

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



Todrick Hall at House of Blues

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

PlayBuild NOLA in Central City

Fighting Blight Block by Block



Inspiring minds. Block by block.

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PlayBuild NOLA Combats Central City Blight



PlayBuild currently interacts with several schools and community programs. Several kids participate in day programs and field trips in the outdoor PlayBuild Classroom on Thalia Street.

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

One non-profit is helping children learn about architecture and design one plot at a time.

PlayBuild Nola is an organization that converts neutral grounds in Central City and to architecturally-

centered playground for kids between the ages of 4-12. The organization's goal is to turn blighted communities into educational centers.

PlayBuild Started in 2013 and has reached over 2400 kids through school and community partnerships.

In early July, KaBOOM! an organization designed to fund playground initiatives, named PlayBuild Nola,

a finalist in its \$1 Million Prize Play Everywhere Challenge. The national challenge provides funds to one organization that has the most original and innovative way to make playing easy, educational and fun for children in the United States.

Angela Kyle, Co-Founder of PlayBuild, is proposing to use the prize money to create three mobile station

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Angela Kyle is the Co-Founder of PlayBuild NOLA.



Rendering of PlayBuild's mobile station concept.



The Outdoor Classroom on Thalia Street opened in 2013.

playgrounds in the Martin Luther King Boulevard Corridor.

Winners of the Play Everywhere Challenge will be announced in the beginning of Fall 2016.

PlayBuild currently has one permanent flagship station located on 2828 Thalia St. in New Orleans. The flagship campus is an outdoor classroom that has toys, books, and interactive books for students attending after school.

"We want to make it a fun and social zone for Central City kids," said PlayBuild Co-Founder Angela Kyle.

PlayBuild Today

PlayBuild Nola's Play Everywhere Challenge proposal, PL@Y MLK, is in the final rounds of consideration in the Play Everywhere Challenge. PlayBuild competed with over 1,000 other applicants across the United States.

According to the organization, PlayBuild plans to create three mobile stations using the funds from the Play Everywhere Challenge. These mobile stations will hold toys, building blocks, and designed based-games to introduce children to design and architecture.

Volunteers will move these stations across Martin Luther King Boulevard to encourage children to learn about architect and design and to use the Thalia Street Flagship Station.

"If we're selected as a winner, we can build on our current efforts in Central City around our Thalia Street play space and transform the MLK Corridor into a highly visible zone for play and family-friendly activities," Kyle said.

The PlayBuild Initiative is currently Co-Sponsored by the City of New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Tulane Architecture School's City Center and Social Venture Incubator Propeller. Play-

Build also partnered with the French Market, Jazz & Heritage Festival and other community-centered places.

PlayBuild in Action

The Thalia Street Play Station, the first active station operated by PlayBuild, has been operating for over two years. Through research, Kyle has found that mobile stations could benefit kids in Central City.

"What we've observed from over two years is that the behavior is really hyper local. Typically, 15-18 kids use the center. We know we're not reaching kids across Martin Luther King Boulevard and in nearby housing developments," Kyle said.

Kyle's team has done outreach to recruit more kids to the center. However, according to Kyle, her research shows that students are limited by their transportation.

"If their grandmother, aunt, or uncle don't drop them off, a lot of them can't come," Kyle said.

That is where Kyle's current idea comes into play.

Kyle will use the mobile stations as social promotion of the main play stations, and as social interaction to encourage students to learn about architecture and design.

Kyle has focused PlayBuild's effort on Central City because of its demographics.

"There is no secret that Central City has a high rate of gun violence. It's a challenged part of the City for the youth population," Kyle said.

"There are a lot of systemic challenges in the Central City area. We're interested in raising design awareness and looking at transformation happening in the City and looking at the drivers of that change," she added.

PlayBuild currently partners with schools and directly reaches out to the students to encourage

kids to learn about design and architecture. In its school partnerships, PlayBuild has reached over 150 kids. In its Community Outreach Initiative, the program has worked with over 2,400 kids. PlayBuild has operated in the community for three years.

"This is a project that isn't going to be completed anytime soon. There is opportunity now and in the future for people working in the design and architecture, engineering spectrum of the discipline," Kyle said.

