

The Sojourner's Truth

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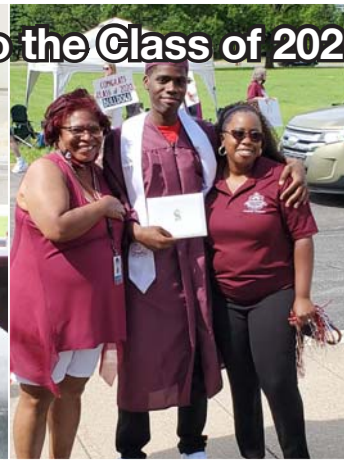
Volume 62, No. 1

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

June 10, 2020

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Philadelphia, PA



Peeling Back the Blue Curtain

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

The surveillance, control, and punish approach to deal with folks of color has to go. We need to rethink policing as a practice.

- Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

The police-involved death of yet another unarmed black person has sparked daily demonstrations locally and across the globe after a video of the incident went viral. George Floyd died handcuffed, crying out desperately for his deceased mother while struggling to breathe. A police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck, pinning him to the ground for nearly nine minutes while a cadre of other officers watched and failed to intervene. The horrific death has amplified a massive, racially and culturally diverse chorus of voices calling for justice and police reform.

I spoke with Philip Stinson, J.D., Ph.D. a renowned criminal justice expert who researches police behaviors and misconduct. Stinson, a former policeman himself, heads the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database at Bowling Green State University. This project aims to improve policing and inform the public about crimes committed by nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers. We discussed the need to reform policing in the United States.

Perryman: Good Afternoon. I want to discuss the state of policing in this country, given the global protests resulting from the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Why does it need to change, and how can we change it?

Stinson: Well, here's the thing with the Floyd case. The video's shocking on several levels. One level is that the officers knew they were video recorded, and they kept it up anyway. It's like they're in their natural habitat, and if they're going to beat the shit out of somebody, they do it anyway. We've seen officers commit crimes that are documented on the bodycam that gets them arrested. The other thing

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Philip Stinson

A Change Has to Come

By Keith Mitchell, Esq

"A riot is the language of the unheard."

A quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

African-Americans have been unheard since the beginning of these United States. On Monday, May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by members of the Minneapolis police. This action has sparked protests and riots in the United States and all over the world.

Eight minutes and 46 seconds—that is the amount of time that Officer Derek Chauvin had his knee on the neck of George Floyd. Despite Floyd's pleas, that he could not breathe, Officer Chauvin and two other officers held Floyd on the ground, with Chauvin on his neck, J. Alexander Kueng on his torso, and Thomas Lane on his legs. Officer Tou Thao watched the other officer's actions and kept by-standers from getting involved. Floyd was not resisting arrest, he was handcuffed and lying on the ground in the street being restrained by these officers.

The allegation was that Floyd used a counterfeit \$20.00 bill to purchase cigarettes which was not a violent crime. No one reported that he had a weapon, nor were there any reports of assaultive behavior. Video shows that Floyd was not acting violently. Why not just arrest him and take him to jail?

George Floyd's murder is the catalyst for the recent protests. However, there have been many other wrongful actions by law enforcement and the majority community, where African-Americans have been treated unjustly or wrongfully beaten and/or killed. I remember the video of the brutality used against Rodney King, in Southern California in 1991—and later the acquittal of the officers involved. It was horrific to watch.

I recall a discussion I had with my daughter's maternal great grandfather, Leon Randall. He told me, as a soldier in the United States Army, while he was guarding German prisoners in Oklahoma during World War II, their bus had stopped for food. The German prisoners were allowed to enter the café through the front door, but he had to go to the backdoor and eat outside.

My grandfather, born in Cartersville, Georgia, was sent to live in Los Angeles in the early 1900's with his brothers because of an allegation that a white woman had been assaulted. They were lynching black people at that time, and my great grandmother was not going to take a chance on her boys being hanged.

Emmett Till, a 14 year old boy in 1955, was beaten and killed by white men reportedly after flirting with a white woman. This allegation was later recanted by the alleged victim.

This event continues to resonate in the African-American community. Most recently, Breonna Taylor, a black woman and emergency medical technician in Louisville, Kentucky was shot dead in her home by the police as she slept. They were searching for a suspect who was reportedly already in custody. Ahmaud Arbery, a



Keith Mitchell

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Biden Crushes It ... Ya Think So?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

In a moving interview with clergy leaders in Delaware, Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee for the presidency, issued a bold-faced statement that he will, "crush institutional racism."

Now, for me, a person who engages in hyperbole to the max when it suits my fancy, such a statement by Biden is both stunning for its boldness and yet studded with iron-clad obstacles.

