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Happy Father's Day!



Brandon Scott poised to become Baltimore's next mayor after winning Democratic primary

By *Demetrius Dillard*

After a week-long wait, Brandon Scott has sealed the Democratic nomination for mayor, confirming his on the evening of June 9, 2020.

Former mayor Sheila Dixon initially held a sizable lead over Scott after the first set of ballots were counted. The Baltimore City primary election, held June 2, 2020, was riddled with a number of issues, including a "small proofing error" on ballots in District 1, difficulties with incorrect mail-in ballots and wrong dates being printed on some ballots which led to counting delays.

However, as updated results were released over the weekend into the early part of this week, the numbers showed that Scott narrowed the deficit and retained a lead on his way to victory. As of the night of June 9, Scott edged Dixon by a margin of nearly 2,400 votes, sealing the win for the 36-year-old from Park Heights. According to the state board of elections, Scott has 42,798 votes (29.4 percent) to Dixon's 40,418 (27.7 percent).

He delivered an acceptance speech outside of his grandmother's home in Park Heights amongst family, supporters and community members at a press conference on June 10, 2020.

Scott began his remarks by expressing his lifelong desire to serve Baltimore and his intentions to build a new way forward for the city, highlighting gun violence, rebuilding trust in local government, public safety and investing in the youth as some of the prominent issues he plans to address as mayor.

"Our campaign was about showing that we could bring people together around a shared vision for Baltimore," he said. "Our campaign was about proving to the world that a young Black man who grew up in the forgotten Baltimore here in Park Heights could survive everything that you have to live through in Baltimore... to be the leader of this city."

He went on to commend Dixon, who served as the city's first female mayor from 2007 to 2010 before resigning.

"To Mayor Dixon, I want to say thank you. I want to say thank you for running a clean race about the future of



*Baltimore City Council
President Brandon Scott
Courtesy Photo*

Baltimore City; thank you for showing people that Baltimore does believe in second chances; and thank you for remaining committed to the city of Baltimore for your entire service and your entire life," Scott said.

Scott, who fueled his campaign on the slogan "a new way forward," was endorsed by The Baltimore Sun and emerged as the favorite in a field of more than 20 Democratic mayoral candidates, also including Mayor Bernard "Jack" Young, Mary Miller, Thiru Vignarajah, T.J. Smith and Carlmichael Stokey Cannady.

Young, who took over in the stead of former mayor Catherine Pugh after she resigned in 2019, also received acknowledgements from Scott. "To my good friend Mayor Young— I want everyone to join me in thanking the mayor," Scott said. "The mayor who took over city government amidst another corruption scandal, who immediately faced the issues around the cybertech in Baltimore, who had to deal with the continuing gun violence epidemic and now a global health pandemic. His service to the city of Baltimore during these trying times has been very admirable and we owe him a debt of gratitude."

As the sitting city council president,

Scott, along with fellow council members, is immediately tasked with addressing the city's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Scott will face off against Republican nominee Shannon Wright, former city council president candidate and former vice president of the Yonkers (N.Y.) NAACP, for the mayoral seat in the Nov. 3 general election. Bob Wallace, an entrepreneur with multiple businesses in Mount Vernon, will run as an independent against Scott and Wright.

Delegate Nick Mosby (District 40), formerly a District 7 representative on the city council, comfortably won the Democratic nomination for council president over Councilwoman Shannon Sneed and former 12th district councilman Carl Stokes.

"Baltimore, I am incredibly excited and grateful for the outcome of last week's election. We secured more than 40 percent of the vote in a crowded race and over 50,000 Baltimoreans supported

our #NickForPrez campaign," wrote Mosby in a June 11 Instagram post. "To the Mayor, City Council President, City Council, Comptroller, Police Commissioner and all the men and women who serve our city on the frontlines of governmental services- I support you and I want to partner with you to make our city better."

Cyber security engineer Jovani M. Patterson ran unopposed for the Republican nomination and will face Mosby in November. For the comptroller spot, District 4 Councilman Bill Henry topped incumbent Joan Pratt, who has been comptroller for the last 25 years.

Democrats reportedly outnumber Republicans 10 to one in Baltimore, making Scott the presumptive mayor and Mosby the presumptive city council president. Because the Republican party didn't field a nominee, Henry will take over as the next Baltimore City comptroller.

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COVID-19 IS KILLING BLACK PEOPLE. PRESIDENT TRUMP, HELP US!

Covid-19 is killing us. Racism is our pre-existing condition. This is not hyperbole. We have a crisis within a crisis. This moment, our bodies carry the vestiges of America's hateful past. The intergenerational trauma of slavery, hate, murder and institutional injustice is carried in our DNA. Over 400 years of exploitation and violence have literally made us sick. Food deserts, expensive healthcare, pollution, and endless microaggressions are all traumas of the mind and body — and they are killing us. Nationally, Blacks are dying from Covid-19 at a rate 3 to 4 times higher than whites.