Kyle's Start with PlayBuild

Kyle has had over 20 years of entrepreneurial experience, but it wasn't until recently Kyle decided to initiate her own start up shortly after making New Orleans her home.

"I love New Orleans and its architecture. It just drew me to the City," Kyle said.

Throughout her life, Kyle said that she always appreciated architecture. Kyle was intrigued with the evolution of New Orleans Architecture during the City's rebuilding phase after Hurricane Katrina. The entrepreneur is concerned with the diversity of people involved in that decision making process.

With the City constantly growing, Kyle found herself in New Orleans to tap into the City's entrepreneurial energy.

"I moved here after Katrina with the dialogue of the demographics in the City and the future of New Orleans. People were looking at what happened to the City after Katrina, and thinking about the evolution and ultimate growth of the City over

the next 10 or 20 years," Kyle said.

"I was drawn to the energy of transformation in New Orleans. I desired to be a part of that," she added.

After working with the New Orleans Business Alliance and several other entrepreneurial-based organizations, she competed in a 2012 PitchNola Competition to jump start her own idea.

"I was sketching out some ideas and thinking about the work we've done at the business alliance. I thought how this platform can fight blight. I wanted to create a grassroots and scalable ideas that could come out that,"

Kyle was inspired by an architectural art exhibit at the Museum of Modern Arts in New York that portrayed the use of architectural cities to embellish cities.

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Street Justice

Thousands demand arrest of BR Police

Candace J. Semien
Jozef Syndicate

BATON ROUGE—Whether it was a gathering of 300 in front of the Triple S Convenience Store, small groups of 50 meeting at area churches, nearly 400 at City Hall, dozens painting signs at LSU, or a thousand marching through downtown; Baton Rouge residents and visitors are protesting the death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling, who was shot by Baton Rouge police officers, July 5th.

The shooting drew public attention immediately and protests began taking their cries for justice to the streets, starting on North Foster of the shooting. Demonstrations for Alton Sterling followed in major cities across the nation.

Protests have been largely peaceful, however local, city, and



Protests large and small continue to arise in Baton Rouge surrounding the shooting death of Alton Sterling at the hands of Baton Rouge police. Protests have been largely peaceful, however local, city, and state officers' use of force when arresting protesters have resulted in injuries. Reports have surfaced of police attacking, beating, and illegally arresting protesters. (photo by ABC news)

state officers' use of force when arresting protesters have resulted in injuries. Reports have surfaced of police attacking, beating, and illegally arresting protesters.

This treatment has been publicized in national media. Following closed meetings between Black elected officials and the U.S. Department of Justice, East Baton Rouge Metro Councilman Lamont Cole said the group has "some serious concerns" about how protesters have been handled by police.

"I don't think the police need to make any more arrests or push the people to make an arrest," Moore said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana agrees. On July 13th, the group filed a lawsuit against the BRPD, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, EBRP Sheriff's Department, and State Police for using excessive force and "violating the First Amendment rights of demonstrators who

demand justice in the death of Alton Sterling," said Michael McClanahan, President of the NAACP Baton Rouge Chapter.

On July 5th, BRPD officers Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II were responding to a call from 911 saying there was a "man with a gun" at the Triple S on North Foster Drive at Fairfields Avenue. There they met Sterling who was selling CDs outside the store with the owner's permission. Two videos of the shooting surfaced online via Facebook within hours, raising doubts about whether the police officers were justified in the shooting. Defenders of the police say other video exists that will exonerate the officers.

At the request of Gov. John Bel Edwards, the U.S. Department of Justice took over the investigation and the officers were placed on paid, administrative leave. District Attorney Hillar Moore III recused himself due to personal ties to Salamoni's parents, who are also police

City Mourns Passing of Judy Spellman

Data Staff Edited Report

Jazz and gospel singer Judy Spellman died on Sunday, July 24, 2016 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. A New Orleans native born into a family of music with a BA and MA in the visual arts from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn NY and Tulane University's Newcomb School of Art. Judy's father the legendary NO R&B; singer Mr. Benny "Lipsticktraces" Spellman made a significant contribution to New Orleans music and of course developed a huge international following due to his work with the likes of Paul McCartney, Allen Toussaint, Earl King and many others that re-recorded his original songs. Judy's mom has also been a gospel pianist/vocalist for greater than 69 years in New Orleans

Judy's vibrant personality and eclectic musical sound allowed her the flexibility to move fluidly across many genres of music styles, from Jazz to Blues, and standards to Gospel, which is where she started.



