



MILWAUKEE

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



Milwaukee Urban League gives 40 college-bound youth a high-tech head start on their college journey!



The Milwaukee Urban League's Laptop Scholarship Awards, sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc., were presented at MUL to 40 deserving college-bound high school seniors from across Milwaukee recently.

Pictured above in group photo, left to right: Lateff Alston, Sallie Brown, Maura Fitzgerald, Dr. Eve Hall, Tosha Freeman, and Shirron Hines. The students pictured are listed below in alphabetical order. — All photos by Yvonne Kemp



Samia Ahmed
Brooklyn Anderson
Imani Anderson
Josiah Anderson
Elijah Banks
Armani Bender
Amari Campbell

Acia Clark
Cassandra Cruz
Yazmin Cruz
Taylor Evans
Brooklyn Farmer
Noah Geluk
Nira Henning

Lisette Hernandez
Fatima Jimenez
Grace Kelnhofer
Pakou Lee
Evan Lewis
Autumn Mays
Aaliyah Morse

Emelyne Nshimirimana
Kenyatta Parks
Bryson Patrick
Akili Pleas-Carnie
Alea Poehls
Aaliyah Rave

Stephon Ricks
Zania Ricks
Ayleene Rodriguez
Jayla Ross
Jaiden Russell
Anail Salas Ordaz
Jessica Santos

Reyshawn Sprewer
Ashley Thompson
Luis Fernando Vazquez
Moo KoWah
Rose Weithaus
Gabrielle Whitlow

INSIDE



FIRST PERSON:
Milwaukee County Sheriff Earnell Lucas says he is committed to restoring community's trust in law enforcement!



SIGNIFYIN':
Mikel Holt remembers his father George Holt's teachings and influence on him and his family!

SUPPORT

LOCAL

NEWS

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During times of crisis, crucial information about your community comes from local reporters.

Access to high quality information is essential. Especially local information. And especially now. What's happening in our communities? What's the impact? How are our local leaders responding? For answers to these questions, we rely on the hard work of our local reporters. As a result, readership of local news outlets has reached record highs.

But due to COVID-19, most local news publications are losing money, fast. Advertising has plummeted during the crisis and readers aren't subscribing fast enough to fill the void. This has led to thousands of local reporters being laid off. Just as our society faces numerous, urgent challenges.

Millions of people are in danger of losing access to the authoritative local

information they need to stay informed. That's why the Local Media Association and the Local Media Consortium are working with local news providers to build a strong future for local journalism. And that's why our long-time partner Google is purchasing ads like this in local publications across the country, as well as providing a Relief Fund to help struggling local news outlets. But those actions alone aren't enough.

Please consider supporting the local news organizations you rely on. Subscribe to them. Donate to them. And if you have a business that's able to, advertise with them. **Your support is critical to sustaining the dedicated journalists serving your communities.**

Our local news outlets help keep us safer. Let's help keep them open.

This message supported by



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Identified solutions put forward in final report of the 'Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force'

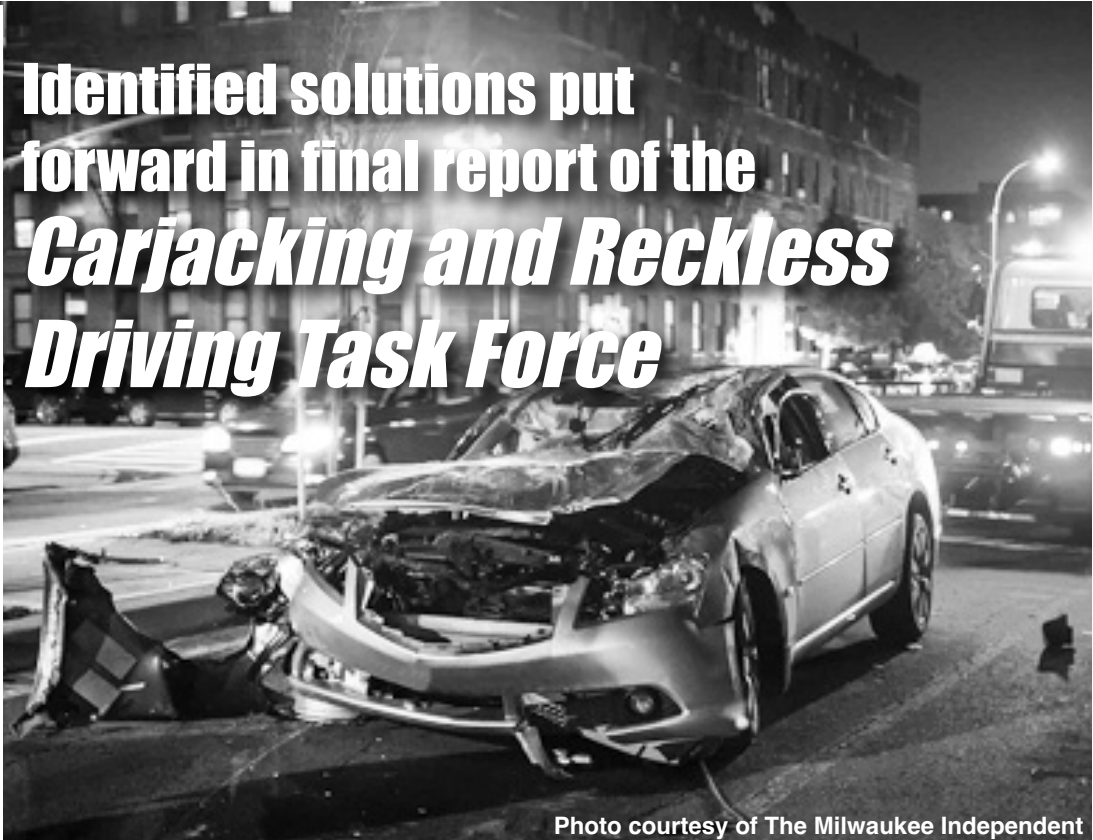


Photo courtesy of The Milwaukee Independent

The City of Milwaukee and the surrounding metropolitan area can look for possible ways of curbing reckless driving and stolen vehicles in the final report of the City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force.

The final report was received recently by the full Common Council and was earlier recommended for approval by the Public Safety and Health Committee.

Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the task force, said the Council's receipt of the final report and its key recommendations (see attached) means that "the difficult process of actually implementing these reckless driving recommendations in Milwaukee will now truly begin."

Alderman Murphy credited citizens with helping to provide valuable feedback and input as the

Task Force studied the issues. "It is clear that while input from City and County stakeholders has provided valuable expertise, insight, and institutional knowledge, the work of the Task Force could not have been completed without participation from the community. The community listening sessions and numerous communications from residents provided the Task Force with informative guideposts in formulating and finalizing the recommendations included in the final report," he said.

The recommendations fall under three headings: Prevention and Education, Engineering Solutions, and Accountability and Enforcement.

Under Prevention and Education, the recommendations include:

- Conduct public information campaigns to address reckless driving

dress reckless driving

- Increase Milwaukee Area Technical College driver safety courses

- Increase driver safety programming and funding for driver education programs in Milwaukee Public Schools

- Make driver education classes free, sliding scale, or otherwise accessible to all income levels

- Extend driver education classes to suburban Milwaukee County communities
- Under Engineering Solutions, the recommendations include:

- Coordinate Traffic Signals. Traffic-signal coordination allows motorists traveling at a certain speed to make the least amount of stops as possible. Signals should be coordinated at or below the speed limit to reduce the opportunities and incentive for speeding.

