



# North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

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## Disavowing Black and Brown Votes: Just say 'no more, not ever again' and push back at corporations that support rogue Republican politicians

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

It was the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." That is the exact stance my dearly departed mother took if I were to stand by and allow some bully to take my kid brother's lunch money. I can't help but wonder what Martin or my mother would have to say to we Black and Brown people as we stand silently by and watch as a Dirty Dozen Republican House and Senate politicians move to castoff our hard-earned vote. They are being led by Texas Senator Ted Cruz.

We frequently rail against voter suppression, but voter suppression is merely an inhibitor that can ultimately be maneuvered around. What the Dirty Dozen are aiming to do is a more sophisticated form of usurping our nation's democracy and is tantamount to treason. This group is exhibiting total disregard for a law that has been in existence since 1887, a law that dictates how Congress handles vote counting. What is even worse is their total contempt for the will of the American people and total indifference



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas had once been a fierce opponent of Donald J. Trump, but in recent weeks has been one of the President's staunchest allies. He is one of a "Dirty Dozen" Texas lawmakers who opposed the certification of the vote that would officially place Joe Biden in the White House, which would disregard the will of millions of U.S. voters. (Photo: Gage Skidmore / Flickr)

for our nation's democratic process.

This is not simply a matter of subversion it is also a matter of hypocrisy because Trump's one-time fierce foe has suddenly become his fraudulent friend. It was as soon as 2016 that Trump and Cruz were publicly attacking one another after Trump said Cruz's father helped assassinate President Kennedy, then Trump retweeted unflattering pictures of Mrs. Cruz and threatened to "spill the beans" on her. By

the time Trump's deluge of denunciations had ended, he had insulted Cruz's father, his wife, and his god.

Cruz refused to take it lying down. He shot back that Trump was a "bully," "utterly amoral," "a pathological liar," as well as a "serial philanderer."

Cruz also said, "Whatever lie (Trump's) telling, at that minute he believes it."

Despite what Cruz felt about

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Rev. Raphael Warnock

### People In The News ...



Jesse Washington



Stephanie Jimenez

**NDG Quote of the Week:** "Our nation is a rainbow – red, yellow, brown, black, and white – and we're all precious in God's sight."  
– Jesse Jackson

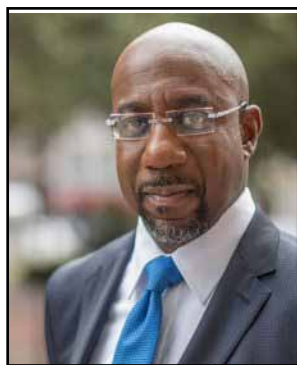


## Rev. Raphael Warnock

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

Rev. Raphael Warnock, who is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Atlanta church where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor during the civil rights movement, is now the first Black Democrat to be elected to the U.S. Senate in the Deep South in the modern political era. Warnock is the first African American to win a U.S. Senate seat in Georgia's history.

The runoff election featured historic turnout. A voter registration strategy



implemented by former gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, along with a push by grassroots groups like Black Votes Matter, led by LaTosha Brown, was a deciding factor in Warnock's decisive win. Black voters

in Georgia over-performed in the early vote and on Election Day.

The balance of power in Washington and on Capitol Hill will now shift dramatically to Democrats who will now control Congress and The White House. The dual victories on the same night by Rev. Warnock and Jon Ossoff marks a repudiation of the GOP under Donald Trump.

Rev. Warnock won his heavily contested U.S. Senate race over billionaire Kelly Loeffler who was appointed to the Senate by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp in December 2019. The U.S. Senate race cost

over \$200 million with soon-to-be Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell donating over \$60 million from his PAC.

By late Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning after Election Day in Georgia, Warnock had 2,227,296 votes to Loeffler's 2,173,866.

On top of Warnock's historic win, another Democrat, Jon Ossoff has won against incumbent Republican Senator David Perdue. As election results continued to come in showing how close the Warnock/Loeffler race would be, some Republicans began assigning blame for the coming loss to

President Trump.

The stunning double victory on a single night for Democrats will change the trajectory of the presidency of Joseph Biden, which begins on January 20. The U.S. Senate will be tied 50-50 and Vice President-elect Kamara Harris will now become a pivotal figure required to often preside over the U.S. Senate from the presiding officers Chair and break ties on key policy and nominees.

In the race for The White House in 2020, Trump lost Georgia to Joe Biden by over 11,000 votes on November 3, 2020. In the days before the runoff elections

in Georgia, Trump spent most of his time criticizing other Republicans in Georgia. Trump had earlier called into question the validity of the voting process in Georgia. The President also pressured Georgia officials to flip the state in his favor as Congress is set to officially certify the presidential election.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke*

## Jesse Washington

The Undeclared, ESPN's content initiative exploring the intersection of sports, race and culture, has reached a multi-year contract extension with senior writer Jesse Washington to continue as one of the platform's leading narrative journalists.

Washington, who joined ESPN in January 2015 as one of the founding writers who launched the platform, has been a significant contributor the past five years, helping establish The Undeclared as a multimedia hub dedicated to creativity and varied content, includ-



ing music, digital video series, long-form storytelling, poetry, and more.

"At this pivotal period in the history of race in America, I wouldn't want to work anywhere but The Undeclared," Washington

said. "I'm excited and inspired to help document and illuminate these times through our writing, film, music, books, artwork, and more."

Washington's latest project is an Outside the Lines report on legendary Georgetown men's basketball coach John Thompson's protest of Proposition 42, airing Thursday, Jan. 15, on SportsCenter at 12 p.m. ET – the 32nd anniversary of when Thompson walked off the court against Boston College in protest. This story was chronicled in I Came as a Shadow, the critically acclaimed autobiography of the legend-

ary coach co-authored by Washington and published last month by Henry Holt and Company.

Washington's first narrative for The Undeclared was the heart-wrenching, long form The Waco Horror about the gruesome May 15, 1916 lynching of 19-year-old Black farmhand Jesse Washington in front of a rabid mob of 10,000 in Waco, Texas. Other key pieces he has authored include "Black and Blue," a four-part series on the voices of African-American police officers (2017); an illuminative profile of then-Steelers receiver Antonio Brown

(2018); and the untold story of 16-year-old high school wrestler Andrew Johnson's dreadlocks (2019).

Washington's July 2020 revelatory story about a "noose comment" by Penn State men's basketball coach Pat Chambers led to an investigation by the university that resulted in the coach's resignation in October.

"Jesse is one of the most versatile journalists at our company, and one of the most fearless. He takes on challenging assignments, and moves gracefully from reported enterprise to thoughtful essay to pointed commentary to video anal-

ysis," said Kevin Merida, Senior Vice President and Editor-in-Chief, The Undeclared. "He has tremendous depth and range, and we are fortunate to have him as a senior writer at The Undeclared."

Before joining ESPN, Washington was the national race and ethnicity writer at the Associated Press where he covered both successful presidential campaigns of America's first Black President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. Before the race and ethnicity beat, Washington was the news agency's Enter-

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## Stephanie Jimenez

When CityLab High School sophomore Stephanie Jimenez moved to the United States just two years ago, she only knew one word of English.

Jimenez was determined to get the education she wanted and, after visiting a number of schools, enrolled in CityLab, a Dallas ISD transformation school. In just two years, Jimenez has not only learned English thanks to bilingual



classmates and teachers who helped her learn at her own pace, the school has

nurtured her passion for art.

"CityLab is in an amazing building, filled with amazing people and so much talent," Jimenez said. "CityLab inspires me every day."

Located in Downtown Dallas, CityLab offers students a unique high school experience with its open-concept classroom layout and vision for students to use the city itself as a classroom. Programs of study include architecture, environmental science and ur-

ban and regional planning.

Jimenez has opted for virtual learning during the pandemic, and, despite the challenges that come with virtual learning, she still raves about her teachers.

"My teachers really take the time to explain our virtual lessons," she shared. "They search for pictures and examples and extra practices so we can keep learning."

Jimenez looks forward to returning to in-person classes and is thankful to

attend a school where much of her learning comes from exploring the city and outside world. Looking forward, Jimenez plans to pursue a career in urban planning while finding time for her newfound passion

for art.

"CityLab is like a family," Jimenez said. "It's there to help you find a career, to help you find the perfect college, so you can really know what you want in the future."

**Let us hear from you!**  
If there is any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:  
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***“Do what you say you are going to do ... when you say you are going to do it.”***

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# Black voters should see themselves in congressional staff

By Dr. LaShonda Brenson

Two new Democratic senators from Georgia will soon take office thanks to overwhelming turnout from Black voters. At the same time, the mob violence on Capitol Hill — and law enforcement's yielding to it — has placed an unmistakable spotlight on continued racial injustice.

