

The Sojourner's Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

March 17, 2021

A New City Parks Plan



Councilwoman Cecelia Adams Introduces a Possible Gamechanger for City Parks

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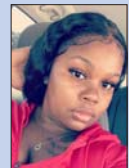
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On Race and Law Enforcement

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

The Truth Contributor

My experience as a state and federal prosecutor puts me in a unique position to authoritatively opine about the intersection between race and law enforcement.

- Marisa Darden



With last week's senate confirmation of Merrick Garland as attorney general, President Joe Biden's focus turns to strengthening the U.S. Justice Department. The first order of business includes replacing federal prosecutors appointed by Trump.

Biden plans to install approximately 56 of 93 total U.S. Attorneys who will serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of Garland.

Attorney Marisa Darden is in the running to be the next U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio where she has deep ties to Toledo, Sandusky and Cleveland. If appointed, Darden will coordinate investigations involving federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. She will work at the direction of Attorney General Merrick Garland to achieve policy objectives that reform our criminal justice system by addressing racial, gender, and income-based disparities.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Attorney Marisa Darden by including insights on criminal justice reform from her prism as a Black woman within the U.S. Justice Department.

We Must Do Better Than Hasty Police Reforms

History will remind us of May 25, 2020; the day a police officer killed George Floyd, sparking a reckoning with policing, and igniting a broader conversation about white privilege and the value of Black people and individuals of color in this country.

Many are beginning to acknowledge what Black people have known for centuries: We cannot afford to lose another life at the hands of law enforcement and institutional racism; criminal justice reform is vital and urgent; and perhaps America's policing strategy has not caused Americans to actually be safer.

In the last few weeks, legislators and leaders have raced to acknowledge the moment, and with the best of intentions, enacted and proposed reforms. However, this once-in-a-generation opportunity cannot be squandered by hastily drafted bills, rushed changes and police reforms that are not sensible, do not support the basic mission of protecting citizens, and most importantly, do not include relevant stakeholders, like the police, at the negotiating table.

As a state and federal prosecutor under both the Obama and Trump administrations, I have had the pleasure and honor of working side by side with law enforcement who work tirelessly every day, often without thanks, to make their communities safer. And yet, the stains of slavery are woven into the fabric of American society, and permeate policing and the criminal justice system in a way that have exacerbated other inequalities Black Americans

endure.

The net effect is that even the best officers, and the best prosecutors, are complicit in a structure that is designed to disproportionately punish people of color for their actions, making their lives, and their livelihood, vulnerable. As a Black woman, navigating these spaces and wrestling with their inherent tension became, frankly, demoralizing.

I found myself frequently asking the same question – what can we do about it?

Like all relationships, it's complicated. There are approximately 18,000 independent police departments across the United States, all with relative autonomy. These are separate and distinct from federal law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, etc., that enforce federal laws and serve a wholly different function than local forces. Thus, a one-size-fits-all approach will not suffice, and lumping all "police" together squanders the opportunity to make lasting change.

Similarly, focusing solely on police strategy feels timely, but radically changing how we prosecute cases originating from those arrests can make a similarly lasting impact. Most prosecutorial reforms do not require legislation, but simply the will of locally elected officials and/or policy changes from within the U.S. Department of Justice at the federal level.

Based on some of the proposals permeating the conversation, below are a few broad suggestions stakeholders and leaders should consider before pushing through any systemic changes or legislation.

Focus Federal Legislation on Demilitarizing Local Police

There are several bills currently pending in Congress, crafted in the wake of Floyd's death. They are broad, expansive and seek to address several categories of reforms.

Some are challenging to enact, given the federal government's limited jurisdictional authority over state and local police, which would be tied to acceptance of federal funding. That is a powerful carrot, but is less effective at altering local forces' day-to-day tactics.

One issue the federal government can immediately fix is to stop the U.S. Department of Defense from transferring military-grade weapons and supplies to local police departments. In 2014, the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a series of protests and public clashes with police. During the uprising, the images of the Ferguson Police Department's armored tank rolling down the main thoroughfare were disturbing and invoked an eerie feeling of foreign occupation. Ferguson has less than 25,000 residents. Why does it own a tank?

In the 1990s, Congress authorized the military to provide surplus equipment to local authorities. Police departments large and small received armored vehicles, battering rams, explosives, grenade launchers and other weapons-grade equipment. Though some supplies likely make sense to provide, a full ban on transferring unreasonable battlefield equipment would go a long way toward demilitarizing local police, and encouraging community policing, which emphasizes personal engagement over forceful, militaristic interactions with constituents.

Ask Local Elected Prosecutors the Hard Questions and Demand Accountability

Most cities have an elected district attorney or prosecutor who is responsible for evaluating police arrests and making charging decisions regarding

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Marisa Darden

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Jim Crow Still Flying High

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

If you are still a dues paying member of the "America Is Color Blind" club, the director of memberships will be calling you about an astronomical hike in dues.

And if you can't pay it or successfully fight the increase, your membership will be terminated and you will be asked to return your rose-colored lens glasses.

After the recent national elections and especially in The State of Georgia which went from red (GOP) to blue (Democratic), the Jim Crow crowd (now composed of GOP members) that populate the Georgia House and Senate went apoplectic when they lost both the presidency and both US Senate seats.

So, following unwritten protocol and with a nod to their sordid racial history, The Jim Crow crowd called an emergency meeting and announced to the whole world that unless they bring this out of hand Black and Brown voting under control, they were in dire danger of losing future elections.

The Jim Crow boys know that the power of the ballot box can make you or break you and by golly, they were not about to be broken by hordes of Black and Brown people flipping presidential chairs and US Senate seats.

If there is one thing Jim Crow learned when he was flying free in the wind since post slavery, it is that you cannot afford to have "others" who do not look like you, vote and vote as a block.

Jim Crow knows that if you have had to reluctantly give up the whip and the lynching tree (Ahhh...those were the good 'ol days when black folks knew their place!) to intimidate the black vote, then you gotta update your stratagems ... and what better place than the voting booth!

If you craft your argument and language exactly right, you can circumvent those pesky voting rights laws and so bedevil the black voter, that he or she will throw in the towel and trust good governance to the goodwill of white people.

Jim Crow knows how to put on a show. Why, Jim Crow would argue with a straight face that what he is doing is for the good of the state and that his proposals will ensure the integrity of the ballot box.