- Pavement Narrowing/Reclamation. Pavement narrowing removes excess pavement previously used for driving and converts it to other uses such as sidewalk space, plaza space, bike-way space, or landscaping. Narrowing streets has been shown to reduce traffic speeds and crashes. Whenever streets are reconstructed, opportunities for pavement narrowing should be considered.

- Road Diets. Road diets are a proven, cost-effective way of reducing traffic speeds and crashes. A road diet typically involves restriping a street from four lanes to two or three lanes by reallocating space to better bike accommodations, new turn lanes, or revised parking configurations.

- Lane Narrowing. Lane narrowing has been proven to reduce traffic speeds. In urban environments, lane widths of 10 feet are proven to have a positive impact on a street's safety without impacting traffic operations.

Lane widths of 11 feet may be appropriate on higher speed streets with heavy truck traffic, but lanes wider than 11 feet should not be installed.

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WHEDA Foundation

now accepting
housing grant
applications
\$1 million
available for
emergency and
extremely low-income housing



Joaquin Altoro

MADISON – Wisconsin organizations that provide emergency shelter, transitional residences and extremely low-income housing are encouraged to apply for grants from the WHEDA Foundation.

“Throughout Wisconsin, community organizations play an essential role in providing safe, affordable housing for people in desperate need of a place to live...”

—Joaquín Altoro
WHEDA CEO

improvements such as rehabilitation, accessibility features and new construction. There is no minimum grant size.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations or cooperatives organized under Chapters 181, 185, or 187 of the Wisconsin Statutes; community development, redevelopment and housing authorities; and local units of government, including Native American tribal authorities. Applications are due on Aug. 21, 2020.

Complete program details, eligibility requirements and application materials are available at <https://www.wheda.com/Housing-Grant-Program/>. For program inquiries, please contact John Vogt at WHEDA.Foundation@wheda.com.

The annual housing grant program competition is funded entirely by WHEDA operations and uses no state tax dollars. Organizations receiving the grants include nonprofit agencies, local governments and tribal authorities serving low-income or disadvantaged populations including homeless people, runaways, youth in out-of-home placement, people with alcohol or drug dependencies, people in need of protective services, frail elderly residents and people living with HIV disease, among others.

During the 2019 grant cycle, 41 organizations received a total of \$1 million to create or improve 1,098 beds. Click here to see a complete list of the 2019 grant award recipients.

Since 1985, the WHEDA Foundation has issued 1,157 awards totaling more than \$24,968,000 to housing providers across the state. Established by WHEDA in 1983, the foundation is responsible for receiving and administering housing grant funds on behalf of WHEDA.

To keep up with information about WHEDA resources, sign up to receive emails here and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Administered by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, the WHEDA Foundation grants improve housing for community members with complex challenges such as developmental disabilities, domestic abuse, incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income, youth homelessness and chronic mental illness. Grants of up to \$40,000 are available in two categories, emergency/transitional housing and permanent housing.

“Throughout Wisconsin, community organizations play an essential role in providing safe, affordable housing for people in desperate need of a place to live,” said Joaquín Altoro, WHEDA CEO. “This year marks the 36th year the WHEDA Foundation has provided financial support to address these unmet housing needs in our communities. During these challenging times, we know the need is greater than ever.”

A total of \$1,040,000 will be awarded for the 2020 cycle with awards to be announced in December. The grants are for physical im-

Wisconsin Sen. Baldwin, Colleagues Introduce 1619 Act to Raise Awareness, Understanding of African American History in Schools

Legislation Would Provide Funding for Educators to Gain Access to Educational Programming from the National Museum of African American History & Culture

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), joined her colleagues to introduce legislation to increase awareness and understanding of African American history across our schools

MKE Phase Four Assessment Update

On May 15, the City of Milwaukee Health Department issued a public health and safety order ‘Moving Milwaukee Forward.’ This order uses a measured, phased approach that utilizes data-driven gating criteria that align with federal and state guidance.

This plan outlines the measures needed for the City of Milwaukee based on the latest science. Milwaukee has made steady progress in reducing the impact of COVID-19 but we still have a long way to go. We will continue to focus on the importance of continuation and resumption of businesses and activities for all sectors of our economy.

As previously stated, our City’s advancement through the phases is driven by our Five Key Indicators and Gating Criteria. These measures are reassessed every Friday but advancement through the phases can only occur 14 days after we are in a new phase.

This enables us to hold steady for one incubation period or 14-days before considering a move to the next phase. One of the five indicators regressed this week. Cases moved to RED therefore, we will not reassess Phase 4 until Friday, July 17th.

If we regress to red for any indicator over the new 14 day period, we will need to hold for another 7 days. MHD will continue to monitor the situation and determine if additional protective measures are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Cases: Measures how much COVID-19 is in our community and its impact. As case totals can change dramatically by the day, and averages include outliers, we elected to use a statistical approach called Linear Regression to measure our progress.

This statistic uses an industry standard of p<0.05 for statistical significance; this enables us to report the statistic with confidence or accuracy. The positivity rate, which assesses if our testing strategy is on point to find enough cases, is evaluated as well.

Current Status – RED—Statistically Significant positive slope trend for cases (0.53, P=0.007) or positivity rate (12.2%) as of 7/1. Declined from yellow last week (0.10, P=0.358) or positivity rate (7.8%).

Testing: Measured as the ability for residents who have symptoms of COVID-19 to access a lab test.

MHD strongly encourages regular testing for essential worker, those that may be at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through gathering with others outside of their household, and those that are symptomatic. Access to testing continues to increase in our area. Community testing sites are still available on the north and south sides of Milwaukee:

Barack Obama High School – Custer Stadium (4300 Fairmount Ave.) and UMOS (2710 S. Chase Ave).

While we continue to monitor the efficacy of these sites and develop alternatives, we would like to continue to encourage the community, especially those that may have increased their risk of exposure to COVID-19 while engaging in protests and demonstrations to get tested. Please visit our website for more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing locations: www.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus or call 2-1-1.

Current Status – YELLOW (average is 1682 daily up from 928 last week but positivity rate is now 12.2%). No change from last week.

Care: The percentage of patients in hospitals with COVID-19 and hospital capacity to handle COVID-19 patients. This represents that 100% of hospitals in the Greater Milwaukee area are not in crisis and <10% of hospital patients are COVID+

Current Status – GREEN—per Milwaukee County COVID-19 Map as of 7/1. Remained steady since last week. Hospitalization was at approximately 5%.

Safety: Adequate PPE available for healthcare personnel, long-term care facilities, and first responders. This includes masks, gowns, and gloves. This represents that the majority of hospitals in the Greater Milwaukee area have 8-28 days of all PPE on hand.

Current Status – YELLOW—per Milwaukee County COVID-19 Map as of 7/1. Remained steady since last week.

Tracing: This measure is defined as the ability to count, trace, and monitor COVID-19 cases and outbreaks by MHD. The MHD successfully reached city residents within 3 contact attempts. The average time to make the first contact attempt is 1.4 days.

Current Status – YELLOW as of 7/1 (improved from 82.9% last week to 83.3% this week). No significant change since last week.

While in Phase 4, most businesses and activities can continue but on a larger scale while abiding by Physical Distancing, Protective Measure Requirements, and Safe Business Practices.

