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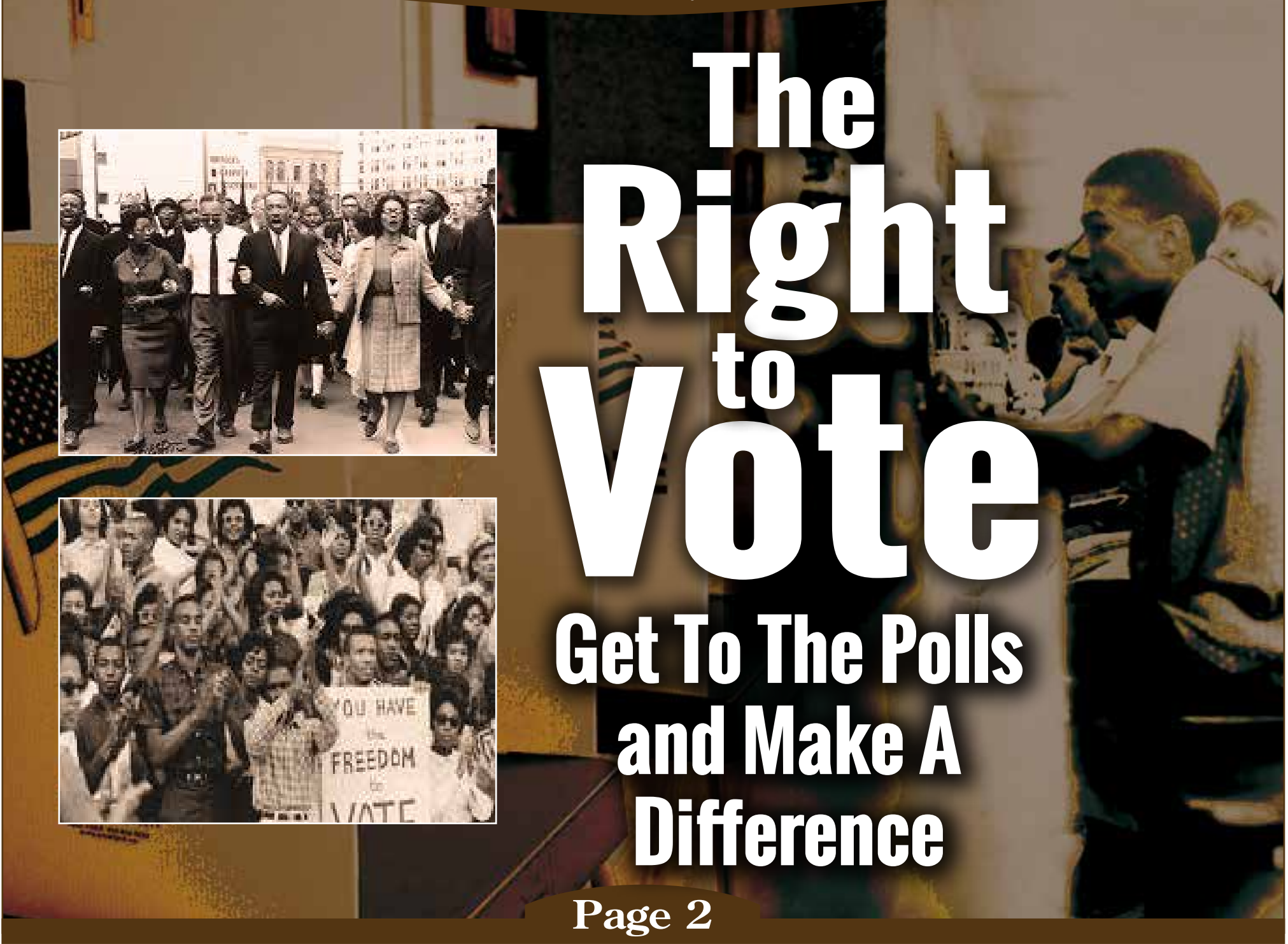


NNPA Visits Cuban Embassy

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The Right To Vote

Get To The Polls and Make A Difference



Act 636 gives is a new law signed by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards. With this new law it is estimated nearly 70,000 citizens who are presently on probation or parole are now eligible to vote.



Flozell Daniels, Jr. Is CEO and President of Foundation of Louisiana and is an expert on Criminal Justice Reform and Voting Rights who was part of the task force that helped study this issue (Act 636) that's now become law.



Don Hubbard (L) Also in photo Arthur Chapital, march co-coordinator. The March on New Orleans: Assembly at Shakespeare Park March to City Hall. September 30, 1963 (photo courtesy of Jacques Morial)

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

On October 12th voters will once again go to the polls to vote.

In this election, like many others, we at Data News Weekly encourage our citizens to get out and vote. In the spirit of promoting civic participation, we spoke to two people who are on the frontlines of getting more of the people to cast ballots.

Norris Henderson is Executive Director of Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), an ex-offender advocacy group that focuses on citizens' rights that includes voting.