And you know what? Jim Crow and his best buds are winging it in over 40 other states that are also sponsoring hundreds of bills that affect voting rights.

All of these Jim Crow highflyers looked around the nation and saw that they were facing the same problem with their "colored" voters: up-pity and willing to upset the political apple cart.

No matter that there were no findings of any significant voter fraud in the recent elections. No matter that over 60 court cases have been filed in the federal and state courts alleging voter irregularities and that all the judges in those courts ruled that the presented evidence had no merit.

No matter that in certain states, recounts were done and redone and with the same finding...no voter fraud!

So, what does a principled Jim Crow person do in those situations? Simple!: You lie and lie again and repeat the same lie over and over and when you are called upon to prove it, you say, "Why, everybody knows it!"

Jim Crow's America is making no pretense of their intentions to thwart the power of the Black and Brown voter.

I am surprised that Jim Crow has not simply come out and stated to the world that people of color in America are still second-class citizens when it comes to full-fledged citizenship.

Jim Crow's best bud, former president Donald Trump, worked up a fever pitch lying to America about voter fraud and his political hacks and goons reiterated the same slimy lies, and it worked!

White America is in a tizzy about garroting the black vote but they must do it in very circumspect terms or they run the risk of engaging in racist behavior (Yes, it is racist behavior!) and stand to lose some white liberals and moderates as their allies.

Instead of accepting the recent election results as the will of the people (remember: in the US Constitution, Blacks were regarded as three-fifths of a person!), the Jim Crow element wants a return to an America where they do not have to always worry about Black and Brown people out voting them; and thus getting access to what they have exclusively enjoyed for hundreds of years – privilege, power and the perks of full citizenship.

So, if you forgot everything about America's sordid racial history and its pathetic protection of the voting rights of its fellow citizens, remember this: Jim Crow is alive and well and will be soon visiting a polling booth near you.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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EUGENE F. KRANZ

TOLEDO EXPRESS

AIRPORT

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Working Together, the Lead-Safe Ordinance Will Save Lives

By Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Guest Column

2021 has brought new challenges, adding to an already long fight for Toledoans to keep our city's upward trajectory on the right course. In the three years before COVID-19, Site Selection Magazine ranked Toledo third in the nation for economic development among mid-sized cities (and we were just recently named number one for 2020); we were the fourth best city in the United States for manufacturing jobs according to Kemplar Industries; and the Associated General Contractors of America described ours as the fifth-fastest growing construction job market in the country.

We accomplished many goals during my first three years as mayor. I witnessed Toledoans enthusiastically unite to tackle our challenges. Securing long-term, affordable rates for water, stepping up to the plate to identify the real cause of the algal blooms poisoning Lake Erie, and as of October 20, 2020, we finally approved the Lead-Safe Ordinance: a plan to reduce the risk of childhood lead poisoning in our city and its most vulnerable neighborhoods.

One of the easiest first steps we can all take to address the dangers of lead poisoning is to understand how to identify it, the health risks it poses, and which groups are particularly susceptible to exposure. The majority of our housing stock was built before 1978 and are likely to contain lead. We know that lead poisoning occurs more frequently in households under the federal poverty level and in small-scale rental properties, and it disproportionately affects our communities of color that have long faced affordable housing inequity, neighborhood disinvestment, and discrimination when trying to find safe, healthy places to live.

Although there are certainly concerns about homes with chipping paint, young children are exposed to lead-contaminated dust primarily from friction surfaces such as doors and windows when they crawl on floors and engage in normal hand-to-mouth behaviors. Pregnant women and children under six are the most susceptible to lead poisoning's debilitating effects.

The CDC makes clear "that the best way to protect children is to prevent lead exposure in the first place" and that there is no amount of lead in a child's body that is "safe." This is where we can all play our part as Toledoans to rid

our city of these deadly toxins that target our children.

Benjamin Franklin's saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is demonstrated well in the prevention of lead poisoning, which has an estimated return on investment of \$17 to \$221

per dollar spent on lead paint hazard control. That means removing lead from our houses through abatement or encapsulation and testing our homes for lead dust before a child occupies it. Our current process only tests after the damage is done, effectively using children as lead detectors to measure the problem.

By current data from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health, more than 400 children tested from September 2019 to September 2020 had elevated blood lead levels. Only children under age six in "high-risk" zip codes are mandated to be tested in Ohio, and only those with levels at or above 5 ug/dL are reported. Hundreds of Toledo children, infants, and toddlers are permanently damaged from lead poisoning every year that could have been prevented.

I know Toledoans take the poisoning of our people seriously. The longer we let these toxic materials continue to decay in homes untreated, the graver a threat they pose. The preventable poisoning of Toledo residents must end. Under the new Lead-Safe Program, Toledo City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance in October 2020 to protect the highest risk populations of our city: those residing in 1-4-unit rental properties built before 1978. Over the next five years, property owners will need to take steps to address any lead hazards in their units, hire a local lead inspector to perform a visual assessment and dust-wipe analysis, and receive a Lead-Safe Certificate from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.

In passing the Lead-Safe Ordinance, we have taken the first commitment to actions that will eliminate the consequences of lead poisoning as a threat to all Toledoans.

As I've said before, successful cities take bold actions. With so many new challenges emerging in recent years, it can be tempting to be timid; to wait and see how things play out before we make a move, but now is the right time to be bold. Especially in the face of a threat with such an easy solution, our actions now will improve the life expectancy of Toledo children, decrease the unnecessary medical, emotional, and financial stressors on low-income and minority populations, and give more people a better chance to contribute to the continued improvement of our city.

I know Toledoans will work together toward their own success, a task that we prove, time and again, we can rise up to meet. You can find more information, including details on the "Early Bird Matching Grant," at ToledoLead-Safe.com.



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HOPE Toledo Promise Announces Jesup W. Scott High School Scholarship Expansion

Special to The Truth

Students in the 2021 graduating class at Jesup W. Scott High School will have an opportunity to apply for a scholarship from HOPE Toledo, under the Hope Toledo Promise program. This scholarship will fund their post-secondary education, community college, university or trade school and will include funding for tuition, room and board, books and fees. The offer is also being extended to one parent or guardian of the student. The program also includes assignment of a HOPE Toledo Promise mentor to each family.