The MHD has developed protocols that outline the necessary COVID-19 safety measures required in order for a restaurant or bar operate without a capacity limit safely, “The Risk Assessment Tool for Expanding Capacity in Restaurants and Bars.”

The purpose of this tool is to assist the MHD while reviewing an establishment’s COVID-19 Safety Plan. The assessment tool is to be completed by the operator and submitted along with their COVID-19 Safety Plan. Electronic submission is in development, until that is finalized, documents can be sent to cehadmin@milwaukee.gov for approval.

The email subject line should read: COVID SAFETY PLAN: insert business name and address.

Plans will be reviewed in the order they have been received. Approval time may take several days. Once approved, the operator will receive a certificate/seal demonstrating plan approval and will be able to operate safely without a capacity limit.

As with COVID-19 pandemic orders, the MHD has anticipated voluntary compliance and has taken an educational approach. If an operator is found to be in non-compliance of ANY of the Moving Milwaukee Forward Orders, there will be a consultation, inspection, education prior to the last resort which is citation and possibly arrest.

The MHD has citation powers while the Milwaukee Police Department has citation and arrest powers.

There are a variety of resources for businesses by sector that are available online (please see below). The City of Milwaukee has and will continue to

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Wisconsin Sen. Baldwin, Colleagues Introduce 1619 Act to Raise Awareness, Understanding of African American History in Schools

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win. "Black history is American history, and this legislation will provide our schools the federal resources they need to take this important step and work to address systemic racism through education and understanding."

The 1619 Act was led by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV).

Cosponsoring this legislation includes Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Krysten Sinema (D-AZ), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Mark Warner (D-VA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

"As we search for ways to come together in order to tackle the systemic racism that has stained our society for centuries, reimagining how we teach our students about African American history and culture is a top priority," said Hilary O. Shelton, Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy & Director of the Washington Bureau at NAACP.

"Providing more of our educators the opportunity to access the resources needed to impart these lessons on their students is critical to securing any progress we are able to make, and we commend Senator Peters, Senator Casey and Senator Rosen for spearheading this effort."

"For too long, our educational system has withheld students from further exploring the triumphs, horrors and heroes of African American history that are so integral to our nation's story," said Ebonie C. Riley, DC Bureau Chief of the National Action Network.

"The 1619 Act would be a first step in ensuring that the next generation of students can immerse themselves in this important historical narrative, and we look forward to continue working with the Senators to ensure it is enacted into law."

"NEA commends Senator Peters, Senator Rosen and Senator Casey for introducing the 1619 Act," said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President of the National Education Association.

"We are happy to see a bill that bolsters and helps public school educators utilize the already amazing materials at the National Museum of African

American History and Culture.

It is vitally important that our students from all backgrounds learn about and understand African American history and the African-American experience in the United States.

That African-American story is rich, amazing, and heart wrenching.

It is inextricably intertwined with the origin story of the founding of our country. Knowledge and information about the critical role of African Americans in this country is also a step in helping to end systemic racism.

Making sure our educators have the training and information necessary to share is critical and we think this bill will help to make that happen."

Many schools are not required to teach students about African American history and educators can face barriers including a lack of funding to access quality resources, a lack of awareness of where to find resources, or a lack of knowledge of how to develop or incorporate curricula.

The 1619 Act would recognize the importance of African American history at the federal level, provide \$10 million in funding over a five-year period

and expand the National Museum of African American History and Culture's education programming to teachers across the country.

This funding would specifically be available to support high school teachers, middle school teachers, school administrators and prospective teachers engage with quality resources on African American history.

This in turn would help allow students in schools across the nation to learn more about

African American history as well as teach valuable lessons from the African American experience along with the economic, political, social, cultural and other contributions generations of African American leaders have made to our nation.

The 1619 Act would additionally:

- Expand the National Museum of African American History and Culture professional development programs, through activities such as local, regional, and national work-

shops, teacher trainings with African American history education partners, and engagement with local educational agencies and schools.

- Require the museum to create and maintain a centralized website for African American history, where educators can find curriculum materials, best practice and resources.

- Prioritize support for schools that currently do not offer African American history education programs;

- Organize and promote local, regional and national workshops and teacher trainings with African American history education partners, and;

- Encourage individual states' education agencies to work with schools in order to integrate these programs within their course curriculum.

MKE Phase Four Assessment Update

(continued from page 3)

provide a webinar series to business owners and operators with sector specific guidance that is posted on our website www.milwaukee.gov/MMFS.

Beaches – All individuals and pets shall comply with Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements. Team and contact sports on public beaches remain prohibited.

Chartered Fishing Excursions – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Child Care Settings including Youth Programs – 75% capacity

Faith based gatherings – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Garage Sales, Rummage and Yard Sales - Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Gatherings in Homes or Public Venues – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people. NOTE- the City of Milwaukee including the MHD and Department of Public Works as well as Milwaukee County Parks has the right to deny permits based on active outbreaks of COVID-19 in our community.

The top census tracks for COVID-19 cases are evaluated weekly and will be used during Phase 4 and beyond. Safety is our top concern.

Gyms and Athletic Centers – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Hotels/Motels – 50% capacity; Pools, hot tubs, and exercise facilities are limited to the lesser of: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Libraries – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Places of amusement – Must be the lesser of the three: 1) 50% of the total occupancy of the location, 2) one person for every 30 square feet or 3) 250 people.

Retail Establishments – 50% capacity

Restaurants/Bars – 50% capacity *ability to operate without a capacity limit with a COVID- 19 Safety Plan approved by the health department.

Salons/Spas – 1 client per service provider

Stores - 75% capacity

Youth Summer Programs – 75% capacity

The following Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements are required for all individuals on the premises (staff and patrons):

Maintain 6 feet distance between people/patrons

Promote and conduct hand hygiene with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer

Promote covering of coughs or sneezes (into the

sleeve or elbow or tissue not hands)

Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and sharing cleaning protocols with staff and patrons;

Promote non-contact forms of greetings- no handshakes or hugs

Strongly recommend the use of a mask or cloth face covering. Businesses are allowed to require this as a policy to provide service. We recommend provision of single use masks/mouth coverings for staff and patrons.

Note: the use of masks or cloth face coverings is strongly recommended but shall not be required Citywide for Order 4 due to equity concerns regarding the challenges that either may cause for individuals because of disabilities and/or shortages.

The only exception for requirement will be for operators of businesses with COVID-19 safety plans approved by MHD.

The order also states that establishments must follow all other public health recommendations issued by State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and adopt policies to prevent workers from entering the premises if they display respiratory symptoms or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

Additional resources for business owners and operators:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)—Includes sector specific information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html#postponing>

Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce
Coronavirus Guidance for Businesses during the Pandemic

<https://coronavirus-mmacc.org/>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services—Includes information about employer-based outbreaks

COVID-19: Businesses, Employers, and Workers
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection

Resources for reopening/expanding services while reducing the risk of COVID-19:

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ReopeningRestaurantsCovid19.pdf>

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

COVID-19 Business Resources <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/covid-19-response/>

Wisconsin Restaurant Association COVID-19 Restaurant Resources <https://www.wirestaurant.org/>

Please visit our websites for information and updates:
city.milwaukee.gov/MMFS/SafetyPlan
city.milwaukee.gov/MMFS
city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus

FAITH COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 5277 N. 36th St., is seeking a full-time pastor. They're seeking an individual who is called by God and dedicated to the ministry of Jesus Christ, someone who will guide and lead in accordance to Mt. Olive's mission statement:

"A church designed to meet the needs of the people through equipping them to evangelize the world for Christ." For application information visit the National Baptist Convention website <https://www.nationalbaptist.com/resources/ministry-opportunities/pastor-openings>.