From voting rights to criminal justice reform, Black voters have made their voices heard and they expect action. But for far too long they've been forced to pressure a Congress with too few Black members and far too few Black staffers.

Top congressional staff shape the agenda, write legislation, and advise members and senators. And we should expect that these key staff also reflect the diversity of the voters.

While we saw marginal improvement in senior staff diversity after the election in 2018, the lack of diversity among senior congressional staff of both parties is longstanding.

The data is sobering, if not surprising.

People of color account for nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population. Yet, Joint Center research found that people of color account for just 11 percent of Washington, D.C.-based senior staff in Senate personal offices. These include positions like chief of staff, legislative director, and communications director — the most

influential staff positions in Congress.

Unfortunately, our 2018 report also found that the House was only narrowly more representative with staffers of color comprising just 13.7 percent of senior roles.

And this inequity remains true for Republicans who represent large numbers of Black voters and for Democratic members who often depend on Black voters as a critical component of their electorate.

There's not a single Black senior staff member in the personal offices of the Republican senators who represent Mississippi and Louisiana, despite the fact that African Americans account for a third or more of the population in these states.

Similarly, though Black voters made up 37 percent of Democratic voters in Virginia in 2016, and 47 percent of Democratic voters in Maryland, there's not a single Black person holding a senior staff position within the offices of the Democratic senators who represent these states.

Meanwhile, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) is leading by example among congressional Democrats, with Black staff representing just over 53 percent of CBC top staff — compared to just 2.1 percent of the senior staff of White Democratic members of the U.S. House. Only 35 percent of African Americans in the

United States live in districts represented by CBC members, but 78.5 percent of the Black top staff in the U.S. House are employed by CBC members.

This data is particularly troubling at a time when we desperately need more, not fewer, Black staff who can advise members of Congress in better understanding and responding robustly to structural inequality, racism, and anti-Blackness.

Yet, there is an opportunity for change. We now have 60 new members of the U.S. House and 10 new senators. With each appointing a chief of staff, legislative director, and communications director, that amounts to 210 senior positions. Far more of them should be filled by talented African Americans. The Joint Center has been tracking the race of these hires.

More than 70 civil rights groups, including African American Mayors Association, Black Futures Lab, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), have formally called on new members of Congress to increase the numbers of staff of color within the mid-level and senior ranks of congressional offices.

All politics is local, and community leaders also need to call their House member and two U.S. senators and tell them to prioritize racial diversity in

hiring and promoting staff. Our advocacy is particularly important right now as members of Congress finalize staff hiring and fill open positions from staffers who have accepted jobs in the new Biden Administration.

Continued progress will require that congressional leadership bring real resources to bear. More Congressional offices should formalize diversity and inclusion plans and measure progress. And all offices should focus on diversifying mid-level positions like press secretary and legislative assistant to further bolster the pool of talent that can eventually step into top positions.

Without question, some members can rightfully point to Black staff serving as state or district directors, or to improvements in the diversity of non-senior staff.

But at a time when the pandemic and economic turmoil has fallen disproportionately on Black people, robust representation of Black Americans in senior roles matters now more than ever.

Real progress is possible, but it will require that members of Congress choose action over the status quo. And it demands that we hold them accountable for doing so.

*Brenson is the senior fellow for diversity and inclusion at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.*

## The 87th Texas Legislature convened in Austin on Tuesday

Texas Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes today convened the 87th Legislature's regular session, presiding over the opening ceremonies for the Texas House of Representatives and conducting the election of the new Speaker of the House, Representative

Dade Phelan.

"Our legislators have been entrusted by the people of Texas to confront the challenges and issues that our state faces and to do so in a way that is reflective of what it means to be a Texan—to approach adversity with unyielding

determination, grit, honor, integrity, strength, and of course—with our Texas pride. Working collaboratively, we will help to build a brighter future for all Texans, and keep the Lone Star State the greatest state in the nation."

The Texas Legislature

operates under a biennial system and convenes at noon on the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years for a maximum of 140 days. The 87th Legislature's regular session begins January 12th, 2021, and will conclude May 31st, 2021.

**"A Fitting Memorial"**  
**NDG Obituaries**

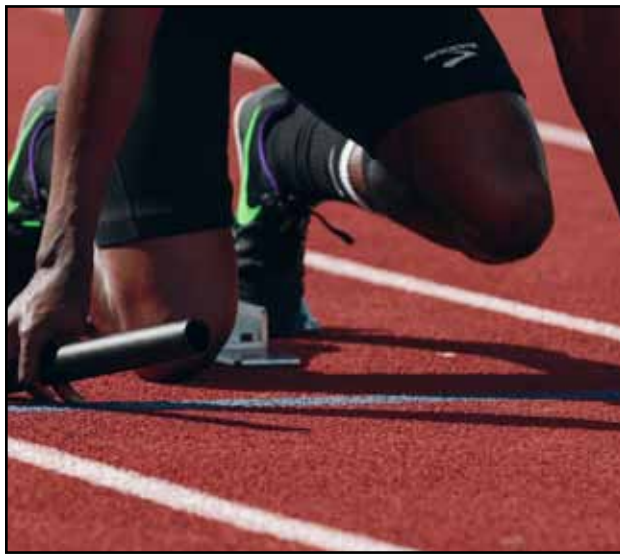
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# COVID-19 spurs new research on cardiac health of college athletes

(American Heart Association) The American Heart Association and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM) are joining forces to accelerate a critical new research initiative studying cardiac conditions in athletes, in part to speed new insights into the impact of COVID-19 to the cardiovascular system of college athletes and safety of return to play after diagnosis.

Sports medicine and cardiology experts at Harvard and the University of Washington have formed a national registry, or research database, to track COVID-19 cases and heart-related impacts in NCAA athletes to drive improvements in screening



Braden Collum / Unsplash

and inform our understanding of cardiac involvement in college athletes with prior infections. The newly launched Outcomes Registry for Cardiac Conditions in Athletes (ORCCA) has already collected data from

more than 3,000 athletes.

The American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives, will use its Precision Medicine Platform (PMP), a secure

cloud-computing platform hosted by the Association's Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine to facilitate the research.

"There have been many high-profile cases of athletes at the collegiate and professional levels showing myocarditis, a dangerous inflammation of the heart, after COVID-19," said Mariell Jessup, MD, FAHA, cardiologist and chief science and medical officer for the American Heart Association. "Research and data are key to answering the ongoing debate in college sports about the safety of return to play and guidelines on the appropriate assessment of the athletes."

The research team is led

by three primary investigators:

- Jonathan Drezner, MD, Department of Family Medicine, Center for Sports Cardiology, University of Washington, Seattle
- Kimberly Harmon, MD, Department of Family Medicine, Center for Sports Cardiology, University of Washington, Seattle
- Aaron Baggish, MD, Cardiovascular Performance Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

"Many college athletes are students of color, coming from communities with higher risk factors for COVID-19 complications," said Stephanie Kliethermes, PhD, research director of the American

Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the AMSSM Collaborative Research Network.

"This registry is an exciting and important starting point for the long-term investigation of cardiac outcomes in a diverse group of athletes diagnosed with COVID-19 and other heart conditions which present a potential health risk."

The collaborative data registry will aid research on COVID-19, and, long-term, develop a deep knowledge base on cardiac disease in athletes beyond the pandemic. The registry has been developed with participation from the NCAA and has more than 60 schools currently contributing to the registry.

## Texas to provide COVID-19 vaccine for large vaccination hubs

Beginning this week, Texas will direct most of the COVID-19 vaccine received from the federal government to large providers who can vaccinate a total of more than 100,000 people. Additional vaccine will be distributed to smaller providers in other parts of the state.

As the vaccination effort continues to expand to people who are at a greater risk of hospitalization and death, in addition to front-line health care workers, these vaccination hubs will provide people in those priority populations with identifiable sites where vaccination is occurring and a simpler way to sign-up for an appointment with each provider.

Providers that receive the larger amounts of vaccine will vaccinate health care workers, people who are 65 and older, and those who have a medical condition that increases their risk of severe disease or death. They also agree to provide a registration phone number and website and focus on areas and populations hardest hit by COVID-19 while vaccinating people



Hakan Nural / Unsplash

from surrounding areas.

The Texas Department of State Health Services surveyed vaccine providers about their capacity to operate large, community vaccination sites the week of Jan. 11 and will publish a list of vaccine hub providers later this week once vaccine allocation is finalized.

Large and small sites around Texas will receive a total of about 200,000 doses of vaccine next week. That will be the last week the state is required to reserve doses to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term care facilities under the federal pharmacy-LTC partnership, freeing up more vaccine for

use in other settings in the future.