"Toledo Promise is thrilled to support the graduating Class of 2021," said Rev. John C. Jones, HOPE Toledo President. "We know the future is bright and we have HOPE for these graduates as that future unfolds, as well as for ALL of our young people across the Toledo region."

"This is a big deal," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "This can transform generations. Another year of students at Scott High School will have the opportunity."

Noting that only 17 percent of Toledo have educational attainment beyond high school, a statistic that places the city well below the national average, the mayor said: "We can do better than that" and with the HOPE Toledo program, he added, "another generation has hope."

HOPE Toledo Promise is designed to remove barriers to affordability, while also serving as a vehicle to advance economic and workforce development opportunities. The program is modeled after H.O.P.E. Scott Promise, founded by Pete Kadens and The Kadens Family Foundation. Kadens' idea for H.O.P.E., which stands for Helping Our Population Educate, arose from his desire to see all students, regardless of background, receive equitable access to quality education. He believes that education is the pathway out of systemic and generational poverty and leads to economic stability for communities and families.

On January 29, 2020, Kadens first announced to students and parents at Scott High School, that The Kadens Family Foundation in partnership with the ProMedica Foundation would help the Class of 2020 pursue post-secondary education. He also extended the offer to one parent or guardian.

Over the course of the first year of this program, H.O.P.E., now the HOPE Toledo Promise led by HOPE Toledo President Rev. John C. Jones, has touched more than 80 families from the Scott High School community. Currently, there are 66 Scholars who enrolled in the fall semester (2020)- 61 graduates of Scott and five parents of Scott graduates. The remainder have enrolled in the spring or will enroll in the fall of 2021. These numbers alone represent an increase in the post-secondary enrollment rate, from previous graduating classes, by over 80 percent.

HOPE Toledo Promise is funded in partnership with the ProMedica Ebeid Neighborhood Promise, The Kadens Family Foundation, and community and corporate donors. The program is unique in its broad support from community partners. Partners include: Toledo Public Schools, Bowling Green State University, The University of Toledo, Eastern Michigan University, Lourdes University, Owens Community College, The Ohio State University, ProMedica, Toledo Academy of Beauty and Culture, Central State University, Hocking College, Mercy College of Ohio, Pathway 4 Successful Leadership,

ProMedica Financial Opportunity Center, Wright State University, College Promise Campaign, Paul Mitchell, Terra State Community College and Jesup Wakeman Scott High School.

"We are proud to have helped seed and launch HOPE Toledo, and thrilled to see the continued expansion of the scholarship and program," said Kate Sommerfeld, ProMedica's president of the Social Determinants of Health Institute. "This expanded resource will continue to be a game changer for so many individuals and families."

HOPE Toledo is aggressively seeking funding to support this program and future scholarships. As funding for the HOPE Toledo Promise program increases, it is the goal of the organization to expand opportunities to other schools and students.

During the initial stages of HOPE Toledo's development, the ProMedica Foundation has agreed to serve as the not-for-profit's fundraising agent. The ProMedica Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. All donations to the HOPE Toledo initiative through the ProMedica Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

HOPE Toledo is a 501(c) 3 organization and encompasses HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise. The mission of HOPE Toledo is to work with the Toledo community to support and ensure high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth, from preschool to post-secondary and trade school, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of our families and our community. Currently, 36% of the people in the TPS district are living below the poverty line and more than 80% of kids in Toledo enter kindergarten without the skills needed to learn.

This cradle to career to community approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth. For more information or to donate, visit hope-toledo.org.



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Perryman... continued from page 2

local and state crimes. Prosecutors and their assistants in urban centers often are overworked, underpaid and are overwhelmingly white, not reflective of the communities in which they serve.

Some of the most impactful reforms should occur at this level, since prosecutors have almost sole discretion in deciding which cases are prosecuted, and evaluating the legal veracity of the cases police bring them. Community leaders should be asking their prosecutors to make changes, and hold them accountable come election season.

It seems obvious, but prosecutors should be actively working to diversify their staff, and consider establishing early relationships with diverse law students to tout the benefits of a prosecutorial career and the desperate need for diverse voices in a very white, male-dominated profession. Local prosecutors should be participating in diverse law job fairs, and actively identifying good talent in other city law departments. Communities should consider encouraging diverse candidates to run for prosecutor. Officer leadership teams should be intentionally diverse to encourage varied experience and thought.

When questions regarding police misconduct arise, district attorneys presenting those cases to a grand jury is not the best way to ensure an objective presentation of the facts, and state and federal law has created an incredibly difficult burden-of-proof standard for convictions. Prosecutors should have a cogent and public plan for how to deal with these issues. Given the close, necessary, working relationship local law enforcement has with its prosecutors, they should pledge to bring in a neutral entity to investigate all police-involved death cases, make charging recommendations, and act as a neutral third party in any investigation.

This is a simple change that would still empower local prosecutors to make the final call in charging decisions, but could create necessary transparency and accountability throughout the process. This strategic partnership could be with a neighboring county prosecutor with similar demographics, a state attorney general's office, or the DOJ if it is able to reinstitute and fund the Civil Rights Division in a meaningful way.

Prosecutors should also be required to engage with the community. As a county prosecutor, I was necessarily focused on my heavy caseload; we were rarely encouraged to professionally engage with constituents outside the office. Many of my colleagues had never set foot inside the Black neighborhoods we served.

Prosecutors should consider, among other ideas, hosting public town halls and forums, and requiring everyone, not just leadership, to participate; promoting staff community service projects; and requiring prosecutors to give presentations in schools about the risk of criminal activity and sentencing consequences. Prosecutors must be incentivized to become partners in solutions to fixing systemic problems that often lead to crime – such as a lack of quality education and resources, concentrations of poverty, and scarce fresh food resources – through organizational partnerships, board seats, and inhabiting other leadership positions in the community.

Find a Way to Include Law Enforcement at the Negotiating Table

Some of the reforms currently being debated intimate that lawmakers did not consult on-the-ground law enforcement before suggesting them, or at least did not consider how the consequences of those reforms would make legitimate and safe policing difficult, or in some cases, impossible.