Today, Black people have higher incidences of hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, infant mortality, and strokes. Trauma after trauma, generation after generation, poverty, oppression, and violence sit in our bodies as disease.

Mr. President, right now, this minute, we need you to LEAD. I grew up in a family business. I'm no expert on pandemics, but I see desperation and pain spreading in our communities. We need decisive and urgent action.

There are federal actions that only you can take. Please form an urgent response team to target Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations. This team must include the best and brightest from communities of color with expertise in: infectious disease and research; targeted marketing and communications; general expertise in hospital and institutional supply chains; retail supply chains and manufacturing operations; and, state and county healthcare coordinators. The team must give weekly updates on C-SPAN with FACTS from each discipline. Journalists from affected counties, neighborhoods, and reservations must have virtual access to these press conferences.

We need mass quantities of PPE and cleaning products. In some cases, we are paying \$4 EACH for disposable surgical face masks and \$9 for a 16-ounce bottle of hand sanitizer *if* we can find them. CDC-recommended masks, sanitizer, disinfectant cleaners, and wipes are scarce and expensive. Our communities already spend more on basic household items as a percentage of income. How can we get back to work *and* protect our families? Must we choose between our livelihoods and our lives? Once schools reopen, there will be even more demand for virus-related supplies. How can families afford to keep children safe? This is America?

Use the Defense Production Act (DPA) to get these products to our shelves urgently — within weeks, not months — at PRE-PANDEMIC PRICES. Flood the marketplace with products to save lives and end the price gouging.

People of color are primarily the ones disinfecting our public spaces, cleaning hospital rooms and common areas, providing daily personal care for the sick, driving the buses, working the cash registers, harvesting and cooking our food, delivering packages, and so much more. Businesses are already passing on their costs of pandemic-related overhead. Small businesses can't carry these additional expenses unless they increase prices. We are paying more for food and household basics. Higher prices pour salt in the wounds of disadvantaged communities.

PPE, syringes, swabs, vials, gloves, sterile wipes, and other critical items need to be produced under the DPA now! WE STILL DON'T have enough PPE. It is delusional to think demand has lessened. It's not lower; we are rationing our supplies because *we have to*. And we're compromising our healthcare workers and hospital staff in the process. Proper medical standards for PPE usage must be reinstated. Public and private healthcare systems are paying more for supplies and passing the costs on to us!

DPA must control prices on medical and household virus-related goods. PRE-PANDEMIC PRICES must be held in check at each stage of production, distribution, and point of sale. The DPA producers must proportionally include our communities for employment opportunities and as vendor partners.

This is not the time for corporate America to be greedy.

We need MANY, MANY MORE TESTS for those disproportionately affected! Let me define what I mean by testing: ACCURATE with RAPID RESULTS (within hours, not days); adequate supplies to rapidly process tests; and, ACCESSIBLE and free weekly testing for frontline and essential workers to be tested in their zip code.

Please don't keep telling us that testing is not necessary for everyone; only those with symptoms. Don't tell us "we can't test 300 million people" and that you are tracking cases to identify hot spots. Cases are PEOPLE. We are not numbers to be "tracked" by some lag indicator. People who live in densely populated cities or work the front lines need frequent testing. PERIOD. Those with positive or undetermined results need temporary housing to self-isolate. Use federal or military housing. Allocate money to target states to pay for all test-related expenses.

We need a specific, detailed plan for every type of congregate housing, their residents, staff, and vendors. This includes prisons, jails, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, shelters, and other places. It is long overdue. We need a PLAN NOW . . . today! Families are at risk.

We need your leadership. If you allow this virus to hollow out essential workers and communities of color with more sickness and death, our economic recovery won't be a "V", it will be an "L" — and our morality will never recover.

**MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE
FOR GOD'S SAKE . . . HELP US!**

Prayerfully,



Terri Gardner, Elder, WerITribe.org

Guest Editorials/Letters

Can't stay home, can't keep curfew: People experiencing homelessness caught in pandemic, curfews and violence

By *The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty*

People experiencing homelessness in the United States—already at heightened risk and with fewer resources due to the pandemic—now face even greater challenges as a result of the both the violence sweeping many city streets and the curfews many are imposing in an effort to control. While people take to the streets across the country to protest police brutality and the killings of unarmed Black Americans, we urge lawmakers, police units, and neighbors to do more to provide people experiencing homelessness with shelter and safety.

Without homes to shelter in place, and with limited access to already-burdened emergency shelter, people experiencing homelessness are left to fend for themselves. The Centers on Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidance urging cities to house unsheltered people whenever possible, avoid sweeping encampments, and reconfigure shelters to conform to social distancing and sanitation guidelines. Unfortunately, compliance across the nation has been spotty at best, and people experiencing homeless have remained at extraordinary risk.