Flozell Daniels, Jr., is CEO and President of Foundation for Louisiana. In leading this group, they work to tackle the issues that most deeply impact our communities, advocating alongside Louisianans to chart their own futures. He also sits on many civic boards and is an expert on Criminal Justice Reform and Voting Rights.

Criminal Justice Reform in Motion: ACT 636 Gives the Right to Vote to Nearly 70,000 New Voters

In May 2018, HB 265, sponsored by a group of Democratic Legislatures mostly from New Orleans passed the Louisiana Legislature, which means that thousands of formerly incarcerated people got their voting rights back as of March 1, 2019. This bill was signed into law (ACT 636) by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards. With this new law, it is estimated nearly 70,000 citizens of this state who are presently on probation or parole are now eligible to vote.

According to Henderson, who is heading up an awareness campaign of getting people registered to vote says, "We have seen our state in terms of Criminal Justice Reform begin to move in the right direction. Over the years evidence has shown we were going down the wrong road. Act 636 becoming law is an opportunity for citizens of this state to exercise their right to vote. We at VOTE would like to thank all those who are working with us on this and many of the other issues we are

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

addressing in the fight for fairness and justice for the people of our state.”

He speaks of having a governor in place in John Bel Edwards, who on the campaign trail made Criminal Justice Reform one of his signature issues as key. Henderson was on hand when the governor signed Act 636 into law.

“We were fortunate enough to have a governor coming in who was campaigning on reforming this system. This was about a coalition of people coming together to get this done. But the work is not over, we still have to get people registered to vote and then get them to the polls.”



Norris Henderson is the Executive Director of Voice of the Experienced (Vote) and ex-offender advocacy group that focuses on citizens' rights that includes voting.



l-r page 3 Lolis Elie, Rev A.L. Davis, Ernest Morial, Rev John Morris, Oretha Castle Haley.

Re-Writing History and Changing the Narrative through Voting

It is well documented that much of Louisiana's problems with Blacks and voting is rooted in a Legacy of Racial Repression according to Flozell Daniels, Jr., “The start of much of this we can look at Reconstruction after the Civil War, where Blacks began making gains politically even having a Black Lt. Governor and Governor because we had the right to vote. Then there was a White backlash and a reign of terror where killing, lynching, and obstacles in place that kept Blacks from voting. This is my view, in some ways has created a generational passing down of apathy and fear around voting.”

Continuing speaking looking through the lens of history to the present day he says many strides have been made but some of the problems are still the same and that summoning of the spirit of the freedom fighters of the past should be an inspiration that leads us to the future.

“We hear people speaking of our great leaders that included A.P. Tureaud, Dutch Morial, O.C. Haley, Israel Augustine, and many others. What we don't talk about is that they were us back in the day, they were the professionals, they were educated, and they decided that they would put their privilege on the line and move to create rights for all people to live a free life. Today, it seems 50 years later we are a City mostly run politically by African American and we are battling a lot of these same images. Many are doing great work, but more needs to be done in the area of Civil Rights and equality for the dispossessed of the City.”

De-Mystifying Myths around Voting

Many myths are at the root of why some in the African American community does not vote. One is that many formerly incarcerated persons believe they are barred



The struggle for equality and justice continues.

from voting. This is rooted in an old law that is no longer on the books according to Henderson.

“Go to jail, lose your rights to vote forever prior to 1974 that was the case, but the state changed the constitution, so many of our citizens are operating on this false urban legend.”

Henderson, who says of his outreach efforts are rooted in helping empower people in his community. But he says much of this work should be done by the Secretary of State and other entities.

“Our organization should not have to take on the heavy lifting that the Secretary of State should do, in creating awareness of the new law and helping people get registered to vote. But if they won't do it, we will because it is a necessary first step to empowering our people.”

Setting the Agenda... Voting Matters

Daniels believes there must be a recommitment on the part of African Americans to get to the polls.

“People have to vote; we have to get back to a standard of our ancestors who was committed to change



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards signing Act 636 into law, surrounded by many of those that fought to make the law a reality.

and making it better for the next generation. If we do not do this then we are missing an opportunity to strengthen our community.”

Harkening back to the days when there were many more obstacles, but people voted he says, “There were laws in place and outright intimidation to make it harder for us to vote, but those who came before us had the courage and the will to vote no matter what even if it meant having to walk five miles to vote.

We wouldn't be here if it weren't for them and it is our responsibility and duty to carry on in this tradition honoring those who came before us.”

New Orleans has seen a drop-in voting among all groups, but Blacks cannot afford not to get to the polls and cast their ballots. There is too much at stake not just now under the regime of Donald Trump, but at the local and state level it is arguably more important to vote in local elections.

There was a time when Blacks in New Orleans voted at 85 to 95 percent when voting rights were granted to African Americans. Today that number is much lower. In our current elections, we are seeing a range anywhere between 10 to 35 percent of people voting; in this political climate, this is dangerous for the African American community. It is time to re-engage and get involved by not just voting, but demanding accountability from those that are in elected office.

Civic Engagement is more than Voting: Election Season is 24-7...365

Voter Registration is only the first step in civic engagement. It is voter education that is most important; a point made by both Henderson and Daniels.