For example, the Justice in Policing Act of 2020, [1] introduced by congressional Democrats, seeks to ban the use of “no-knock search warrants.” [2] A no-knock warrant is a search warrant authorizing police to enter the premises to be searched without first knocking or announcing themselves as police. Typically, this request must be accompanied by some legitimate reason for the need to enter in this surreptitious manner. The Justice in Policing Act specifically seeks to ban no-knock drug warrants at the federal level, and conditions federal law enforcement funding for state and local governments on the condition that those departments similarly ban the practice.

This provision was no doubt included in the response to the tragic shooting of Breonna Taylor.

In March, members of the Louisville, Kentucky, police department applied for, received and executed a no-knock warrant at Taylor's home based upon the belief that drugs were being sold (by others). Police maintain that they announced themselves, then used a battering ram to knock down the door. Upon entry, they allege someone shot at them first, and they returned fire, killing Taylor.

Taylor's boyfriend disputes the police's recounting of events, and her family suggested that the main target of the investigation was in custody at the time the search was executed. Police entered Taylor's home after midnight. Usually, entry into any premises at that hour requires additional probable cause and is a separate request that a judge must specifically authorize, similar to the no-knock provision.

This case remains under investigation, and is precisely the kind of case that

would benefit from independent third-party review from another jurisdiction before prosecutors determine whether officers were criminally culpable in Taylor's death.

Though horrific, this one incident should not be the impetus to strike an extremely important tool in combating crime. Lawmakers should have ample opportunity to explain the mechanics of these provisions before Congress outright bans them. The no-knock authority must be authorized by a judge, and is usually approved by at least one prosecutor before it is issued, to ensure the request is necessary and tailored to the facts.

Also, no-knocks are a vital tool in protecting evidence and solving crimes. Suspects often attempt to destroy or hide drugs, phones, firearms or other contraband when they detect police presence. More importantly, in today's climate, “drug cases” aren't always about drugs. Police cannot risk identifying themselves before entering a premises that may include vulnerable victims or others who could be harmed before law enforcement can intervene.

Moreover, federal law enforcement drug investigations are not your run-of-the-mill drug cases at the local level. Many federal drug cases are investigated over a series of months or years; facts are corroborated and painstakingly double-checked, and warrants often undergo several layers of supervisory approval long before they are presented to a judge.

This is in contrast to local and state police departments, which often lack the resources, time and manpower to implement such strict controls, which make it more likely that mistakes might occur. Reforms in smaller police departments are not the same changes that are right for federal police or big, urban departments. These nuanced discussions are missed when relevant stakeholders are not included in the debate surrounding reforms.

Though some departments, police unions and other law enforcement leaders have resisted acknowledging that reform is crucial, I cannot stress enough that police are not monolith. Lawmakers should be looking for the helpers.

Several chiefs of large city departments have publicly agreed to examine their own police department training and protocols on excessive force, inherent biases and other areas to make recommendations for change. The National Black Police Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and other organizations are also calling for change, publicly stating that they are open to reform and engaging in dialogue. Several departments are currently under monitorship through the DOJ, and have made significant strides in enacting changes recommended by reformers who could speak to best practices.

These incredibly hard decisions and policy discussions feel inherently personal and urgent. We cannot make systemic change on a whim, without thinking critically and deliberately, and engaging stakeholders at every level. George Floyd and Breonna Taylor deserve better than that.

Marisa T. Darden

Marisa Darden is a Principal in the Government Investigations and White-Collar Group at Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP. Previously, Darden was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and is a former Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan DA's Office in New York City. Marisa is a graduate of the University of Michigan, the London School of Economics, and Duke University School of Law.

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

Protests... continued from page 16

of this disputed fact, Walker, who was licensed to carry a firearm, fired a shot at those he assumed to be intruders and wounded an officer. The police fired 32 rounds into the apartment in the next one minute and eight seconds – hitting Taylor with five or six rounds, killing her. Walker was not hit.

The actions of three of the police officers were investigated and ultimately dismissed from the force. Although the City of Louisville would settle a civil suit with Taylor's family, represented by Crump, in the amount of \$12 million – the police detectives, Brett Hankinson, Joshua Jaynes and Myles Cosgrove, were not charged in her death. The Kentucky Attorney General, Daniel Cameron, declined to press charges against them for the death. Hankinson was indicted on three counts of wanton endangerment because his shots penetrated a neighboring apartment.

In Louisville on Saturday, Taylor family members were joined by family members of other recent victims of police shootings – Jacob Black of Kenosha, Wisconsin; Donny Ray Thomas of Houston, Texas and Sean Monterrosa of Vallejo, California.

“I pray none of you join this fraternity,” said Crump during his address to the crowd. “We got to deal with this police insensitive use of force because it's killing our people.

“It's killing our people.”

Councilwoman Cecelia Adams Crafts Plan to Redesign Toledo Parks

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Over the past several months, Toledo City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD, has led an effort to craft a plan to redesign the Toledo City Parks System in order "to prioritiz[e] parks, recreation, youth services and educational engagement for the health, safety and well-being of all Toledo residents," according to the executive summary of the report.

The report, entitled "Creating a City of CHOICE," was released to the public this week during a press conference at Walbridge Park and recommends the creation of a Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services & Educational Engagement.

The report, compiled by the Adams-led committee, was approved by a super majority on City Council – 9-3 – recently, but was vetoed by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz because he was informed by the Law Director that City Council could not restructure or create such a department, said former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner who is leading the charge to shed life on the councilwoman's work.

"We have done nothing like this for our young people," said Finkbeiner this Monday as he opened the press conference. "We have a growing culture of too much gun violence and growing harm to people in our community by young men who really haven't had mentors, leaders, encouragers. One of the opportunities is to create an environment in 130 plus city parks for young men and women as well as their parents and grandparents."

"There are areas of weakness in the City of Toledo that have not become priorities and because they have not become priorities, we have the situation we have now in our parks, with respect to recreation, with respect to services, with respects to educational engagement," said Adams introducing the new parks plan.

The report incorporates previous analyses by groups such as the Parks and Recreation Vision Master Plan, commissioned by the City in 2013, and the Recreation Task Force, formed by Kapszukiewicz in 2018 after he took office.

