

The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 65 No. 2

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

December 30, 2020



George Floyd killed by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin on May 25



In January, a family reacts to Pete Kadens offer to pay for Scott seniors college expenses



Pete Kadens and Scott senior Nathaniel Mitcham



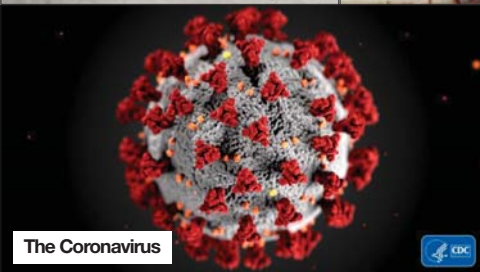
The New Normal



Ruth Leonard, Julian Mack, Washington Muhammad raise BLM billboard



General election winners - President elect Joe Biden and Vice President elect Kamala Harris



The Coronavirus



Teri Sherwood, Briana Palmer, Parker Drane, Lori Wilburn, Romules Durant, EdD



On January 29, 2020, entrepreneur Pete Kadens held a student/parent meeting in the fieldhouse at Scott High School to announce that he would be paying for the college or vocational training school education for all 2020 graduating seniors and for one of each student's parents. The room exploded in cheering and sobbing.

Not much else went right during the rest of the year ...

Until November 3!!



The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Toledo Branch #3204 is to ensure the political, educational, social, economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. While 2020 has been an extraordinary year, we have been blessed to have some extraordinary donors. Although we were unable to host our 105th Freedom Fund Banquet, the support for our branch continued. Our partners recognized that the work of the NAACP must continue, even in a pandemic. We, the Board and members of the NAACP, would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all our 2020 donors. We salute you and acknowledge the impact your support will have on our entire community.

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Adam Levine

We also thank the many members of the Toledo Branch NAACP. Membership is the Foundation of our organization

Thank You, Ray Wood – President & Executive Committee Micheal Alexander Sr – First Vice President & Freedom Fund Banquet Chairperson

Disclaimer: My apologies if we have missed any listing of 2020 Financial Donations. ALL Donations are important to the mission of the NAACP

“The Struggle Continues”

Giving Voice to Values

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

The Truth Contributor

The greatest gifts my parents gave to me and my sister were their unconditional love and a set of values, values they lived and didn't just lecture about.

- Colin Powell

In a year that Toledoans were inundated with news of local, regional and national political scandals, much could be said about what is wrong in society. However, to focus on the negative is to overlook the potential of a group of bright emerging leaders who catapulted to the top during 2020.



Lafe Tolliver

One such leader is Tiffany Preston-Whitman, EdD., a young, bright, highly educated African-American woman of faith. Shaped by both the Servant and Surrogate Family Leadership models of the Black Church, Whitman was equipped early in life to provide solutions for the needs, concerns, and life issues of African Americans and others attempting to cope with hardships and a lack of resources.

Whitman's recent appointment to Toledo City Council provides leadership that gives voice to her moral/cultural value system.

The following is our conversation about her ethical leadership roots and her agenda as a local community leader.

Perryman: Please describe your personal story.

Whitman: I was Toledo, Ohio, born and raised in a family who prioritized their faith in God, education and service to others. I attended Central Catholic High School and went on to attend and graduate from The Ohio State University. Living in Columbus was a significant time in my life, where I met my husband, then married, and moved back to Toledo. As far as personally, we have three children. We also

...continued on page 4



Councilwoman Tiffany Preston Whitman, EdD

Seventy-Four Million Americans Want More!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Never I have ever witnessed such gluttony for the intentional infliction of mental and emotional harm and distress as I watch 74 million voters affirm to the world that they were more than willing to suffer another four years under the delusional and chaotic rule and reign of Herr Trump.

You would think that if a nation suffered such incomprehensible damage to their collective psyche due to the machinations and the dysfunctional administration of Herr Trump, that voters would be falling down their stairs in order to get to the polls and vote out this political rube.

But to my surprise, 74 million American voters went into their polling booths and pulled the lever for Donald Trump to continue his madness and verbal assault on the norms and rules of democracy.

You can only make the grim assessment that many of those voters were inculcated into the Trumpian Madness that corrupted their ability to see that they were being taken to the cleaners by an accomplished con and grifter.

Remember when people were aghast about the carnage of the Jim Jones mass cultic suicides that took place years ago in Guinea,

a coastal country on the continent of South America?

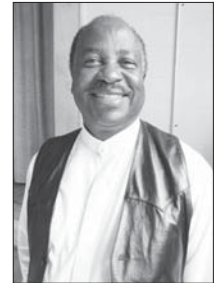
In that cult, Jim Jones was able to persuade people that he was the only one that they should look to and follow and all others were "the enemy" and the enemies were out to persecute them.

Jim Jones went further than Herr Trump in that he was able to

convince many (some by force, it is reported) that mass suicide, by swallowing a poisonous cocktail, was honorable and the only way out of the impending persecution that was about to befall them in their jungle hideaway.

Over 900 people, including children, went into eternity based upon the ravings of a nutcase and his henchmen.

Herr Trump has made claims that his followers should not believe what they see and hear from "others," but only believe him, a self-



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Tolliver... continued from page 3

ported extremely stable genius.

Trump demonized the media, Congress, the courts and anyone else who spoke up against him or who criticized him for his lunacy.

Their fear? That for any GOP figure who criticized him, Trump would fund an opponent against him or her in the next election, or he would send out deleterious tweets about them! Yeah, fear of a tweet caused many a GOP politico to shiver and shake in their boots and to hide under the cloak room table hoping that they would not face the wrath of Herr Trump.

Trump's base (the ones whom Hilary Clinton rightfully called "deplorables") chose Donald Trump as their alter ego and champion of their resentments and their warrior in their hidden and not so hidden cultural warfare against all things not white.

Trump, smelling their fear of becoming a minority grouping in the year 2042, stoked those fears with his racialized hatred and his total ineptness of the ways and means of governance and how the Constitution works.