Any questions regarding the application process should be submitted to the pastoral search committee at: pastoralsearch@mobcmke.org



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PERSPECTIVES

MCJ EDITORIAL

We must attain justice and peace without rioting and violence!

If there is anything we can learn from the last two months of protests in defiance of a system of racial division, economic injustice, sexism; and a violent, callous and intolerant police culture, it is that protest—non-violent protest—is an effective tool for identifying injustice and working to ameliorate the problems.

The actions of protestors across the country—and Milwaukee—have sparked action—and real change—by government and police departments—to address the poisonous practices of racial hate, white supremacy, and police violence.

However, violence—whether committed by law enforcement or the citizenry--is counter-productive to the pursuit of change and transformation, and cannot be condoned, accepted, or approved. Dr. Martin Luther King, who practiced with precision non-violent tactics and strategies, said it best: “Violence begets violence!”

With all of the technology, films, documentaries, Google references and books, those who are righteously leading the charge for change must review the past using the aforementioned means to learn how movements like the current one, were infiltrated (remember the FBI program COINTELPRO?), dismembered and fraught with violence that led to fear of retaliation by “the powers that be,” and abandonment. That’s what stopped the movements for rights in the past, and what led to the death of Dr. King.

We cannot permit those with questionable motives and contrary intentions to become pseudo-leaders that bring guns and create anarchy that destroys the principal focus of the protests of the last 30 days that were sparked by the senseless death of George Floyd in early May at the hands of members of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Divisions within organizations tasked to do good and ferment change, festers, cripples and annulates. It is unity and collaborative liaisons that build strong structures and operatives whose righteous endeavors benefit all.

Let our personal associations be monitored and our collaborations investigated to ensure they are jointly-sponsored, have a commonality of values and goals. The Far-Left movement can be just as dangerous to the actualization of change as the negative ideology and destructiveness of the Far-Right.

The recent day-time protests have highlighted many of the authentic areas of systemic racism that must be addressed. But those night-time riots have also highlighted the violence that halts all chances of attaining the change we need and want.

Violence is the quickest way to destroy a legitimate cry for breath, of removing the chokehold of economic oppression, overcrowded poverty ridden neighborhoods with affordable housing, and health-care that covers all regardless of class or pre-existing condition; unemployment/underemployment.

We implore leaders of the movements now helming the leavers that can lead to change and transformation to not destroy this one true chance they have. There must be no guns, no deaths, and no false leaders.

This is your Milwaukee. Build the city you want, today. It does not take guns and violence to do it. You have the leadership in the right places to make the Milwaukee you’ve fought (and continue to fight) hard to create through your vote...even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic! You are the change you need to see happen.

Stop the violence! Keep identifying the issues and identify who you and the community can work with to rectify the issues that hinder its forward progress. Examine your leadership, tell the anarchists to stay away. Stop Violence! Lead your Milwaukee!

THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

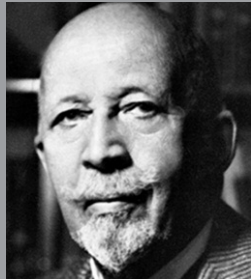
Published twice weekly,
Wednesday & Friday
3612 North Martin Luther
King Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Democracy is a method of realizing the broadest measure of justice to all human beings. Only by putting power in the hands of each inhabitant can we hope to approximate in the ultimate use of that power the greatest good to the greatest number.” — W.E.B. Du Bois



Though he is now with the ancestors, “Pop” Holt’s influence and legacy live on

The closing of his casket's signaled the end of an era and a life, both my brothers assessed during last week's homegoing services for my father George Holt.

Reflecting on the many joyous experiences they shared with our father, both Wayne and John expressed gratitude and fond memories of Pops, who poignantly died on Father's Day.

A family-only memorial service was held the day after public visitation. I performed a traditional African Libation at the burial site, where he will rest alongside my mother, Rev. Sideena Holt.

Three generations of family members filled the funeral room Wednesday, all of whom have benefitted in ways known and unknown from my father's influence.

My parents raised five children, all of whom have stood on their shoulders as we carved our own paths.

The second-generation Holt's should have begun retirement 20 years ago but, instead, agreed to raise a great-granddaughter from infancy. That mission ended when she went off to college months before my mother's transition.

As 'Number One,' a title given to me by my father representing my status as the oldest, I preceded my brothers at the homegoing ceremony. That was apropos for several reasons, including the fact I shouldered much more burden and responsibility than they.

There is an eight-year gap between my two sisters and me and my two younger brothers. In many respects, they had it better, or at the least, more comfortable than we did. They also missed out on unique experiences.

All of us went through a rite of passage process, which for the boys included being taken to 'man caves'---bars and underground gambling sites---where we were given a soda and told to sit and observe.

That might sound like an inappropriate parenting blueprint, but it was a 20th-century version of the African maturation process.

The difference was our ancestors, like those chained in bondage, sat by the fire, as the Griot would recall their history, culture, and customs.

We observed a similar orientation, along with tall tales, monologues, and apartheid survival lessons.

My father was the disciplinarian of the family, and to hear my mother declare “wait 'til your dad gets home,” was akin to being told you were drafted during wartime.

But that hiccup was overshadowed by the many positive benefits of being raised in a two-parent household.

There was a balance between the masculine and feminine, the double income, and the shared perspectives on life.



SIGNIFYIN'

By Mikel Kwaku Oshi Holt

“George 'Bugs' Holt provided, protected, and preached. He was married for life, and although he eventually lost his sight, he could see much better than most with 20/20.”

I loved going fishing with my father and uncles. My father also would take me hunting, and to sporting events, while the girls were taught how to cook, sew, and the various qualities of being a lady.

All of us were taught to be independent, proud African Americans with a sense of purpose—all under Nyame's (God's) shadow.

On weekends, the entire family filled the car and visited relatives or went to the lake.

Being the oldest male meant I always got the window seat.

My mother was the teacher, the spiritual leader, and the nurse. She was from the old school, and that meant we all sat down to dinner, prayed before consuming the meal, and talked about the day's events, schooling, and gossip.

My father might be served a steak while we ate hamburgers.