Now, various cities have implemented curfews as an effort to curb violence conducted outside of protests against police brutality. Unfortunately, curfews have created further challenges, as unsheltered people, already subject to laws criminalizing acts such as sleeping in public, are at risk of arrest for yet another “crime”—violating an order to stay inside after curfew when they have nowhere inside to go.

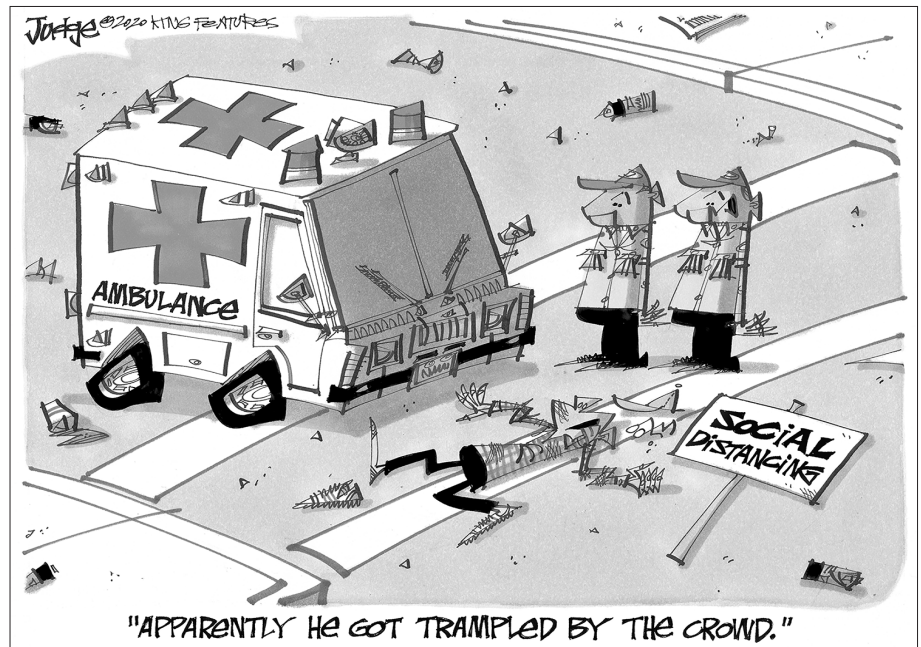
People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately people of color in the United States—40 percent are black, despite only being 12 percent of the national population—and thus are already at greater risk of being targeted by police.

Increased police presence on the streets means increased risk of arrest and attacks during perceived curfew violations as well as preexisting laws that criminalize sleeping or that criminalize basic life sustaining activities.

“We call on cities across the country to follow the CDC guidance by housing people experiencing homelessness immediately—and to protect them from arrest, violence, and further trauma,” said Maria Foscarinis, founder and executive director of the Law Center.

In addition to putting our unhoused neighbors at greater risk, the curfew further restricts access to basic services such as food, sanitation and bathrooms. The lack of services will further jeopardize the health and safety of homeless people, who are already suffer from more chronic diseases due to stress and trauma, and who, if infected, are twice as likely to die of COVID-19 than housed people.

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent, and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Communist China Owes Pandemic Reparations

Communist China has a history of experimenting with contagious viruses. In 2013, scientists at the Harbin China Veterinary Research Institute produced a new virus by combining the H5N1 bird flu with a 2009 H1N1 flu virus, and the resultant virus was highly contagious among humans.

In 2019 the COVID-19 virus most likely came from the Chinese Virology Laboratory in Wuhan China, which was experimenting with COVID-19 bats. United States scientists and intelligence officials say COVID-19 was not man-made or engineered in a laboratory, but they are investigating the COVID-19 source to be bats infecting workers at the Wuhan laboratory who then transmitted the virus to the public.

The COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world has caused over 350,000 deaths with an adverse economic impact of \$3 to \$5 trillion. Communist China should pay reparations to the world for the economic damage it has caused. The value on human life is difficult to quantify, but Communist China should have to compensate relatives of deceased people.

We must punish Communist China to ensure countries with research laboratories have strong safety and security procedures to prevent viral infestations.

Also, China covered up the outbreak and hoarded personal protection equipment (PPE). We must bring manufacturing back to the United States of America.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

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As COVID-19 Phase 3 vaccine studies begin, minority participation in clinical trials is crucial

By Dr. Asefa Jejaw Mekonnen

The minority community's relationship with the medical and scientific world has not been built upon trust. This is particularly true with African Americans. Brutal and unethical historical practices in medicine subjected African American bodies to dissection and autopsy material without their consent. In addition, sterilizing Native American women without their consent, and the infamous Tuskegee syphilis experiment, led to a justifiable fear and lack of trust by people of color regarding clinical trial participation in the United States.