Vaccine remains limited based on the capacity of the manufacturers to produce it, so it will take time for Texas to receive enough vaccine for the people in the priority populations who want to be vaccinated. The supply is expected to increase in the coming months, and additional vaccines are in clinical trials and may be authorized by the Food and Drug Administration. Providers should use all doses allocated to administer the first dose of vaccine to people. There is no need to reserve shots for a second dose because they

will get a matching number of doses for that at the appropriate time.

People can find more information on COVID-19 vaccine and its availability at [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx).

### Texas identifies case of COVID-19 UK variant

The first known Texas case of the COVID-19 B.1.1.7 variant has been identified in a resident of Harris County. The adult male resident, who has no history of travel, was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. Results of genetic sequencing this week showed that the infection was caused by the variant. The case is being investigated by Harris County Public Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"The fact that this person had no travel history suggests this variant is already circulating in Texas," said Dr. John Hellerstedt, DSHS commissioner. "Genetic variations are the norm among viruses, and it's not surprising that it arrived here given how rapidly it spreads. This should make

us all redouble our commitment to the infection prevention practices that we know work: masks any time you're around people you don't live with, social distancing, and personal and environmental hygiene."

The B.1.1.7 variant was first identified in the United Kingdom in the fall and appears to spread much more easily from person to person than most strains of the coronavirus. The current

scientific evidence is that the variant does not cause more severe disease and that vaccines are expected to be effective against it. It is thought to be responsible for only a small proportion of the current COVID-19 cases in Texas and the United States.

People can find the latest on COVID-19 in Texas at [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus), including daily case data and information on testing and vaccination.

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# Dallas City Council unanimously approves renaming of Lamar Street to Botham Jean Boulevard

A Dallas man killed by police in his own apartment will be memorialized in the naming of a major downtown thoroughfare.

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the Dallas City Council unanimously voted in approval of the renaming of a part of Lamar Street, to Botham Jean Boulevard. State Representative Carl O. Sherman, Sr. (D-109), along with other Texas Legislators, family members of Botham Jean and concerned citizens voiced their staunch support for the street name change, during the meeting.

Botham Jean, was a 26 year old accountant, who

was killed by an off duty police officer, when she entered Jean's apartment fatally shooting him. His death sparked peaceful protests around the world and his life inspired thousands to demand justice for Botham and to continue his work as an active community member.

"This is a 200-year-old problem that we are still facing within contemporary society. Today too many families have become victims to senseless tragedies," said Bishop T.D. Jakes, the senior pastor of The Potter's House during a special service following the tragedy.

"Now is the time to unite and not divide. We need leaders of all colors to come together and recognize we have a problem across America. My hope and prayer is that together as a community we can work together to educate society and change this disturbing pattern. Regardless of race and background, every mother should feel that her children are safe."

In Wednesday's meeting, Representative Sherman, spoke about how the life of Botham Jean inspired him personally, as well as his dedication to honoring Jean's life this legislative session with the introduc-

tion of Bo's Law, also titled as the Deadly Force Reform Bill. Representative Sherman recently sent out a letter addressing his support for the street name change, in which he recognized the incriminatingly racist history of Mirabeau B. Lamar, for whom the street was previously named.

Representative Carl Sherman celebrates this historic moment of the renaming of Lamar Street to Botham Jean Boulevard, with the Jean Family, The Botham Jean Foundation, and the citizens of Dallas, who all worked tirelessly to honor the life and legacy of Botham Jean.



Botham Shem Jean

## D.C. officials, feds tracking credible inauguration day threats

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser is urging law enforcement to vigilantly work to sniff out potential violent plots by insurrectionists and other nefarious actors.

The mayor joined others who expressed growing concern over whether some would attempt to disrupt President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' Jan. 20 inauguration in Washington.

Bowser is demanding unprecedented protection for the event. Meanwhile, multiple reports indicate that the FBI is aware of chatter about plots by right-wing extremists who plan to continue their protests of the 2020 Presidential election and possibly inflict further acts of domestic terrorism like that carried out on Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol.

The inauguration is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. EST on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20.

The U.S. National Park Service has already announced the closure of the Washington Monument through Jan. 24.



Guard members in-process upon arriving in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 7, 2021. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from several states have traveled to the National Capital Region to provide mission support to federal and district authorities. (Senior Airman Amanda Bodony)

In a statement, Park Service officials cited threats and disruption to the set-up and execution of inaugural events.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit is also planning to cancel many of its D.C. area train and bus routes.

However, a spokesperson could not be reached to determine which lines would be affected.

"Homeland Security must adjust its approach to the inauguration in several specific ways," Bowser wrote in a letter this week to Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf.

"There must be a federal force deployment [plan] for

all U.S. government property," Bowser demanded.

In a televised interview Monday, Adam Schiff, the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee chairman, announced that he expected authorities to ensure safety at the inauguration.

Former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, and their spouses, are all expected to attend.

Their attendance, which is traditional for former presidents, only enhances the need for extra vigilance, Schiff and others said.

Also, there is a growing belief that outgoing President Donald Trump, whose

rhetoric fueled the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, will encourage his supporters to lash out.

"There's certainly a danger that the President will continue to incite his followers to further violent activity, aimed at stopping the peaceful transition of power," Schiff related.

Bowser called the insurrection "an unprecedented terrorist attack" and warned that it could occur at the inauguration if law enforcement is not watchful.

The mayor has repeatedly called on non-residents to stay away from the nation's capital during the inauguration.

Authorities have reported

discovering encrypted chat rooms that have praised the insurrectionists, calling them "Patriots."

The FBI said calls for more protests, including a "Million Militia March" on Jan. 20, have dominated chatter on social media and other intercepted mediums.

Yahoo News reported obtaining an FBI document that contained warnings about threats made at the state and local level around the country.

"The situational information report, produced by the Minneapolis field office of the FBI, is based on information provided by what it describes as 'collaborative sources,' and was issued the week before a mob of Trump supporters violently stormed the U.S. Capitol," Yahoo reported.

The outlet specifically noted that the document addressed concerns about rallies that the far-right boogaloo movement plans to hold in cities across the country on Jan. 17.

The report warns that "some followers indicated a willingness to commit violence in support of their ideology, created contingency plans in the event violence occurred at the events and

identified law enforcement security measures and possible countermeasures."

Specifically, the report describes evidence of credible threats related to events planned for Jan. 17 at the state Capitol buildings in Michigan and Minnesota, Yahoo added.

Further, it said those rallies are part of what members of the violent far-right and libertarian boogaloo movement hope will be a nationwide "armed march" on Capitol Hill and all 50 state capitols next Sunday.

"These individuals reportedly 'scouted general law enforcement presence at the earlier rallies and 'also identified law enforcement sniper locations and considered breaking into federal buildings for use as firing locations, if fighting occurred,' the report relayed.

"One Boogaloo movement follower indicated the building with the snipers would need to be blown up in order to protect Boogaloo fighters in the event of a gun battle during the event, and another planned to put colored duct tape on the back of his body armor to appear as law enforcement and cause confusion."



# Dallas Summer Musicals furthers education and community partnership initiatives moving into a new year

Although the Music Hall at Fair Park remained dark for most of 2020, Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) continued to deliver the spirit of Broadway to the community through various education and community partnership programs such as DSM Cares, Black Art Matters and ConnectEDU.

"This past year proved to be challenging in many ways, but one of the positive outcomes has been our increase in education and community-focused programs," said Ken Novice, president of Dallas Summer Musicals. "We pivoted some of our programs, like taking our master classes and High School Musical Theatre Awards virtual, and even created new programs like Black Art Matters and ConnectEDU. Our team worked earnestly finding fresh ways to connect and engage students and community members and never



Erik McLean / Unsplash

failed to deliver the spirit of Broadway to those who need it most, especially during these trying times."

"This year has been filled with opportunities for innovation and collaboration, deepening the connections we have formed with our students, teachers, parents, and community members," said Devon Miller, director of education and community partnerships at DSM. "Never wavering from our commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, and ac-

cess, our programs continue to work hand-in-hand with historically underrepresented communities, especially in South Dallas, to ensure their equitable inclusion in our work. We are especially proud of our efforts to support local BIPOC artists in this time of need, a group that continues to be disproportionately impacted, socially and economically, by the COVID-19 pandemic."

DSM Cares is a community service initiative focused on providing strong

social service to DSM's South Dallas neighbors. Launched in October 2019 as an employee volunteer program, DSM Cares quickly grew to include Board members, donors, teaching artists, and various community partners. Central to the program is DSM's partnership with CitySquare, whose mission is "to fight the causes and effects of poverty through service, advocacy, and friendship." In recognition of its ongoing commitment, DSM was honored to receive CitySquare's highest volunteer award, the 2020 CitySquare President's Award. Since the inception of this partnership, DSM has been able to aid in the feeding of more than 6,000+ food-insecure individuals and families.