I do not doubt the heart of Biden to take up such a massive mission but he will fail because the allies he will need to undertake this coup of America will fail him when he needs them the most.

Not knowing the depth and the extent of Biden's knowledge of American History and the intransigence of the problem of racism since 1619 to current date, he will be confounded and bedeviled when he gets a firm grasp of the stranglehold that classism and racism had and still has on this country.

I contend the following raging bulls will meet Biden in the public arena and will succeed in goring his ambitious resolution to death.

One: Money...Money...Money: The one percenters who control the vast majority of wealth in these United States will coalesce around their leaders, known and unknown, and will flood their opposition to such institutional changes will billions of dollars. That is "billion" with a capital, "B".

When you go after the monied class and inform them that their good thing is about to come to an end (all apologies to Lou Rawls), they will marshal their considerable forces in the media and their politics stooges to fight until the death.

The ruling elites are not going into the night without a Herculean fight that will send tsunami waves through the stock market, Wall Street and the Halls of Congress. They will fight both fair and unfair; and the unfair being employing surrogates to spew animosity on such a plan that they will label as being, socialistic or communistic at best.

Understand that the bedrock of this country stands on the backs of minority people and the unfair taking of their undervalued labor; and for rich fat cats to give up the perks and privileges of power, it will not be a stroll in the park.

Imagine if you can, a phalanx of media personnel, politicians, lawyers, disgruntled people all being drawn into a societal conflict that could very well result in public disruptions and demonstrations that will make the worse seen civil rights eruptions appear as child's play.

That is what is at stake when you attempt to reorder the pecking order of society and attempt to re-distribute wealth in America, and that wealth is

seen as going to "those" people!

Considerations that the initial bedrock of the rise of capitalism in America which allowed it to become a voracious powerhouse in the international scene was wealth and labor obtained by ill-gotten means and methods, to wit: slavery and the suppression of honest wages for working class poor people, be they black, brown or white and the theft of land and resources from the land of Native Americans

Rich folks who are fighting for their perceived right to rule the roost for an ad infinite period of time, will torch the city rather than share wealth and power with a DeMarcus or a Lakeshia and have such "marginalized" citizens have access their halls of learning and residential neighborhoods.

I say that to state that institutional racism has a firm choke hold in America's DNA and any attempts to excise it will be a journey of a thousand miles, akin to walking barefoot on barbed wire and glass shards thrown on the pathway.

TWO: People, People, People: Imagine telling people who have not met or conversed with a minority person all of their lives, now being told or informed that they must get to know those whom they have held in low esteem or outright hostility.

If you think that Colin Kaepernick took some heat and flak for kneeling at a pro football game, you are sorely mistaken if you think there will be a series of Kum-By-Ya moments and we all hug and dance around a culturally neutral maypole!

Think of it, this way. You must practically redo American history textbooks and as it is currently taught to show the real America and how that America came to be. You will have to re-define what is fair in the marketplace and why people should be paid living wages for doing needed and necessary work.

You will have to examine the harmful legacy of mis applied Christianity as it was used by White American theologians to justify slavery and the docility of black folks. Not an easy task to tell churches that they should take down pictures of a white blue-eyed Jesus and at least display what a Semite looked at that time in Biblical Jerusalem.

That revision alone will have nominal Christians running for their church exit doors!

And for the record, this proposed reordering of American society can not be done in a drawn-out fashion. Can you imagine frying chicken in

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Lucas County Commissioners Aannounce Diversity and Inclusion Initiative for County Offices

Special to The Truth

TOLEDO, OH. – The Board of Lucas County Commissioners announced last weekon Tuesday that the Department of Diversity and Inclusion will be established to develop priorities that promote racial equity, county policy initiatives in diversity and inclusion, and implement strategies to address social injustices in Lucas County.

“We are proud of the work that the Board has accomplished over the past years to promote racial equity and diversity and inclusion in county operations. However, we realize we must take the necessary steps to provide a more comprehensive and strategic approach on how we address the challenges that hold back the minority populations in our community,” said Tina Skeldon Wozniak, pPresident of the Lucas County Commissioners. “Today, we are happy to announce a critical first step to enhance engagement in social justice and inclusivity by creating the Department of Diversity and Inclusion.

The department will be tasked with fulfilling the following responsibilities:

- Review current county policies and procedures to ensure diversity and inclusion in hiring practices and departmental leadership, provide enhanced training and education opportunities for staff that address racism and bias, and offer resources and guidance to elected office-holders and agencies.
- Develop a robust minority business enterprise (MBE) and tracking program in the county procurement system and provide additional MBE growth opportunities.
- Engagement of the community to focus on issues impacting minority populations and provide enhanced opportunities for people of color to

get access to county services.