Recent publications have also indicated African Americans are overly represented in experimental and procedural studies that did not require informed consent. These are studies conducted under emergency situations when subjects cannot make an informed decision. Part of the explanation given was that African Americans represent the largest proportion of geographical catchment in

areas where such experiments are done. These are primarily in inner city metro areas where academic medical centers are located. On the contrary, African Americans constituted less than five percent of patients in cancer-related clinical trials, which led to 24 of the cancer drugs approved between 2015 and 2018.

when millions died with each major epidemic.

I grew up in a developing nation where infectious disease accounts for the majority of preventable deaths. I witnessed first-hand the impact of mass vaccination. I cannot imagine what the population demography would have

can improve the knowledge gap. Logistical factors that will curtail access to clinical research sites have to be considered. For example, trial managers should think about creating access to transportation, or taking clinical trial sites to where the target cohorts reside.

While building trust takes a long time, involvement of nonmedical community leaders to champion care in their respective communities will have a positive influence. Primary care physicians who have longstanding relationships with communities should be involved in recruitment and the explanation of research protocols, as they have built rapport with their communities.

Having quantitatively and qualitatively proportionate racial, cultural, and ethnic representation on the team of clinical investigators—and among the teams who monitor the observance of rules of clinical investigation—can couple with a compassionate support staff during clinical trials to improve the trust factor. While medicine is a universal human science that assumes each of us should have commitment and care based on our common humanity, historical reasons in America have made race a major factor in care delivery. As such, we must bridge the gap so the community that needs care the most can benefit from early clinical trials and scientific progress to change the course of COVID-19 pandemic.

Asefa Mekonnen, MD, FCCP, is a pulmonologist in active practice as a partner at Rockville Internal Medicine Group in Rockville, Maryland. He also serves as an investigator with Meridian Clinical Research to oversee clinical trials.

“I grew up in a developing nation where infectious disease accounts for the majority of preventable deaths. I witnessed first-hand the impact of mass vaccination. I cannot imagine what the population demography would have looked like if public health were not armed with mass vaccination strategies for major childhood illnesses.”

The underrepresentation of African American in oncological clinical trials extends to cancers that have higher rates of occurrence in the African American community. If we follow the same logic for studies that did not require consent, studies on medical conditions that affect African Americans at a disproportionately higher rate (like multiple myeloma) should have a proportionate or higher ratio of African American subjects in the clinical trial.

The system is not serving justice and must change. Clinical trials can provide earlier access to care options that can prolong life and prevent disease.

Opinions differ in terms of the benefit of vaccines to society. I strongly believe in the positive impact of vaccines. The world eradicated small pox and controlled polio, measles, yellow fever, pertussis, etc., with vaccine intervention. We must remember how human health was affected in the pre-vaccine era,

looked like if public health were not armed with mass vaccination strategies for major childhood illnesses. As we progress in the fight against COVID-19, a safe and effective vaccine would give us the means to resume normal life.

Vaccine trials will show the result of preventing disease, or modifying the course of a disease, in a population that has the highest burden of disease. People at the highest risk of the disease—like healthcare workers, frontline workers, and African American and Hispanic communities—must be included in the study design that identifies requirements for participating in the trial. But protocols will not increase participation in the study unless the trust and fear barriers for clinical trial participation are addressed.

When it comes to COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, early educational intervention to the underrepresented African American and Hispanic communities

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Biracial educator pens anti-racism book

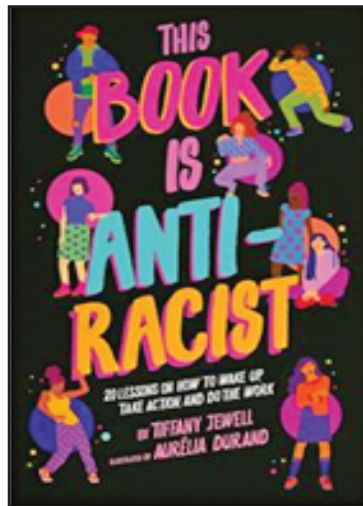
By Stacy M. Brown

A new book hitting shelves this month is designed to help guide children, teens and adults in their discussion about racism.

Tiffany Jewell has penned, “This Book is Anti-Racist,” in which she notes that some have given the impression that individuals are wrong and even stirring trouble when they discuss racism.

“Racism is a problem, a very serious problem, and it needs to be talked about because it isn’t going away if we do nothing,” said Jewell, who describes herself as a “biracial writer, parent and Montessori educator who has been doing the work of dismantling white supremacy for 12 years.”

The co-founder of #AntiRacistBook-Club, Jewell, says the book’s importance is underscored by the demonstrations and protests that are taking place globally in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis.



“This Book is Anti-Racist,” written by Tiffany Jewell, is the first book about anti-racism for teenagers and aims to empower young people to disrupt racist systems that previous generations have put in place.