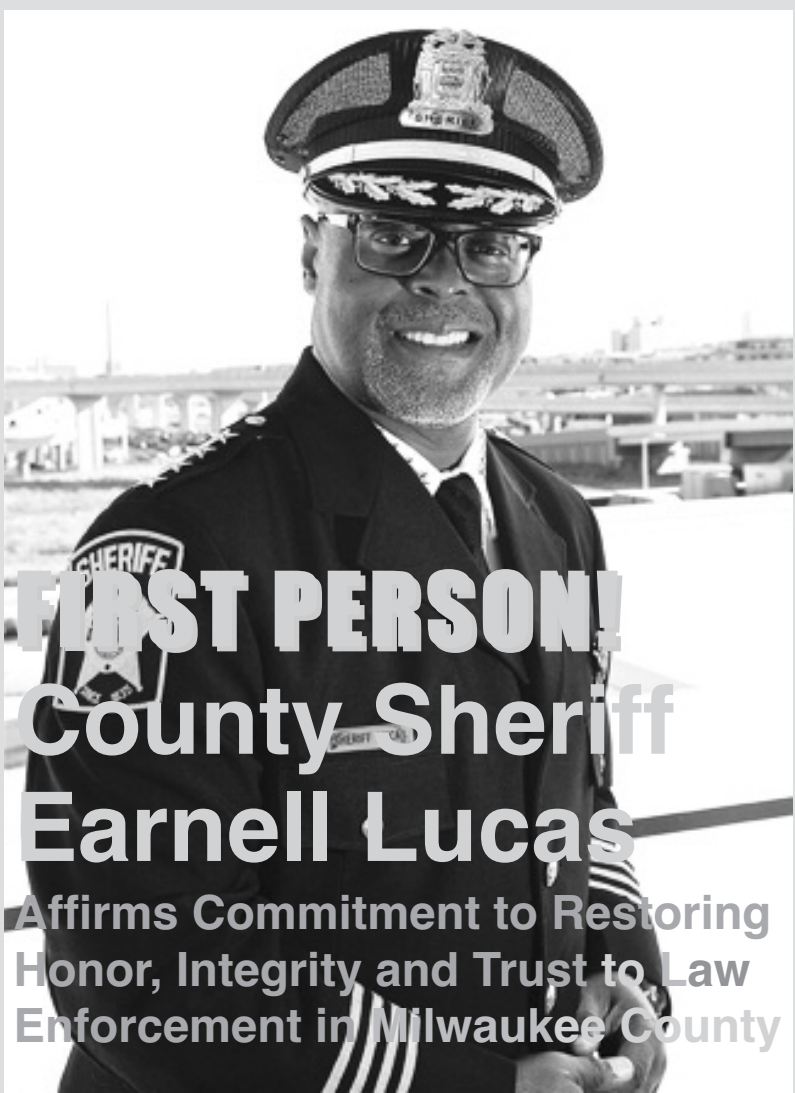
Both parents worked, and they felt it essential to teach us how to be proud, albeit 'po. But we were never 'poor,' if you understand the difference. My mother could make 1,000 dishes from government cheese.

One of my father's responsibilities was to provide us with a strong work ethic, which he did in spades (no pun intended).

When my grandfather arrived in Milwaukee almost a century ago, he quickly assessed entrepreneurship would be a better life choice than a factory job.

Even without a formal education, he started a trucking business, and later the state's first African American nursing home.

(continued on page 7)



My name is Earnell Lucas. On November 6, 2018, you – the people of Milwaukee County – entrusted me with the high honor of serving as our community’s 65th sheriff.

You entrusted me, too, with a prodigious task: restoring honor, integrity and trust to a once-proud organization that had lost its way.

Over the past eighteen months, as my staff and I have worked to transform our organization, I have drawn daily on the lessons I have learned over 44 years in law enforcement and public safety. Some of these insights struck home on my first day on the job; others settled in over decades of lived experience.

But there is another lesson that weighs on me daily, one that I learned long before I put on a uniform and placed a badge over my heart. It is a lesson I learned not in the safety of the classroom but amid the uncertainty of a world governed too often by fear, loathing and prejudice: that I am a black man in Milwaukee and in America.

When I watch the video footage that has transfixed our nation depicting the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of four former Minneapolis police officers and the tragic killing of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta, I am reminded of another stolen life: Daniel Bell, of Milwaukee. On February 2, 1958, Daniel Bell was pulled over by a Milwaukee police officer for a broken taillight, only a mile or so from the housing project where I was born later that year. The second Daniel stopped his car, he jumped out and ran.

Why did he run? Because in 1958, a black man in Milwaukee knew all too well what he might expect from those sworn to serve and protect him. And as Daniel ran for his life, unarmed, a pursuing officer drew his service weapon and shot him in the back. Then, as Daniel lay dying on the ground, the officer dropped a knife next to his body and, claiming self-defense, walked away a free man.

Our world and our community have changed immeasurably since 1958, and for the better. Black people are no longer met with brickbats when we cross the Sixteenth Street viaduct and redlining when we cross the city boundary. Our law enforcement organizations have grown in diversity and in compassion, and on a daily basis, courageous men and women in uniform perform lifesaving work throughout our community.

But the Milwaukee where I grew up – the Milwaukee where Daniel Bell was shot in the back, the Milwaukee that introduced me to law enforcement when my twelve-year-old self “matched the description” of a thief who had stolen a white woman’s purse – still exists for far too many of our young people.

It exists just as surely and just as painfully for young black and brown Milwaukeeans as George Floyd’s Minneapolis or Rayshard Brooks’ Atlanta. It exists, at least in part, because we in law enforcement have failed to close the breach, widened over so many decades of oppression, between our organizations and the community that we are entrusted to serve.

I joined the Milwaukee Police Department as an eighteen-year-old recruit because I wanted to repair this breach. I entered law enforcement because I saw the awesome authority that an officer exerts on others’ lives, and I wanted to harness that power for the betterment of the community that nurtured me. And I am serving as your Sheriff today because I am committed to confronting and correcting the injustices that hold us back from achieving

(continued on page 7)

Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force Report

(continued from page 3)

Under Accountability and Enforcement, the recommendations include:

- Advocate for State Legislative Changes. These changes could include increasing the penalties for adults for reckless driving, increasing the level of felony offense for fleeing an officer (with graduated penalties provided for repeat offenders), allowing a serious juvenile offender disposition for all felony offenses, leaving discretion to the judge, and evaluating red light cam-

eras based on metrics regarding whether they are effective as a deterrent and enforcement tool.

- Enforce Related Driving Violations. Police need to increase enforcement measures, including targeting dangerous driving, such as speeding and swerving through traffic.

Increased enforcement should also focus on existing traffic regulations and tinted windows. Police could be required to respond in a timely manner and to focus on hotspots.

Institute Standard Operating Procedures. The Police Department can institute a standard operating procedure that requires officers to bring juveniles caught in stolen or fleeing vehicles to detention (as opposed to writing tickets or ordering the cases in).

This decreases the time for review and charging to 24 hours. This recommendation should be evaluated upon further information provided by the detention center and the Police Department regarding capacity, logistics, and impact.

Provide Diversion Alternatives. When charging a case, prosecutors can provide diversion alternatives for first-time offenders of reckless driving.

Target the early intervention stages of youth who engage in reckless driving behavior with resources that are specific to their risk and need factors. Effective strength-based interventions should continue for an adequate length of time without extending the probation or supervision period, during which court-imposed sanctions can be im-

posed for typical behaviors of youth, such as curfew violations

“These recommendations offer a comprehensive strategy for decision makers to tackle reckless driving, and they will be far better equipped going forward to collaborate in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion while working on changing reckless driving behavior,” Alderman Murphy said.

The Task Force was established by Common Council File Number 181420, adopted January 14, 2019. The Task Force was comprised of

members of the Common Council, Mayor’s Office, Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, Municipal Court, Circuit Court, Health Department, Safety and Civic Commission, Youth Council, and the community.

The implementation of the report recommendations will be further taken up by the Mayor, the Common Council, and at least one community partner/organization.

“It is the sincere hope of every person on the Task Force that these recommendations will result in a reduction of reckless driving incidents, making the streets safer for everyone,” Alderman Murphy said.

LEGAL&CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is requesting proposals for **Central Station Monitoring and Security Guard Response Services, with proposals to be submitted for Division 1 - Central Station Monitoring Services and/or Division 2 - Security Guard Response Services.** Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines for Divisions 1 and 2 may be obtained online at: <https://mps.aegraphics.com/>, **THEN:**

1. Click on "All Public Jobs".
2. Search for the project listed above.
3. **OR** paper copies may be obtained from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

MPS HUB and Student Employment / Participation requirements for Divisions 1 and 2 are as stated within the proposal documents.