- Create inclusive workforce development opportunities, social services, and additional programming in the community.
- Oversee the county’s efforts to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act and provide outreach to those with disabilities.
- Understand the effects that racial inequality has on the delivery of our economic development initiatives, the criminal justice system, and social, public utilities, and safety services in our community and develop solutions that address the delivery of these services.

Commissioner Pete Gerken said: “We are creating the office of Diversity and Inclusion to become a living and breathing document for us to operate under. It can inform us on language, employment, policies, and compensation. It is also a guide on how we interact with the community at large. An office like this will make the county accountable in a real and authentic way.”

“This is only one step in a making a change in the way we treat all people in our community regardless of their color, race, or nationality,” Commissioner Gary Byers said. “Until we recognize that the malignancy of racial and institutional bias exist in our society, we will not be able to fight it in a reasonable and meaningful way. This is a big step in making that happen.”

Tolliver... continued from page 3

cold oil in the skillet and you wonder why it is taking so long or that it is not cooked or even crispy? To fry chicken, you need hot oil and you dip that chicken piece in and let the fat pop and smoke, but the result is... „Ahhhhh!”

Residential segregation is still big, big in America as is stark segregation in the nation’s classrooms, boardrooms, churches and recreational outlets. Saying it simply, White America does not mix with other Americans who are of a certain culture or racial complexion. That is not how we roll.

If Biden, when he wins the presidency, can cobble together an august commission studded with named and learned people who can clearly articulate, over and over again, why such racism must be dismantled for the good of us all, he still must convince the monied class that it behooves them to make room at the public and private troughs for others, other than their own!

Simply stated, we are talking about a re-education of American values and principles that does not give “fudge points” for white folks to continue to suck out all of the air in the room and which leaves others on the sidelines looking in, saying, “ I can’t breathe!”

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Black Leaders Discuss Economic Impact and Community Concerns

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The month of May provided business owners with the opportunity to reopen under the Governor's 'Responsible Restart Ohio' plan. A group of local leaders began organizing discussions to connect government leaders, agency leaders and leaders from all sectors during that time to map out strategic growth opportunities for the black community.

The Thursday, June 4 video conference call was facilitated by Paul Hubbard and included representatives from the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC), Area Office on Aging, Lucas County, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), and Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has posted Facebook live events hosted by Doni Miller, Will Lucas and Wendi Huntley that discussed black business owners and economic impact.

According to a June 2020 ABC news report, COVID-19 disproportionately impacted, infected and killed black Americans at a higher rate than the general population. Citing historical lending discrimination as an existing struggle for black American business. The local collaborative discussed during the June 4 call, business development and entrepreneurs.

The TAACC delivered a report in collaboration with other business-related agencies offered a presentation about e-commerce certification, explained the mentorship program – organizing a crypto-currency presentation for the community, and offering entrepreneur grants.

"I am glad that we're able to work together, receive updates and provide updates during this call. I will share efforts led by the African American Chamber of Commerce, Jumpstart and the local business growth collaborative. We're excited about the expansion of the mentoring program and we're offering a free four-week currency webinar that is open to the community," explained AACC president/CEO Roy Hodge.



Paul Hubbard

Citizens are familiar with some aspects of the CARES Act, but in addition to the direct payment to individuals and families the CARES Act included several relief packages: unemployment assistance, employer payroll tax delay, waiver of early retirement withdrawal, small business relief, financial



Roy Hodge

assistance for hospitals and large corporations, COVID testing, and funding for state and local governments. The Area Office on Aging received \$2.1 million to launch a new program for senior citizens.

"We plan to provide grants to local restaurants who provide senior meals. This could be a one-time or multiple opportunity grant. Seniors enjoy meals that they are used to eating. The plan will also include a dietitian, who will work with our seniors. Restaurants that want to partner with us should contact me," said Billie Johnson, president/CEO of Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio.



Deborah Barnett

LMHA has provided COVID-19-related updates since the peak of the pandemic, because LMHA oversees one of the largest public housing systems in Northwest Ohio. The current CEO, Joaquin Cintron Vega, was officially hired in March 2020 and shared that the main priority is testing and communication.

"We're testing all of our employees, we have 140 employees total. We're also keeping our promise to our residents and supporting the resident advisory board. One of our goals is to maintain a direct line of communication, so the residents can connect with leadership and site staff," said Vega.

The Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee (TLCCCC) is responsible for spearheading all Census information in Lucas County. The United States Census revised the self-response timeline, so citizens have until October 31 to complete an online, phone or mailed self-response form of collecting data. According to the committee, the National self-response rate is 60.5 percent, Ohio's response rate is 60.6 percent, Lucas County's response rate is 61.6 percent, and Toledo's response rate is 55 percent.