Courtesy Photo

She says while the philosophy of anti-racism has been growing in awareness in the last few years, “This Book is Anti-Racist,” is the first about anti-racism for teenagers, and aims to empower young people to disrupt racist systems that pre-

vious generations have put in place.

“Anti-racism has helped me to have a clearer understanding of the world around me, how we got here, and it has helped me to shape a clear vision of what an anti-racist, just society could and will be like,” Jewell said. “These questions do not only arise when injustice is being discussed in the news; bias and racism are not only new today. They are foundational in this country. They are issues of our past, our present, and our tomorrow.”

Jewell added that she wrote the book for everyone.

“This is the book I wish I had when I was nine years old, sitting in a classroom with a racist teacher. I wrote this for all my former students who always want to know more and want to know that, even though they’re young, they do have the agency to make impactful change,” she said. “And, this is the book I want my children to read. I wrote this book for parents and families for educators and admin-

istrators. I wrote it for all the students and children who live in our racialized society— which is everywhere.”

Jewell insists— “this book is for our ancestors. It’s for our futures. It’s for all the young black, indigenous and people of color, like Trayvon Martin, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and Tamir Rice, who [were] murdered by the hands of those we are supposed to go to for help. Our young ancestors should not be simply memorialized in our hashtags— they deserve more than that.”

Jewell says many white adults are just now coming to terms that racism harms everyone.

She noted that they’re dealing with the fact that, to undo a system that strips us of our humanity, they’ll have to relearn who they can be and redistribute resources, privilege and wealth children of color may live in a more equitable and just world.

“Because the adults are scared and uncomfortable, it is immediately assumed that the children will be too—and they cannot handle the truth,” Jewell said. “They can. Talking with children about race, their identities, and sharing truths with them is very developmentally appropriate. Keeping children innocent reinforces white supremacy culture. Children [of color] are not afforded the same innocence white children are allowed to have.

“Not speaking the truth reinforces racism. It allows us to believe it’s normal. If we don’t talk with our children about injustice and systemic oppression, they’ll still have their questions and form their answers, which can be inaccurate and confusing.”

To purchase “This Book is Anti-Racist,” visit: www.amazon.com.



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I, Joanne Johnson-Adebayo am changing my son’s name from Ademide Jonadab Johnson-Adebayo to Jonadab Ademide Johnson-Adebayo.

I, Joanne Johnson-Adebayo am changing my son’s name from Adetoni Josiah Johnson-Adebayo to Josiah Adetoni Johnson-Adebayo.

Happy Daddy Day to All the Fathers with Love!

By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone! Hoping all is well with you and your family. Hoping that you are safe and healthy during this Coronavirus Pandemic. I understand and know that this year Father's Day will be different than any other Father's Day you have ever live through, but there is a rainbow at the end of this tunnel. Normally I would suggest that the children, grand-children; nephews, nieces, wives or the significant other take their loved one out to dinner to his favorite eatery, take him to a jazz or music concert or like my husband, give him a few hundred dollars to go to the casino, but I am not suggesting any of the above. As far as I am concerned it is too dangerous to do any of that right now. Instead you can first get a very special card dedicated to him with a little "something-something" in it; maybe buy him that favorite tool or lawn equipment he has been hinting around about all year or surprise him with that wide screen television he has been talking about to put into his man-cave. You can fix his favorite meal or if he is a seafood lover, you can surprise him with a family and close friends crab feast cook-out in your backyard, but it is mandatory that everyone should wear a mask unless they are eating and honor social distance.

If you wish good food carry-out only for right now, than I suggest Colin's Seafood & Grill owned by Dante at his second location, 1728 E. Northern Parkway in the Loch Raven Shopping Center. He will open for full services soon. Call 443-708-1680 to put your order in. He also caters for special events, such as Father's Day. You don't have to cook—the will do it for you and deliver. Dante, I am looking for your Grand-Opening of your new restaurant and congratulations.

Remember stay safe if you choose to go out to the public places that are opening up this week, please protect yourself, wear your mask and gloves.

Enjoy this Father's Day Weekend!



Bryant Haysbert



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Moore*



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Dwight Pettit



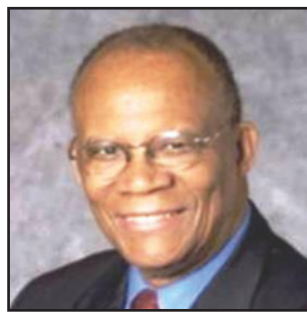
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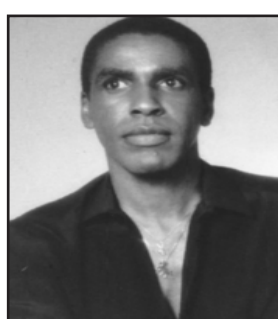
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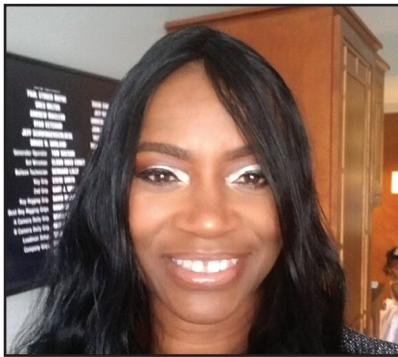
**"A father doesn't tell you that he loves you. He shows you."
—Dimitri,
the Stoneheart**

Protests, Police Reform, Confederate Flag Bans and More But...Where Do We Go From Here?