Judy Spellman

She was a frequent performer at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Essence Festival. and in recent years, Spellman toured

internationally with the German band Phavior Adelic. The group released its debut album, Eclectic Funk, earlier this year.



Police officers scuffling with a demonstrator while trying to apprehend him during a rally in Baton Rouge on Sunday. Shannon Stapleton/Reuters

were protesting peacefully against the killing of Alton Sterling." The ACLU has requested a restraining order that would put restrictions on how protesters can be scattered and detained during future demonstrations. Under the order, officers would not be able to use chemical agents—such as tear gas—without clear warning and authorization from the Governor. It also would only allow officers to work protests if their names, agency and identifying number were clearly displayed. The ACLU said protesters were verbally abused and physically hurt.

"These protests are and will continue to be one of the strategies our citizens use to bring attention to the issue of police brutality and

officers. The State Attorney General will be in charge of prosecuting any state charges.

Groups from across the nation have traveled to Baton Rouge to join protestors, train observers, and organize activists for the long-term work of demanding justice. Organizers of rallies have said the work for justice will continue. Across nearly every part of the city, citizens—Black and White, elected officials, and police—are working to find solutions in closed meetings, criminal hearings, at policy meetings, during City Council and Legislative Sessions, at mass, on the stage of poetry slams, and in safety briefings. "But the work began in the streets," said McClanahan.

City Opens New Rosenwald Pool and Pool House

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS — On July 25, 2016, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City officials, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) and FEMA announced the opening of the new \$2.3 million Rosenwald Pool and Pool House at 1120 S. Broad St. in the B.W. Cooper neighborhood. The former pool and pool house were severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

“This summer, New Orleanians of all ages will have yet another place to cool off and enjoy all the benefits of NORDC’s Summer Swim Programming,” said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. “Today is another sign of renewal and reinvestment in the B.W. Cooper neighborhood as we open the new Rosenwald Pool and Pool House. Our goal is to provide safe, accessible facilities for all of our residents, and with each new project, we are making good on our promise to rebuild this City better than before.”



The new Rosenwald Pool is a 3.6 to 5 feet deep, 85,000-gallon swimming pool that is furnished with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant equipment. The 2,500-square-foot pool house features separate male and female

changing areas and outdoor shower stations. In September of 2015, the City celebrated the opening of the new \$8.5 million Rosenwald Center.

This summer, the City opened eleven outdoor pools in addition to the three year-round indoor pools

operated by NORDC. Today, including the new Rosenwald Pool, there are 15 pools open to the public. From now until Sept. 4, 2016, the Rosenwald Pool will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The original Rosenwald Center and Pool was built in 1950 and at that time was New Orleans’ only major recreation center to serve African-American youth. The center and pool are named for Philanthropist, Community Leader and Civil Rights Activist Edith Rosenwald Stern.

Since Mayor Landrieu took office in 2010, the City has invested over \$157 million in new and improved NORDC facilities and nearly tripled its programming budget. In 2010, about 500 young people learned to swim at eight NORDC pools but this year nearly 4,000 will learn at 15 pools. Also in 2010, only 1,600 children participated in four NORDC summer camps but as of this summer, over 5,000 children participated in 52 youth and teen camps across New Orleans. In 2010, New Orleans only had four NORDC Recreation Centers open to the public. Today, there are eleven recreation centers.

Louisiana Delegation Rocks the House at the DNC

Data Staff Edited Report

Louisiana Democrats at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia on Tuesday “rocked the house” as the group proclaimed proudly that our state cannot and will not be defined by Hurricane Katrina or the police murder of Alton Sterling or the deadly officer shooting that shook Baton Rouge two weeks ago.

As state party chairwoman and New Orleanian Sen. Karen Carter Peterson stated, “We will not be defined by any natural disaster nor will we be defined by any act of senseless violence because we are one Louisiana,” during the traditional DNC roll call of states. “Louisiana knows that love trumps hate.”