These are the policies and pronouncements his 74 million-plus voter base knew of and yet still desired; and were willing to have Trump do four more years of the same if it meant keeping them in power, helped along with the acquiescence of the spineless GOP leaders in the Senate:

- *lies about President Obama
- *destroying vital foreign relationship with allies
- * building a wall and lying that Mexico would pay for it
- * allowing the appointment of hundreds of conservative judges to the federal judiciary which could have the effect of decimating Affirmative Action and voting rights, income parity, saving the environment and equal rights under the law
- *castigating Muslims
- * bashing Black women as female dogs
- *making fun of the disabled
- *using his office to enrich himself and his family members
- *covering up his "crimes" in office to the point that he was impeached.
- *eradicating the guard rails that were in place to prevent overreaches by a President
- *favoring Vladimir Putin (his puppet master!) over US intelligence regarding Russian activity in corrupting US elections

- *pardoning or granting clemency to thugs, murderers, cons and swindlers
- *giving open cover and comfort to white hate and white nationalist groups
- *repeatedly speaking disparagingly of women and mocking them
- *a daily stream of lying and half truths tweets that were designed to sow seeds

Of discontent and chaos into both the culture of America and to call into question the pillars of what constitutes, truth

The above statements (and hundreds of others) were affirmed and ratified by millions of Trump voters as they are OK with them; and by their recent record turnout and vote for Trump, they wanted more of the same!

The crisis in America is not so much with Trump but with the America we know as our next-door neighbors who are willing to trash democracy if it means that white political power survives, and their economic hegemony can be sustained.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 3

prioritize our faith and just living out our purpose.

Perryman: Please describe your professional experience.

Whitman: Professionally, I've worked in higher ed. I would characterize myself as an educator and an advocate, especially for African-American and Latinx students, and as someone who's committed to changing my community through education.

Perryman: Talk a little bit about your roots that led to a faith-filled life and advocacy work in the educational system.

Whitman: I learned early on that education was the key to freedom, liberation and upward mobility. My maternal grandmother, my mom who only had a grade school education, and even my father, they wanted me to go as far as I could because they knew there was a time that they and other African Americans were unable to access that education.

Perryman: And, you're a product of the Black Church?

Whitman: I was born and raised in Guiding Light Church under Bishop James Ransey, my mom's first cousin. My dad is also a member of Warren AME Church and so I see that as my second church home growing up. I always tell people I was fortunate cause I got both sides. There's some good to that. I value my Pentecostal roots because that helped me understand how to strive towards the mark, that there is a mark! From my AME experience, I always loved the deep history, the culture and the call to social justice. That is what brought me currently to First Church of God. That's where I felt is the perfect marriage for me - that holiness, making sure my family places God first, but then also the call to social justice.

Perryman: Do you think that those values and your professional background qualify you more than anything else to be a member of Toledo City Council?

Whitman: Yes. It's interesting you said that. I was actually just reflecting on some things with others, and I don't think I have ... I call it an edge, but I think you can relate. You are given a discernment because some things have been purposed into me, especially to touch people's

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The US Department of Justice Fast Tracked Executions This Year to Get Some Extra Killing Done

Sojourner's Truth Staff

As President Donald Trump's days in the White House wind down, his administration is racing through a string of federal executions.

Five executions were scheduled after Election Day and before President-elect Joe Biden's 20 January inauguration - breaking with a 130-year-old precedent of pausing executions amid a presidential transition.

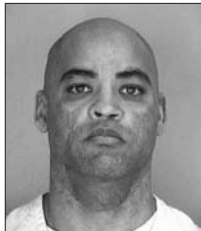
Trump will be the country's most prolific execution president in more than a century, overseeing the executions of 13 death row inmates since July of this year, including the following four Black men

Brandon Bernard, convicted of kidnapping and murder, was executed by lethal injection on December 10. Bernard, who is Black, was only 18 years old when he committed crimes that resulted in the deaths of a young white married couple in 1999. But five of the nine surviving jurors who supported the death penalty at the time now believe it is inappropriate. Even Angela Moore, the federal prosecutor who helped put Bernard on death row, wrote an op-ed in the Indianapolis Star making a case for why the federal government should let him live.



Brandon Bernard

"I always took pride in representing the United States as a federal prosecutor, and I think executing Brandon would be a terrible stain on the nation's honor," Moore wrote.



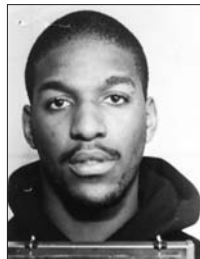
Alfred Bourgeois

During his time in prison, Bernard has been a model prisoner, mentoring at-risk youth. "Having learned so much since 2000 about the maturation of the human brain and having seen Brandon grow into a humble, remorseful adult fully capable of living peacefully in prison, how can we say he is among that tiny group of offenders who must be put to death?" Moore wrote.

Alfred Bourgeois was on death row for torturing and beating his two-year-old daughter

to death. He was executed on 11 December. An earlier execution date was stayed by a federal judge due to evidence from Bourgeois' legal team showing he had an intellectual disability. This ruling was overturned in October.

Cory Johnson was convicted for the murder of seven people, related to his involvement with the drug trade in Richmond, Virginia. Johnson's legal team has argued that he suffers from an intellec-



Cory Johnson

tual disability, related to physical and emotional abuse he experienced as a child. His execution is scheduled for 14 January.

Dustin John Higgs was convicted in the 1996 kidnapping and murder of three young women in the Washington, DC area. Higgs did not kill any of his victims. His co-defendant Willis Haynes did. The Justice Department argues that Higgs coerced his friend Haynes into committing the crime.



Dustin Higgs

But Haynes, who was sentenced to life in prison, confirmed through a signed affidavit that Higgs did not coerce him, saying, "the prosecution's theory of our case was bullshit. Dustin didn't threaten me. I was not scared of him. Dustin didn't make me do anything that night or ever."

