enslaved people were hopeful about emancipation, but caught between hope and despair when Black Codes were imposed, when people were lynched for simply asserting the right to walk on the sidewalk, when soldiers were lynched, in uniform, because they did not defer to fellow citizens. Even though Constitutional amendments were passed to abolish enslavement, rigid Southern attitudes imposed a quasi-enslavement that persisted until the civil rights movement, and White supremacist attitudes that that persist until today.

When our Constitution was written, John Adams lamented that the issue of enslavement was a conundrum that his generation was imposing on subsequent generations. When the 13th Amendment was passed, there was no playbook to detail how our nation would transcend enslavement. We have never taken the time or energy to

condemn racist attitudes, assuming they would simply go away. They have not. And millions of African Americans have righteous resentment about the many micro-aggressions (not to mention murders) that our community experiences. The micro-aggressions of White skin privilege are minor compared to the macro aggressions of a rogue police officer. Have any of these people ever read a history book? Do they even understand that if revenge were a motive, it might have been extracted in 1866, not today?

The process for ending enslavement was imperfect. Too many Southerners cleaved to the notion that people of African descent were inferior, and then they passed laws to enforce unequal status. Jim Crow laws and Black Codes, prohibitions against property ownership and voting, unequal access to education, not to mention the constant nightriders, the granddaddies of contemporary rogue police forces, all existed to enforce subjugation and fear.

To be sure, we have come a long

way since 1865 and since 1876. But the fact that, in contemporary culture, you still have White people who will wrap themselves up in a Confederate flag suggests we have not come quite as far as we must. People are talking about an "honest conversation" about race now, but the conversation should have taken place more than a century ago. Now, there is far too much denial for an "honest conversation", and I despair that conversation is grossly insufficient if it is not coupled with action.

Through halting action and corrupt compromise, the Reconstruction of the United States never happened. We are sowing the bitter fruit of a broken Reconstruction today, with too many racial attitudes ossified. Black Lives Matter is not a racist phrase. It is the manifestation of the conversation that should have taken place after the passage of the 13th Amendment.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race Obama and Public Policy" is available via amazon.com for more information juliannealveaux.com.

Dallas Tragedy Debunks Every Anti-Safety Myth Blocking Common Sense Gun Reform



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"We can't tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change. We will be told that the causes of such violence are complex, and that is true. No single law - no set of laws can eliminate evil from the world, or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society. But that can't be an excuse for inaction. Surely, we can do better than this." - President Barack Obama, Sandy Hook Interfaith Prayer Vigil, 2012

One of the more unsettling revelations about the tragedy in Dal-

las is that the mentally unbalanced gunman was rejected, after a background check, for membership in an extremist group but was legally able to purchase a high-capacity assault rifle.

According to media reports, Micah Johnson was labeled "unfit for recruitment" among a network of extremist groups, including some designated as "hate groups" by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Yet within months of that rejection, Johnson was able to meet in a parking lot with a gunseller he contacted online, and take possession of a military weapon designed to slaughter human beings as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In what kind of a world do we live when hate groups that actually encourage violence against law enforcement officers are more circumspect than our current firearm safety laws?

The man who sold Johnson the AK-47 said Johnson appeared during their 15-minute meeting - as

though dangerous mental instability is written across someone's face.

"It's my belief he would have passed a background check," the man said. But it wouldn't have mattered, not in Texas. Federal law requires only licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks. Millions of guns are sold each year online or at gun shows through private sellers. Felons, domestic abusers, the violently mentally ill are able to acquire firearms and the law does nothing to stop them.

More than 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks. Legally-required background checks have blocked more than two million gun sales to dangerous people since the system was instituted.

Maybe Micah Johnson's background would have slipped past the system. Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people and wounded 17 on the Virginia Tech campus in 2007, was banned from buying guns be-

cause a court found him severely mentally ill. But he passed a background check because his records never made it into the system. And if the current system wouldn't have deemed Johnson's bizarre behavior a red flag for a gun purchase, it certainly should have.

The background check database must be complete, and the types of incidents that warrant prohibition must be thoroughly examined.

Prior to the attack in Dallas, each mass-shooting incident in the United States has prompted a bizarre chorus calling for even more guns in our society. "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," as the saying goes. Setting aside the impossibility of distinguishing a "good guy" from a "bad guy," there were plenty of people with guns at the scene of the Dallas massacre and not one of them was able to stop the sniper. The police were armed. About 30 of the marchers at the demonstration

where the attack took place were armed. Not one of them managed to stop Micah Johnson with a gun.