The current Adams' report reviews the issues that the city parks and youth-oriented divisions have faced over the last few years since decreased funding has forced the downsizing of activities. The funding for parks and recreation has declined from over \$6 million in 2001 to approximately \$3.3 million



Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Rev. Willie Perryman



Councilwoman Cecelia Adams

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** Based on customer experience received, shared online at www.hartford.com on 4/1/2019.
*** The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Respondents will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All respondents in IL, E, MA and PA who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in CA, HI, MD or PA. Not available for gift requests in HI. The gift is available only for a limited time offer. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Stocks and bonds excluded.
† If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for all least 60 days, you cannot be refunded without also being an applicable premium as paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must obtain valid license, motor vehicle and monthly capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in HI), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have stopped your policy through mutual reinsurance. Benefit currently not available in HI, MA, NC and TX.
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Area Office on Aging Brings Second Vaccination to Hundreds

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Three hundred adults received their second Moderna vaccination on March 10 courtesy of the Area Office on Aging and the Army National Guard.

The Area Office on Aging set up three locations last Wednesday – the Northgate Senior Apartments, the UAW Hall on Ashland Avenue and the Margaret Hunt Senior Center – to distribute the second shot for the Ohio participants from 13 different location within the local senior community.

Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Haas from the Ohio Department of Aging Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program (R3AP) worked with the Area Office, Black and White Transportation of Toledo, the Neighborhood Health Association and the Ohio National Guard to sponsor the clinic.

The Area Office on Aging is Thrilled to be able to help 300 older adults with having this additional level of participation from COVID so they can take the next step toward establishing a new normal for their lives," said Billie Johnson, Area Office on Aging, president/CEO.



Van Adams gets his shot



Frederick Reid gets his shot

Health Partners of Western Ohio

If you are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and don't know which one to select, the fact is in most sites that are currently dispensing vaccines, you won't have a choice. One of the few exceptions in the Lucas County area is the Health Partners of Western Ohio. Currently the site on Nebraska Avenue is vaccinating 200 people a day and, as of last Wednesday, March 10, the site had started allowing visitors to pick between the Moderna vaccine and the newly approved Johnson & Johnson one.

Neither vaccine will give you COVID-19 as there is no COVID-19 virus in the vaccine, the agency wants everyone to understand. Both vaccines have been developed by scientific developments much different from vaccines in the past hundreds of years that have used a bit of a virus to prevent a larger spread of the virus in the human body.

The Moderna vaccine is a two-shot application that contains messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) to deceive the body's cells into thinking that they are fighting the actual virus.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, a single dose shot, contains recombinant, replication-incompetent adenovirus type 26 expressing the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which also deceives the body's cells.

Both vaccines have undergone extensive trial use, have been approved by the FDA and displayed efficacy rates well above the rates the FDA has approved in the past for vaccines.



Ruth and Michael Ashford receiving vaccines at Health Partners

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The Most Recent COVID-19 Vaccine Information

By Traci Watkins, MD, ProMedica Physicians Family Medicine

Special to The Truth

This week marks one year since COVID-19 made its way to Ohio and changed our lives forever. We have learned so much, both in the medical community and in the general public, about how to protect ourselves from this rampant virus.

For the past year, the best defense strategies we had were wearing a mask, keeping a six-foot distance from others, and practicing excellent hand hygiene. Now, we have three different vaccines that are being widely distributed to add to our defense strategies.

As of Thursday, March 11, 2021, 80,270 Lucas County residents had at least started the vaccination process. According to state and local officials, we can expect the supply to continue to increase. Furthermore, President Biden recently stated that all American adults should be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by May.

Currently, these are some of the most frequently asked questions:
Do I get to pick which COVID-19 vaccine I receive?

The short answer is that you should accept any COVID-19 vaccine available to you.

The three vaccines available are all 100 percent effective in preventing severe disease, hospitalizations, and death. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccines, which give our cells instructions on how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a viral vector vaccine which generates a response in our cells to produce the same harmless protein.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots spaced three and four weeks apart, respectively. The Johnson & Johnson requires a single dose.

Regardless of which vaccine you receive, you can trust that they all work to teach our bodies to build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are exposed in the future.

What are potential side effects to the vaccines?

The COVID-19 vaccines can cause short-term reactions (such as headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site) in some peo-

ple. This is the result of your body developing immunity. When you receive the second dose of the vaccine, these reactions may be more pronounced, but are not considered abnormal.

If you experience a reaction after the first dose of the vaccine, it is very important that you still receive the second dose, as directed, for the vaccine to be effective. This does not mean that the vaccine has given you COVID-19. Rather, this means that the vaccine is causing your body's immune system to react and create antibodies to fight off the virus. This means the vaccine is doing its job.

Will I still need to wear a mask after I receive the vaccine?

Wearing a mask will still be required in public places, such as healthcare settings and grocery stores. Even after you receive your vaccine, others around you may not have received it. We know the vaccine helps protect vaccinated people against COVID-19. However, it may still be possible for vaccinated people to transmit the disease to others. Therefore, wearing a mask, social distancing, and practicing proper hand hygiene protects those who have not been vaccinated, especially those who are at high risk for developing severe illness.

What are the new recommendations from the CDC regarding people who are fully vaccinated?

On Monday, March 8, the CDC recommended that fully vaccinated people continue to take COVID-19 precautions when in public, visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple other households, and around unvaccinated people who are at high risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19. The CDC considers an individual to be fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and two weeks after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. However, there are new guidelines for those who are considered fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people may:



Dr. Traci Watkins

... continued on page 13



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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

National Taxpayer Advocate, Erin Collins, issued tips on how to protect your tax identity.

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone steals your personal information, including your Social Security number (SSN), in order to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. In calendar year 2020, the IRS suspended 6.9 million tax returns it suspected of identity theft. If your tax return is held up due to suspected fraud, the IRS will delay issuing your refund until it confirms your identity and validates the filed return. So, what can taxpayers do to protect themselves and prevent delays with refunds?

What is an IP PIN and why should I get one?

An IP PIN is a unique six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your SSN or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS and helps verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. Once the IRS assigns an IP PIN to a taxpayer, it will not accept an e-filed tax return without this IP PIN and paper return processing will be delayed by a manual review

to verify the taxpayer's identity.

The IP PIN is valid for one year. Each January, a newly generated IP PIN must be obtained.

Any primary taxpayer (listed first on the return), secondary taxpayer (listed second on the return), or dependent may obtain an IP PIN if they can pass the identity proofing requirements. The IRS issued 4.5 million IP PINs for the 2020 filing season, and IP PINs have been a highly effective safeguard that prevents fraud from recurring.