A pre-proposal conference call will be held at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. See RFP for instructions on how to access conference call.

All questions should be submitted in writing prior to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 to DFMSPProcurement@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. No questions will be answered after that date and time. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Written questions and responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals per the submission instructions, as stated within the RFP, no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

Keith P. Posley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

11897782/7-7

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 20CV2538**

In the matter of the name change of:
RACHEL LEE HAWKEN

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: RACHEL LEE HAWKEN
To: RACHEL LEE PIZZINO
Birth Certificate: RACHEL LEE PIZZINO

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. WILLIAM S POCAN Room 401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: July 9, 2020 TIME 8:45 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 5-21-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. WILLIAM S POCAN
Circuit Court Judge
155/6-10-17-24-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 20CV2856**

In the matter of the name change of:
HUNTER WILLIAM RUNE

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: HUNTER WILLIAM RUNE
To: HUNTER JOHN MACIEJEWSKI
Birth Certificate: HUNTER WILLIAM RUNE

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. WILLIAM S POCAN Room 401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: July 2, 2020 TIME 9:30 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 5-13-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. WILLIAM S POCAN
Circuit Court Judge
154/6-10-17-24-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 2020CV002808**

In the matter of the name change of:
DESMOND ALEXANDER

JOHNS

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: DESMOND ALEXANDER
JOHNS To: DESMOND ALEXANDER VALENTINE
Birth Certificate: DESMOND ALEXANDER JOHNS

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. WILLIAM S POCAN Room 401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: June 17, 2020 TIME 2:30 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 5-7-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. WILLIAM S POCAN
Circuit Court Judge
151/5-13-20-27-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
PETITION FOR NAME
CHANGE
FOR MINOR CHILD UNDER 14
Case No. 20CV003327**

In the matter of the name change of:
D’ANDRE LATRELL DOWNEY JR
BY: PAZARA JASHIR HARRIS

THE PETITIONER (S) STATE (S):

1. The Petition is brought by one of the parents of the minor child who has two living parents and paternity has been established.
2. Petitioner’s address is 416 N 75th Street, Milwaukee Wisconsin 53213
3. The minor child address 416 N 75th Street Milwaukee Wisconsin 53213.
4. The name that appears on the minor child’s birth certificate is D’ANDRE LATRELL DOWNEY
5. The birth certificate was issued in the state of Wisconsin
6. The minor child is not a sex offender required to register under 301.45 Wis Stats., or a similar law of any other state.
7. I/We wish to change the minor child’s name to: PRINCETON JASIAH HARRIS For the following reason(s) Due to the instability of the father son relationship
8. I/We wish to change the name on the child’s Wisconsin birth certificate.

I declare under the penalty of false swearing that the information I have provided is true and accurate.
PAZARA HARRIS/Petitioner 416 N 75th Street Milwaukee Wisconsin 53213

Dated: 6-5-2020

BY THE COURT:
HON. WILLIAM S POCAN BR. 26
Circuit Court Judge
157/6-17-24/7-1-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 20CV001246**

In the matter of the name change of:
KAMRYN ALEXANDER SMITH
By (Petitioner) SHELLEY JEAN GILBERT

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: KAMRYN ALEXANDER SMITH To: KAMRYN ALEXANDER GILBERT
Birth Certificate: KAMRYN ALEXANDER SMITH

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. CARL ASHLEY BR. 33 Room 500 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 8, 2020 TIME 10:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 2-14-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. CARL ASHLEY
Circuit Court Judge
156/6-17-24/7-1-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 20CV3516**

In the matter of the name change of:
BRADLEY RICHARD HIGHTDUDIS

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: BRADLEY RICHARD HIGHTDUDIS To: SOPHIA ALEXANDREA BRADLEY
Birth Certificate: BRADLEY RICHARD HIGHTDUDIS

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. WILLIAM S POCAN Room 401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: August 5, 2020 TIME 2:30 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 6-24-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. WILLIAM S POCAN
Circuit Court Judge
159/7-1-8-15-2020

SUMMONS

(PUBLICATION)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
NAME CHANGE HEARING
Case No. 20CV002798**

In the matter of the name change of:
ALETHIA JUNE PAPAS

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge’s Name: HON. JEFFREY A CONEN Room 402 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: July 8, 2020 TIME 3:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 5-20-2020
BY THE COURT:
HON. JEFFREY A CONEN
Circuit Court Judge
158/6-24-26/7-1-8-2020

SUMMONS NAME CHANGE

I Declare and Affirm my true, ‘Proper Person Stats and Estate’ and assertively Reclaim my Rightful Social and Cultural Life of the State. I, ALIYAH KAREEMA EL, being a direct descendant of the Ancient Canaanites / Moabites, assert my Birthright Claim of Right and of Title. Standing squarely and duly Affirmed, I do Declare, and Proclaim, upon Divine Law, upon Nature’s Law; upon Universal Law; upon my Moorish Birthrights; upon international Law; and by Treaty and Constitutional Law; Declare, Proclaim and say: I, ALIYAH KAREEMA EL, being previously misclassified and misidentified by persons of the Union States Society, U.S.A. – doing business at North America, was falsely – designated under the colorable, Wardship name, JANEEN MARIE ROGERS, and all derivatives thereof, do hereby refute the said Misclassifications and Frauds; making it known to the Public; and Publish my Corrected Free National Name, Attribute and Title. I have decided to take this time to declare my Nationality as a Moorish American, and correct my name to reflect my religious and customary beliefs.

I Declare and Affirm my true, ‘Proper Person Status and Estate’ and assertively Reclaim my Rightful Social and Cultural Life of the State. My Declaration, Correction, Proclamation and Publication are in sanguineous and harmonious accord with my Moorish Nation of Northwest Amexem / North America acknowledging my Birthrights. Having Lawfully, Dutifully, and Legally Obtained and Proclaimed my Moorish Nationally and Birthrights, Name and Title; in harmony with, in association with, and in Accord with Divine Law: The Archaic Customs, and the Laws, Rules, Usages of “The Moorish Divine and National Movement”; being Aboriginal and indigenous, and bound to the North American Continent by Heritage, by Primogeniture; by Birthright’ by Natural Birth; by Freehold; and by Heirship Inheritance.

Dated: 5-12-2020

By: ALIYAH KAREEMA EL
0153/5-20-27/6-3-2020

LEGAL
AFFIDAVITS
DIVORCE
NAME
CHANGE
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LIENS!
PLACE
THEM
HERE!

SIGNIFYIN’: Though he’s passed on, Pop Holt’s impact and legacy lives on

(continued from page 5)

All of the women in the family worked at the nursing home. Each of his six sons worked on his scrap metal truck, as did I during the summer months, starting when I was but 12 years old.

I vividly recall riding with my great uncle, who never had a formal education, around the city in a predetermined route from factory to factory.

We stopped at a dozen or so factories a day. My primary role was to climb under machinery, using the magnet roped around my neck to determine the type of metal and then to start pulling it out as my uncle sorted the pieces and placed them in drums.

My grandfather was a powerful and proud man. He followed us in a business suit, driving a new Cadillac.

He was the first Black man I ever recall being called 'mister' by a White man.

That was an eye-opening experience that many of today's youth won't understand or appreciate.