On the Other Hand

Four Blackwater (a private security contractor) guards — **Nicholas Slatten, Paul Slough, Evan Liberty, and Dustin Heard** — were convicted by a federal jury in 2014 after a lengthy trial that saw some 30 witnesses travel from Iraq to testify against them. Prosecutors accused the men of illegally unleashing "powerful sniper fire, machine guns and grenade launchers on innocent men, women and children."

The jury found Nick Slatten guilty of first-degree murder, and three other guards (Slough, Liberty and Heard) guilty of all three counts of voluntary manslaughter and using a machine gun to commit a violent crime. On April 13, 2015, Slatten was sentenced to life in prison, while the other three guards were sentenced to 30 years in prison.

On August 4, 2017, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit overturned Slatten's murder conviction and ordered the other defendants to be re-sentenced. A new trial was also recommended for Slatten, on the grounds that it was unjustifiable to try him with his co-defendants, and that he should have been tried separately. In December 2018, Slatten was once again convicted of murder by a jury and on August 14, 2019, again sentenced to life in prison.

According to prosecutors, the four — White males — were among seven Blackwater employees who opened fire in the Nisour Square traffic circle in Baghdad, killing 17 people.



Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty, Nicholas Slatten, Paul Slough

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Perryman... continued from page 4

lives directly. And, in churches I've been in, I've been someone who's very involved in discipleship and outreach and that's where my gifts are, including leadership. I think that definitely plays into my role on council, but also to be humble. Part of leadership, as you know, is about humility. It's this constant back and forth between learning humility and then acting on what you've learned. So, definitely, my faith informs my leadership in that way.

Perryman: Did you receive all of your degrees from Ohio State?

Whitman: I did not. I received a bachelor's of history and African-American studies from Ohio State. My master's is in history with a concentration in African-American history. Then, my doctorate is a doctorate of education in Educational Leadership from Bowling Green State University.

Perryman: What issues are most pressing for the City of Toledo?

Whitman: There are some things that we need to focus on immediately. One is COVID-19 and making sure that we're doing all we can to ensure our citizens' health and safety, period.

But also, coming off of this summer is the need to focus on the issues we have within our community about investment and police. Really, for me, talking about Black Lives Matter and George Floyd, it's not even about a radical conversation, we're talking about people who are talking about basic needs, human rights and dignity.

So, those are some of the immediate things that we have to focus our attention on.

But, my specific areas of focus are wellness, especially for women and children. Wellness comes out of both my direct experiences and my community experiences as well. The second issue is youth investment. We need better infrastructure to ensure that our youth and young adults can thrive.

Another issue is economic opportunity, and that's across the board, not just with the black community. Obviously, with the recent announcement with Chrysler's expansion, that's big. But I would like to see more, across the board, whether we're talking about black, white, Latinx, communities; more middleclass families, and individuals with low to moderate income, they all need to be included in these economic expansion opportunities. Those are my three specific areas beyond the City's immediate focus.

Perryman: Infant mortality rates have skyrocketed here in Lucas County – especially for African Americans, but they're down elsewhere. Can you speak to that issue?

Whitman: Yes. There are so many racial and social factors that impact health. What we're seeing with COVID is that people also don't have access to jobs or transportation while having limited healthcare options. All of that affects the health of the mother and the health of the infant.

In Toledo, we have a lot of work to do in those areas because some of this stuff is not income-related. It exists because of systemic racism. The research has shown that Black women, regardless of education or income, are more likely to struggle in pregnancy or possibly lose their children during pregnancy.

Perryman: Why is Lucas County so high compared to others in Ohio?

Whitman: I think there has been a lack of investment here, especially when talking about Black children and African Americans. It points to a lack of investment, quality education, and quality healthcare. In north-west Ohio, Lucas County, we do have some issues. Still, there's systemic racism that is deep, and it's long prevented access to quality resources, and I emphasize quality. That's the issue. I think that's the issue here in Lucas County and Northwest Ohio.

Secondary to that, it's the infrastructure. I'll be honest. Especially when we talk about the mental health community, we have to improve the way our services are structured and ensure we're paying attention to culturally relevant services. That's so important.

Perryman: How do you compare the financial investments being made downtown to our neighborhoods' investment needs?

Whitman: What you will see, actually starting this year and what we are working with the administration in our budget, prioritizes our neighborhoods.

You are correct. There needs to be an equal investment. But here's the thing, so we need to prioritize our neighborhoods and private downtown investment like we have been; however, I think our downtown expansion investment is great. My point is that we need to ensure that the people who live in all our neighborhoods in Toledo can participate and be welcomed into these new endeavors downtown.

That simply could be that I'm walking downtown. In fact, that's where I go work out, downtown at the Y. If I want to go out at 6:00 or 7:00 in the

...continued on page 13

Department of Justice... continued from page 5

An FBI investigation found 14 of the deaths unjustified, according to rules of engagement for private security contractors in Iraq. Slatten was accused of firing the first shots.

Blackwater said its convoy came under attack, and defense attorneys said in court that witness accounts were fabricated. But witnesses testified that the contractors opened fire without provocation.

On December 22, 2020, all four convicted men received federal pardons from Trump.

The White House said their pardons were supported by a number of members of Congress along with Pete Hegseth, the conservative Fox News host who is an ally of the president.

The private security firm was founded by Erik Prince, the brother of Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos.

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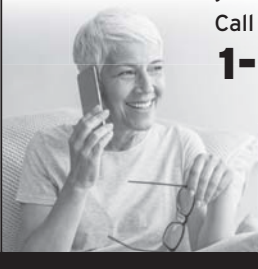
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Ken Spruce Returns, Reveals, Apologizes, Donates

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo native, and current Cincinnati resident, Ken Spruce was back in town this month to explain some past incidents that happened when he was an employee of the City of Toledo and also to present some information about a book he has penned about that part of his life. One such incident during the Mayor Jack Ford administration, he related, has been a closely held "secret" over the past decade and a half.

As Spruce explained, during a press conference he held at The Truth Art Gallery, while he was working for Ford, as manager of Business Retention/Expansion in the City Department of Economic & Community Development, he was asked by the mayor to do some business "reconnaissance work on behalf of his administration."