Peterson, before announcing the vote tally (45 votes for Hillary Clinton, who would go on to win the Democratic nomination and

become the first female presidential nominee of a major party, and 14 for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who had already conceded the race), also managed to plug Cajun and Creole cultures, Louisiana’s distinct cuisine, hunting traditions and Mardi Gras celebrations.

Included in the crowd of delegates were New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; former U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu; state Reps. Pat Smith, Denise Marcelle, Ted James and Marcus Hunter; and state Sen. Troy Carter, among others – nearly all cheering and waving signs.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, who



serves as a superdelegate to the DNC, didn’t appear to take a center position during the state’s roll call on Tuesday.

The state Democratic Party posted a photo Tuesday morning of Edwards casting his ballot. Edwards, a Democrat who took office

in January, said during the run up to Louisiana’s primary that he was supporting Clinton’s candidacy.

The delegation also has in its group, Frederick Bell as the youngest of Louisiana’s 59 voting delegates at the Democratic National Convention.

The 18-year-old, who graduated two months ago from a high school in St. Gabriel, will vote Tuesday to officially make former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton the first female presidential nominee of a major party.

“I’m going to participate in history,” he said.

The Delegation hopes to grab hold of momentum gathered from this week’s convention in Philadelphia, returning home to invigorate the party activists to participate in the Nov. 8 election, even though Louisiana has voted for every Republican presidential candidate since 1996.

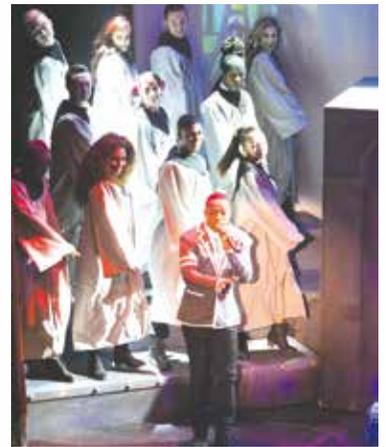
Though early polls show GOP nominee Donald Trump leads in Louisiana, State Sen. Peterson argued that his divisive rhetoric scares some moderate and Republican voters. “We’re definitely in play,” Peterson said.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Todrick Hall at House of Blues

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Saturday, January 23, 2016, Singer, Songwriter and Actor Todrick Hall performed at the House of Blues in New Orleans. Most notably known for his flash mob video dedicated to Beyonce, and various other pop song remixes; Hall performed his original hits from his visual album Straight Outta Oz. In his visual album, Hall tells the story about growing up and his journey until present day.



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Intellectual Honesty About Race and Criminal Justice Reform



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
NNPA Columnist

tant national debate and dialogue concerning race and the urgency to reform the nation's criminal justice system. Finding and identifying transformative remedies and solutions are long overdue.

In the wake of the most recent fatal tragedies in Dallas, Minneapolis, and Baton Rouge, there are renewed fervent calls for improving relations between police officers and the communities they are sworn to protect and serve. I believe these calls are being made in earnest, seeking conclusive change.

However, the underlying systemic reasons why these and other

tragedies continue to happen are somehow routinely avoided. There is a pervasive fear to speak and articulate the truth about race and the institutionalized devolving impact of racism on all levels of the criminal justice system.

To put it bluntly, there is too much intellectual dishonesty concerning the historical and contemporary role of race in America. In particular we need more intellectual honesty about why and how real reform of the criminal justice system should be achieved.

We need remedies that actually work to enable and to empower people to improve their quality of

life without the debilitating and too often death-rendering consequences of a broken criminal justice system. Mass incarceration, prosecutorial misconduct, judicial inequality, racial profiling, and police brutality are all interrelated and interconnected in the counterproductive web of the system named criminal justice.

It is a system that lacks honesty, truth and integrity. Yet, my purpose here is to go beyond merely joining the public chorus that bemoans the prolonged contradictions of this failed social system. I know that there are some preventative programs and initiatives that are

producing positive results about which more people should be made aware.

Criminal justice reform requires the coordinated and combined efforts and support of principled leaders in the private sector along with government officials, community organizations, and family members who are impacted. We should also acknowledge that poverty and economic insecurity feeds the pipeline to the jails and prisons in the United States.