In response to increased calls for social and racial justice, DSM developed Black Art Matters, a digital conversation series spot-

lighting local Black artists on DSM's YouTube page. The creation and implementation of this virtual program continues to be a direct demonstration of DSM's stance that Black Lives Matter. The program has quickly grown to one that has become recognized and respected in Dallas's theatre community.

DSM and Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) joined forces to launch a new professional development program, ConnectEDU powered by PNC. ConnectEDU is focused on providing high-quality professional development opportunities for theatre and dance educators that will increase cultural intelligence in the

classroom. The goal of the program is to provide Dallas ISD educators with the opportunity to engage and learn from high-profile directors, choreographers, acting coaches, dancers, and other theatre professionals, ultimately leading to the use of increased anti-racist and inclusive learning methods in the classroom.

ConnectEDU is the first program to be implemented as part of the brand new partnership formed between DSM and Dallas ISD with the intent to bring the spirit of Broadway to virtual learning and engagement opportunities for students and educators throughout the district.

See DSM, Page 10

## Applications sought for Trefil Science Scholarship

The Kosciuszko Foundation is currently accepting applications and supporting materials for the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship from citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) of the United States who are of Polish descent. Eligible candidates include current college freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are majoring in the Natural Sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, earth science, etc.) and who have a minimum GPA of 3.5.

One \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded for full-time studies in the United States for the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 academic year. The scholarship is not renewable. Only one member per immediate family may receive a tuition scholar-

ship during a given academic year.

For more information

and to apply, please see [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org). Applications and supporting ma-

terials will be accepted through Thursday, January 28, 2021.

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### Annual Report of Performance on Texas Academic Performance Report for 2019-2020 and the 2019-2020 Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Accelerated Instruction

The Dallas Independent School District will hold a hearing to share information with the community about the educational performance of the district. Also the report on the effectiveness of accelerated instruction will be presented.

The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 2021, Conference Area 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, January 25, through Wednesday, January 27, at 5 p.m.



### Remember your loved one in NDG Obituaries

It is important where the obituary of a loved one appears. We have been catering to the DFW African American community for more than three decades now. We not only cover the issues, but celebrate the lives and legacies of our local community. Contact [ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com)







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# Martin Luther King, Jr. and America's 'Promissory Note'

By Lewis Waha

Each January, we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. for his leadership in combating racial segregation and securing civil rights for African Americans. However, critics lately have charged that King's legacy has been "whitewashed," or remembered selectively. A 2019 Guardian editorial laments that Americans have "Disneyfied" the reformer, saying that we recall his earlier, comforting successes while overlooking his later frustrations and political radicalism. Psychologizing the critique, a 2020 NBC News opinion piece decries that King's memory is abused for the purpose of cultivating "complacency" and a sense of "absolution."

As bracing as these correctives seem, they miss the mark. It's true that King's desire that black Americans escape disparate poverty and violence remains frustrated. But it would be a mistake to suppose that this unfinished work necessitates anticapitalism, antimilitarism, or the psychologizing antiracism of the whitewash narrative. Rather than being a self-



Rowland Scherman / U.S. National Archives

serving power move, sober remembrance of King's reliance on Christian ethics and the American Founders recovers a radicality befitting King's ultimate vision of "the Beloved Community."

Reverend King had a penchant for weaving the language of Biblical prophets into his speech and writing. Two of his most celebrated messages use strikingly similar metaphors to express that God provided for America's moral improvement by means of the nation's founding.

In his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," King hailed "those great wells of democracy which were

dug deep by the Founding Fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution." To appreciate the meaning of this remark, consider that water wells, along with flowing streams and runoff-catching cisterns, were the water sources of ancient Israel. In prophetic language, each source represents varying degrees of spiritual sustenance. Flowing streams and springs—also translated as "living water"—are the best supply and refer exclusively to God himself.

This is the same living water that Jesus, as recorded in John's gospel, offered to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Backing a radical claim, Jesus showed himself to be greater than the Samaritans' "founding father," Jacob.

It's no small thing then for a black Baptist preacher to write that America's Founders furnished great wells of democracy. Although laid down by mere mortals, America's founding documents, "dug deep," are moral resources blessing a people for generations.

King echoed his confidence in America's founding when he spoke of the "bank of justice" and "great vaults of opportunity." In his "I Have a Dream" speech of 1963, he asserted that the Founders had signed "a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir." Of course, lament was built into his message: for African Americans, that note, like a bounced check, came back marked "insufficient

funds." Yet he did not stop at the point of grievance. He continued, "we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation."

By leading his listeners in these twin refusals, King invited them to deliberately exercise their will, not based on blind faith but on their knowledge of the promissory note. That note itself results from another act of will, but not one that hangs in midair. The Declaration of Independence starts off affirming the rights of a people by light of "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," and concludes by promising that "we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." By his words, King blazed a radical return to the Founders' promise, underwritten by the self-evident truths of natural law.

Like a well or a vault, lives, fortunes, and sacred

honor aren't easily exhausted—at least not as long as those who made the pledge remain willing to keep it. Because that pledge is mutual, far reaching, and between naturally equal partners, it also requires something from those who imagine themselves to be prophetically speaking truth to power. None in the enterprise get to stand outside of it as if they could comprehensively judge another part of it.

If we insist on vindicating a "radical revolution" that departs from rather than reaffirms our inheritance as Americans, then we fail to uphold our pledge to our fellow co-inheritors. The deeper and more consonant radicality by which to honor King is not one that writes off others who share in the American project, but one that refuses to give up on them.

*Lewis Waha holds an M.A. in Christian Apologetics from Biola University and is a freelance writer focusing on faith in the public square.*

## WASHINGTON, from Page 2

tainment Editor, supervising a team in New York and Los Angeles covering film, television, music and celebrities.

A veteran culture and music journalist, Washington served as the founding Editor-in-Chief of Blaze magazine, which in 1998 became the biggest music magazine launch ever. While at Blaze, Washington conceived the groundbreaking "Blaze Battle" competition series and published artists' responses next to negative album reviews by Blaze writers.

Prior to Blaze, Washington was managing editor of Vibe magazine from 1997 to 1998.

An accomplished author,

Washington's first book Black Will Shoot – a novel about hip hop culture set in the glitzy and gritty world of rap music – was published in 2008. His latest is the autobiography of Coach Thompson.

Washington was graduated from Yale University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in English. He has won numerous accolades for his work: National Journalism Award from the Asian-American Journalists Association (2011); two top feature awards from the National Association of Black Journalists (2000, 2019), and a 2019 Associated Press Sports Editors Top 10 award for column writing.

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# Film Review: 'Sylvie's Love' is a well-crafted romantic story

By Dwight Brow  
NNPA Film Critic

It's love at first sight. That's true for the couple in this romantic period film and for audiences who will be transfixed by the stunningly beautiful footage.

It's the summer of '57. Sylvie (Tessa Thompson), a twentysomething, works in her dad's (Lance Reddick, John Wick) small Harlem shop, Mr. Jay's Records. Though she tries not to show it, she is smitten the day Robert (Nnamdi Asomugha) walks in looking for a job. They spar verbally. Flirt. She is bent on becoming a TV producer. He, a tenor sax player in the jazz group the Dickie Brewster Quartet, wants a solo career. They're young and ambitious.

Sylvie is engaged to Lacy (Alano Miller), a well-to-do GI who is serving overseas. Her mom (Erica Gimpel) pushes her towards this potentially safe, secure marriage and away from the pauper musician, while her cousin Mona (Aja Naomi King, How To Get Away With Murder) champions the saxophonist. A romance ensues regardless; in bedrooms, on rooftops, in theaters. They're so in love.



Nnamdi Asomugha and Tessa Thompson star in 'Sylvie's Love.'  
(Courtesy photo)

Lost in it.

As the '50s turn into the '60s, divergent career paths lead them away from each other, back together again, away, back... Their yearning is best summed up by the lyrics to the jazz standard "The Nearness of You," which chanteuse Nancy Wilson sings as the film opens: "If you would only grant me, The right, To hold you ever so tight, And to feel in the night, The nearness of you."

Writer/director Eugene Ashe has a strong feel for this epoch, the allure of jazz music and what it takes to make a charming, exquisite and completely irresistible love story. The characters he's crafted, their obstacles, rivalries, miscommunications and misunderstandings underline his ingenu-

ity. The yo-yo effects love creates, which makes lost souls try and try again to mate, verify Ashe's understanding of what undying devotion truly means.