As a result of his reconnaissance, Spruce compiled a report for the mayor concluding that businesses were abandoning Toledo for the suburbs for a variety of reasons: abundant real estate, a more upscale environment, proximity to customers, additional financial assistance, better telephone/internet capacity, better public safety and the inattentiveness of City of Toledo officials.

That report, said Spruce at his conference, was never publicly revealed – a "secret" for the past 14 years.

"The city of Toledo was a major city when I was growing up ... there were six Fortune 500 companies within the boundaries when I was growing up in the 50's," he said as he began detailing the downward spiral that Toledo has undergone in population and relative wealth that began in the latter half of the 20th century. "Toledo has lost one third of its population – it has been declining."

Spruce, an educator and political scientist, had been living in Atlanta when Ford became mayor. He had relocated there in the early 1990s when he was accepted into the PhD program at Clark Atlanta University. Over the course of that decade, he would work his way up the educational ladder – assistant professor, associate professor and then, a professor with tenure. Ford, he said, lured him back to his hometown in 2002, at the start of his term in office.

In 2004, however, after Spruce had completed his report, he was involved in a domestic dispute with his then wife. He was arrested and held on domestic violence, assault charges as he attempted to protect the report he had compiled from being destroyed during the altercation.

In more recent times, Spruce has written a book, soon to be released, titled I Apologize.



Ken Spruce

"I want to apologize to my wife, to Jack Ford, to the City of Toledo," he said. "I never reached my potential here. I have not fulfilled the potential that God has instilled in me. My aspiration was to be the first black mayor of the City of Toledo.

Spruce, however, did make note of some of the accomplishments here in Toledo that he is proud of. Former Mayor Donna Owens appointed to her administration; he was named in 1984 as the Lucas County co-chairman of the Jesse Jackson campaign for president; his work in this area has been cited by two other academicians in their books. Now, upon his return, he is donating all his personal, professional and political papers for safekeeping to the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

Spruce is now president of UMOJA Publishing & Speechmaking Company, in which he serves as a literary agent, writing consultant and financial assistant.

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Traditional Holiday Photos

Carla Thomas / Owner CYT Images
The Truth Contributor

I don't want to end this holiday photo series without taking a look at traditional, in-studio holiday photos.

For centuries, there have only been two colors associated with Christmas; green and red, and most photos were traditionally taken in front of a Christmas tree while dressed in traditional holiday attire.

These days, we are not bound by traditions and choose to take holiday photos in ways that express our unique style and personality. There are no limits to the colors we incorporate when choosing our outfits, or holiday décor, and we no longer restrict ourselves to in-studio sessions.

However, traditional holiday photos will never grow old so what better way to showcase festive, holiday fashion than with a photo shoot dressed in deep scarlet reds, surrounded by emerald greens and gold, against a stark white backdrop.

Meet Larisa Burton, Artist/Founder of "Art by Larisa 4 You" and her four-year-old daughter Liv.

Photos, in general, represent how our family has grown over the years so why not make holiday photos a part of your family tradition?

Larisa says, "As I've gotten older, the things I want for the holidays can't be bought. Having my own little family now, I enjoy keeping family traditions alive and keeping the true meaning of Christmas in my heart, God and family."

The idea is to always have fun while capturing your memories and as I close out this series, I hope I was able to impress upon you the value of capturing your family memories regardless of the time of year as well as offer you some photo inspiration and ideas.

Be sure to visit www.cytimages.com or email info@cytimages.com when you're ready to plan your next photo session!



Larisa Burton and her daughter Liv



Annual Christmas Price Index Reflects Pandemic's Economic Impacts

Special to The Truth

In a year marked by unprecedented shocks to the economy, PNC's 37th annual Christmas Price Index (CPI) accounts for the pandemic's impact on the cost of purchasing presents from the classic holiday song, "The 12 Days of Christmas."

A lighthearted take on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Price Index, which measures the average change in prices for goods and services over time, the PNC version applies analysis to procuring "True Love's" 12 gifts. This year's index includes adjustments for the reality that many live performances have been cancelled.

PNC calculated the 2020 price tag for the PNC Christmas Price Index at just \$16,168.10, a considerable decrease of \$22,825.45 or -58.5% over last year's cost, with a third of the items literally not available for purchase this year.

"In response to these unusual times, we took a non-traditional view in calculating the Christmas Price Index," said Amanda Agati, chief investment strategist for The PNC Financial Services Group. "The biggest impact has been for live performances, which are mostly unavailable. While some performing arts groups are engaging through virtual presentations, it's a silent night at most symphonies and the lights have dimmed on many dance companies, as reflected in this year's significant drop in PNC's CPI data."

The annual tradition also includes calculating the "True Cost of Christmas," which is the total cost of items when repeating all the song's verses.

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... continued on page 9



Top Gifts to Show Appreciation for Teachers

Special to The Truth

When it comes to showing teachers appreciation for all that they do, a personal gift is always appreciated. However, sometimes what they really want is the proper tools to help them in the classroom.

Teachers spent an average of \$745 on supplies during the 2019-2020 school year, according to an AdoptaClassroom.org survey, much of which was out of their own pockets, and nearly half of all teachers said their spending has increased since distance learning began.

So, if you are thinking about giving gifts to the teachers in your life, skip the apple and consider these useful items instead:

1. With a built-in learning system and a portable frame, Casio keyboards are a good choice for music educators. Some models even have lighting key systems, making it easy for teachers to demonstrate proper finger placement while practicing social distancing.

... continued on page 13

Price Index... continued from page 8

Purchasing all 364 gifts will require \$105,561.80, which means that spreading cheer throughout 2020 costs 38% less than in 2019, given the exclusion of live performances.

For the full report, along with lessons consumers can learn from the pandemic's economic impact, visit, pnc.com.

2020 has been anything but conventional for consumers, the markets and the economy, and this year's Christmas Price Index most notably highlights the change with a season of silence for many live performers.