“When people are educated about the issues they respond differently,” says Henderson. “We need year-round campaigns regarding issues not just elections. For example, when we went in the community and educated them on the issue of the non-unanimous jury verdicts, many did not know of this law and that we were one of two states in the nation with such laws. When they were educated about it and its impacts, we were able to do something about it and people came out to vote to change the law.”

Daniels, who is involved in the work of uplifting his community speaks admiringly of Henderson and the work he does. “He is my hero and for all the work he and so many others at the grassroots level do in moving our community forward I admire their courage and commitment.”

This effort that both men are on is part of a tradition of those who have dedicated their lives to the struggle for justice and equality.

Speaking with optimism in his voice Daniels says, “Voting can take us in a brighter direction, with it we have the power to put leaders in place that reflect our agenda and aspirations as a community.”

Another Bad Call and Bad News for Saints as Drew Brees is Out for 6 Weeks

E. Benjamin
Data News Weekly Staff
Writer

In a game that again saw a bad call, where Cam Jordan recovered a fumble to run it in for a touchdown get called back.

A play that definitely shifted the momentum towards the Saints, in what up until that time was a low scoring game; that was pegged as one of the biggest games of the year after the infamous no-call kept the Saints away from a Super Bowl appearance last season.

The loss of the game is not the worse news for the Black and Gold; it is that its field leader and future Hall of Fame Quarterback Drew Brees exited the game with an apparent injury to the thumb on his throwing hand.

It was evident watching the game to see an anguished Brees



Drew Brees out for six weeks with torn ligament is a major blow the Saints and the Who Dat Nation.

match in this year's playoffs.

This injury prevented him from being able to grip the ball and return to the game.

The Saints went on to lose 27-9 to the Rams and as they packed their bags to head northwest to face the Seattle Seahawks in Week 3, with Brees staying behind to see a hand specialist.

It was not good news for Brees, as reported he's suffered a torn ligament his throwing hand that requires surgery to repair that will have him out for at least six weeks.

This is something that is a shot for a team that many believed this year has what it takes to make this year's Super Bowl in Miami.

Without Brees, the team is still armed with many weapons and is capable of winning games. But the City is all abuzz about the injury of Brees but continue to support the Black and Gold on their quest to win games until the return of Brees that is expected in mid-season.

wanted to battle their arch nemesis; the Los Angeles Rams in what may have been a dress rehearsal for a re-

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Queen Sugar Episode Spotlights New Orleans HBCU

Tykiera Haley
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The two-part season finale of the Oprah Winfrey Network drama series Queen Sugar saw Micah West, played by Actor Nicholas L. Ashe, inform his mother Charley (played by Dawn Lyen Gardner), that he has chosen not to attend Harvard University. In the 12th Episode of Season 4, Micah announces he wants to be close to his community and will attend a Historically Black University instead, naming one in New Orleans: Xavier.

His decision to attend an HBCU to study political science and art, with an emphasis in photography evoked the response: "How dare you," from Charley. His mother blames Nova (Rutina Wesley) and Keke, his girlfriend, played by Actress Tanyell Waivers for influencing his decision not to go to Harvard. It was a choice that resonated with African American college students who must sometimes go against their parents or advisors in choosing to attend an HBCU today.

The plot connected to the series' cast members. Waivers, who surprised viewers in New Orleans at a watch party for the season finale episode on September 11th, shared that her parents were also alumni of an HBCU: Xavier, making Micah's decision even more significant for her.

"It hit home for me. It felt like I was seen, like parents were seen...they feel more valuable knowing that the schools they went to meant something," Waivers said at the watch party held in the University Center on Xavier's campus.

She also offered a few encouraging words for high school students who identify with Micah's situation.

"Embrace the journey and also embrace patience," Waivers said. "Life has its detours but embrace the opportunity you are given and whatever [you] end up choosing, even if it wasn't your first one, embrace it," she added.



Tanyell Waivers with the Xavier basketball and cheerleading team on Wednesday, Sept. 11th

The series cast members also recorded inspirational video messages for younger viewers at the watch party. Waivers encouraged students to continue believing in the mission of HBCUs and to never back down from the odds.

Micah's decision prompted students to revisit the debates over attending an HBCU and a predominantly White university, and even an Ivy League university. Although some viewers said they felt unsure about his decision, Ashe's character received overwhelming support from students who were able to identify with his choice to attend an HBCU.

"When we see HBCUs represented in the media, it's usually the big three which are Howard, Spelman, or Morehouse, but never the smaller ones," said Abena Garrett, as she and other students waited for the season finale watch party to start.

"Xavier is an underrepresented HBCU and we don't get the credit that we deserve, so seeing that representation on TV is so exciting, especially as a student," Garrett added.

And while Xavier ranks among one of the top five Historically

Black colleges, its graduates lead in becoming Black physicians in the country. The school also has one of the top-ranked pharmacy programs in the South. These successes are often told about the institution, however students said they were happy to see that Micah wanted to attend the HBCU for a non-STEM field: political science and art. The institution also produced the city's first Black woman elected as mayor, and countless visual artists. Students said they were happy to see the episode spotlight liberal arts and social science programs as well.