If this story doesn't make your heart flutter, nothing will. If Sylvie and Robert don't make you root for love, no one can. The dialogue is either so completely natural it's invisible or so poetic it conveys deep feelings and profound thought. Says the career-orientated Sylvie to her very traditional husband: "I can't be the woman of your dreams when I want to be the woman in mine." Husband: "I never wanted you to be the woman of my dreams—I wanted to be the man in yours."

As a director, Ashe has some minor hiccups.

There are scenes that are too stagey, where characters talk and do nothing. Also, sometimes he uses previous footage to reflect the past, which is an unnecessary crutch. Those mild transgressions are counterbalanced by the pop culture icons he sprinkles throughout the movie: A drop of TV's *I Love Lucy*, "The Chocolate Factory" episode; a pinch of Sam Cooke singing "You Send Me" and of course a dash of Nancy Wilson's jazz inflections.

Many scenes are gorgeously crafted and as beautiful as paintings. Mayne Berke's handsome production design—from NYC stoops, to apartments, houses, offices and TV production sets—artfully recreates Harlem and Bronx neighborhoods, and were surprisingly constructed on a Warner Bros. backlot. Her magical handiwork is captured by cinematographer

Declan Quinn's perceptive lens, which flatters the interiors and exteriors as much as the cast's incandescent skin. In particular, his lighting of the Blue Morocco Night Club scenes, with the green, blue and black accents, is so mood-setting and vivid you'd expect Coltrane to take the stage.

The musical score, either filled with sumptuous string music or brooding jazz, comes from the mind and heart of composer Fabrice Lecomte. While editor Dana Congdon (*The Basketball Diaries*) gives the footage a steady rhythm. Together, the technical elements cast a visual and audio splendor that's sustained for 110 minutes.

In her finest showcase ever, Tessa Thompson summons up the mid-century spirits of Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt and Diahann Carroll. She acts young and innocent, then mature and strong-willed and fi-

nally older and circumspect, seamlessly balancing frailty and unbridled ambition. One moment your heart bleeds from her bad decisions, the next you're exhilarated by her success. Nnamdi Asomugha, a producer (*Harriet*, *Beasts of No Nation*) as well as an accomplished actor (*Crown Heights*), is 2020's top romantic leading man. He exhibits the quiet pride of Sidney Poitier and the stoicism of Denzel. When Robert begs Sylvie to "Come with me to Paris," women will swoon.

The two leads are surrounded and supported by vibrant performances: King, Reddick, Gimpel, Tone Bell, Alano Miller, Eva Longoria, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Regé-Jean Page, Jemima Kirke...

Gorgeously crafted. A sweet embrace. As romantic as a first-night kiss.

Available on Prime Video December 23rd, 2020.

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra announces contract extension of Fabio Luisi

Chairman of the Dallas Symphony Association Board of Governors Sanjiv Yajnik and Dallas Symphony Orchestra Ross Perot President & CEO Kim Noltemy today announce the exciting news of a contract extension for Fabio Luisi, Louise W. and Edmund J. Kahn Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The renewal is for a further five years through the 2028/29 concert season. Luisi began his first season as Music Director in the current 2020/21 season after a year of holding the title Music Director Designate.

"Fabio Luisi comes with a reputation on the world

stage, and he has already shown his tremendous impact in Dallas. In spite of this year's challenges, I have been inspired by his passion and ingenuity," said Yajnik. "An orchestra creates the soul of a city, and Fabio will continue to play a key part in the cultural fabric of our community."

"The DSO is thrilled to extend our contract with Fabio—it is a testament to his relationship with the orchestra," said Noltemy. "The joy of music making is evident in every performance Fabio leads. We look forward to many years of collaborating in the Meyerson Symphony Cen-

ter, through online performances, with new recordings and on tour."

With the extension of his tenure as Music Director, Luisi will continue to focus on the works of contemporary and iconic American composers, and will also conduct an annual opera-in-concert presentation, following last season's exceptionally successful Salome concerts, as soon as larger ensembles are again able to gather. Under his leadership, the DSO has launched a ten-year commissioning program to foster the creation of 20 new works, ten of them

See DSO, Page 10

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# Galleria Dallas to host 'Black Is Beautiful DFW' exhibit in February

Black Is Beautiful DFW, a series of black-and-white portraits by Yesi Fortuna of Fort Lion Studio, will be on display at Galleria Dallas Feb. 1-29. The series was created as a way to show the studio's solidarity with the Black community in an artistic form. More than 30 portraits will be on display, including families, individuals and community influencers.

Over two days last June, Fortuna opened the doors of Fort Lion Studio to Dallas' Black community for free portraits to serve as a celebration of Black resilience. Participants were



Yesi Fortuna / Courtesy

able to take part in the most recent wave of the "Black Is Beautiful" movement, which began in the 1960s as an act of defiance and deep self-love while promoting Black culture. After the killing of George Floyd,

Fortuna felt she needed to continue the campaign.

"The public response to George Floyd's murder last May left many Black people feeling vulnerable, unheard and, most importantly, traumatized, as they

were forced to grieve with no comfort through justice," Fortuna said. "I observed this reaction and felt inclined to nurture the souls of people experiencing this pain. I felt it was part of my duty as an ally."

Wanting to further the outreach, Fort Lion Studio applied and qualified for a grant through the Dallas Office of Arts and Culture that allowed the studio to put the photos in three ad kiosks in Fair Park, Deep Ellum and West Village.

"I think representation matters in ways we as humans can hardly articulate," said Josette Archin, a

subject in the photo series. "I know that visually we as Black folks are not represented as readily as the European standard of beauty, and the only way to dismantle it is for Black people to feel seen and be seen and celebrated in our many walks of embodiment."

The portraits will hang on the Gallery Wall across from Apple on Level 1 of the Galleria. The wall most recently featured photographs depicting the history of the Chamberlain Ballet.

"We're proud to be showcasing this important exhibit, especially during Black History Month," said

Megan Townsend, Director of Marketing for Galleria Dallas. "Our community and our neighborhood is a diverse and beautiful place, and Galleria Dallas aspires to be a place where everyone is welcome and celebrated."

**What:** Black Is Beautiful DFW exhibit

**When:** Feb. 1-29, 2021

**Where:** Galleria Dallas, 13350 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75240. Located on Level I on the gallery wall across from Apple.

**Cost:** Free

**Information:** galleriadallas.com.

## Rising independent Pakistani-American singer Aneesa Sheikh releases new single this week

Aneesa Sheikh will release her latest single Who's Gonna Stop Me on Friday, January 15th, 2021. Co-written by Aneesa, Corey Lee Barker and Justine Blazer, the single is inspired by Aneesa's journey to pursue her dreams and ambitions. The lyrics embody the process she is currently going through as a musician, along with the experiences that have molded her to see her future clearly.

The new single is also a way for her to connect to other fans by giving them the courage they need to go after what they want without any fear and the drive to



Courtesy photo

be their own boss without letting anyone get in their way.

"The lyrics, 'Whatever's coming bring it on bring it on' connotes whatever bump in the road I may hit, that is okay because I won't let it derail me from my target and 'I'm coming for the

crown' was written to incorporate my experience as Miss Michigan Teen USA 2020 and having several hardships that year but continuing to learn from everything and be tenacious with my passions," Sheikh explains.

To receive updates about the single, visit her website: [www.aneesaofficial.com](http://www.aneesaofficial.com).

Born in Kentucky, Aneesa is Pakistani-American who grew up in a close-knit family. The youngest of five siblings, Aneesa was a go-getter from the start. Having an athletic family, she dabbled in swimming and figure skating leading her to pursue competitive

skating, at the age of nine. At one point she was skating eight hours a day and commuting back and forth from Kentucky to the training facility in Michigan known for turning out big-name Olympic skaters like Tara Lapinski. While she has a talent for skating and was captain of the varsity figure skating team at her high school, her true passion was for music.

Through her music, she hopes to encourage others to live a courageous life without regrets. Aneesa is focused on living out her dream to be in the ranks of her musical idols such as Jewel.

## DSM, from Page 6

In addition to Connect-EDU, Dallas ISD Broadway Days is a program set to roll out Spring of 2021 and will bring live theatre into Dallas ISD classrooms.

Understanding the critical importance for children to experience live theatrical entertainment, DSM will provide the opportunity for all students throughout the district to watch and engage with virtually streamed productions that embody the spirit of Broadway.

The 9th Annual DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards (DSM HSMTA) showcased

many changes that led to further equity and representation among schools, nominees, and winners.