Compiled by Ursula V. Battle

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Former Minneapolis, Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin, who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd's neck, has been charged with second-degree murder. Chauvin was fired along with the other three officers on the scene—Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao. They were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Floyd's death while in police custody



Carol Williams

"I think the next step is to begin to turn the finger on ourselves. We have to show respect and love, and stop killing each other. If we as black people can't respect ourselves, how can we expect other people respect us? Proclamations and laws to stop police from killing us, won't stop us from killing us. If we treat ourselves like animals, other people will do the same. We all need to pray and come together as one."

**"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."
— James Baldwin**

has powered a movement around the globe against police brutality and racial injustice. The chant of "Black Lives Matter" has grown even louder and fiercer as people of all colors stand in solidarity to oppose the killing of blacks at the hands of police officers.

Other high-profile recent deaths include: Ahmaud Arbery, who was killed in Georgia on February 23, 2020 after being pursued and shot by two white men, and Breonna Taylor, an EMT worker who was killed in Louisville, Kentucky by police on March 13, 2020.

Amid already heightened tension over these deaths, Rayshard Brooks, 27 was



Leonard Stepney, Jr., Retired

"I feel we protest because our struggle and obstacles have been so great. The metaphoric 'knee on our necks' have kept black Americans in a cycle of crime, unemployment, under-employed, under-educated, and and unhealthy. Systematically, we have been considered less then since 1619. There have been strides, but it's the heart that has to change. We've had A Black president, and civil rights laws have been enacted, but the death of those at the hands of police illustrate that things haven't changed much. Where do we go from here? Police reform, police training, laws that make police accountable for their actions, voting out those who are against the agenda of peace, equality, and justice for all, and of course prayer. Prayers that changes the heart of those who want to do us harm. Prayer changes things."

killed in Atlanta on June 12, 2020, by an Atlanta officer following a field sobriety test. Brooks was killed after he snatched an officer's Taser and pointed it back at the officer while fleeing. The Wendy's restaurant where the incident happened was set ablaze, and Brooks' death has sparked new protests.

In the aftermath of these killings, there have been growing demands for change. Among them, calls to defund police departments. Locally, the Baltimore City Council cut \$22 million from the police department's budget. Nationally, NASCAR has announced plans to ban Confederate flags at its events, and in



Alliya Dabo
Student (Morgan State University)

"I think we can't go back to normal because we now face someone else's normal. The only difference is that it is being recorded. I think change needs to happen immediately instead of waiting for a riot, protest, or for Social Media to be outraged for changes to be made. For example, with Breonna Taylor, the police came into her house unannounced, but it took rioting and retweeting in order for the 'No Knock Warrant' to be banned. For Ahmaud Arbery, when he was gunned down, the case was closed, but once people became more aware of it, the more evidence came out, such as the video. Once the media and public gets ahold of something, you can be held accountable. We need to take the initiative as soon as something happens."

states across the country, monuments, and statues that many feel symbolize white supremacy and oppression are being taken down. On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, President Donald Trump signed an executive order addressing policing reforms.

Amidst the civil unrest, politicians, activists, lawyers, celebrities, and others have also voiced their thoughts and opinions about what needs to happen next. What do you think? This week, *The Baltimore Times* took to the streets to ask the question: Where Do We Go From Here?



Carizma Williams
Social Worker, MSW

"Now that we have gotten the media and leaders' attention, the next step is to educate. We can do that in multiple ways. We need to cater to everyone's different learning styles. Not everyone understands why there is such a large group of people upset. The narrative is 'Black Lives Matter,' but all minorities who have been mistreated in any form or fashion should also be included. We may not be able to change the past, but going forward, we need to unite the community. We lack unity. We unite when it comes to protests and riots, but we are not on the same page when it comes to leadership and politics."

As for the police, they need to incorporate some customer service education and people skills. They are so quick to grab their guns. They need different training. I also believe those we vote in, want to do well, but the system blocks them to an extent. Change will not come if we don't see something wrong."

Remembering WEAA's Tyra Phillips Womack

By Ursula V. Battle

There is an old hymn entitled, "May The Work I've Done Speak For Me" The song's lyrics speaks to the works of a person serving as a testament of the life they lived after they have passed on. This song epitomizes the late Tyra Phillips Womack, a radio announcer on WEAA Gospel Grace Afternoon.