"Usually people think that Ivy League schools are better and that [Xavier] doesn't compare, but Micah is smart and he's showing us that a good education isn't only an Ivy League thing," said Kierstyn Brent, a sophomore at Xavier, who attended the watch party.

GrandMaster Eric O'Neal, Sr.

&

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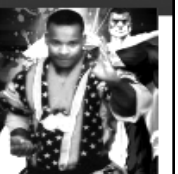
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NNPA Visits Cuban Embassy and Holds Annual Reception During Congressional Black Caucus Week

Stacy Brown
Writer
Photos By NNPA
Staff Photographer

Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas welcomed the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) at a lavish reception inside the posh Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.

The historic gathering held on Sept. 11th included NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards; former Chair Cloves Campbell; Data News Weekly Publisher Terry B. Jones; and a host of other Black Press publishers.

Ramón Cabañas and Black Press leaders said the Embassy reception is the beginning of a promising new relationship between journalists from the Black Press of America and reporters from Cuba.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee also joined the festivities, which included a live band featuring some of Cuba's finest musicians, and native fare.

"We welcome you tonight with a bit of Cuban culture and music, and mainly Cuban solidarity and friendship," Ambassador Cabañas said.

The Black Press contingent also agreed to accept the invitation of Ambassador Cabañas to visit the Cuban Embassy each year during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.

"We are so honored to be here in this beautiful home that we found out was built 100 years ago," Carter Richards said. "We look forward to the relationship," she said.

Chavis said the agreement is a reaffirmation of the relationship between Black America and "our brothers and sisters in Cuba."

"This is something that's been going on for centuries," Chavis said.

The Ambassador and his staff also attended the NNPA's Annual National Leadership Awards Reception at the Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel.

"It was a grand time," Ambassador Cabañas said. "I look forward to meeting with [The Black Press] again," he said.



NNPA Board of Directors and other members visited the Cuban Embassy during National Black Caucus Week in Washington D.C.



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AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

UNJELL BROOKS
VAULT ROOM MANAGER, AUDUBON ZOO

As vault room manager at Audubon Zoo, Unjell Brooks oversees the processing of funds coming into Audubon Zoo and the cash kept on hand to keep it running. With a background in banking, she first worked at Audubon in the 1990's and returned in 2015. Skills like Unjell's are needed in a variety of industries, but Unjell loves being part of an organization that does so much for our community. She is also a church youth program mentor and volunteer helping local students with financial literacy.

Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

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National Urban League Vows to Oppose Housing Finance Reform that Does Not Preserve and Strengthen Homeownership Opportunities for Families of Color



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“Civil Rights organizations have laid out a strong plan for an equitable housing market that works for all families and communities. Ignoring these important voices does a disservice to vulnerable communities and puts our housing market and taxpayers at risk.” – U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

The United States’ long history of discriminatory mortgage poli-

cies have led to vast disparities in homeownership. Only about 41 percent of Black households are homeowners, compared to more than 73 percent of white households.

The Trump Administration’s proposed reforms to federal housing finance could make things worse.

The proposed reforms will increase the cost of mortgages, especially for low-income families of color and rural families whose income has not kept pace with the cost of housing.

Over the last 50 years, the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage has plummeted by more than 30 percent, while the median home value, adjusted for inflation, has nearly doubled and rents have skyrocketed by nearly 70%.

The homeownership rate for Black families in 2019 is lower than it was in 1968 when the Fair Housing Act was signed into law by Pres-

ident Lyndon B. Johnson. Equally troubling is the widening gap in the homeownership rate between black and white households in America, with white households at 73.1% and black households at 40.6%.

The National Urban League has vowed to oppose any reform of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae – the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) created to promote homeownership – that does not reserve and strengthening access to stable, affordable, and equitable homeownership opportunities for all American families.

In a letter to the National Economic Council Director co-signed by other civil rights organizations, we wrote, “We view failure to maintain these goals in any forthcoming proposals as antithetical to meaningful and comprehensive housing finance reform, and stand ready to vehemently oppose any such efforts.

The organizations outline the principles with which reform must align, such as preserving and strengthening the system’s affordable housing mission, enhancing anti-discrimination protections and protecting taxpayers. Senator Sherrod Brown, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, endorsed our proposal and warned the Trump Administration that releasing a housing finance reform plan that fails to protect working families could destabilize the economy and put taxpayers at risk.

The housing crisis of 2008 was precipitated by a confluence of factors, notably the perverse incentives in the secondary mortgage market that drove unscrupulous brokers and loan officers to target otherwise creditworthy borrowers in communities of color with abusive and predatory loans.

Too often, creditworthy families were denied the best terms for which they qualified and were instead pushed into subprime loans with unsustainable mortgage rates because brokers received higher profits for placing them in more expensive loans.

When borrowers faced challenges in repaying these loans, the housing finance system failed to provide them with the home-saving options they were due.