How do I get an IP PIN?

If you wish to opt in to the IP PIN program, use the online Get An IP PIN tool on the IRS.gov website. If you do not already have an account on IRS.gov, you must register to validate your identity.

To ensure security, the IRS utilizes a two-factor authentication process, where it sends a temporary code to the taxpayer's mobile phone or email account. The IRS will also ask the applicant to provide personal information such as a credit card number or loan number, to validate the taxpayer's identity.

If you cannot validate your identity through the Get an IP PIN tool, there are alternatives. One alternative to using the online tool is filing Form 15227, Application for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number. To apply this way, you must have:

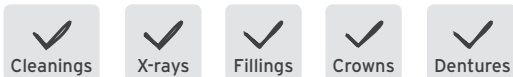
- A valid SSN or ITIN;
- An adjusted gross income of \$72,000 or less; and
- Access to a telephone.

The IRS will use the telephone number provided on the Form 15227 to call you, validate your identity, and assign you an IP PIN for the next filing season. (For security reasons, the IP PIN cannot be used for the current filing season. You will receive your IP PIN via the U.S. Postal Service for the following year and a unique IP PIN for future years.)



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The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section

What are BITCOIN and CRYPTOCURRENCY?

By Derick Gant

Guest Column

Welcome to your lesson on the new money game: cryptocurrencies. Everyone reading this needs money to buy food, shelter, and personal needs. How you buy these things and who is watching you buy them is the foundation of the creation of cryptocurrencies (digital money).

Like it or not, fewer people are using coins and dollars. Millions of people are using debit and credit cards for essential daily purchases. In America, we are moving towards a cashless society. A mere 26 percent of all financial transactions in 2018 were completed with cash. We are not alone. Even global powers such as China have districts that only accept mobile phone digital payments. The movement to digital is real.

In America, this means that companies like Venmo, Apple Pay, and Cash app are gaining a lot of ground. As these companies process our needs and wants, they track the transactions and the person.

Companies are aware of what you buy when you buy it, and how often you get it. This information is gold to any company looking to sell their wares. Your age, sex, spending habits help companies figure out how to sell you more and more new things. One of the main benefits of cryptocurrency as a money system is its secrecy.

Digital money in a crypto form is hidden from prying eyes. The transactions are done in a blockchain, and that block is private. We will discuss blockchain in the future but know that it is the real long-term investment play.

As of now, no global governments or borders control or tax cryptocurrencies. Of course, missing out on collecting taxes is an issue, given that taxation is how governments work. The cryptocurrency secrecy prevents taxation as well as unifying pricing

and value across regular currency exchanges.

Because of the secrecy, users began to use cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin to make illegal purchases such as paying for drugs or sex online. These activities, of course, mostly take place on the dark web. When doing business in the dark behind closed doors, bad things will likely happen because of private means.

Once people began to make more transactions in the dark, they began to use more Bitcoin, and the more they made in profits, the more Bitcoin they could get. The dark web transactions are one factor as to how prices were able to remain low but stable. Once a currency or investment is durable, it can begin to gain ground and become more mainstream.

Bitcoin, the first cryptocurrency, was created in 2009. By 2011 a single coin was worth \$1 and rose to \$32 by June. What glitters is not always gold, and it crashed back down to \$2 by November 2011. As of 2021, there are over 4000 different cryptocurrencies, and the three most popular are Bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin (LTC), and Ethereum (ETH).

I first wrote about Bitcoin and the new monetary frontier over four years ago. Since that time, a single coin's price has increased from \$15,000 (2017) to \$45,000 (Feb 2021). That is a 200 percent return and an average of 50 percent return per year.

The demand for Bitcoin and crypto has turned what was meant to exchange goods and services into a speculative investment. There is no real intrinsic value backing up the currency like a precious metal or physical commodities such as grains, water, or pork bellies. For this reason, it is more like a Fiat currency. While Fiat currencies are unlimited to how much a government / central bank wants to print, Bitcoin is limited to 21 million coins everywhere.

For now, Bitcoin is not a currency efficient for trading goods and services. What if you used \$1,000 of equivalent bitcoin to purchase a new iPhone this past December? The \$1,000 of Bitcoin you spent in December is worth \$1,400 today,

but your phone, even if unused, is only worth \$1,000.00. You lost or gave away \$400.00.

The idea of crypto as a currency is incredible and has a solid base of followers. The future is open to interpretation on the use of cryptocurrencies. Like I recommended in 2017, review your assets and determine if you have enough room to add crypto to your investment portfolio. If you do have disposable funds, use a small introductory amount as a learning course to attain the information and experience. Once you are more confident, make larger potential investments, or maybe you walk away for a more traditional asset.

Derick Gant is an American author, speaker, financial advisor, and money coach with over 25 years of entrepreneurial experience. In 2019, Derick published The 24K Life Code: The Only Difference Between Mediocrity and Greatness. This book guides people step-by-step to achieve their best and get the results they so desperately desire.



Derick Gant

TAP... continued from page 10

If you are unable to verify your identity online or with the Form 15227 process or you are ineligible to file Form 15227, you may call 419-213-5165 for an in-person meeting at a Taxpayer Assistance Center (Toledo IRS office is in the Four Seagate Building-433 N. Summit St).

How does the IP PIN process work?

Enter the six-digit IP PIN when prompted by your tax software product, provide it to your trusted tax professional preparing your tax return, or enter it on your paper tax return.

Be aware, correct IP PINs must be entered on electronic and paper tax returns to avoid additional rejections and delays. An incorrect or missing IP PIN will cause the rejection of your

e-filed return or a delay of your paper return until it can be verified.

Don't reveal your IP PIN

Your IP PIN should be known only to you and your tax professional and should be used only when you are ready to sign and submit your return. Be aware that the IRS will never contact you to ask for your IP PIN. Phone calls, emails, or texts asking for your IP PIN are scams.

Toledo Parks.. continued from page 7

20 years later. The City's Youth Commission was decommissioned in 2018.

All this was happening in the City, says the report, while the public school system still struggles to achieve all-around academic success.

"City of Toledo Government must emphatically, decisively and definitely make it known that a school's failure is not just the school's problem. It's the neighborhood's problem," reads the executive summary."

ecutive summary."