My father followed in my grandfather's footsteps. He made a decent living with his two young brothers as his crew.

Both brothers can still recall working from can't see to can't see, and returning home so fatigued that they often went directly to bed.

It was hard, grueling work that made us reliable and respectful of what my father went through to provide for his family.

Wayne explained he once told Pop he didn't want to work that hard throughout his life and set his sights on college, which my father applauded---but he made him work for his school clothes nonetheless.

There's a cultural message in that scenario which few boys of single-parent households will appreciate.

One of the subjects taught to many young Black boys at employment programs focuses on developing a work ethic.

The number one complaint I hear from merchants and business owners is that Black youth today don't possess the discipline that makes for a good employee.

That wasn't the case in my family or among my generation. We acquired those quantities, but we also understood our responsibility to the family and our tribe.

My youngest brother didn't have to work the truck for long, as my father opened a transportation company and later a medical supply business.

I also learned about courage and self-defense from my father.

He taught me to defend myself and my family.

He didn't mind so much if I lost a fight, but he would whup my behind if he heard I ran from a fight or didn't defend my sisters.

He also prepared me for the cruel realities of racism and apartheid.

Pops taught me how to survive in a society where we were second-class citizens and disrespected.

Every year my father would take us to a classroom below the Mason Dixon Line. Graduation meant you survived.

Rural Georgia was an entirely different world to me. Out-

houses, freshly killed chicken, grits, and eggs for breakfast. All-day church on Sundays, followed by a supper that represented the best of soul food.

We worked the farm during the day, slopping pigs, feeding chickens, and shucking corn for feed.

Sandwiched around those chores was coon hunting in the late evening and fishing during the day. Yeah, nasty coon!

I also learned why my grandfather moved his family north.

I recall getting in trouble when I boarded a county bus before two young white punks along the road.

I was already on the White neighbor's radar for not saying 'sir' to a White merchant at a roadhouse store. But that last incident was the straw that broke the bigot's backs.

My stay that summer was short-lived, and I was told my relatives would pay for my insolence.

Speaking of racism and the Deep South, one of the most terrifying, but eye-opening, experiences of my life occurred during a pre-teen trip to Georgia.

My father and Uncle Bobby (who later became a minister) traveled south with an elderly couple I can't remember and myself in the back seat.

I don't remember exactly where we were, but I woke from my sleep to hear the fear in my uncle's voice when a truckload of redneck racists we had passed on a dark highway made a U-turn and was quickly approaching us.

I was too young to understand the gravity of our situation, but the elderly woman sitting next to me grabbed my hand, squeezing the blood out of it, and openly prayed for God's intervention.

My uncle floored it, as I heard my father say something about hoping we would attract some 'good' (non-racist) cops.

My uncle skillfully navigated the vehicle down the darkly lit road for what seemed like an eternity. Still, we were unable to shake the White thugs, who my uncle said were probably Klansmen who noticed our Wisconsin license plates.

At that point, and with the truck closing the distance between us, my father said something about being hung if caught and reached under his seat, pulling out a revolver.

As the truck closed beside us, I could see the vicious Whites shouting and motioning with what I thought were weapons. Seconds later, I heard the first shot. Several followed.

I'll leave the rest to your imagination. But suffice to say we survived, and the next Christmas, my father brought me a pair of cowboy guns.

Several years later, he brought me a .22 for hunting, but there was more to the lessons than shooting rabbits.

Many years later, I began to understand why my Georgia relatives bowed down to White people; lived under the constant threat of beatings and lynching for violating Jim Crow's unofficial laws.

It took a unique strength and faith to survive in the south.

I now appreciate why my father took me, and later my brothers and sisters, to that

strange environment.

Milwaukee was, and continues to be, one of the north's most racist cities, which an owner of the Milwaukee Bucks declared several years ago.

Growing up, there were laws in place that restricted our movements. Black Milwaukeeans couldn't live north of Keefe Avenue, west of 27th or east of Palmer Streets.

We attended separate and intentionally unequal schools. We went to segregated movie theaters or were forced to sit in the balcony.

Police routinely beat Black men; some were killed as an example to keep us in our place.

Black folks weren't allowed to file complaints against the police unless they owned property, and even then, the verdict was preordained.

Growing up in Milwaukee was a unique experience for people of color, but it was nothing compared to the Deeper than Deep South.

The only thing we shared, aside from different degrees of oppression, was spiritual and healthy family networks.

Those latter principles are what made our community a 'community' back in the day.

The only advantage growing up in the south was experiencing what Griot Teju Ologboni once explained was its "proximity to African culture."

My generation was fortunate to have lived in both worlds.

I remember during the first 'riot' how the National Guard barricaded our community, and we weren't allowed to go outside the plantation for food.

My father talked someone into letting me use his station wagon (even though I was too young drive) because I had a part-time job at the Milwaukee Sentinel and had an ID that allowed me to travel outside our reservation.

Everybody on the block contributed whatever they had, with my father and mother contributing the most.

I traveled to the near east side, purchasing as many can goods, ground beef, and dry goods as possible, that everyone on the block shared.

My father wasn't a perfect man. He could be hard. But he was also a storyteller and flirt, qualities he passed down.

He taught us to pee straight, aim using the sights, and to seek beyond our reach.

He was a devoted father, family leader, and a hard-working entrepreneur.

Those were among the traits he passed along.

George 'Bugs' Holt provided, protected, and preached. He was married for life, and although he eventually lost his sight, he could see much better than most with 20/20.

I grieved and felt the sense of loss my brothers spoke of when the funeral director closed the casket.

But I disagreed with my brothers' assessment.

He made us into good men and my sisters into ladies. What he taught is being kept alive.

No, the closing of the coffin did not signal the end of an era or his death. He, as I explained while rendering the African Libation, lives now as an ancestor.

As such, he lives on, and his impact will be felt for an eternity. **Hotep**

Sheriff Earnell Lucas Affirms Commitment to Restoring Honor, Integrity and Trust to Law Enforcement in Milwaukee County

(continued from page 5)

true equality in our community.

Since taking office in January 2019, my staff and I have taken decisive action to restructure the operations of the Sheriff's Office, to align our organizational values with the demands of our community, and to root out racism and all forms of institutional prejudice from the mechanics of Milwaukee County law enforcement. In this critical moment, it is my hope to share the progress that we have made, and to affirm our commitment to building upon these sweeping reforms as we infuse our efforts with the "fierce urgency of now."

Affirming Human Rights and Dignity in the Milwaukee County Jail

Among my foremost responsibilities as Sheriff are the welfare and safety of all individuals detained in the Milwaukee County Jail. For too long, the jail was synonymous with dysfunction and the ill-treatment of vulnerable residents. Within the past eighteen months, we have worked successfully to restore the jail to compliance with medical and correctional standards for safe and efficient correctional operations.

In early 2019, the Sheriff's Office worked with other Milwaukee County stakeholders to transition medical care in the jail to a new healthcare provider, which has attained full staffing and provide a high quality of care to those in our custody. Working with the jail medical provider, the Sheriff's Office replaced inmate wellness checks conducted by law enforcement officers with high-frequency medical checks performed by trained nursing staff.

During 2019 and 2020, the Sheriff's Office has stabilized staffing levels in the jail, by ensuring that the correctional workforce is appropriately compensated, trained, and supported. The use of mandatory overtime has decreased, ensuring appropriate rest and relief for personnel working in a dynamic environment.