"Tyra's legacy is as wide as it is deep," said Derryck Fletcher, Gospel Director for WEAA and host of Gospel Grace Morning Show. "Her legacy is all of the many folks who stand on her shoulders. Tyra always took joy in supporting other people and helping them to fulfill their fullest potential. Her primary legacy is Jerel her son. She gave him life, and she protected his life."

The beloved 57-year-old who was known on the airwaves as "Tyra Phillips," died June 10, 2020 after being shot outside her home in the 2400 block of Albion Avenue.

The Baltimore Police Department released a statement saying, "This was a senseless, tragic murder, as many are, and it appears to have stemmed from a neighbor dispute. Investigators began receiving information almost immediately and have identified a person of interest."

Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for 56-year-old, Richard Sylvester Green. He was arrested June 16, 2020 in the 8600 block of Philadelphia Road, and has been charged with 1st and 2nd degree murder.

Womack, who was shot several times, reportedly died protecting her son Jerel Womack.

"There is literally a hole in our hearts over this senseless tragedy," said Fletcher. "Seeing that Tyra made the ultimate sacrifice for Jerel was not surprising for me. She protected her son even until her last breath."

A public viewing for Womack will be held Friday, June 19, 2020 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Apostolic Faith Church, 27 S. Caroline Street in Baltimore, where she was a long-time member.

A "Celebration of Life" will take place



Tyra Phillips

Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 11 a.m. at the same location (family members only). Services will be streamed via Facebook, firstapostolic.tv and YouTube.

"Tyra is literally the sweetest person you could ever meet," said Fletcher. "I have known Tyra for 23 years. Tyra has had continuous service at the station since 1989. None of us on the team have ever experienced WEAA 88.9 FM without her."

The Sunday following her death, WEAA dedicated the day's programming to her memory.

"We all talked about the impact Tyra had on all of us," said Fletcher. "She was so nurturing, maternal, and caring."

Ernestine Jones is the host of Gospel Grace at Daybreak.

"Tyra did the Church Announcements for over 30 years," said Jones, noting that Womack also worked as a mail carrier before becoming an administrative assistant for the U.S. Postal Service.

"When I came on board, she was already there doing church announcements. We would split them up. Tyra would always let me take mine first. She would say, 'just leave me what's left.' She always put others before herself. She was very humble."

Jones said that she, Womack and Joi Thomas, host of Gospel Grace Afternoon were often referred to as 'The Church Girls' and the 'Divas of Gospel Grace.'



Members of the Gospel Grace family: Derryck Fletcher, Ernestine Jones, Tyra Phillips, Joi Thomas, Jamal McCollum and Mark Waldrum.

Photos Courtesy of Gospel Grace Staff

"Tyra had a saying, 'Therefore, having obtained help from God, I continue unto this day.'" said Jones. "And that was what she did. I have a message Tyra texted to me six hours before her demise. I will never get rid of that text."

Chanel Crowder said she has been a part of the Gospel Grace family since 1997.

"Tyra was so sweet and loving. She loved God so much and embraced everyone. We are devastated and shocked about what happened. Her faith, family, church, and Gospel Grace family were the things she most enjoyed. Tyra was a special person we will always cherish and remember."

Heaven 600 AM on-air radio host Lee Michaels shared reflections about Womack.

"She was always a pleasant and warm spirit, whose signature dimpled smile exposed the love of God that was in her heart!" said Michaels.

Frederico Hemphill recalled working with Womack years ago on Video Hair Magazine, a television show that highlighted black hair and fashion. Hemphill said the two first met as students at the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland (BIM).

"I asked Tyra if she would host Video Hair Magazine," said Hemphill. "We were an independent show with no

money. She agreed to do it with no pay. Tyra just lit up the camera. She was a natural."

He added, "I never met Tyra's son. I only knew her daughter. But if her son possesses even a fraction of the qualities she possessed, I believe he is going to be a very powerful young man. Because of Tyra's actions, another black man did not die that day."

Kim Chase hosts WEAA's Live and Uncut.

"Tyra was always smiling, pleasant, and agreeable," said Chase. "She was always understanding, and carried herself as a Christian woman."

Mark Waldrum is the host of Gospel Grace Instruments of Praise.

"Tyra was organized and dedicated", said Waldrum. "She was God-fearing, professional and took her craft seriously. She did everything to a tee. She was a wonderfully Godly woman. She was proud of her son, family and church."

He added, "The way she left us saddens me. I think it highlights we must do something about the violence. We are totally fed-up. Tyra was such an influencer of young people. That's her legacy."

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Ravens Steve Bisciotti releases statement about Black Lives Matter

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have consistently been one of the more progressive organizations in the NFL. In November 2002, Ozzie Newsome was named as the team's general manager. Newsome was the first black man to hold the position in the NFL.

With Steve Bisciotti as the owner, the Ravens continue to show support to the Baltimore community, the majority of which is black. Bisciotti's latest message is possibly his strongest yet.