The report sets as its main goals to codify the recommendations of the Recreation Task Force and to develop a plan for the City to exceed "state and national standards in parks and recreation, youth services and educational outcomes, supporting it through budgetary appropriation."

Specifically, the new department would have a director with three divisions reporting to him or

her: the Division of Parks, Recreation and Community enrichment; the Division of Youth Services and the Division of Educational Engagement.

It is anticipated that the budget will need to be increased from the current level of \$3,357,797 to \$5,662,371 or 2.0 percent of the General Fund

...continued on page 13



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Social Security Column

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

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Some Medicare beneficiaries may qualify for Extra Help to pay for the monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to the Medicare Prescription Drug program. You must be receiving Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia to qualify for the Extra Help. More information on Extra Help is available at www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescription-help.

You may also be interested in reading these publications:

- *Apply Online for Medicare — Even if You Are Not Ready to Retire* www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10530.pdf.

- *When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf.

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You can also review your entire earnings history in your my Social Security account. It is important that your earnings history is correct because we base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find an error, the publication, *How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, tells you how to get your information corrected.

When you're ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you can complete our online application in as little as 15 minutes at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement. We will contact you if we need any further information. You can check the status of your application with your personal my Social Security account too.

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This is the Fire: What I Say to My Friends About Racism by Don Lemon

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

This really makes your blood boil. This. The racism gone amok, discrimination, the protests that don't seem to work, nobody's listening. You're hot under the collar over it all, totally inflamed, ready for real action, and in *This Is the Fire* by **Don Lemon**, you'll find some sometimes-warm, sometimes-scorching thoughts to sit with first.

Coincidentally or not, as a trial begins soon in Minnesota, this book opens with a poignant letter from Lemon to his young nephew on the evening of George Floyd's death. Lemon writes of the legacy he got from his parents, his grandmother, and his beloved older sister, and he tells his nephew that the boy is "old enough to know what's going on..."

There's been enough complacency: "Silence is no longer an option." Once was a time, though, when things were kept quiet. "My life has been blessed..." says Lemon, "but let's be real: I grew up gay and Black in the South in the 1970s."

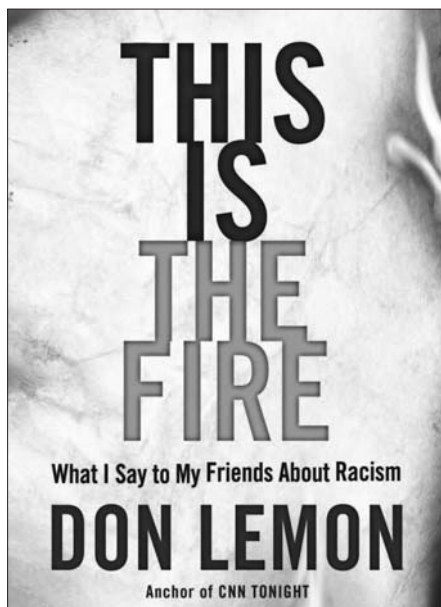
Raised by an extended family of women, he heard stories of voter suppression, the denial of education, and too many hard times. Several years ago, Lemon went to Africa with his mother, to a fortress where slaves left that continent; he grew up in Louisiana and knew about the area's dark past. He acknowledges that things have changed; that some things are "different this time", but they're still the same, whether you live in poverty you've been manipulated to be in, or you live in a well-to-do enclave and try to Shop While Black.

Racism, he points out, is so endemic that we don't always see it sometimes, or know its entire history. We condemn White Supremacy without understanding how it ever existed in the first place, we march to "defund the police" but forget that many Black families likewise fear a neighborhood without them.

"Racism... is a contagious assailant," he says. "Healing is you and me standing on the John Lewis Bridge. We can get there... if we're willing to do the work."

As today's books go, *This is the Fire* is pretty thin. It doesn't look like much, but dive inside for ten minutes and you'll see that it's thick with hope.

And yet, one might argue that, despite that the words here are fresh and current, author and CNN Tonight anchor Don Lemon doesn't tell readers much that's new.



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Don Lemon, photo courtesy CNN

George, Breonna, Jacob, Stephon, Sandra, their names are familiar, and absolutely no one has forgotten the last White House administration. Readers get a bit of biography and that delicious Lemon sense of wry humor, but what else? Perspective.

Lemon's thoughts are the kind that make you gasp. They're I-never-saw-it-that-way avowals that leave room for self-education, reparation with wisdom, honest reflection, and fixing what's so deeply and wrongly embedded

in this country. They demand that you think. Now. And so, whether you're up for a heated argument, a fiery debate, or just a warm talk with someone, this is the perfect time to read those words. *This is the Fire* will spark a discussion.

Toledo Parks.. continued from page 11

Budget. "We have the money," noted Adams. She mentioned that the City's last budget anticipated a \$70 million surplus and that an additional \$190 million is anticipated from the federal government as part of the COVID relief plan.

A host of community activists attended the Monday press conference spoke approvingly of the new department's plans and goals, including Rev. Willie Perryman, president of the Toledo Chapter NAACP and Montrice Casey, community activist and summer league basketball organizer.

According to the executive summary, ultimately the goal of the City of CHOICE proposal (Community Collaboration, Healthy Neighborhoods, Opportunity for All, Inclusive Innovation, Commitment to Capital Investment, Educational Excellence) is to establish "a framework for collaborating with community partners in the areas of parks and recreation, youth services and education to establish community needs and priorities and to develop strategic plans and goals for addressing those priorities."

Vaccine Info... continued from page 9

Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart;

Visit with unvaccinated people from one other household indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart if everyone in the other household is at low risk for severe disease;

Refrain from quarantine and testing if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 after contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Where can I get a vaccine?

If you live in Lucas County, visit <https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirus-updates/> and click on the "schedule appointment" box in the upper right-hand corner. If you need assistance scheduling an appointment online, please contact United Way 2-1-1 (dial 211 from any phone) or the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.

Any Ohio resident can also use the state portal: gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Where can I get more information?