Billie Johnson

"We have continued connecting with the community and have found creative ways to increase the Census response. We organized a Census digital day and asked our partners to post on social media how important completing the Census is for our community," said Deborah Barnett, coordinator of TLCCCC.

The committee plans to continue discussing local impact and strategizing solutions for the black committee at least twice per month.



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Perryman... continued from page 2

was, the members of the public who were recording the incident were trying to enter into a dialogue with the officers to get them to focus on what they were doing, and it still didn't break them apart. And then, the third thing is that the three other officers, apparently chose not to intervene. When I was a young police officer in the 1980s, if something happened, one of us would have tackled the cop who had his knee on the guy and wrestled him off of him, and that's what would happen in some places.

Perryman: What are your thoughts about the police response?

Stinson: If you peel back the curtain on the police subculture, obviously, in some places they engage in, it is active street justice. So, I think that's what we saw there was that at least the initial purpose was to teach Mr. Floyd a lesson. I think the reason you're seeing so many people out all across the country of all walks of life protesting and demonstrating is that it hits too close to home. So many people have either experienced that themselves or a family member or a friend has, not just once. Still, they've been roughed up repeatedly and people of color obviously. These aren't isolated events in some places across the country, its business as usual. If it happened here and there weren't any video, how would they have written up the reports? Would they have written up the report that it was an in-custody death? I imagine not. We never would've heard about it, right?

Perryman: Can you elaborate on what you call the police subculture?

Stinson: So, because you've got 18,000 state and local agencies and because the culture is engrained in each agency at the local level and we see these things over and over again. This incident was different than Eric Garner because Mr. Floyd was handcuffed; he was no threat to anybody. As soon as he was handcuffed, he should've been gotten up on his feet and made sure he was okay. That's what any self-respecting cop would do. And the other thing making things worse is, I haven't heard one police officer argue to me that this was justified. This one peels back the curtain. Nobody can rationalize it.

Perryman: When you say that the Floyd incident peels back the curtain, what does it reveal?

Stinson: It shows what people in urban areas have been able to tell you. Any grandmother in north Philadelphia can tell you these things happen all the time, but if you were to ask my mother, who lives in the suburbs, she has no clue that this stuff goes on. The Floyd incident reveals what it's like. This [Floyd] is what many people experience. So it's part of the way that police officers are socialized into their local agency despite the training they get at the academy. No academy trained them to do that. It's shocking because it was clear that he has no pulse several minutes in. It's shocking. Policing is broken. We have to rethink what we want the police to do and who we want to be police officers, because this isn't working.

Perryman: How do we change the police subculture?

Stinson: Well, I don't know that there's an easy fix to it. I think we have to give a lot of consideration and thought about that. It's not as simple as bringing in more female officers or more African-American officers because we see African-American officers. It seems like the police subculture trumps their race and ethnicity. One thing that's a problem is that many police officers are not of and part of the community in which they work. That's a problem.

Perryman: How often do officer-initiated deaths occur?

Stinson: I'd have to look at the statistics. The government tracks in-custody deaths, and they don't do a good job of it anymore. The other aspect of this subculture, though, is that we're always at war. We've got the war against crime, the war against drugs, the war against poverty, and when the cops are going to work every day and they're not from and part of that community, they're warriors going into battle.

It would be a lot different if you've got a kid who's vandalizing a park if you knew his grandmother and his mother, wouldn't you treat him a little differently? Even if you're a white cop like you've lived in that community and that black family lived across the street from you when you were growing up, you knew the grandmother, and you treat them differently, you treat them as a human. But we're not doing that. We're dressed as warriors. Let's step back from that kind of soldier look. That's a good first step in changing the subculture.

Perryman: What else can be done?

Stinson: It is also good to see people like Erika Shields, the police chief in Atlanta, when she got out earlier this week or last, whenever it was. She kind of went larking at the people who were protesting. She sat there and listened, one at a time, to everybody that wanted to say something to her. She heard, and cops don't listen. They bark out commands. They order people. That's why there's so much domestic violence in police families; they can't turn it off when they go home at night, they're used to commanding people. You can't do that. So that's the kind of thing that we have to address at the root level, really rethink some of these issues.

Perryman: What's your take on how the police handled the protests in Toledo?

Stinson: I didn't hear anything about Toledo, I was in my own world.

Perryman: Most rallies have been very peaceful. There was a notable exception where there were accusations that the police sprayed tear gas and shot rubber bullets after a peaceful demonstration concluded. Someone, it has been alleged, attempted to spray paint one of the officer's car, and it got wild for a bit after one rally.