“The challenges facing the housing market today reflect, in large part, a failure of the private market to make necessary investments to meet demand, making clear the need for federal government’s engagement in addressing this crisis,” we wrote in the letter. “This isn’t a new phenomenon; history demonstrates that the private market, left solely to its own devices, has left major parts of the housing market underserved.”

Proposition #4 will let New Orleans #Put Housing First



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

New Orleans’ Affordable Housing Crisis has continued to worsen as we struggle to implement policies that will help us turn from the disastrous course we’ve been on since the Hurricane Katrina’s floodwaters receded. The Smart Housing Mix was made law earlier this year, but we still have yet to fully implement the rules necessary to guarantee that new residential projects will include Affordable Housing. Despite the clear need, we have failed to even entertain discussions around improving housing quality for renters. There have been victories, but they have been hard fought and have taken far too long.

One such bright spot was 2018’s successful ballot initiative which will allow homeowners who experience a significant increase in their property assessment phase in their new tax rates, provided that increase is 50% or higher. In another welcome surprise, the 2019 Legislative Session approved a second Tax Relief Bill that would meet the needs of other households who could also benefit from tax relief programs: renters and homeowners whose increase would be below 50%, but still unaffordable. Authored by Senator Troy Carter, SB 79 was approved, and as a result, Proposition #4 will be on the October 12th ballot. If passed, Proposition #4 will allow the City of New Orleans to create a Tax Relief Programs for small landlords (15 units or less) and homeowners for whom a tax increase would just be too much to bear. The people of Louisiana will have the chance to #Put Housing First help New Orleans address our Affordable Housing Crisis.

The HousingNOLA 10 Year Plan has long called for strategic tax re-

lief in addition to policy reform. If Proposition #4 passes, New Orleans can create programs that won’t cost us operating revenue. The recent drastic increase in property assessments, if allowed to stand, will lead to homeowners and landlords being unable to pay their 2020 taxes. Not only will those properties then be vulnerable to tax sale, New Orleans will lose out on badly needed revenue. New Orleans doesn’t accept partial tax payments, and many property owners, who could and did pay their 2019 taxes, will not be able to pay in 2020.

To address this challenge, HousingNOLA has recommended exploring and developing at least three new programs that could have a positive and immediate impact:

1. Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP) – Already policy in cities like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., LOOP freezes tax rates for households that meet community requirements that allow seek to help low income and middle-class homeowners in their neighborhoods despite even when

gentrification would make it impossible for those homeowners to stay.

2. Retroactive Senior Freezes – There is a lot confusion around the Senior Tax Freeze and far too many of our senior homeowners have failed to register for it. If Proposition #4 passes, we’ll be able to create a program that not only allows seniors to apply for a tax freeze but roll it back to their original eligibility if they missed that deadline.

3. Preserving affordable rentals – Once fully enacted, the Smart Housing Mix deals with large developments (10 units or more) but we need to stabilize rents across the board as 63% of renters are cost burdened and most cannot afford to pay any sort of increase. Landlords have little choice but to pass on any significant tax increase to their tenants. With the affordability requirements for the first apartments funded under Small Rental Property Program (SRPP) expiring next year and the dramatic increase in property taxes, we could see a major increase in evictions

next year. With Proposition #4, we could create programs that give landlords the ability to keep their rents affordable.

These are only three of the programs that we should be reviewing if Proposition #4 passes and they’re the priorities that will stabilize the city and give us the best chance at real sustainable growth. The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance’s #Put Housing First Campaign is urging voters who care about Affordable Housing to vote yes for Proposition #4 and be prepared to work with the New Orleans City Council and Mayor LaToya Cantrell’s Administration to develop rules and regulations that will do the most good. We can and must create policies that stabilize the most vulnerable, bolster our middle class and ensure that our city doesn’t lose out on revenue that it needs to serve its citizens—and we have to act quickly. This is not an issue that we can allow to linger for two to three years—not if we want to #Put Housing First.

Author's Best Seller Memorializes Life in New Orleans East

Edward Carter III
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Growing up in a large household in New Orleans East was nothing but normal for author, Sarah Broom. The youngest of 12 children, she was entertained in the densely populated rooms of her family's "Yellow House" at 4121 Wilson Avenue, off Chef Menteur Highway. It taught her to appreciate solitude. Broom spent her childhood looking for an adequate mode of self-expression. It took her 8 years to document what it meant to grow up in the East in the acclaimed book "The Yellow House" released on August 13, 2019.

"Because I grew up with so many siblings, there is a feeling you start to get used to. Having a lot of characters around you, it made me who I am, and I don't have any other concept of living any other way," said Broom, whose memoir has become a New York Times bestseller.

The book is a painstakingly detailed journey into several decades of pre-and post-Katrina life in the East, a quadrant of the city that Broom remarks feels as if it is cut off after the high-rise of the Industrial Canal, and now forgotten and abandoned after the storm. Her family home her mother purchased at the age of 19 was demolished in 2016, and her book now stands as testimony of not just her own story but those of many families of the East. In reliving memories, Broom shared that she wanted the book to balance both the joys and challenges of growing up in New Orleans East.