Every modern study concludes that more guns equal more crime. Right-to-carry laws are associated with significantly higher rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape and murder. American children are sixteen times more likely than children other high-income countries to be killed in gun accidents, with as many as 100 children dying each year.

Our firearm safety system is broken - tragically, fatally broken. Lobbyists for the firearm industry hold our lawmakers in an almost literal death grip, blocking common-sense reform at every turn. Call your U.S. Senators and Congress member and demand action on gun violence. Learn the truth about gun violence in America and educate your friends and family. And work for a nation that puts the safety of its citizens ahead of profits for the gun industry.

Mass Incarceration Accelerating the Spread of HIV Among Black Women

By George Curry and Tomika Anderson

BAI Contributing Writers

Efforts to halt the spread of HIV among African Americans, the most impacted group in the United States—particularly African American women—will not be successful without reducing the rate of mass incarceration among people of color, according to research made public here Tuesday at the International AIDS Conference.

One of the researchers, Chris Beyrer, M.D., president of the International AIDS Society and Desmond M. Tutu Professor of Public Health and Human Rights at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, told a media delegation from the Black AIDS Institute:

“Black women in the U.S., if you look at their individual level of sexual risk, are less risky than Latino or even White women. And they have more than five times the infection rate. So how do we understand that? It turns out that the mass incarceration of African American men is fundamental this and it’s because of the problem of lack of access to care” once Black men are released from prison.

The United States warehouses more prisoners than any country in the world, with five percent of the world’s population and 25 percent of its prisoners. There are 2.2 million people in U.S. prisons and jails—a 500 percent increase over the past 40 years.

“Today, people of color make up 37% of the U.S. population but 67%



George Curry (left) and Hilary Beard (right) interview Chris Beyrer, the president of the International AIDS Society co-chair of the 2016 International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. (Freddie Allen/BAI/NNPA)

of the prison population,” according to The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organiza-

tion that works for a fair and effective U.S. criminal-justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing

policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration. “Overall, African Americans are more likely than White Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, they are more likely to face stiff sentences. Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as White men and Hispanic men are more than twice as likely to be incarcerated as non-Hispanic White men.

The disproportionate incarceration rate among Black males drives the epidemic among women once the men are released and return home.

“The problem is that people are being released without access to ser-

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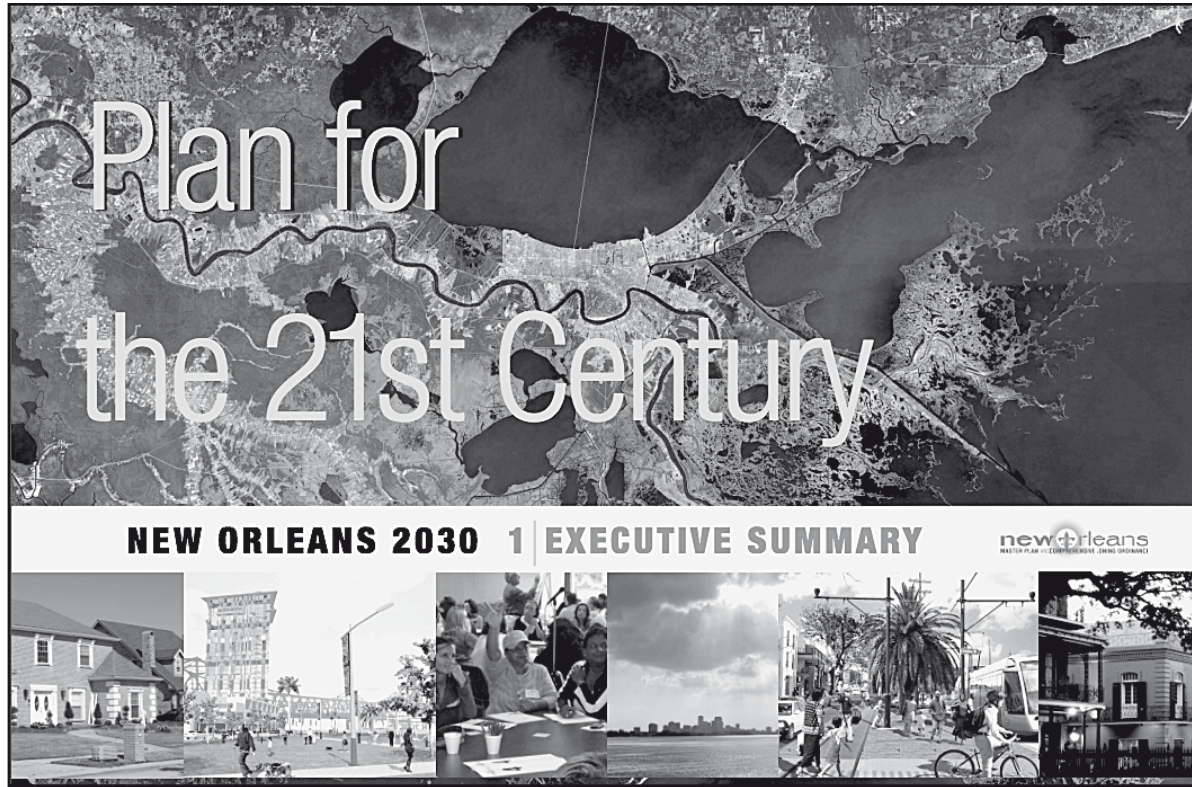
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City Planning Commission Extends Open Application Period for Amendments to the City's Master Plan