The format of the awards show itself was also a first for the organization, presented virtually and live streamed through DSM's YouTube page. With 69 schools presenting 72 productions, the 2020 DSM HSMTA was one of the largest years to date, serving 5,000+ students and educators. Awards were presented to students in 15 categories and \$55,000 in scholarships were awarded to students and educators.

## DSO, from Page 9

by women. Next to appear will be the world premiere of Composer-in-Residence Angélica Negrón's *En otra noche, en otro mundo* (On Another Night, In Another World) on February 4, 2021, and new orchestral works by Jessie Montgomery, Xi Wang and Bruce Adolphe scheduled to be premiered in the orchestra's 2021/22 season. This follows already recently premiered compositions under this initiative including Julia Wolfe's *Fountain of Youth*, Magnus Lindberg's *Absence* (Abwesenheit – L'Absence) and

Bryce Dessner's *Trombone Concerto*.

"I am so very pleased to extend my tenure with the Dallas Symphony and to continue and to grow the relationship with these talented musicians. Though the beginning of my time with the orchestra was different than planned, we continued to make music with passion and conviction. I am proud of the work we have done, and I look forward to sharing our music and our performances with so many."

Luisi will return to the Dallas Symphony to conduct four weeks of concert

performances in January and February 2021.

For their first concerts of the new year, Luisi and the orchestra pair Bizet's exuberantly youthful *Symphony in C* with Saint-Saëns's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, featuring Italian pianist Alessandro Taverna, "a serious and potentially major talent" (The Guardian), as guest soloist (live Jan 28-31; streaming from Feb 5).

Next Luisi and the DSO give the world premiere performance of *En otra noche, en otro mundo* ("On Another Night, In Another World"), by Angélica Negrón, whose music has been credited with

"revealing personal truth through beautiful illusion" (National Sawdust Log). Bookending Negrón's new work are Beethoven's *Leonore Overture* and his sole *Violin Concerto*, with former Gramophone Artist of the Year Leonidas Kavakos as soloist (live Feb 4-7; streaming from Feb 12).

An "outstanding Straussian" (Gramophone magazine) who has made numerous recordings of the composer's music, Luisi leads the DSO in Richard Strauss's neoclassical *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme Suite*. To complete the program, the conductor and orchestra join DSO Con-

certmaster Alexander Kerr, known for his "beautiful, sweet tone, a technical mastery of his instrument and a complete understanding of musical style" (Washington Post), for Mozart's *Third Violin Concerto* (live Feb 18-21; streaming from Feb 26).

For their final winter collaboration, Luisi and the DSO perform Mahler's joyous *Fourth Symphony* in a chamber arrangement by Klaus Simon. Soprano soloist Rachel Willis-Sørensen, a familiar face at the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera and Covent Garden, who "has without doubt one of the most

impressive voices in the opera world" (Le Monde, France), joins them for the final movement (live Feb 25-28; streaming from March 5).

Last fall, when Luisi led the DSO in a similar chamber adaptation of Mahler's *Song of the Earth*, the Dallas Morning News observed: "Luisi lovingly shaped this deeply personal music. ... The ending, gently caressed by winds, horn and strings, with tinkling celesta, was magical."

Dallas Symphony Orchestra: Fabio Luisi Concerts in Winter 2021 Texas Instruments Classical Series



## VOTES, from Page 1

Trump in 2016—and the haranguing of Cruz's wife and father and god—the Texan seems to have awakened to a whole new and skewed reality a couple of years later. Now, the viral lies that Trump convinces himself to believe, Cruz and the Dirty Dozen and a throng of other Trump supporters believe also.

There is an adage: If you call a dog by a name long enough pretty soon he will answer to it. In this case, fraud is the name and the votes of Black and Brown Americans have become the dog. It is on this tenuous and contrived evidence that the Dirty Dozen make their stand.

The Dirty Dozen plan to object to the certification of the presidential election results when Congress formally counts the electoral votes on January 6th, even though, their plan drew disdain from Democrats and leading Republicans alike due to there being absolutely no evidence of widespread election fraud.

Undaunted, Cruz argued that the results of the presidential election “produced a deep, deep distrust of our democratic process across the country,” and he added that Congress had “an obligation to do something about that.” This wasn't the only attempt to disregard the Black and Latino vote.

It was on New Year's Day that the Justice Department represented Vice President Mike Pence in a Texas courtroom as the department was seeking to bestow onto Pence the power to overturn the results of Joe Biden's presidential victory when the matter went to Congress to validate Electoral College votes. The judge flatly denied the claim and questioned whether any of those suing had “a judicially cognizable claim.” Even one of Trump's head henchmen, former Attorney General William Barr, concedes that there is no cause for action as there is no fraud to be proven. Barr's opinion didn't curtail Trump from calling Georgia's secretary

of state the very next day.

Trump made a direct call to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger at 3 p.m. on Saturday and kept him on the phone for an hour. Trump urged Raffensperger to alter Georgia's election results by finding 11,780 votes, pleading with Raffensperger the way a schoolboy pleads with his date for a kiss after the prom. The secretary of state didn't find it in his heart to violate the law for Trump's sake. Still, the shouts of widespread voter fraud in Georgia are a never-ending and vicious cycle.

There have been more than 50 lawsuits filed by Trump or his cronies attempting to undo the will of American voters. All those cases were found to be unsubstantiated and they produced no evidence of voter fraud. Even judges that Trump himself appointed couldn't find enough evidence to rule in the outgoing president's favor.

The most duplicitous aspect of this entire affair lies in the understanding of what happened when Trump lost the Iowa caucus to Cruz in 2016. To no one's surprise, Trump claimed he won the caucus and accused Cruz of fraud. “What Donald does, when he loses, is he blames everybody else,” Cruz contended back then.

One should remain aware that bands of negative influencers like the Dirty Dozen don't simply move without some hierarchy fueling their tank and providing justification for their actions. The Dirty Dozen do have their stable of enablers. Financial institutions are the fuel that enables these people to do their disruptive work because politicians respond to campaign contributions the way a dog in training responds to a treat. And as dogs do, corrupt politicians will sit or roll over and play dead on command—if the one holding the monetary treat orders them to do so. Some of the financial institutions waving monetary treats under Republican noses are all too familiar to

us.

AT&T's flame is fueled by the major investment firm Elliott Management, which is run by Paul Singer. Singer is a billionaire Republican donor, who recently flexed his financial might and ordered AT&T's board to restructure in a way that brought much delight to Trump. AT&T isn't the only business that Blacks and Latinos tend to patronize that support—in some overt or covert way—policies that tend to hurt Black and Brown communities.

Citibank has been referred to as America's most political bank. Citibank of one of the largest American financial institutions, but the institution has garnered a reputation of being dependent on the financial leniency of government officials, who are often repaid in kind for their munificence. The relationship 220-year-old Citibank has maintained with the U.S.'s governing political party has allowed the institution to receive financial support worth \$517 billion between 2007 and 2009, years in which Republicans controlled Capitol Hill. The relationship between Citibank and Republicans has been described as a political quid pro quo.

To be fair, Citibank/Citigroup does make political contributions to both Republicans and Democrats (whichever party serves them best). In 2008, Citibank's political contributions were made primarily to Democrats. From 2010 until the present day, though, as the tumult on Capitol Hill surged and politicians showed the worst they had to offer Citibank's political contributions have overwhelmingly favored the Republican agenda.

In 2018, for instance, Citibank made a total of 41 political contributions in the state of Texas. Republicans were the recipients of 36 of those contributions, while Democrats received only five donations.

Charles Schwab the man is sometimes confused with the Charles Schwab Corporation because the man is both founder and chair-

man of the company that brandishes his name. A corporation spokeswoman said, “We believe in every Schwab employee's right to contribute to the democratic process as they see fit, following their own beliefs,” spokeswoman Mayura Hooper said. “Our chairman's personal political activities are his own and are separate from The Charles Schwab Corporation and its subsidiaries.

While Charles Schwab the corporation showed equanimity in their political contributions, Charles Schwab the man donated \$1 million and his wife Helen donated \$1 million to Future45, a Republican political committee that energetically advocated for the election of Trump and Pence.

By no means is the Dirty Dozen's capers the only sham that moves with the intent to usurp the voting rights of Black and Latino citizens.

Dastardly movements are often ignored and discounted as being groundless or futile. But still, the damage is had when the perception of truth is altered and then the altered reality is accepted by far too many Americans. We must keep in mind that it is sometimes not about the credibility of a fraudulent claim but rather the unadulterated gall with which the movement is made.

Now is the time for a call to arms, for someone to champion the cause of Black and Latino voters whose cries for salvation from this sort of abasement often go unheard.