Acquiring a good education and training that provide a means of

Commentary,
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There is an old adage that posits "The more things appear to change, the more they stay the same." Once again, millions of Americans are engulfed in what has become a reluc-

Cleveland's RNC was the Whitest Convention I've Ever Attended



Raynard Jackson
NNPA Columnist

the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Once again the Republican Party should be thoroughly ashamed at having only about 18 and 50 Black and Hispanic delegates, respectively (less than five percent), at the convention; though the party has not released any official numbers.

This was by far the "Whitest" convention I have ever attended; but the party seems to care very little about this fact.

I attended several Latino sponsored breakfasts and luncheons with members of Congress or top aides from the Trump campaign as speakers. There were zero Black Republican hosted breakfasts or luncheons, but there was an evening party hosted by Black Republicans.

This again shows the weakness of Black Republicans within the party. This can't be blamed on White folks in the party. This is an indictment of how little juice and foresight Blacks have within the party.

Under the current party leadership, I would prefer to have no Blacks on staff because the few

they have are totally incapable of producing any results. So why waste the money to hire people who are totally incompetent?

But, then again, this is exactly the result the party wants. So they hire Blacks who have no connection to the Black community, or any interest in the Black community, or any understanding of strategic communications. Thus, they get the results they wanted all along—nothing. But since they hired a few Blacks, in the party's mind, they can't be called racist. I call this buying "race insurance."

I had several well-known Blacks from sports, entertainment, Hollywood, and business interested in attending the convention; but I decided not to bring them because the party had no interest in receiving them properly.

The last time I checked, I was not an employee of the RNC, but yet I had tons of media outlets calling me because they couldn't get Black staffers to return their calls or help them resolve logistical issues they encountered at the convention, but yet they had time to hang out at several parties until the wee hours of the morning.

I arranged for many of the Black

delegates to be interviewed by major media outlets, because the RNC staff proved yet again to be non-responsive to media inquiries. Black surrogates during the convention were almost non-existent and Republican party leaders continue to wonder why they get no traction in the Black community.

I challenge the RNC to produce clippings of all interviews of Black surrogates from last week. There was absolutely no media strategy leading into the convention, during the convention or post-convention. This is media relations 101 and the party failed the course miserably.

The Black staffers at the RNC are so incompetent that last month they sent out an e-mail to reporters bragging about the diversity of the delegates at this year's convention, highlighting the whopping 18 total Black delegates out of a total of 2,472. I am not joking. This actually happened.

Do Black Republicans have no pride at all? I would be ashamed to be paid for a job and deliver nothing of any substance.

If there is to be a shift in Black loyalties within the body politic, it won't be because of the RNC. The RNC has no interest and to be hon-

est, no capacity to substantively engage with the Black community.

Any meaningful change in the participation rate of Blacks within the party will be forced upon the RNC from the outside.

If the RNC were run like a business, the whole staff would be summarily fired for total incompetence. The astonishing thing is that none of our party leadership even publicly acknowledged the "Whiteness" of our convention.

Out of an arena capacity of approximately 20,000 people, you probably had fewer than 200 Blacks and Latinos, that includes delegates and spectators.

Trump has a window of about 30 days to address the issue of the Black voter. If he doesn't, he will definitely have a more difficult path to victory come November.

It is truly the best of times and the worst of times for Black Republicans.

Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit www.bafbf.org. You can follow Raynard on Twitter @Raynard1223.

As I boarded my return flight to D.C. from last week's Republican convention in Cleveland, Ohio, I began to reflect on what I saw and I began to ponder how I could put to paper my experiences in this column.

Out of nowhere, the words of Charles Dickens from his novel "A Tale of Two Cities," popped into my head:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like

Simmons RushCard Fund Program to Keep the Peace Between Police and the Black Community

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Russell Simmons is as afraid of a confrontation with police as most other Black men.

However, despite a recent incident in which he was pulled over by cops in the Hamptons, the RushCard co-founder and music mogul is most concerned about the relationship between African-Americans and law enforcement.

"I have a healthy fear [of being pulled over]," said Simmons who was a keynote speaker at a convention of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) in the nation's capital on Tuesday, July 19.

"The other day I was pulled over in the Hamptons and I was scared. I



Russell Simmons speaks at a convention of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives in Washington, D.C. (NOBLE)

was really scared," he said.