Courtesy StatePoint

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A Look at The Toledo Black Agenda

A wide range of leaders in Toledo's Black community have joined forces to put together a report on the challenges facing that community in six critical areas.

The report, *The Toledo Black Agenda*, a months-long project in the making, examines historic obstacles and current challenges in the areas of criminal justice, economic development, education, housing, health, workforce development.

The community leaders and experts were assembled by Lisa McDuffie, CEO of YWCA of Northwest Ohio and Robin Reese, CEO of Lucas County Children Services.

Now Toledo's Black Agenda will be made available to local government agencies, along with a host of private and public companies and entities in order to gather community-wide support for the demands and suggestions proposed in the report.

We are printing excerpts from the report over the next few weeks. The following is an excerpt from the third pillar – the Education Pillar

The entire report can be read online at thetruthtoledo.com

PART III: THE EDUCATION PILLAR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Achieving quality education has been a struggle for Black Americans in this country since its inception. However, we have seen glimpses of historical references that highlight the tenacity, necessity, and achievement of great strides dating back to educational leaders such as Fannie Jackson Coppin, Mary McLeod Bethune, Anna Julia Cooper, and the seminal *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Education is the only organizational system in the United States that touches and has the propensity to touch every American citizen. Therefore, it is pertinent in 2020, and beyond, that education be examined in its totality in the education of Black children considering the current political climate and Black Lives Matter movement. Black Americans continue to receive low quality education (opportunity/achievement gap, lower standardized test scores) in comparison to their White counterparts (Watson & McClellan, 2020). The juxtaposition of education when comparing Black students with other students of comparable housing, parental education level, and parental income shows disparate

discrepancy and are interconnected with American historical practices of systemic housing discrimination and segregated education (Delpit, 2012). Comparable statistics and circumstances levels out when controlling for systemic racism. Therefore, we posit that when systemic racism is addressed in totality, there will be an increase in academic achievement, improvement of school culture, increased parental engagement, and other contributing factors that will sustain neighborhoods, communities, and localities.

CONTEXTUAL STATISTICS

The statistics are very important in an effort to contextualize the state of residents while offering a snapshot of the complexity of the responsibility of school districts as well as the municipalities in which the residents reside. As stated, education as a system touches every American and every resident in Toledo, however, it must be noted that statistics such as poverty rates and housing valuation has a disparate impact on educational attainment and the resources allocated to achieve optimal levels of education.

Toledo Residents

In 2018-2019, the city of Toledo had approximately 274,973 residents. Of that 27.1% are Black, 74,242. Toledo's population is declining between 1-3% annually. The median household income in Toledo in 2018 was \$35,339, for Black Toledo residents, the median household income was \$21,788, whereas the states median household income was \$54,021. Toledo has poverty rate of 26.5%, whereas 37% of Black Toledo residents are living in poverty. The median home value in Toledo in 2018 was \$78,400 whereas the states median home value was \$144,200 (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/toledocityohio>).

12% of Toledo residents have a bachelor's degree

.8% of Toledo residents have a doctorate degree

32.6% of Toledo residents have a high school diploma/GED equivalent

In the greater Toledo area, there are approximately 40,000 students enrolled in public and parochial schools. Of that TPS, the 4th largest urban school district in Ohio enrolls 23,166 students whereas 13,056

... continued on page 11

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Toledo Black Agenda... continued from page 10

are enrolled in parochial and approximately 3,583 enrolled in early literacy/pre-K programs. TPS has a 65% minority population with Black students comprising 44%, totalling 10,251 students. TPS as a district has 85% economically distressed population with Black students comprising 45%, totalling 9,044. (<https://sites.google.com/a/tps.org/tps-data-dashboard/>)

The greater Toledo area also has robust parochial school system. Approximately 13,056 are enrolled in local parochial schools. Of that population, approximately 31% are minority and mostly Black. The actual data set on Black students in parochial schools is an estimate because of varying reporting mechanisms in contrast to public data set required by local public-school districts. However, approximately 85% of the minority students that attend parochial schools use the EdChoice voucher program provided through State of Ohio Department of Education. The voucher program allocates approximately \$4,650 towards parochial school tuition and fees. The voucher does not cover 100% tuition and fees. This allocation which is normally ascribed to local school districts is reduced by the number of students that exit the public-school system.

However, the local school district, TPS in this matter is still responsible for transportation and servicing of IEP's of students that reside in their district with no increase in allocation of state budget. Therefore, TPS is strained financially while still adhering to state mandates to service all students that reside in their district regardless of those students attend a TPS school. A common practice and mandated by the state are that TPS school counselors are servicing students in parochial school districts by overseeing the management of IEP and 504 documentation in conjunction with TPS providing transportation to and from parochial schools. It can be asserted that parochial schools are being subsidized by the state via TPS which in sum strains an economically distressed district.

The state data shows for the area states that 14% of all students have a learning disability, requiring a IEP or 504. These students have a 72% graduation rate. These statistics encapsulate the local area. However, the data is unclear and unavailable regarding educational attainment, educational success, diversity, cultural competence or anti-racism that encompasses the educational experience within parochial schools. Therefore our recommendations for educating Black students in Toledo ALL educating entities that are responsible for or have taken responsibility for educating Black students..

The Importance of Quality Pre-K

Research demonstrates that the early years (birth through age five) are among the most important phases for children's cognitive and social development. Preschool programs have been shown to improve outcomes for young children throughout their lives. Accordingly, Pre-K programs are among our most effective public investments: research shows an economic return of up to \$8.90 per dollar invested in Pre-K programs.