Where, now, is that NAACP that gave us Charles Edward Russell and Thurgood Marshall as champions?

Where, now, is that LULAC that gave us Maria L. de Hernandez and Pedro Hernandez Barrera as champions?

Our plea to NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson and LULAC National President Domingo Garcia is this: Coalitions like the Dirty Dozen must be met with the same level of ferocity they use to attack the inalienable rights

of Black and Latino citizens who are greatly underrepresented in the halls of Congress and the Senate.

Even without the voices of Johnson and Garcia leading the charge, there should be and are some objections we grassroots individuals can raise. It is within our ability to say “No More, Not Ever Again” to money hungry corporations that support those that move against us.

The people of Montgomery, Alabama drafted a solution to their political and social injustices created by racist systemic policies. Their plan was initiated December 5, 1995, and they dubbed it The Montgomery Bus Boycott. In its beginning, there was little effect felt by the city's establishment and the protesters had to make certain sacrifices. Somewhere in February, Montgomery began realizing that Blacks folks were the primary patrons of the buses. Around August, Montgomery began to realize that their finances were suffering. It wasn't until

December 20, 1956, that Montgomery conceded to the protesters' demands and the will of the people prevailed.

What was good for Montgomery in 1955, is good for our monolithic money mongers today, but it will take some sacrifice on our part.

Free yourself from AT&T's long-term contract that has you shackled like an indentured servant and go with a company that understands our plight. Take your phone back to AT&T and dash it at their feet.

Close your Citibank account and cash in your annuity, then deposit those funds with a financial institution that donates dollars to those that promote our causes on Capitol Hill.

Make a call to Schwab—the corporation and the man—and let that mercantile merchant know that from this point forward you've decided to let someone else grow rich from your currency.

Tell them all, “No More, Not Ever Again!”

## NDG joins Powered by People in calling for the removal of Cruz and Hawley

It's been one week since the insurrection that took place in the U.S. Capitol and there still has not been any action taken to hold those responsible for inciting the violence.

Senators Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley, who led the charge with their hatred and fear mongering, should be expelled from the Senate. As Beto said yesterday, to allow their attempt at sedition to go unpunished is to become complicit in it.

Call your Senators today at 202-224-3121 and ask them to vote to expel Cruz and Hawley from the U.S. Senate.

So far, only 7 Sena-

tors have said they will vote to expel Cruz and Hawley. We are grateful for their commitment to protecting our democracy, but now we need to put pressure on the others to make sure violence-inducing traitors are not sitting Senators.

After the fear and violence we witnessed last week, there is no reason why those who caused it should still be allowed to work in the U.S. Capitol.

*Powered by People is a PAC organized by Beto O'Rourke as a grassroots organization to engage voters and volunteers to focus on Texas politics.*



# \$900 Billion Federal Stimulus: What's in it, what's not, what remains

By Charlene Crowell

Although a New Year has begun, many American consumers and small businesses continue to feel a financial hangover from the challenges of 2020. As the global pandemic reveals a still-soaring American infection rate, the nation has also surpassed 350,000 related deaths, added more workers to the ranks of unemployed, and growing debts place millions more in financial crisis.

To make matters worse, a \$900 billion federal stimulus package passed on December 22 by Congress did not receive a presidential signature until December 27, thereby delaying access to additional federal aid for a nation in need. The delayed aid, a fraction of the \$2.3 trillion aid package passed in March 2020, and the \$2.4 trillion HEROES Act that House Democrats passed last June, will tackle greater needs with fewer revenues spread over a wide range of categories affecting consumers, education, small businesses, public health, transportation and more.

For consumers, there are three main types of direct assistance through the new funding bill.

First, for an estimated 14 million former workers who exhausted their respective state unemployment benefits in 2020, \$286 billion will extend and expand unemployment assistance through March 2021. These federal payments will also include non-traditional employees like those who are self-employed or classified as gig workers. Unemployed workers who by March 14 exhaust their full state unemployment benefits will continue to receive this federal assistance until April 5.

Second, for consumers, a one-time, direct payment of \$600 will go to workers whose tax status as either

a single person or head of household in their 2019 tax returns showed an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less. For joint filers earning that same year an adjusted gross income of \$150,000 or less, the single payment increases to \$1,200. Further, households meeting these income guidelines and who also have children under the age of 17, will receive an additional \$600 per child. Those earning adjusted gross amounts above \$75,000 but less than \$87,000 will receive reduced stimulus checks, dis-

counted by discounted by \$5 for every \$100 earned above the guidelines. Paper checks and debit cards will be delivered by mail over the next few weeks.

Third, other consumer-directed assistance includes an additional \$25 billion in federal rental assistance to be administered by state and local officials for consumers who have fallen behind on their monthly payments. These funds are also approved to help pay future rent, utility bills, prevent their shut-off. It is estimated that up to 17

million struggling renters who are disproportionately Black and Latino already owe an estimated \$70 billion in back rent. For these consumers, the threat of eviction is imminent. However, the bill only extends

the current eviction moratorium through January 31 and provides no relief or assistance for struggling homeowners.

By comparison, the bill's combined \$324 billion that reflects direct consumer

benefits, allots only \$82 billion to stretch across K-12 schools and higher education. The vast majority of these monies - \$54.3 billion -- is dedicated to elemen-

See CHECKS, Page 16

Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct a 36-foot Monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 5135 Southern Blvd., Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75254, Lat: [32-56-10.0104], Long: [-96-49-16.4388]. Public comments regarding the potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days of publication to: *Trileaf Corp. Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35 Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 5125199388.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 37-foot, 4-inch Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 441 W. Northgate Dr, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75062, Lat: [32-51-15.2172], Long: [-96-57-5.8602], Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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# Well, Here We Go Again

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have lived long enough to know that the only change that has any kind of reality is the change in my pocket. I keep track of that change with great supervision and count it every day.

When people tell me that this is a New Year and there will be a lot of changes this year, I search my pocket be-

cause that's the only change I want to know about.

Looking back over my life, the most significant change that ever came to me was the day I said "I do" to the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. At the time, and it's good for me that I didn't know, I didn't know what "I do" really meant.

Oh yes, I understood it

had to do with marriage, but at that time, I had no idea what marriage was all about. I thought, as many of the songs tell me, love will conquer everything. All you need to do is have love, and that will be all you need.

When I said, "I do," my life changed like I never expected it to change. And mostly, I must admit, for

the better. I have no complaints.

Knowing a young lady and then living with that young lady for 50 years was quite a change in my life. I will never know how she put up with me, and believe me, I will never ask.

That is the only change that had any real significance in my life. Of course, when the children came

along, there was some aspect of change but not so much. Children come and go, and then they leave the nest.

As we start a New Year, everybody is anticipating change. But I don't believe in that kind of change, as I said. I think everything will be quite the same as it was last year. Sure, there will be a few modifications, but as

far as change is concerned, I don't believe it's going to happen.

When we began last year, everybody was excited about the New Year. Then certain things happen that brought all of that to the floor. Who would've expected what had happened?

There were change-like

**See AGAIN, Page 15**

## CHURCH, from Page 13

### FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

#### January 17

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

#### January 20, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

#### January 15, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

#### January 17, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### January 18, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

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#### January 17, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

#### January 18, 7 to 8 pm

Every Monday Night  
Sister II Sister (Women's

Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

#### January 20, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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# Remembering the legacy of MLK



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s messages had an enormous effect on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s.

Through his activism and inspirational speeches he played a pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of Black citizens in the United States.

Dr. King helped in the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In his short lifetime Dr.

King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other coveted honors.

He continues to be remembered as one of the most influential and inspirational Black leaders in the history of the world.

Born as Michael King Jr. he was the middle child of Michael King Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

Reverend King Sr. was a successful minister, and adopted the name Martin Luther King Sr. in honor of the German Protestant religious leader Martin Luther.

In due time, Michael Jr. would follow his father's lead and adopt the name himself.

Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King entered



*Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Renowned Orator  
(January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)*

public school at age 5 and attended Booker T. Washington High School.

Dr. King skipped both the ninth and eleventh grades, and entered Morehouse College in Atlanta at age 15, in 1944.

In his junior year, Martin took a Bible class, renewed his faith and began to envision a career in the ministry. In the fall of his senior year, he told his father of his decision.

In 1948, Martin Luther

King Jr. earned a sociology degree from Morehouse College and attended the liberal Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.

He thrived in all his studies, and was valedictorian of his class in 1951, and elected student body president. He also earned a fellowship for graduate study.

During his last year in seminary, Dr. King came under the guidance of Morehouse College President Benjamin E. Mays who influenced King's spiritual development.

After being accepted at several colleges for his

doctoral study, including Yale and Edinburgh in Scotland, King enrolled at Boston University.