"There was a rabbi behind me and [the officer] told the rabbi, 'You go ahead and keep it moving.' I told the rabbi to stay right here. I didn't think they were going to abuse me, but I was scared."

Simmons remarks came after recent tragic events involving police officers and young Black men in Baton Rouge, La., Falcon Heights, Minn., and Dallas, Texas.

At the NOBLE conference, Simmons and RushCard announced the expansion of their partnership and support of The Peace Keepers, a nonprofit whose goal is to maintain peace in communities where gun violence is high and whose mission is to bridge the growing wedge between law enforcement and the African-American community.

The Peace Keepers are also partnering with NOBLE in an effort to strengthen relationships between the Black community and law enforcement. Simmons spoke of building stronger relationships between communities and the police, restoring community faith and trust in law enforcement.

He also discussed ways to reduce community deaths at the hands of law enforcement as well as methods to help eliminate violence towards police officers.

"My heart is broken for the families of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and the law enforcement officers in Dallas who senselessly lost their lives," Simmons said.

"While I am saddened and out-

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generating a sustainable income are also key factors that are necessary, if reform of our system of justice is to be productive. Last year in Baton Rouge, ironically, I was pleased to be on a panel about criminal justice reform at the 57th national convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We discussed the need for re-entry programs for the thousands of ex-offenders who are returning to our communities across the nation.

One such program I want to highlight, Project JumpStart in Baltimore, Md., is an effective and efficient model to reforming an important aspect of the criminal justice system: offender re-entry workforce development. The construction trades are a growing skilled-workers industry in most urban areas where there are high-paying job opportunities.

JumpStart is Baltimore's premier construction training program. It is a 14-week skills training program in plumbing, carpentry and the electrical trade. Trainees also receive financial literacy coaching as well as practical courses in mathematics as it relates to the construction industry. Most importantly more than 70 percent of the JumpStart trainees

actually go on to attain apprenticeships, licenses, and high-wage jobs.

Mark Holden, general counsel and senior vice president at Koch Industries, was on the SCLC panel with me in Baton Rouge. We agreed that bipartisan support of results-oriented criminal justice reform programs is essential. I was also pleased recently to review Mark's appraisal of Project JumpStart.

Holden emphasized, "Project JumpStart allows ex-offenders to rebuild their lives, providing opportunity and hope. We all have a moral obligation to stop punishing people for their past actions once they have paid their debt to society. We need to build and support a culture of opportunity so that the ex-offender leads a productive and purposeful life – Project

JumpStart is essential to that process."

Maryland, like many of other states, disproportionately incarcerates African Americans. What will happen to our brothers and sisters once they complete their prison sentences? I support President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative as one of a series of programs targeted to keep our young people from entering prison. But we also have to be concerned about the millions of people who are now

hopelessly languishing in America's prisons and jails.

When I was unjustly imprisoned in my home state of North Carolina during most of the 1970's as a member of the Wilmington Ten, I witnessed firsthand how thousands of young, gifted and talented prison inmates were given no rehabilitative chance to re-enter society with an opportunity to become productive and successful in their respective life journeys.

To that end there should be more programs like JumpStart in every city and state. We need principled national, state and local leadership on all the key reform issues, in particular on overcriminalization, re-entry training, prosecutorial accountability, community policing, and restorative equal justice. Today, across America, we urgently need more intellectual honesty about race and criminal justice reform.

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



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Diaz Market Offers Free Carwash for Cops

Harvey Brown
Data News Weekly
Contributor

This past weekend the Diaz Car Wash at 4701 Canal St. offered free car washes for police officers through its new Car Wash for Cops Weekend Program. Car Wash for Cops Weekend is a partnership between the Diaz Market and the St. John Neighborhood Association to show the community's gratitude for the positive work of police officers.

Police officers in Louisiana will be able to get free car washes on weekends at any of the six Diaz Market locations. The location list includes Mid-City, Old Metairie, Airport, Harahan, Marrero and Baton Rouge.

In the mix of recent police-centered shooting in Baton Rouge and Dallas, the Diaz Market and the St. John Neighborhood Association decided to show their appreciation to cops in New Orleans.