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – Today, the New Orleans City Planning Commission (CPC) announced that it has extended the open application period for amendments to the City's Master Plan until August 31, 2016.

The Master Plan – formally titled “The Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030” – is the City's long-term planning framework for the core systems that shape New Orleans' physical, social, environmental and economic future. The Master Plan reflects the values and priorities that emerged through a community participation process and is grounded in information assembled for the first time in one place.



In 2010, the Master Plan was unanimously adopted by both the City Planning Commission and the City Council and was signed by Mayor Mitch Landrieu. The previous version of the Master Plan was created with recovery from Hurricane Katrina in mind. Substantial changes have taken place in New Orleans since 2010, notably the shift in development focus from recovery to growth and resilience. At this time, the City is beginning the process to update this Master Plan by allowing residents to evaluate and make suggestions that will shape the City in the future.

The CPC encourages community members to use the additional time to work with stakeholders to propose Master Plan amendments.

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Health, Continued from page 9.

“You release them, you do not connect them to care, and you remove any sort of structure that assures that they adhere to treatment, in an environment where they’re stigmatized because they’re Black, stigmatized because they’re ex-prisoners and they’re stigmatized because they’re HIV positive,” observes Phill Wilson, President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute. “What sane person actually is going to disclose that they’re HIV positive?”

Research has shown that a high proportion of new HIV infections occur when a person is exposed to a partner who has recently been infected, has an acute HIV infection and/or a high viral load. “You’re basically having people perennially coming into the same small high-risk communities as though they

were newly infected,” says Dr. Beyrer. “And that, I think, is essential to understanding why there’s so much more HIV infection in African Americans.”

The research released at the AIDS conference here was summarized in a special issue of the British medical journal *The Lancet* on HIV and related infections in prisoners. An accompanying commentary observed, “The CDC estimates that 87% of African American women with HIV become infected through heterosexual sex, and only a small percentage through injection drug use or other pathways.”

“Incarceration rates have quadrupled in the USA in the past several decades, and this has reduced the number of men in black communities, and therefore the number of available partners for heterosexual black women. This fact, together with ongoing racial segregation, contributes to the formation of insular sexual networks with overlapping concurrent partners.”

That is consistent with research conducted by Adaora A. Adimora, M.D., a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine who has conducted research on heterosexual HIV transmission rates escalating in the southeast, especially among Black women.

She attributed much of that growth to the prevalence of concurrent or overlapping sexual partnerships.

“The prevalence of concurrent partnerships influences both the rate of the epidemic’s spread in its initial phase and the number of persons who are infected at a later time period. Concurrency particularly enhances population spread of HIV because of the virus’ long duration of infectiousness.”

In an interview, Olive Shisana, local co-chair of the International AIDS Conference, said women who are serially monogamous are also at greater risk.

“It becomes very clear as we look at the data that when you are single you are likely to have one monogamous partner for some time, then when that relationship ends, you start another relationship,” she explained. “The number of relationships that you’ve had determines the lifetime risk of you getting infected with HIV, so your probability is much higher as you change partners over time. I’m not even talking about multiple sexual partnerships, I’m just talking about serial monogamy—being single and have successive different relationships. It does put one at risk of HIV.”

Black Stars for Justice

Celebrity Response to Recent Police Killings Is Nothing New

Ronda Racha Penrice
Urban News Service

Young people in Dr. King's native Atlanta responded to the recent police killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile with consecutive nights of marches. Celebrities spotted in the protests included Rapper T.I. and Actress Zendaya Coleman.