During the work on his doctorate, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, an aspiring singer and musician.

They were married in June 1953 and had four children, Yolanda, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott and Bernice.

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama.

He also completed his Ph.D. and earned his degree in 1955 when Dr. King was only 25 years old.

## AGAIN, from Page 14

happenings in people's lives this past year. But really, we all ended up almost where we started. That may not seem to be true, but here we are.

Whenever we go through something that people call a "change," on the other side everything is about the same. Maybe a little bit of variation, but nothing really changes when you come right down to it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage made this pretty clear to me just recently. As we were thinking about the New Year, she said, "What change do you see in the coming year?"

The only change I can think of came from a song from the sixties, "Oh my friend, we're older but no wiser" (Mary Hopkin).

The only change I can see on my horizon is that I'm going to get older. And believe me, I plan to get as old as I possibly can because I know what happens if you don't get older.

And that song is right; we are older but no wiser, and that's not going to change. When I think I have arrived at a certain level of wisdom, I find out I didn't know all of the facts.

So, I explained to the

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "The only change I can see for me this year is I'm going to get older."

She looked at me with one of her penetrating stares and said, "I don't think getting older is going to make any change in your life."

Of course, she was right. No matter how old I get, nothing is really going to change in my life.

Oh yes, I walk a little slower, and there are pains in my body in areas I didn't know I had. I forget a lot of things that I once could remember. I remember things that never happened. To me, that's a good thing.

To show that I'm not going to be changing this year, I said to my wife, "What change do you see in the coming year?"

It wasn't long before I realized that her idea of change and my idea of change had no connection whatsoever. She had a list of things she was going to change in the house.

The first is she's going to change her craft room to get more stuff in the room. Then, she's going to change this room and that room and help me change my of-

fice room, and by the time she was done, everything in our world according to her was going to change.

I'm not going to contradict that change because I know the ramifications of doing such a thing. Chaos is not my idea of happiness.

While she was describing all the changes she's going to see accomplished this year, I happened to think of what old Solomon said. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under

the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

When my wife changes her craft room, it will still be "her craft room." Sometimes changing things makes us feel good about ourselves and our life. In the end, everything is the same.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net.*

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# NDG Book Review: Nine Days is an amazing look back at a pivotal moment

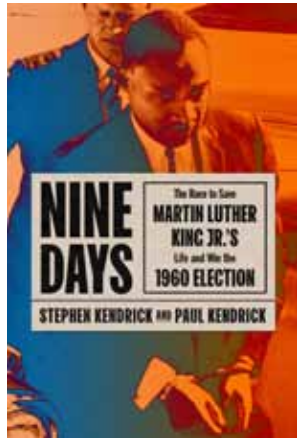
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Always look for the helpers.

No doubt, you've heard those words before: whenever you're in trouble — lost, scared, unsure, in danger — look around. Somewhere nearby, there's someone who'll help. As in the new book "Nine Days" by Stephen Kendrick and Paul Kendrick, though, it might not be quick.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. had been in jail before.

It was fast then, in and out the same day but still not pleasant and as a Black man in 1960, the prospect



of an entire night there was loathsome. So when a group of students in Atlanta asked King to help integrate restaurants in one of the city's largest department stores, he understood the sacrifice and he prayed

on it first.

In the end, he stood with the students and his worst fears came true.

Their jail sentence was short and while they were kept mostly together, King was not among the last of the students released three days later. His sentence: four months' hard labor due to a driver's license issue he thought had been taken care of, the spring prior.

He was moved to another jail, and then another, each farther away from his family and further endangering his life.

Some time before, King had reached out to the two 1960 Presidential candi-

dates, asking them to put Civil Rights at the forefront of their agendas. He thought he knew who would be most likely to help: King had met Richard Nixon, and he genuinely liked Nixon. He had struggled to arrange time with John Kennedy, however.

That summer, the Kennedy camp itself struggled. JFK's campaign staff understood, with the help of Louis Martin, a respected Black newspaperman, that the candidate who attracted "Negro" voters would win the White House and Nixon was besting them. Then suddenly, there was King, sitting in jail days before

the election.

At the urging of his staff, Kennedy picked up the phone and made a call...

Two of them, as a matter of fact — JFK made two phone calls that may've changed the outcome of the 1960 election and perhaps the course of history. In a story that spreads forward and back and sets a few facts straight, "Nine Days" tells about those calls, King's jail-time, and how they are forever linked.

But wait: did Nixon and Kennedy both seem to drag their feet on King's release? Authors Stephen Kendrick and Paul Kendrick answer that question in a peek at

1960s politics and society that's fascinating but also frustrating to read, content-wise. Kendrick and Kendrick don't let that feeling linger, though: inside the tale of King and Kennedy is the story of a man whose wisdom, savvy, and his reputation with Black newspapers altered the election in a way that, as it's told, feels like the cheer-worthy last ten minutes of a truly great movie.

Though its focus is small, "Nine Days" is a gigantic tale that you won't want to stop reading once you've started it. Really, this is the kind of book you can't help but love.

## CHECKS, from Page 12

tary and secondary school relief, while relief for all higher education totals \$22.7 billion. The higher education monies include \$1.7 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and Minority-Serving Institutions. Unfortunately, funds to relieve the nation's burdensome \$1.7 trillion student loan debt were not included, nor was an extension of the pause on student loan payments that has helped millions of consumers over the course of the crisis.

Meanwhile, just as with earlier packages, small business relief was a centerpiece in the new bill and includes \$284 billion in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and \$20 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance program. From its inception in March 2020, flaws in the PPP program structure and implementation prevented tens of thousands of Black and Latino business owners from accessing relief.

Now, a new research report released jointly by UCLA's Center for Neighborhood Knowledge and its Latino Policy and Initiatives, shares how the first version of the PPP program shortchanged Black and

Latino neighborhoods on a per capita basis compared to predominantly White areas.

For example, PPP supported far fewer jobs per resident in Black and Latino neighborhoods (5.8 and 4.9 jobs per 100 residents respectively) than in white neighborhoods (8.1 jobs per 100 residents), according to the UCLA report. Latino and Black neighborhoods also received fewer PPP dollars per resident than White and Asian neighborhoods. Latino and Black neighborhoods received \$367 and \$445 per resident respectively, compared to \$666 and \$670 received by businesses in white and Asian neighborhoods.

In response to the backlash surrounding the earlier iterations, significant structural improvements were made to PPP this time around. Hopefully, these changes will ensure that the PPP better serves Black and Latino business owners.

For example, the bill has dedicated PPP monies for the smallest businesses (10 or fewer employees) and smaller loans to entities in low-and-moderate-income communities. There is also a set-aside for loans originated by community

development financial institutions (CDFIs), and minority depository institutions (MDIs). A minimum origination loan fee to support small loans, increased transparency, and streamlined forgiveness of loans under \$150,000 are also included. It also allows some hard-hit businesses that already received PPP loans to apply for second ones.

"This bill is welcome relief for the millions of small businesses that are days or weeks away from closing permanently," said Senator Ben Cardin in a statement, the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. "In addition to tackling the root of the problem, this bill targets small business aid to the hardest-hit, most vulnerable small businesses — including Black, Native, Hispanic, Asian, and women-owned businesses — as well as small businesses that have been most affected by COVID-19."

Despite the consumer relief provisions and PPP reforms, additional relief is still needed to help families get through this crisis. Advocates applauded the bill's passage while also noting that far more is needed to help families survive this pandemic.

"Congress finally pres-

ents us with a relief package that is sorely needed," said Ashley Harrington, Federal Advocacy Director at the Center for Responsible Lending. "But it is not expansive enough to bring necessary relief and stability to our nation especially for Black and Brown communities that are experiencing the worst health and financial impacts of this unrelenting global pandemic."

"The Biden-Harris Administration must extend the pause on student loan payments," continued Harrington, "and must keep its promise to provide substantial, across-the-board debt cancellation to prevent further financial devastation for economically marginalized borrowers and communities. Congress must commit to immediately providing robust relief monies, especially to those who have no choice but to put their lives at risk as essential workers in order to survive."

"We have the resources; this is the time to deploy them," concluded Harrington. "Congress has a duty to provide relief that is equal to the enormity of this ongoing catastrophic emergency."

Maxine Waters, a California Congresswoman and Chair of the House Finan-

cial Services Committee echoed the need for more help.

"The negotiations were difficult; they were tough and I wish we could have done even more," noted Waters. "But I'm pleased we have done as well as we could have done to provide relief for so many in desperate need for their Gov-

ernment to come to their aid...Let me be clear: much more is needed, but this bill is a most important first step."

*Charlene Crowell is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

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