"We hope that driving around in a clean patrol car gives our officers a little added moral boost, because we want them to know they are appreciated," said Diaz Market Owner Giselle Diaz Eastlack.



Michael Harrison expresses gratitude to the community at the Carwash for Cops Weekend Press Conference.

"We hope this small gesture encourages others in our community to do something to show their support for police," she added.

New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison was invited to attend the official an-

nouncement for Carwash for Cops. Harrison expressed his gratitude for the community support for police officers.

"The New Orleans Police Department appreciates Diaz Market and the Faubourg St. John Neigh-

borhood Association for leading the way in defining a public-private partnership," Harrison said.

"It's a great morale boost for us to be able to drive around in clean cars. Our cars are our offices, and we sometimes spend up to 16 hours

a day in them, so we appreciate what Diaz is doing for our officers."

Harrison was on his way to Baton Rouge to attend the funeral for a fallen officer in the recent Baton Rouge shooting. The superintendent voiced his concern for more positive interaction and partnerships between the police and the community.

The St. John Neighborhood Association believed this token of gratitude is from the community as a whole. Jim Danner, Vice-President and Public Safety Officer of the St. John Neighborhood Association spoke on organization's behalf.

"The New Orleans Police Department and specifically the officers of the First District have always given great service to the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood and they have been very responsive to our needs and concerns," Danner said.

"We wanted to do something extra to express our appreciation to the NOPD and we believed something as simple as having them driving around in a clean patrol car would be helpful for their moral and feelings of being appreciated," he added.

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raged, I realize that throwing my hands up in frustration won't accomplish anything," he said.

Simmons continued: "RushCard is prepared to help finance The Peace Keepers and the valuable work [The Peace Keepers founder] Captain Dennis Muhammad is doing in communities throughout the country. I also look forward to partnering with NOBLE to bring law enforcement to the table to build bridges that will ultimately save lives."

Muhammad, who also attended the NOBLE conference, said men in particular and the community in general must take responsibility to help make their neighborhood a decent and safe place to live. That also means working in partnership with law enforcement, he said.

"However, due to the recent national attention of police misconduct and controversial shootings of young Black males, police and com-

munity relationship is at an all-time low," Muhammad said. "The lack of trust and respect with the police or the 'Them vs. Us' is not new. It goes all the way back to the Civil Rights era where we would watch on TV police sick the attack dogs, use fire hoses, beat the marchers with night sticks, and we have also seen them use the butt of their guns. These images were seen all across America and left a bitter taste in the mouths of Black Americans across the country."

Muhammad said that we no longer view the police as friends and helpers, we see them as foes or enemies.

"We need police, we cannot live in a lawless society. However, we must not go backward, but move forward and not give up on building a relationship of mutual respect with the law enforcement community," said Muhammad.

Further, Simmons said he sym-

pathizes with Black officers who have a tough job.

He said he wants to build a bridge between them and the community and between the Black officers and their White counterparts.

"We have 25 cities where The Peace Keepers are funded by RushCard," Simmons said. "We want to work with police, not only in protecting our community, but building a bridge so the future can be different from where we are today."

"Now, we come to this point in time, where everyone knows how bad it is, because they see it on the iPhone and with the advent of the GoPro, we have awareness and with that awareness we want to promote change and positivity."

The biggest lament expressed by Simmons was the absence of members of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"If Black lives matter, you have to have dialogue. There was no way

to get Black Lives Matter with the police on this stage together? I don't understand that," he said.

"In our community, we believe we need a revolution. We need a revolution in how we engage with police and vice versa, so revolutionaries create a discussion and we have to create organizations to guide you and, in some cases, give you direction."

Simmons appearance at the conference was a reflection and extension of NOBLE's national president's recent role on a panel that the RushCard founder convened last month in Los Angeles to address the needs for reform in the criminal justice system, said Dwayne Crawford, the executive director of NOBLE.

Crawford added: "NOBLE looks forward to working with RushCard and Russell Simmons to build bridges and strengthen communities throughout the country."



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Hillary Clinton Looks to Build African American Base with Top Staffers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

As the presidential candidates sprint towards the November 8 election, the Clinton campaign has turned to seasoned, Black political strategists to boost voter turnout in the African American community.