"I love New Orleans for all the things that makes it a great city, but New Orleans also has major dysfunctions. I think it is impossible to say you love a person or a place and not look upon that person or place with honesty," said Broom to a packed University Ballroom on Xavier University's campus, where she was the featured speaker for the Provost Lecture Series on September 11, 2019, and moderated by Xavier Mass Communication Professor Shearon Roberts.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina damaged the "yellow house" she grew up in and in the decade since the storm, New Orleans East remained neglected and abandoned. This tragedy made it emotionally uneasy



Author Sarah Broom discussing her critically acclaimed book "The Yellow House" with Xavier University Professor Dr. Shearon Roberts.

for Broom to come back and visit her hometown, but when writing the book "The Yellow House," she knew that she wanted to push past the baseline of what people expected a memoir to be and create an entertaining work of literary forms.

"Thinking about what the loss of that house actually means. It's more than just a place missing from the surface. There are stories that the house tells. These are people's legacies gone, these are people's stories gone," she said.

Broom shared in her book and with the public that she finds it disturbing to discover that New Orleans East has been missing from so many stories about the city, and about the wider narrative about what it means to be a New Orleansian. Broom always wondered how a place that is 50-times the French Quarter in size, is rarely identifiable on a map. New Orleans East is a familiar sort for many Black families in New Orleans, she shared, and an integral part of Black history in the city but is little known to the rest of New Orleans and to outsiders. This gave Broom more motivation to learn and explore the history of her home.

"I think what helped me was that I did a lot of interviews with my family. So, I visited all of them, explained the project of the book, and over the course of the years I collected hundreds of hours of interviews with them," Broom said of the journey to uncover little known histories or stories. She described the effort of producing the book as challenging the History 101 of a

place, knowing that many histories had left this part of the city out.

"There were moments when things were very personal and, in those moments, I would ask. I really felt the stories they told me I needed to tell this story and I would just simply get their permission," she said.

The book has come to resonate

with readers across the country as people come to understand the impacts of loss, particularly from disasters, or simply the nostalgia of moving away from one's childhood home.

"[The book] really opened our eyes and showed how Katrina and how life in New Orleans changed after that. A lot of rebuilding and

the city is still rebuilding and just to sustain society," said Royce Hooks, a Xavier student who attended the event.


"Me personally not being from New Orleans and a lot of people at Xavier. We really don't know about the full history behind Katrina and New Orleans East," Hooks said.

Broom's purpose for writing this novel was to trace the history and put New Orleans East back into the discussion of who and what makes this city, said Dr. Ja'Wanda Grant, a Special Assistant to the Provost in Xavier's Academic Affairs office, and who organized the public event. Her journey in writing this novel took strategic planning with it being a story that consists of her family, but ultimately resulted in regaining a sense of home for an entire community whose houses may no longer be standing, but whose hearts will always be rooted in the idea of "home."

"I think it was very serendipitous because she had written this book about memories about a place in history, and what it meant to her. And it just so happened that it was New Orleans," Grant said.




Sarah Broom with Xavier University of Louisiana, Anne McCall, Ph.D. Senior VP, Provost of Academic Affairs.




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Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Scales and Ales

A FINTastic Party for a Good Cause

Data News Staff Edited Report

It's time to get your tickets for the 10th Annual Scales & Ales Fundraiser on Friday, October 4th, at Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, where partygoers can support sharks – one of the most mysterious creatures of the deep – while enjoying a memorable evening of food, drink, and live entertainment.

Guests will enjoy beer from local breweries, wine, specialty cocktails and delicious cuisine from 50 local restaurants and bars as well as the enchanting sights and sounds of the Aquarium on the New Orleans Riverfront After Dark.

Scales & Ales is an adult-only event on Friday, October 4th, 8–11 p.m. Sponsors and Patrons enjoy early admittance at 7 p.m. with access to the VIP Lounge aboard the Steamboat NATCHEZ throughout the event.

Scales & Ales is a sell-out event and admission is limited, so purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. Please call (504) 861-5107 for additional information.

This year's event theme will inspire an appreciation for sharks – an often-misunderstood, but essential species. Sharks may be one of the greatest predators to ever live, but they have more to fear from humans than humans do from them, and Scales & Ales is a perfect opportunity for the community to learn why they should love sharks.



"Support of Scales & Ales is an investment in critical conservation efforts that inspire millions of people each year to make a difference for wildlife," said Audubon Nature Institute President and CEO Ron Forman. "For many years, Scales & Ales has raised more than \$1 million for the Aquarium."

Cox Communications is the Going Green Sponsor for this event – their support will provide partygoers with reusable cups, cup rinse stations, recycling bins, and the opportunity to learn more about Going Green initiatives from volunteers.

The entertainment lineup for this year's Scales & Ales includes:

- Flow Tribe on the Aquarium Plaza Main Stage.



- WWOZ's DJ Brice Nice inside the Aquarium lobby.
- The Electric Yat String Quartet will play for VIP guests aboard

the Steamboat NATCHEZ.