Stinson: Some people are making calls to defund the police and take away certain types of equipment they have, but you know what? There is a time and a place to bring out the tank, we would all want that if there was like a hostage situation at a local bank or something, but the thing is to know when to use your tools. It is horrific when some kid gets shot in the eye with a rubber bullet. It seems like with

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A Statement from Dr. Romules Durant, CEO/Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools

This week, I have spent my days acknowledging the class of 2020, one by one, during our drive-thru ceremonies. We did this in an effort to ensure that our students understand that regardless of the world's climate, one thing that they can be sure of is that they can depend on their school district to act on their behalf as best we can. That's why our number one core commitment is to be student centered in our decision-making.

As the week progressed and I began to engage with more of our students and their families heart to heart, it became evident how critical it was for me to stop in the midst of the ceremonies to respond to the current unrest in our country.

First, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the murder of George Floyd and any other human being who has died senselessly as the result of violence and brutality. We denounce all violence and these tragic events must serve as a reminder that we still have much work to do in creating a more inclusive and understanding environment – for our students, the community and beyond.

Racism is as real and predictable as snow in the Midwest. No matter how frustrated we become with it or how disruptive it is to our lives we know it's inevitable. I believe this is why the country is in the position we are in today. We are exhausted from our frustrations going unheard.

As a district, we have a responsibility to make sure we are doing our part to ensure that we are inclusive and equitable in all that we do. In addition, we are fostering opportunities for our staff and leadership to learn and grow in our ability to serve those who come from diverse backgrounds.

I am a black man first and my professional status will always be second. Whether I am the Superintendent and CEO of the fourth largest school district in Ohio, or a young black man on the East Side, trying to make something of himself, I learned quickly that I had to be extraordinary just to be perceived as ordinary. I am aware first hand of the struggles that our students face every day.

When I became an educator, I wanted to show my students and every young person I had the chance to work with, that they mattered. They are valued. They are important and that they are much bigger than any struggle that could come their way. Their current situation does not have to be their final destination.



In the Toledo Public Schools district, our students of color are our largest demographic. We serve more students of color than any district in our region. We serve students from all walks of life and we are proud of that. In fact, we are honored to serve such a diverse population of young people who bring their uniqueness, their experiences and their culture with them every day, making us who we are and leaving us better than who we were before they came.

I want the students, families and staff members of TPS to know that we will not sit idle. We will continue to create spaces that allow you to share your experiences, joys, frustrations and concerns while working together to create solutions. We will continue to prepare you to use your voice because it is powerful beyond measure. We stand alongside you in your demand for justice.


Know that as your Superintendent, you can always count on me to have your back, support you and keep you safe and secure. We are our brother and sister's keeper and together we shall rise.

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Dr. Romules Durant

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Turning My Life Around: Meet Marquis Fox

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach

Special to The Truth

"I was young when I had my first child. I wasn't really much of a father because I didn't even know what I was doing. But I was a father, I was taking care of my kids."

Marquis Fox had his first child when he was 18 years old. His own father wasn't really in his life until he was about 14.

"I ain't really have nobody to teach me. He was more like my friend. It wasn't really parenting because I was already grown basically."

Marquis struggled with finding the means to be an efficient father. He wasn't with his co-parent and lacked communication skills, which affected how he showed up as a father.

Marquis heard about Brothers United through the Program Director, Avis Files.

"One day I was in the Hamilton Building and I had my kids with me, and I saw Mrs. Files and she walked up to me like, "You got some cute kids," and she asked how old they were. She asked if I wanted to join the program."

After hearing about what Brothers United offered fathers, Fox decided to join.

"The first two days, I wasn't going to stay. I remember I missed a day, and said I wasn't going back no more."

Thought Marquis initially had his doubts about the program, he was encouraged by someone to see it through, so he came back and finished strong.

"Before I joined BU, my life was kind of confusing. I really didn't know how to co-parent or communicate with people. My co-parenting is excellent now. We getting things done. We not behind on nothing. We can talk about everything. I had to think about my kids."

Brothers United truly helped Mr. Fox turn his life around. He now feels more confident with his communication skills, work ethics and skills, his money management and his problem solving. The program gave him skills and the program showed him respect. Marquis became Mr. Fox.

"It taught me I got a lot of stuff I had to change because there was a



person I had to raise. It was a lot of stuff I had to sacrifice and a lot of stuff I had to stop doing."

Mr. Fox completed the program in 2018. His relationship with his kids is great and they all live with him. He is working a steady job and all around feels like his life was affected positively by Brothers United.