Half the nation's largest cities raise local funds dedicated to improving quality and/or access to Pre-K. All the major citywide Pre-K programs we examined during our research operate based on a public funding mechanism. Funding has chiefly been drawn from new sales taxes, city funds, school levies, or property taxes. Successful programs have

a number of characteristics in common, including creating high quality settings to drive positive outcomes; ensuring access to high quality care; creating Pre-K to grade 3 alignment; engaging partners to ensure a successful mixed-delivery system; ensuring a system of continuous improvement; building in flexibility as the program evolves; focusing on service coordination; and instituting effective outreach practices

Access to Quality Pre-K in Toledo

Toledo is home to about 4,000 4-year olds. Nearly 40% of these children live under the federal poverty level (FPL), which is only \$25,100 for a family of 4, and 80% are in families under 200% of FPL. In 2018 only 18% of children, across the city, entered kindergarten "ready to learn" based on district Kindergarten readiness assessments. Families with low incomes constantly struggle to afford the high cost of child-care, particularly high quality care, which includes a strong component of early learning curriculum-led instruction. While existing funding sources are an important part of the current early childcare education (ECE) system, they are not sufficient to help all families access child care that goes beyond safe and affordable care to provide quality early education that prepares their children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Significant support for childcare in Toledo already exists, including publicly funded programs, philanthropies, and community organizations. Current funding totals about \$27.5 million for 3- and 4-year olds, most of which derives from federal sources funneled through the state to local agencies. We estimate, however, the total cost to serve 3- and 4-year olds in high quality care would be \$60 million. Thus, less than half the total need is currently being met. The city contains enough licensed center and family home child care slots – about 8,400 – to serve all 3- and 4- year olds. However, most of these slots are not high quality, which is defined as 3-, 4-, or 5-star ratings in the Ohio Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) system. We estimate that about 40% of these slots will be in high quality settings in late 2020. This proportion is likely to grow over time, as the state's quality rating regulations require all licensed providers to be rated at least 3 stars in the SUTQ program by 2025. The implication for a new Pre-K program is that by 2025 all childcare providers in the city may meet the new programs quality requirements, thus providing enough quality-rated slots to serve all likely participants. However, funding will need to expand to keep pace with the number of available slots.

... continued on page 13

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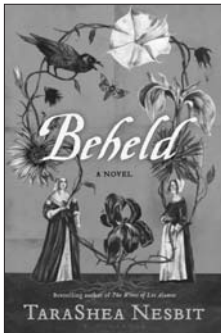
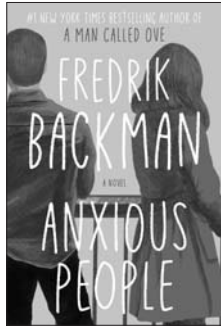
The Best Books of 2020

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You've got a little extra time this month, and you don't want to waste it. You want to read something good, the possibilities are endless, and the best place to begin is with these Best Books of 2020 titles...

FICTION:

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman starts out kind of weird, as if it consists of half-thoughts. Stick around a few more pages, though, and you'll be rewarded with a hilarious, sweet, wild tale of a robbed bank, a real estate open house, and heart. Put this at the top of your list, if you love novels.

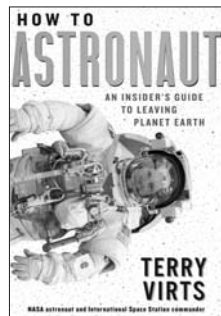
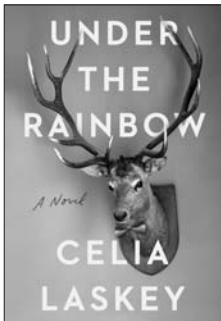


Both **Beheld** by TaraShea Nesbit and **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue** by V.E. Schwab involve women in situations that are dark and dangerous: In the Nesbit book, a Pilgrim village holds secrets that are not discussed, and the wife of the town troublemaker knows too much. In the Schwab novel, a headstrong young woman makes a decision she might regret for the rest of her very long life. There's a hint of feminism in both books, and they'll both give you shivers for months after you finish them.

Fans of thrillers will eat up **The Last Flight** by Julie Clark, a tale of an abusive husband, swapped identities, and murder – or maybe not. If you like heart-pounding cat-and-mouse tales, this is your book... only here, you sometimes don't know which is the cat and there's an extra, menacing mouse.



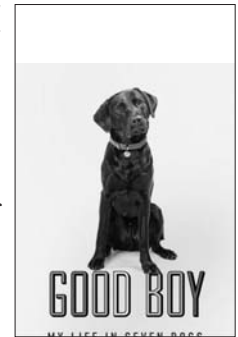
A wide, sweeping experiment in tolerance is at the heart of **Under the Rainbow** by Celia Laskey. Acceptance Across America, an LG-BTQ organization, is about to see if they can change the hearts and minds of bigots in Small-Town America by moving a handful of gay men and lesbians to Big Burr, Kansas. This novel, told from the POV of the town's residents, is full of humor, love, secrets, haters, strife, and everything else you want in a novel.



NONFICTION:
How to Astronaut: Everything You Need to Know Before Leaving Earth by Terry Virts is

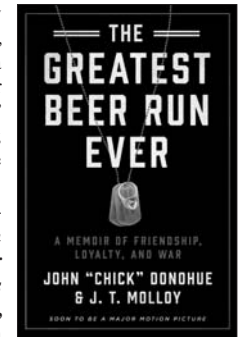
fun and lighthearted, and will put you back in touch with your inner child, the one that really wanted to grow up to be an astronaut. It's filled with inside information, fun facts, a bit of memoir, and it's timely. Space Force, anyone?

Pet lovers absolutely should not miss **Good Boy** by Jennifer Finney Boylan, a memoir of life and family told in seven dogs that Boylan lived with and loved. What lands this book on the list is that Boylan will make you reminisce about all the Good Boys (and Girls) you've loved and lost, too.

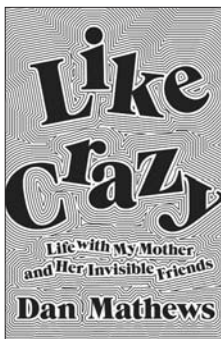


Speaking of books that make you think, **We're Better Than This: My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy** by Elijah Cummings with James Dale is the perfect book to read at the end of a tough political year. Written literally as Cummings was dying, this book is full of calming words that can help heal. If you feel beaten up by the past few months, this book is a balm for your soul.