Last month, the Clinton campaign hired Nadia Garnett to lead strategic efforts as the African-American Vote Director.

"We have a theory," Garnett said. "You have to meet people where they are. Where they eat, where they play and pray. We want to make sure that the African-American community understands the secretary's commitment and I don't think people fully understand her story."

Garnett has displayed her skills in ways that few have. In addition to serving as national political director for the Center for Community Change, Garnett was also special advisor in the Office of Presidential Personnel at The White House.

She also served as eastern state director for The Atlas Project, a political research and data firm that works with electoral and issue advocacy campaigns. There, she coordinated campaign staffers, political consultants, and state experts regarding their role in developing, managing and executing campaign plans in presidential election years, according to her bio.

NBC BLK reported that Tamia Booker will serve as the director of African-American outreach and Zina Pierre will work with pastors and Black churches as the campaign's African-American faith director. The Clinton campaign tapped Joel Payne to be the director of African-American paid media and LaDavia Drane is the campaign's deputy director of congressional affairs.

Marlon Marshall, who serves as director of state campaigns and political engagement for Clinton, is as seasoned as any individual in any political camp.

"I've been blessed to be a part of this and I'm proud of our team," said Marshall, 36. "Thirty-seven percent of our team out there in the states are people of color. We work hard to hire people who look like us."

The St. Louis-born resident possesses a broad portfolio that includes helping the campaigns of John Kerry and now presumptive



Marlon Marshall, who serves as director of state campaigns and political engagement for Clinton, is as seasoned as any individual in any political camp. (Marlon Marshall)

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Marshall's colleague, Garnett is also far from a political novice.

Garnett has worked with pollster Cornell Belcher at his Washington, D.C.-based Brilliant Corners and Garnett once served as a field director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Independent Expenditure.

Together, the new hires could be viewed as the face of the Clinton campaign in the Black community. But, they also do much more in trying to help the former First Lady and Secretary of State become the nation's first woman president.

They are Clinton's eyes and ears and they lead her efforts to make sure her message is known in every state, including where the assumption is that the GOP will ultimately carry that particular territory.

As Kerry's southern political director, Garnett also helped to establish and strengthen political relationships with Democratic National Committee members, Congress, state and local elected officials and grassroots activists in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Virginia.

Once a key White House aide, Marshall has remained the highest-ranking African-American staffer on any presidential campaign. He organized for John Kerry in 2004, joined Clinton's campaign in 2007, and then worked on both of Barack Obama's campaigns.

The St. Louis native also served as the national field director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee – the first Black

person to hold that role.

Marshall joined the White House staff in September 2013.

In a Nov. 2015 CNN profile, several Clinton aides credited Marshall with helping to create a diverse campaign team at the state and upper staff level.

Plugged in staffers have helped Marshall to make sure the campaign is tuned in with what people are talking about.

When, for instance, video surfaced of a Black high school student getting yanked from her chair by a school resource officer in South Carolina, a digital staffer flagged the incident and Marshall coordinated the campaign response.

One of his most important tasks is helping the Clinton campaign navigate a cultural and political terrain that includes a new civil rights movement, viral racial incidents

and the waning tenure of the nation's first Black president.

"I do feel that our message is getting across, especially given that a first-time candidate like [presumptive GOP presidential nominee] Donald Trump is getting so much media attention," Marshall said. "Trump is temperamentally unfit and he's divisive. Trump is out for himself and he's not who Americans want as president of the United States."

Both Marshall and Garnett said Clinton believes in developing and maintaining a strong economy for all Americans and working with U.S. allies.

When noting Trump's slogan of "Making America Great Again," Marshall said it's just talk.

"Secretary Clinton believes in working together," he said. "Trump has catchphrases, but he's unfit and he will not succeed."

Marshall continued: "She's fighting to bring back jobs and what's also important to her, obviously with the horrible things that have with the [police shootings], there's a huge need for criminal justice reform."

In part, Clinton wants resources for training police officers. She also has a global view of the future and what needs to be done, he said.

"One reason I'm excited about her is that she gets it," Marshall said.

It's also important to recognize that Clinton has previously been elected to office and knows the ins-and-outs of politics and the needs of American citizens, Garnett said.

Garnett added: "You don't need someone who doesn't understand these things."



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