"My life turned around. It's better. I can say that BU is a big part of my life right now. They taught me the kids are one of the most important things, taught me I need to be around for the kids, show them affection, what to do and what not to do around them because they watch everything."

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or www.pathway-toledo.org

Class of 2020 Enjoy Pomp and Circumstance

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The administration, staff and faculties of the Toledo Public Schools held graduation ceremonies this year that were anything but normal, but they managed to generate a good deal of excitement for the Class of 2020 and their families.

One by one, the students from each school arrived in their autos with their families and were greeted by cheering staff and faculty. The students disembarked from the cars and walked up to the staging area to a

...continued on page 10



TPS Communications Director Patty Mazur and External Communications Manager Candice Harrison



Deputy Superintendent Jim Gant greets arriving graduate and family



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Class of 2020... continued from page 10

rousing greeting by master of ceremonies Montrice Casey, a handshake and diploma presented by Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD and a second greeting from their school's principal – all the while posing for photos taken by their families who drove alongside them.

The enthusiasm of the TPS representatives was greatly appreciated by students and families who reveled in the individual attention each graduate received.

The week-long festivities were conducted from June 1 to 5 in front of the Stranahan Theatre.



Montrice Casey and TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD



TPS Executive Administrative Assistant Angela Jordan



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Change Has To Come... continued from page 2

he was jogging. Christian Cooper, a black man in New York's Central Park, while bird watching, had a 911 call on him and he was accused of attacking a white woman. Luckily, when the police arrived, both Mr. Cooper and his alleged accuser had left the park. This type of false accusation is what caused lynchings and now police brutality. Law Professor Jelani Exum, in a TEDx talk, states that there are between 300 and 400 police killings each year in the United States. She refers to these killings as "the death penalty on the street." These "death penalty on the street" acts are cruel and unusual punishment and must stop.

Not to mention the many other atrocities experienced by black people—the disproportionate number of deaths from COVID-19; the disproportionate incarceration rates in the United States; a president who has no sense of empathy or compassion for the plight of people of color; the poor education in inner city schools; the number of people that go to bed hungry at night; those who must choose between buying food or medication; and people having to work two and three jobs just to make ends meet—AND THE LIST GOES ON . . .

There are plenty of reasons for the protests, anger and rage exhibited by the people in the streets. A CHANGE HAS TO COME! Law enforcement officers can no longer mistreat African-Americans, or anyone else, as they have in the past. They must be held accountable for their actions. Further, vigilante behaviors must be stopped and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Declaring racism to be a public health crises in Ohio is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. What are some concrete and reasonable actions that can be taken by our elected officials to require law enforcement to treat everyone with respect and dignity?

The protesters have now got the attention of our elected officials and community leaders. It is now up to legislators and voters, CEO's and middle managers and others to propose and initiate substantive laws, ordinances and policies to prevent wrongful actions in the future. Our federal, state and local elected officials must act to ensure that law enforcement officers abide by the spirit and letter of the law.

A timetable of action must be established and initiated so that we are not here six months from now making similar demands. Here are 12 practical ideas that can and should be implemented. This list is by no means exhaustive:

1. Establish a national, statewide and local Police Misconduct Registry. If a law enforcement officer has been found to have violated the law or departmental policies, those incidents should be kept, cataloged, and made

available to the public.

2. Institute a residency requirement requiring officers to live in the jurisdiction in which they serve. Toledo Police must live in the City of Toledo, Lucas County Sheriffs must live in Lucas County. Officers are less likely to abuse their discretion if they live where they work.

3. There should be intensive psychological and mental health evaluations prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency. If someone exhibits a propensity to be violent or has a "holier than thou" outlook, perhaps they should not be given a badge and gun to enforce the law.

4. There should be periodic mental health assessments of all law enforcement officers throughout their career. Officers, like others in first responder positions, see and experience actions of others that are sometimes outrageous. These incidents can result in trauma and can cause some to overreact over time.

5. A thorough review of the collective bargaining agreements of rank and file officers and the command officers should be conducted to ensure that nothing is contained therein to protect officers who have been engaged in wrongful acts.

6. The civil immunity laws applied to law enforcement officers must be re-evaluated, and when an officer has acted outside of the scope of their authority, they should be liable for their actions.

7. An effective Civilian Police Review Board must be established, with the authority to act when necessary, to recommend reprimands or other punishment for wrongdoing officers.

8. ALL officers, must be required to wear a body camera and to keep it on when they are interacting with the public. Body cameras illuminate the actions of private citizens and law enforcement for later police and public scrutiny.

9. ALL officers, must routinely be trained in "de-escalation" courses and utilize these techniques. Officers are often able to verbally de-escalate individuals in crisis and avoid physical confrontations which make for improved safety all around.