While **The Greatest Beer Run Ever: A Memoir of Friendship, Loyalty, and War** by John "Chick" Donohue & J.T. Molloy may seem like a romp, it's much more. Back when Donohue was a merchant seaman, he volunteered to take a beer to each of the hometown neighborhood "boys" in Vietnam. Finding them was half the problem; war was the other half. This is the consummate buddy book, and it can't be missed.

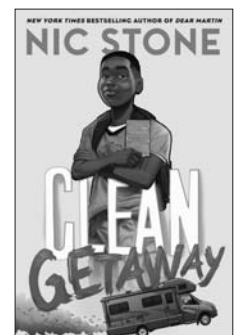


Anyone who's a sucker for a good Mother-and-Child book will love **Like Crazy: Life with My Mother and Her Invisible Friends** by Dan Mathews, who renovated a Victorian house and moved his mentally-ill, elderly mother in with him. She's charming and funny, but she's also a handful. Read it. Bring tissues. Enough said.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Readers shouldn't be surprised that two of this year's Best of books are from author Nic Stone. First, **Clean Getaway** is the story of a young boy whose grandmother takes him on a cross-country tour of places that held meaning for her – but there's more than just a "tour" involved in this great middle-grade novel. Then, older teens will love **Stone's Dear Justice**, a story told in letters from a young man in prison to his friend, who



... continued on page 13

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Top Gifts... continued from page 9

2. From hand sanitizer to disinfecting wipes, some of the essentials needed for keeping a classroom hygienic are in short supply these days. These basics may not be glamorous, but they will help keep teachers and their students happy and healthy.

3. The latest models of projectors offer features that far exceed their predecessors of even just a few years ago and are an invaluable tool for those teaching on site this year. In some cases, it only takes one click to enable teachers and students to delve right into the material. With Casio classroom projectors, wireless features allow educators to efficiently project their own display or select a student's device to facilitate safe and socially distanced moderation and discussion.

4. These days, a good pair of noise-cancelling headphones with a high-quality microphone can help ensure that a teacher's words are heard loud and clear and that nothing distracts them while conducting class over video chat.

5. Math teachers can gift themselves new tools by simply visiting Casio Cares at casioeducation.com, a site providing free support, software and math lessons for K through 12, along with a free web-based calculation tool that includes graphing, geometry and statistics functionality.

Teachers are working harder than ever to provide high-quality education to students, and brand new challenges are cropping up every day. Consider finding ways to show your appreciation for their efforts which can actually help them do their job.

Courtesy StatePoint

Toledo Black Agenda... continued from page 11

CONCLUSION

Toledo's young children have high needs and poverty is endemic throughout city. Every major city in Ohio, and a growing number of cities across the country, now have a publicly funded Pre-K program. Investing in pre-school is recognized as a non-partisan investment with long-term educational, social, and economic benefits. Moreover, new programs can build upon a firm research base to develop best practices for success. This is an ideal time for Toledo to pursue this landmark education milestone.

A recommended potential program model assumes an estimated program budget of \$7 million. Tuition credits comprise about 75% of the program budget and the remaining percentage covers quality improvement and supports; evaluation and data support; outreach and marketing; and management and administration. The total program costs assume around 1,000 eligible participants in each age cohort (i.e., age 3 or age 4) at the start of the program, increasing over an eight-year period as more high quality preschool slots become available.

A "universal access" to Pre-K program focused on high-quality care to 4-year olds in Toledo is financially feasible within the proposed funding amount and would have a great positive community and economic impact in both the short term and the long term.

Perryman... continued from page 6

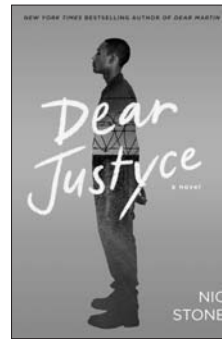
morning, my husband and me, I don't want to be afraid that someone's going to stop us or something's going to happen to us because of us being Black down there. Are we going to be able to see people across all kinds of races, be able to be down there? We can and should have jobs and economic opportunities come downtown. I'm just trying to get people to understand that we have to make sure that people from all of our neighborhoods can participate in those economic opportunities.

Perryman: If you received a \$2 million grant to use for the city for any purposes, how would you choose to use it and why?

Whitman: I would invest accordingly into what I told you my three focus areas are. I think you could never go wrong investing in your future, never. That would be one, and then two, reinvesting to make sure we multiply the businesses we're bringing here and the businesses we're developing here. Also, what I've seen in other cities just in my own research, is that we have to diversify the business we have here. When you look at Pittsburgh or other places, like Grand Rapids, they are really doing some bold things, and we have to do the same thing here. And again, I think you can never go wrong in investing in your citizens' health and wellness. If you don't, it can cause a national tragedy. COVID-19 is a national tragedy that we always seem to be the leaders of the free world and, yet we could not, with all our wealth and our resources, do what we needed to do to keep everyone safe and healthy.

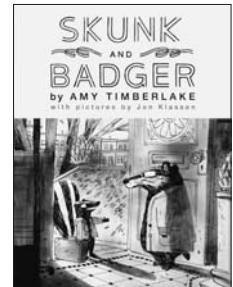
Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

Best Books... continued from page 12



chose another life path.

And finally, eight-to-12-year-olds will absolutely adore **Skunk and Badger** by Amy Timberlake, with pictures by Jon Klassen. It's the story of Badger, an introvert, who allows Skunk, a definitely outgoing soul, to move in to his quiet house as a favor to Badger's Aunt Lula. Kids will love the humor in this book, as the two of them learn to adjust to one another's peccadilloes and become



friends. Hint: you'll love it, too.

And there you have it: a baker's dozen of can't-miss reads to get you through the winter. Season's Readings!