- Elektra Glitter Eko Glitter Bar, Reflective Moments Photo mirror, Paperdoll Promotions, Magic

Memories, the Sirens of New Orleans, Porter Lyons jewelry pull, and more.

To prepare for Scales & Ales on Friday, October 4th, the last showing at Entergy Giant Screen Theater will be at 1 p.m. and the Aquarium will close at 2 p.m. The Aquarium will be open during Scales & Ales and guests can stop by the sea otter and penguin exhibits before their bedtime at 8:30 p.m.

Guests must be 21 to purchase a ticket. No one under 21 will be admitted. The dress code is dressy casual. The party will go on rain or shine. Should you be unable to attend the event, please consider your ticket purchase a contribution to Audubon's mission; there will be no refunds.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

On September 13, 2019 the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of **Ferry Service Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**. The RTA is seeking to engage a qualified firm, or a joint venture of qualified firms, to provide the day-to-day O&M for the passenger and vehicular ferry services crossing the Mississippi River in New Orleans and the vicinity. The deadline for submissions is October 7, 2019. Visit driveRTAforward.com for more information and instructions to proposers.



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Black Press of America Awards Courageous Leaders

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

With a lively and capacity crowd inside the Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Sept. 12, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards presented the annual National Leadership Awards.

The 2019 honorees are the Honorable Karen Bass, U.S. Representative (D-CA); the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, U.S. Representative (D-MD); the Honorable Bobby Scott, U.S. Representative (D-VA); the Honorable Bennie Thompson, U.S. Representative (D-MS); Ray Curry, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agriculture (UAW); Shani W. Hosten, Vice President Multicultural Leadership, AARP; Dr. Kim Smith-Whitley, Clinical Director of Hematology and Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP); and Crystal Windham, Director, Cadillac Interior Design, General Motors.

Each of the recipients joined NNPA corporate partners and sponsors to reflect on the importance of the Black Press.

"I'd like to particularly thank the Black Press for keeping sickle cell disease in the light," said Dr. Kim Smith Whitley, the clinical director of Hematology and Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Whitley praised the Black Press for helping to shed light on the fact that one in 12 African Americans have the sickle cell trait, and the blood disorder disproportionately affects black people.

Another award recipient, Crystal Windham, also applauded the Black Press for its work.

Windham, the director of Cadillac Interior Design, and the first African American woman director in General Motors Design history said it was remarkable that the Black Press of America will celebrate 192 years.

The NNPA observes its 80th anniversary in 2020.

"Do not stop doing what you do," she said, before encouraging others to follow her historical path.



"We are delighted to celebrate this year's honorees," said NNPA Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards (center). Pictured with NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. (left) and Cuban Ambassador to the United States, José Ramón Cabañas (right).

"I owe it to the individuals that paved the way for me. I'm just an ordinary girl from Detroit," Windham said. "If I can do it, you can do it too."

The UAW's Ray Curry addressed attendees, applauding the Black Press and reminding the audience of the role that unions have played in America's civil rights struggles. He also shared some of his own history as a beneficiary of benefits gained through the labor negotiation process.

An NNPA and UAW resolution reads, "Whether it was hosting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he wrote his historic 'I Have a Dream' speech in Solidarity House, or providing bail for Dr. King's 1963 release from Birmingham City Jail, the women and men of the UAW have and continue to play a historic role in our nation's civil rights movement."

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be recognized with such a distinguished award," said Shani W. Hosten, Vice President Multicultural Leadership with AARP. "I also want to recognize the outstanding legacy of the Black Press; I grew up reading the Richmond Free Press and the Richmond Afro; they were staples in our home, around our community, and in our church. Those stories told our stories, and I thank the Black Press for the continued partnership with AARP, and for 192 years of telling our story in our community which is so critical now more than ever," Hosten said.

The festive gathering also included appearances by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, NAACP President,

and CEO Derrick Johnson, NAACP Chairman Leon Russell, Cuban Ambassador to the United States José Ramón Cabañas, and famed film producer and MIT Media Lab research scholar Topper Carew.

The awards honor individuals who are national leaders in their specific fields and whose actions have helped to improve the quality of life for African Americans and others.

The NNPA, the trade organization representing African American-owned newspapers and media companies throughout the country, began the Leadership Awards in 2014 when it was decided that the optimal time to host such an event would be during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) a week-long gathering that's held each September.

The CBCF ALC is the largest annual gathering in the United States. The shared objective of the conference and the NNPA National Leadership Awards is to network, collaborate, and strategize collectively for the advancement and empowerment of Black America.

"We are delighted to celebrate this year's honorees," said NNPA Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards.

"We salute them for the leadership they have displayed in the Black community and for their overall support of the Black Press," Richards said.

"The Black Press is needed now more than ever. We are the daily recorders of our history. We are, and

forever will be, The Original Black Press of America," Richards said.

NNPA's corporate partners include General Motors; RAI Services Company; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and Pfizer, Inc.

NNPA corporate sponsors include Toyota; Ford Motor Co.; AARP; Northrop Grumman; Eli Lilly; Wells Fargo; Volkswagen; UAW; API; Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts; Comcast; U.S. Census; CBCF; Koch Industries; Ascension; and AmeriHealth.