10. Hire African-Americans and other people of color from the community and promote them within the law enforcement ranks.

11. Establish a national standard and policy for use of force. It is essential for all law enforcement departments to have a comprehensive use of force policy to aid officers making split-second, life-or-death decisions in dangerous situations.

12. Re-direct funding for law enforcement agencies. We must stop using criminal "justice" policies as social policy. Restorative justice practices and similar actions must be used to create a new paradigm for public safe-

ty and policing.

African Americans are only demanding to be treated equally. A missing light over a rear license plate or a broken tail light does not need to result in an arrest—give the person a ticket and see them in court. Other minor traffic and criminal offenses should be treated similarly.

All people of good will are tired of nothing changing. America is speaking, it's time to act. There are specific actions we can take now to make a difference. History and our national honor demand we do what is necessary to make fundamental and substantial change.

Protesting, rioting and looting got your attention, now let's get busy with the real change.

"Racism isn't getting worse. It's getting filmed."

A quote from actor Will Smith

Keith L. Mitchell is a local attorney who has practiced law here in Lucas County for more than 30 years.

Perryman... continued from page 6

all the tasers, rubber bullets, and all the tools they have that they're somehow trained. If you go back and watch the taser training videos on YouTube, you can find lots of them, there's always laughing going on, they find it funny. So as long as that kind of thing goes on and it can be used as a tool of street justice, or you use it, you're very quick to use it because you got pissed because somebody spray painted the car, that's a problem.

Perryman: There has been talk that many police departments are a haven for white nationalists. Your thoughts?

Stinson: I don't know what to say about that. They do need to do a better job in screening their personnel and keeping tabs on people that work there. That's a big concern, I'd say.


Perryman: Are there any additional lessons from the George Floyd murder?

Stinson: Another thing I would say is that when people see something that they think isn't normal, they should video record it. There's strength in numbers.

Perryman: You emphasized strength in numbers.

Stinson: Yes, strength in numbers. So, multiple people should record from different angles, but only if you can safely do so and without interfering with law enforcement. You don't want to get hurt. You don't want to get arrested.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdpperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



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Rally for Racial Justice in Ottawa Hills

Special to the Truth

On Sunday, June 7, several hundred Ottawa Hills residents and neighbors joined Rally for Racial Justice in support of #BlackLivesMatter. The event was organized by Ottawa Hills neighborhood group, This Is OH, a volunteer committee of residents that works to bring awareness and constructive action to efforts in support of diversity and inclusion in the community.

This Is OH was joined by speakers including Jeremy Holloway and high school student Jon Dalsey, who spoke of their experience as black residents of Ottawa Hills. The keynote speaker was Ruth Leonard, local educator and activist representing the Community Solidarity Response Network.

Master of ceremony and This Is OH member, Jihan Saie, started the rally with an acknowledgement and moment of silence to recognize the fact that Ottawa Hills rests on former lands belong to indigenous people. She explained that the taking of indigenous lands was often brutal and violent and is tied historically to this nation's enslavement of African people. That his is the foundation of the nation's systemic racism and police brutality of black Americans.

The rally ended with an eight minute, 46 second period of silence on attendees knees in commemoration of the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.



Ruth Leonard addresses protesters



Jihan Saie, Moderator of the rally



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Grand: A Grandparent's Wisdom for a Happy Life by Charles Johnson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

That little face holds so much expectation.

You meet the eyes of your grandchild, and you know you have a big job ahead of you. She expects you to love her as much as she loves you, and you do. He figures you'll have fun together, and you will.

They expect, quite frankly, to be spoiled a little, and that'll happen, too. And with the new book **Grand** by Charles Johnson, a few lessons might be taught along the way...

Some years ago, when Charles Johnson helped design the elegant room that would be his home office, he had certain things in mind. Not one of them was that his grandson, Emery, would take the room as "his" office but that's what happened, and that's okay. The boy is an obvious delight.

Emery's thoughts, his willingness to share his world, and his points of view make Johnson proud; their relationship is easy and solid. This gives Johnson a ease of comparison between Emery and his ancestors, and lesson-filled stories to tell: Emery loves books, though reading was denied to his forebears. At age eight, he doesn't have to work like his great-granduncle did. He has nearly unlimited opportunities, unlike his great-grandfather.

And yet, as a black man, Johnson knows that there are other lessons he needs to teach his grandson, lessons that go outside history and into the future.