The Ravens owner released a message via the team's website in support of Black Lives Matter and took a bold stand against the social injustices, police brutality, and systemic racism that exists today.

"Ravens Nation, like most of you I'm sure watching those videos shook you, and shook me to my core. It made me sick; and it made me angry," Bisciotti said.

One of the videos Bisciotti was referring to was of George Floyd being murdered by former Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin. Chauvin placed his knee on Floyd's kneec for eight minutes and 46 seconds, resulting in Floyd's death.

Floyd's murder wasn't the only video that Bisciotti watched. Bisciotti said he saw the video of Ahmaud Aubrey being murdered 7-10 days before seeing the



Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti released a message via the team's website in support of Black Lives Matter and took a bold stand against the social injustices, police brutality, and systemic racism that exists today. Photo Credit: AP

video of Floyd's murder. He called it the most despicable thing he had ever seen.

As the owner of the Ravens, Bisciotti has gotten the chance to develop close-knit relationships with many black players. He wants them to be able to express their concerns and have people actually listen.

"All they're asking for is right now is to be heard. I want to ask you individually, Are you willing to listen? That's all they want. And if you listen enough, will you learn to speak up? That's the hardest

thing for us. But it's the first thing that they need...to just believe they have partners that want to listen.

"I've learned in my life more than anything, that anger comes from hurt. I see that anger. If we don't stop and think about the hurt that has been caused nothing will ever change. These young men are hurting and they're begging us to listen."

Bisciotti said he got to sit in on virtual meetings with the players. He admitted that the conversations were uncomfortable for both he and the players. Seeing

them being uncomfortable had a huge impact on Bisciotti. His fear of saying the wrong thing would have made it easy not to say anything but he refused to allow being quiet to be an option for him or the Ravens organization.

Now he is urging everyone to speak up and take a stand in addition to calling out those who don't.

"To say 'stick to sports' to my players is the worst possible thing that you can feel and say. If my players both white and black don't speak out about this injustice to their communities, then they're sellouts or they're hypocrites. If I don't defend my players, then I'm the worst kind of hypocrite.

"I've spent 20 years loving watching them perform. Building relationships with these young men has meant more than success on the field. If I was them, I wouldn't want to work for me if I'm scared to speak out or if I didn't consider economic hurt because I don't want to offend. I'm not going to do it and I hope the fans feel the same way.

"Black lives matter and I think for the vast majority of you all, you feel it and more importantly you live it by your actions. So, why is saying it, so hard? If you don't understand it then ask the difficult questions."

Well said, Mr. Bisciotti.

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Billy Graham

How to get ready for hurricane season during coronavirus outbreak

Plans may have to be adjusted due to COVID-19

Fairfax, Va.— As we all deal with challenging demands of the coronavirus, the June 1 start of hurricane season is coming and it's important to get prepared. Because of COVID-19, getting prepared will look a little different than in other years. With that thinking in mind, the American Red Cross of the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region has tips to help you.

"Disasters won't stop, even during a pandemic," said Linda Voss, Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross of the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region. "Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 and early reports predict a busy year with as many as four storms reaching major hurricane strength. Make your preparations now, thinking about the coronavirus situation as you do."

Make a Plan: In light of the coronavirus, you may have to adjust any previous plans you made.

- If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit (see below).
- Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.
- Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you are able to stay with them. Check and see if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or people at higher risk in their home, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels and campgrounds to see if they are open. Find out if your local emergency management agency has adapted its sheltering plans.
- Check with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and update emergency plans due to Coronavirus.



• Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes. Remember, if it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not safe for your pets either.

Build a Kit: Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply of prescription medication. Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. Start with this basic supply list:

• Stay-at-home kit: Include everything you need to stay at home for at least two weeks with items such as food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products and personal hygiene items.

• Evacuation kit: Your second kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly. Include everything you need to be on your own for three days:

- Food and water
- Personal hygiene items
- Cleaning and disinfectant supplies that you can use on the go (tissues, hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol and disinfecting wipes)
- Cloth face coverings for everyone in your household who can wear one safely. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others in public. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove it without help.
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container

• One-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment. Keep these items together in a separate container so you can take them with you if you have to evacuate.

Be Informed: Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.

• Use the Red Cross interactive map to identify likely disasters in your area.

• Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19.

• Find contact information for state, local and tribal governments and agencies, and for state emergency management agencies.

• Because of COVID-19, stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities.

Take a First Aid and CPR/Course online to learn what to do in case emergency help is delayed. Download the Red Cross Emergency App for instant access to weather alerts for your area and where loved ones live. Expert medical guidance and a hospital locator are included in the First Aid App in case travelers encounter any mishaps. These apps are available to download for free in app stores or at [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).

For more information about what to do before, during and after a hurricane, visit: [redcross.org/hurricane](https://www.redcross.org/hurricane).

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