Scott, who accepted the award for his national leadership in education, thanked Dr. Chavis and Carter Richards for their guidance of the Black Press. "The Black Press tells news that needs to be told," Scott said.

Bass said, "We look to [The Black Press] for news. America knows the work you do, and we look to you to help tell our story," she said.

The ceremony also served as a reminder of the all-important 2020 Census count. Tasha Boone, a long-time public servant who now serves as a senior advisor to the Deputy Director at the U.S. Census, addressed the audience.

"We are working tirelessly with partners like the Black Press to get the word out," Boone said. "2020 is a big year for us. It's an election year and, just as important is the Census. In March, you will all get an opportunity to participate in the Census. Fill out the survey either online, by mail or by telephone. It's extremely important, and it's safe," Boone said.

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

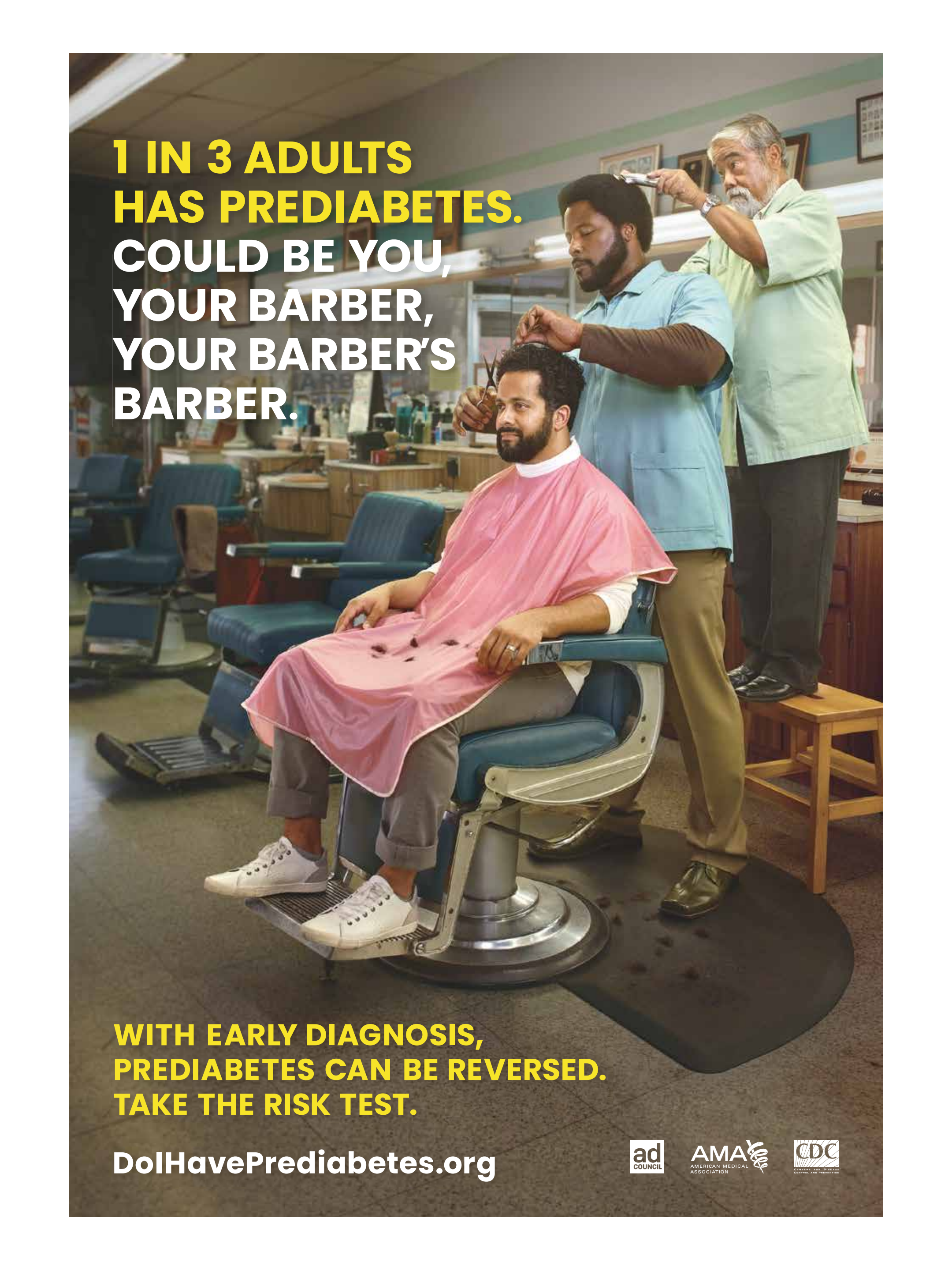
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A photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair sitting in a barber's chair, wearing a pink protective cape. He is looking towards the camera. Two barbers are attending to him: one is standing behind him, using clippers on his hair, and the other is standing to the side, using scissors. The barbershop has a classic feel with blue chairs, wooden counters, and various grooming products. The lighting is warm and indoor.

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