Be yourself, he'll tell Emery, and know that the world has never seen anyone exactly like you. Don't chase perfection because nothing is ever perfect. Give dimension to your life by finding your purpose, take care of yourself, and care for others. Know that you'll suffer, and that others will suffer, too. Look for beauty in life every day, even if it lies inside pain. Remember the "three gatekeepers" before you speak. Never be complacent

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160 pages

with your skills, never stop learning, never stop being creative or curious.

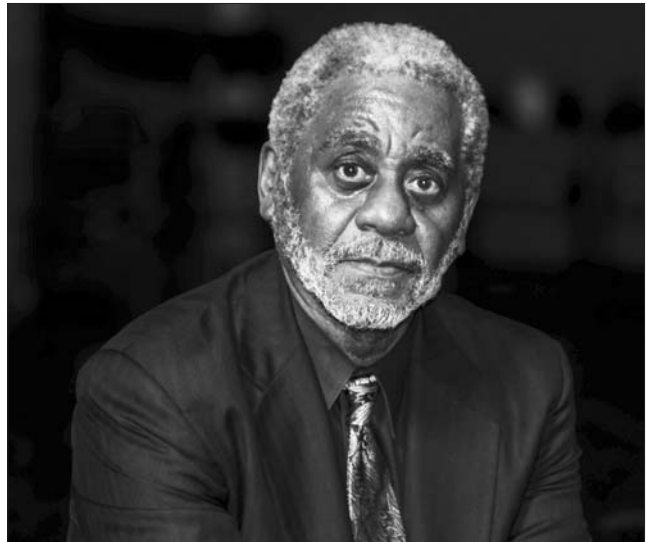
And know that there are three kinds of love. If you're lucky, you'll experience each one.

When you found out that you were going to be a grandparent, do you remember how your mind raced with all the things you wanted to do with your grandbaby?

Add ten more to that list after you've read *Grand*, but take a deep breath first.

Author Charles Johnson writes with a quiet reserve here that borders on gravity in the lessons he has – and that you can offer – to a grandchild. That seriousness is often further weighed heavily with Buddhist teachings and philosophy that can turn downright somber sometimes and the text, though certainly filled with love and wisdom that ultimately leads to joy, can feel as though it begs for a lighter hand. Beware, too, that these sentiments aren't meant for sudden talks: they're lessons that start early and continue for decades.

Even so, there are lessons here for elders as much as for their littles and despite its occasional excess depth, you should easily be able to proceed as you need. With the right mindset and *Grand*, you can expect good things.



Charles Johnson, photo by Crystal Riley-Brown

Charles Johnson
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CLASSIFIEDS

June 10, 2020

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CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Status: Independent Contractor

Date: May 28, 2020

ABOUT US:

Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1997. Our mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings.

SUMMARY:

The Clinical Director is an independent contractor who will collaborate with the Executive Director, the Management Team and the Clinical Services Team. The Clinical Director is responsible for designing and implementing client services that address Center of Hope Family Services' mission and are provided in a manner consistent with Agency vision and values.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

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REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Clinical Director must have a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, psychology, or other closely related human service field.
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Faith Leaders Unite for Change Protest Against Social Injustice and Police Brutality

On Sunday, June 7, 2020, @ 5 pm, Faith Leaders United for Change protested and marched against social injustice and police brutality. The march started at the corner of Indiana and Collinwood.

The Faith Leaders released the following statement:

As Faith leaders in the Toledo community, we believe it is our responsibility to speak out against the atrocities that have plagued the African American community both on a local and national level.

As Faith leaders, we are protesting to end the inequality of treatment by our law enforcement officials on our African American community. We want them to realize that Black Lives Matter and we have a POWERFUL voice.

We believe we can accomplish equality and justice by being a catalyst for change with the following four initiatives:

1. Improved Police Relations – We want to build a level of trust between the police department and the community as we believe it is an essential factor for social cohesion. It will be necessary that we cultivate a healthy working relationship between both groups.

2. Enhanced Community Relations – Proactive communication with

community leaders, elected officials, and appointed city officials and the community is key to enhancing relations so we may move in the right direction. We can no longer react to situations but respond accordingly.

3. Support Black-Owned Businesses – It is essential that we begin to bring visibility to Black-owned businesses so that we may help them to not only sustain in business, but also to prosper and grow their business. By doing so, we create economic growth, which is good for our Toledo community and the nation as a whole.

4. Effective Collaborative Support – Effective collaborative support will produce higher quality outcomes. We are stronger together, and our voice collectively is louder. By being a support to each other, we not only strengthen the group, but we also make each person involved in the group stronger.

We believe if we can begin with these first four initiatives, we can make a lasting impact in our city and start healing the relationships that have been fractured by the heinous actions of a few that affect the masses of our African American Community.



Photos by Albert Earl

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