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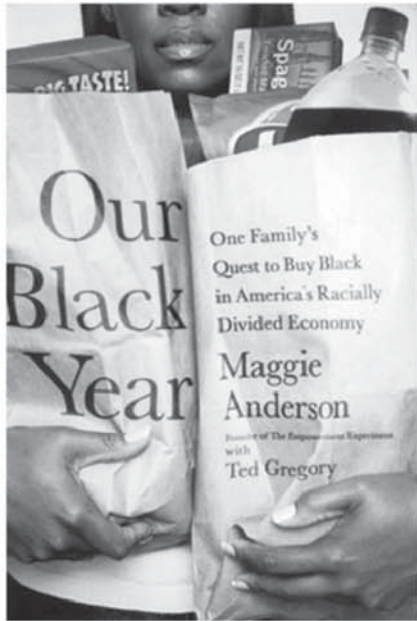
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CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

When: Every 4th Sunday
 Time: 11:00 am
 Where: Crusaders for Christ Church
 910 Woodbine Rd.
 Toledo, Ohio



Evangelist Tiffany Reynolds
 Bishop Joseph Mitchell Jr., Pastor
 Evangelist Laketa Mitchell, Pastor Jack

 Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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FREE JOB TRAINING - Earn your Manufacturing Skill Standards Council CERTIFIED PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN certificate in 8 weeks. Classes start January 25th (9am-1pm Mon - Fri). Call Sue at 419-243-9178 for more information or to register.

RFQ BUILDING ENVELOPE/ WEATHERPROOFING PROJECT

Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Hire an Architect/Engineer (A/E), Inquiry # FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232. The University of Toledo intends to retain professional services for the Building Envelope/Weatherproofing Project. Project Construction Cost: \$2,000,000. Please mail your response to The University of Toledo, Attn: Lise' Konecny, RFQ FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232, MS 216, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or bring directly to the University of Toledo, Plant Operations, Room 1060, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. DATE: Friday, January 15, 2021, TIME: 2:30 p.m. All questions and inquiries can be emailed directly to robert.waddle@utoledo.edu. For a copy of the RFQ visit our Construction Website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/facilities/construction/> or <http://ofcc.ohio.gov> Please reference Inquiry # FY21-30, Project #1130-21-232, Building Envelope/Weatherproofing Project on the outside of envelope and include 6 (six) copies and 1 (one) electronic copy of the SF 330 Form with your response.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



PUBLIC NOTICE

2ND SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2015-2019 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.05(c)(2) and subpart B of the federal regulations relative to citizen participation for Community Planning and Development Programs and applicable waivers made available to those requirements through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the City of Toledo (COT) is making a 2nd amendment to the 2015-2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan available to the public through this notice.

Public Comment Period and Process:

The Consolidated Plan amendment will be available for review beginning **Friday, January 8, 2021**, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/neighborhoods>

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority
435 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasmha.org

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayor>

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1946 N. 13th Street, Suite 437
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness.toledo.ohio.gov

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

A public hearing on the 2nd Substantial Amendment to the 2015-2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan is scheduled as follows:

Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/85987681908>

This Consolidated Plan amendment will also be available for a 5-day public review and comment period from **Monday, January 11, 2021 to Friday, January 15, 2021**. Citizens wishing to submit written comments during the public review and comment period may mail them, postmarked no later than **Friday, January 15, 2021**, to the following:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
2nd SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2015-2019 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

You may also email comments no later than **Friday, January 15, 2021** to Monica Brown, Admin. Analyst IV, at monica.brown@toledo.oh.gov.

Amendment:

This is a 2nd amendment to the 2015-2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the COT to enable the COT to receive \$1,526,505.00 in Community Development Block Grant-CV (CDBG-CV) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Additional CDBG funding made available to the COT by HUD through the CARES Act is unknown as this time but will be used for the same purpose of the initial allocations indicated above which is to prevent, prepare, or respond to the spread of Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) and facilitate assistance to eligible agencies, households, and persons economically impacted by COVID-19. In addition, the COT may reprogram recaptured FY 2019-2020 CDBG funding as needed to respond to COVID-19.

Eligible CDBG activities include, but are not limited to, assisting low- and moderate-income households with mortgage assistance for no more than 6 months and support of other COVID-19 response services.

Further, eligible CDBG costs incurred as of March 1, 2020, and paid for with nonfederal funds may be repaid with CDBG funding, including those made under the CARES Act. These pre-award costs will meet all HUD requirements applicable to CDBG, including those under the CARES Act. Unless waived by HUD, CDBG pre-award costs for FY 2020-2021 will not exceed 25% of the grant and will be used for the CDBG-eligible activities as indicated above.

Public notices regarding future amendments to the Consolidated Plan will be printed in local newspapers and posted online on the COT's website at www.toledo.oh.gov.

Lastly, in the 1st amendment, the COT revised the Consolidated Plan's Citizen Participation Plan to include the 5-day comment period as indicated above as well as to make other changes. The revised Citizen Participation Plan will be available for review on the COT's website at: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/neighborhoods/fiscal-monitoring>.

Background on the Consolidated Plan:

The Consolidated Plan describes the housing and community development needs, as well as activities to address those needs, as defined and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As required by HUD, the Consolidated Plan brings together, in one (1) consolidated submission, the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs. More information on the Consolidated Plan is available on the COT's website at: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/neighborhoods>.

For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Monica Brown, Admin. Analyst IV, Department of Neighborhoods at monica.brown@toledo.oh.gov.

A Year in Photos

On January 29, 2020, entrepreneur Pete Kadens held a student/parent meeting in the fieldhouse at Scott High School to announce that he would be paying for the college or vocational training school education for all 2020 graduating seniors and for one of each student's parents. The room exploded in cheering and sobbing.

Not much else went right during the rest of the year ...
Until November 3!!



Stacey Abrams ... Kingmaker



Pete Kadens and Scott senior Nathaniel Mitcham



Duluth, MN George Floyd protest



Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and nieces



Kyle Rittenhouse on his way to kill two BLM protestors



Boogaloo Bois in Lansing



YMCA's Eric Williams and Buffalo Soldier Earl Mack organize meal donations at start of pandemic shutdown



Rudy Giuliani leading the Trump effort to overturn the election



State Rep. Lisa Sobocki, State Rep Paula Hicks-Hudson, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken demanding ballot access



Waite High School graduation ceremony



Kamala



Petee Talley and Erika White at Save UTMC rally



George Floyd murder protests