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program>
- <https://www.promedica.org/covid/vaccines>

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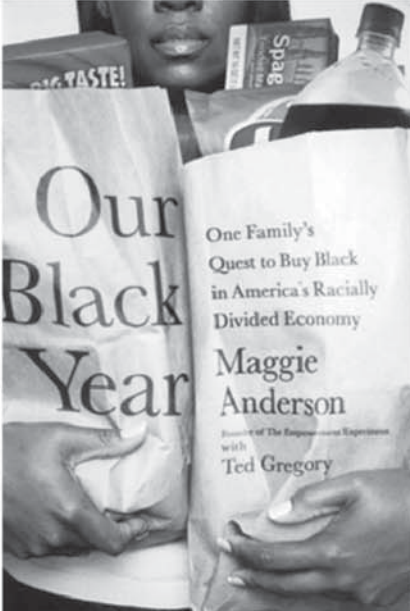
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Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

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



Facebook icon | Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB21-B011 CASUALTY LOSS 3 UNITS (GROUP 2B)

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids from General Contractors for the renovation of 3 casualty loss units, 2 in 2 story buildings and 1 single family residence in Lucas County. Received in accordance with law until April 13, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING) STATE OF OHIO STANDARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Project # 1080-21-239
Centennial Mall Hardscape Improvements
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm EST April 6, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>
EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract

General Contract – Centennial Mall Hardscape Improvements

Estimated Cost

\$1,088,127.00

Pre-bid Meeting: March 23, 2021, 10:00am – 11:00am via Webex. The Webex address is: <https://utoledo.webex.com/meet/tracey.brown>

Walkthrough: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Walkthrough Location: The Mall Area, East Side of Memorial Fieldhouse, Toledo Ohio, 43606

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: A/E contact: Sharon Schultz, Phone: 419-255-5335, E-mail: sschultz@edgela.com

MANAGER, SENIOR SERVICES

Administers, coordinates, and oversees the various components of the senior services programs provided by Neighborhood Health Association and ensures the effective operation and management of two senior centers. Also responsible for supervising and managing program staff and volunteers.

Responsibilities also include developing partnerships that assist in serving Seniors; assisting in the design and supervision of activities; developing budget and program billing and managing community outreach and education to ensure that all area Seniors know about and have access to services.

The right candidate will have a degree or certification in recreational, geriatric or activities therapy; a minimum 2 years in management/supervisory role; minimum 2 years working in culturally diverse and low-income environment; ability to pass a background check and drug screening; be physically fit; have an ability to adapt with strong organization and time management skills; possess excellent resource management, computer, record keeping, interpersonal, decision making and verbal and written communication skills.

The deadline to apply is March 26 at 5 pm. Contact Roy Hodge. 419-514-1600 or rhodge@rehsystems.com



JOB POSTING

The Rudolph Libbe Group is a one-stop provider of construction and consulting services that range from site selection and financing to ongoing facility management. RLG, comprised of Rudolph Libbe Inc., GEM Inc., GEM Energy, Lehman Daman and Rudolph Libbe Properties, operates as one team.

The Rudolph Libbe Group is seeking an HR Generalist. This position is responsible for providing generalist and administrative support to the Human Resources/Organizational Development (HR/OD) department.

Associate or Bachelor's degree in human resources or business, with two or more years of HR administrative experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience required. SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) or HRCI Professional Human Resources (PHR) credential preferred.

For additional details and to apply, please visit www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

The Rudolph Libbe Group is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

CAMP INCLUSION PROGRAMMER

This position is located at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. Must have completed sophomore year towards college degree in environmental science, biology, education, physical, occupational or recreational therapy, nursing, special education, outdoor recreation or related college program, or equivalent work experience. Previous work or volunteer experience working with individuals or groups of children with physical and/or cognitive disabilities preferred. Experience leading outdoor education programs for all ages required; previous experience as a counselor or naturalist at a children's camp preferred. All seasonal positions, up to 40 hours/week. \$10.47/hr.

Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com<<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> for complete job requirements and descriptions; must submit online application and resume. EOE

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Metroparks Toledo has openings for two part time Building Serviceperson's. One at Oak Openings Preserve, and one at The Manor House at Wildwood Preserve. The persons in these positions will be expected to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial, and basic maintenance functions at the Cannally Treehouse Village and The Manor House. Up to 35 hours per week. \$11.73/hr. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must have valid driver's license. May include evenings, weekends and holidays.

Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com<<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMER

This position is located at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. Must have completed sophomore year towards college degree in environmental science, biology, education, outdoor recreation or related college program, or equivalent work experience. Previous work or volunteer experience working with groups of children and experience leading outdoor education programs for all ages required; previous experience as a counselor or naturalist at a children's camp preferred. All seasonal positions, up to 40 hours/week. \$10.47/hr.

Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com<<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> for complete job requirements and descriptions; must submit online application and resume. EOE

Call to place your ad:

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

Protests Around the Nation on Anniversary of Breonna Taylor Murder

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Around the nation protesters took to the streets on Saturday, March 13, to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Breonna Taylor, a young Black woman, at the hands, and guns, of White police officers in Louisville, Kentucky.

Most of the protests and marches, like the one here in Toledo, were peaceful but on the West Coast, in Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles, some marchers clashed with police.

In Louisville, hundreds of demonstrators gathered and listened to speeches by Taylor's family and attorney Ben Crump. Crump, who has served as the Taylor family lawyer, was particularly busy last week as he helped settle a judgment for the George Floyd family against the City of Minneapolis for \$27 million.

President Joe Biden also acknowledged the anniversary in a Twitter post: "Breonna Taylor's death was a tragedy, a blow to her family, her community and America. As we continue to mourn her, we must press ahead to pass meaningful police reform in Congress."

Taylor's aunt, Bianca Austin, spoke during the Louisville commemoration: "All eyes are on Louisville today, and we are here to represent Breonna with dignity and respect."

In Toledo, demonstrators organized by the New Order National Human Rights Organization gathered at the corner of Detroit and Monroe to acknowledge the event and chant for justice.

Louisville police had obtained a "no-knock warrant" to search Taylor's apartment on the evening of March 13, 2020. The warrant included her apartment, which she shared with boyfriend Kenneth Walker, because police suspected that her former boyfriend, Jamarcus Glover,



had received packages of drugs there.

The warrant declared that Glover had been seen leaving her apartment months earlier with packages believed to be illegal drugs and that this event was verified "through a US Postal Inspector." The U.S. postal inspector would later announce that such collaboration between the postal service and the Louisville police had never occurred.

When the police arrived at Taylor and Walker's apartment, they banged on the door, according to Walker, but never announced who they were. The police would later say they did announce. Regardless

... continued on page 6

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