Other stars have spoken up about these and similar incidents, mainly through social media. The New York Knicks's Carmelo Anthony issued a one-page challenge in the July 9th New York Daily News for his "fellow athletes to step up and take charge." He took an even higher-profile stance on July 13th. "The urgency for change is definitely at an all-time high," Anthony said, as he, Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James opened the ESPYS, the Oscars of Sports.

These pleas for social justice are not unique to today's celebrities. Former collegiate athlete, singer and actor Paul Robeson became politically active in the 1930s. He paid a heavy price for such activism in the '40s and '50s, as he largely lost his livelihood. Robeson's difficulties didn't deter other performers. In *Stars for Freedom: Hollywood, Black Celebrities, and the Civil Rights Movement*, Author Emilie E. Raymond focuses on six celebrities — Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Dick Gregory — who struggled for social change. Gregory was an early and leading critic of police brutality.

"He was the one that was in the South," says the Virginia Commonwealth University Professor. "He was arrested in Greenwood, Mississippi; Pine Bluff, Arkansas and in Birmingham and, in those places, he talked about the horrible conditions of the jails and how he was beaten by the police."

Gil Scott-Heron blasted the police killings of popular Black Panther Leader Fred Hampton in Chicago and the more obscure Michael Harris on "No Knock" from his 1972 *Free Will* album. Langston Hughes's 1949 poem, "Third Degree," about a policeman coercing a confession, begins "Hit Me! Jab Me! /Make me say I did it." Audre Lorde's "Power" — a 1978 poem about the police killing of a 10-year-old boy and the cop's subsequent acquittal — minces few words. "To-



From left to right: Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade, LeBron James speak out against police abuse at the 2016 ESPY Awards. Photo: ABC/Image Group LA.

day the 37-year-old White man/with 13 years of police forcing/was set free," it reads.

Hip-hop Artists have long addressed police brutality and killings. "In the '80s and '90s, you had artists who were political or conscious," says Bakari Kitwana, formerly an Editor with *The Source* and Author of *Hip-Hop Activism in the Obama Era*. Although many cite N.W.A.'s aggressively-titled 1988 hit "F*** Tha Police" as the prime example of this activism, the West Coast group also stood alongside more politically grounded hip-hop artists such as Public Enemy ("Fight the Power," 1989).

"[Young people] are finding out about some of these cases because of social media," says Kitwana. "Hip Hop was that communicator before social media."

Hip-Hop Artists, even some unexpected ones, still get political about police misconduct. In her verse on Rapper French Montana's "New York Minute" (2010), Nicki Minaj cites the 2006 killing of Sean Bell, whom NYPD officers shot on his wedding day. Other artists, like relative newcomer Vic Mensa, opt to be more overtly political. His "16 Shots" focuses on a Chicago cop's fatal shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald.

Mainstream artists perceived as anti-police have faced genuine

backlash. Following Beyoncé's Super Bowl performance paying homage to the Black Panthers, a previously unknown group, Proud of the Blues, called a protest in New York that reportedly no one attended. Also, the Coalition for Police and Sheriffs (C.O.P.S.) staged a small demonstration when Beyoncé's tour stopped in her native Houston. Opposition on social media, however, has been more pronounced. Jesse Williams' passionate, anti-racism BET Awards speech, which also touched on police killings, sparked a petition to boot him from the cast of *Grey's Anatomy*.

Potential backlash has not silenced some stars.

Compton Rapper *The Game* used social media to report a secret meeting he organized with 100 Black celebrities. Comedian Rickey Smiley hosted a more traditional town hall on July 12th — dubbed #StrategyForChange — at the House of Hope Church near Atlanta. Hundreds attended a passionate discussion that included Rappers/Singers 2 Chainz, Jeezy, David Banner, Lyfe Jennings and Tyrese, Dr. King's daughter Bernice King, and his comrade Rev. C.T. Vivian.

Speaking out is deeply personal for Smiley. As a young man, the Birmingham native marched to protest White police officer George Sand's killing of Benita Carter. Sand fatally



Pictured left to right are: Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and Charleston Heston at Dr. King's 1963 March on Washington. Photo: U.S. Information Agency, Press and Publication Service

shot Carter, a friend of Smiley's mother, in her back as she sat in her car. Carter is one reason why Smiley sees risking his fame as an obligation.

"I can't sit here and live off of folks, live off of my people, who listen to The Rickey Smiley Morning Show and watch Rickey Smiley For Real and come out and see me perform every weekend and not stand for them when they need something."

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