The Sheriff's Office has worked to ensure a safe environment for all individuals working or detained in the jail. Since 2019, assaults in the jail – by in-custody persons on fellow in-custody persons and by in-custody persons on correctional officers – have decreased.

The Sheriff's Office worked aggressively to preempt COVID-19 transmission within the jail, successfully implementing containment and isolation protocols setting aside separate housing for COVID-19-positive and quarantined individuals. The Sheriff's Office also worked successfully to establish an off-site alternate medical facility for the treatment of in-custody individuals afflicted with COVID-19.

The Sheriff's Office has strongly supported countywide decarceration efforts, which have resulted in significant decreases in Milwaukee County's jail population.

Regulating the Use of Force by Sheriff's Office Personnel

Our community expects that law enforcement and correctional officers restrict their use of physical force to those occasions when force is necessary for the protection of life and safety. Since taking office, my staff and I have strengthened the processes governing the use of force by Sheriff's Office personnel.

In 2019 and 2020, the Sheriff's Office has reexamined its use-of-force reporting practices and restructured the use-of-force review process to maximize the involvement of subject-matter experts, internal investigators, and senior-level command staff. The Sheriff's Office has utilized its advanced business intelligence systems to track uses of force, enabling early warnings related to personnel who may be likely to use unjustified or inordinate force, and timely intervention.

The Sheriff's Office has invested in de-escalation training, including crisis-intervention training conducted by community partners. The Sheriff's Office has implemented innovative strategies to defuse tense encounters between law enforcement and persons experiencing crisis. These efforts include partnering with Milwaukee County's Housing Division to connect homeless individuals experiencing crisis with vital resources.

Investing in Compliance and Professional Performance

When my administration entered office in January 2019, we encountered an organization whose systems of policies, procedures and compliance measures had atrophied through lack of proper oversight.

On my first day in office, I ordered the restructuring of all regulatory compliance functions, as well as our Internal Affairs Division, Training Academy, and Public Records Unit, into an Office of Legal Affairs and Compliance.

Led by an experienced legal practitioner with extensive qualifications as counsel to Milwaukee County law enforcement and public safety entities, the Office of Legal Affairs and Compliance is tasked with ensuring compliance with all legal and ethical standards and measures of professional performance.

The Office of Legal Affairs and Compliance is effectuating the overhaul of all Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, aligning agency practices with national standards, through a partnership with the nationally-recognized training and policy programs of Lexipol LLC.

The Internal Affairs Division diligently investigates allegations of work-rule violations and potential misconduct committed by Sheriff's Office members.

The Training Academy, which not only equips newly-recruited correctional officers and deputy sheriffs with professional skills but provides ongoing training and recertification to personnel, has emphasized programming that fosters trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve.

Specialized implicit-bias and cultural competence training is provided to all deputy sheriff recruits as a component of the Training Academy's core curriculum.

Transforming How We Connect with Those We Serve

As we work to restore trust in law enforcement, it is essential that those of us who wear the badge communicate honestly and transparently with those whom we serve. It is equally important that our trust-building efforts extend beyond the bare minimums, and into the critical realm of direct, sustained, and open-minded engagement with community members invested in building a strong and safe Milwaukee County. When I entered office, we created an Office of Public Affairs and Community Engagement to centralize the outreach and communications functions of the Sheriff's Office.

The Office of Public Affairs and Community Engagement has revolutionized our agency's recruitment process, leveraging print, broadcast and social media to connect with community members with skills and life experiences that are needed, but often underrepresented, in law enforcement. These efforts have resulted in a workforce – extending from our correctional and deputy sheriff ranks to our civilian and security staff – that better reflects the diversity and values of our community.

The Office of Public Affairs and Community Engagement has opened new avenues of communication between community members and Sheriff's Office leadership and front-line personnel. These initiatives extend from informal community activities, including Public Safety Days in Milwaukee County's parks and "Coffee with a Deputy" gatherings, to mission-focused community dialogues focused on immigrant rights, voting rights, the rights of members of Transgender-Intersex-Gender-Non-Binary communities, and the intersection between public health and public safety.

The Sheriff's Office has worked to create new methods of communication that protect resident privacy while maximizing accessibility. For example, the Sheriff's Office maintains a mobile application, available on iOS and Android operating systems, which allows community members to interact with a broad variety of Sheriff's Office resources. Anonymous crime tips, requests for Internal Affairs investigations, crash reports, and contact information for Sheriff's Office divisions are among the resources accessible to the public through the MCSO Mobile App.

Employing Community-Driven Policing Strategies

My administration and I recognize that the needs expressed by our community must determine the strategies and tactics that we employ when providing law enforcement services in our neighborhoods. Our Patrol Division, Parks Patrol Unit and Community Relations Unit, the subdivisions of the Sheriff's Office most directly engaged in neighborhood policing, embrace philosophies of community-driven and intelligence-led policing.

The Sheriff's Office works proactively with residents, community activists, business owners, nonprofit employees, and public-sector stakeholders to identify challenges developing in neighborhood parks. In 2019, large-scale collaborations between the Sheriff's Office and coalitions of community stakeholders resulted in successful interventions in Moody Park, Garden Homes Park, and Kosciuszko Park, where residents and neighborhood advocates had experienced high concentrations of public safety challenges.

In partnership with the Milwaukee County Parks Department and nonprofit service providers, the Sheriff's Office employs innovative strategies, including crime prevention through environmental design, structured engagement with park users, and (when appropriate under public health guidelines) direct neighborhood outreach to build systems of collaboration supporting public safety in individual parks.

The Sheriff's Office leverages its investigative units to respond to high-acuity public safety challenges identified by our community-based partners. These challenges include human trafficking, narcotics distribution, the trafficking and sale of firearms, and other networks of violent crime. Sheriff's Office-led investigations routinely and successfully interrupt violent criminal enterprises jeopardizing the lives and safety of Milwaukee County residents, holding high-level offenders accountable for their actions.

Advancing into an Era of Change

For the past eighteen months, we – as a Sheriff's Office and as a community – have worked successfully to improve the performance and accountability of Milwaukee County's oldest law enforcement agency. But we cannot and must not claim victory. No one Sheriff can transform the discourse and practices of an entire profession overnight. Nor can one law enforcement agency, despite the best efforts of the over 600 public servants who strive day-in and day-out to advance the cause of justice within the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office. Instead, we must unite as a community dedicated not only to discussing transformative change, but also to enacting it.

We must explore every facet of our criminal justice system, seeking efficiencies that make the halls of justice accessible to everyone in our community. We must scrutinize every aspect of our public health, social services, and education infrastructure, and invest in these systems the resources that they require. And we must also reflect upon our own actions, as individuals living in a community that, for all our efforts toward progress, continues to experience systemic inequality.

But we must not stop there. For those of us serving in the law enforcement profession, our commitment to continuing the work of reform and transformation requires greater urgency and more definite results than ever before. For no matter how far we have come, we have not come so far that Black and Brown people in our country and community can enter an encounter with law enforcement without fear or apprehension.

The manifold tragedies of 2020, from the murders of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks to the systemic inequities laid bare by the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated that our nation has a long road to travel before we can claim victory in our quest for equality. As a Black man in Milwaukee and as your Milwaukee County Sheriff, I know that our community has an equally long road to travel. But I am confident that, with the passionate advocacy of the present movement reinforcing our commitment to equity and justice, we at the Sheriff's Office will continue to advance the cause of law enforcement that honors and affirms our community's trust.

