

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"




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Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Annual Gala and Parade

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February 29 - March 6, 2020 54th Year Volume 44 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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The Power of the Dollar

A Prescription to Black Cities and the of Building Wealth
All Black Cities Part 5



Majority Black Cities such as Atlanta have become havens for Black seeking opportunities to acquire wealth and a better quality of life. Many other majority Black cities including New Orleans are beginning to remake themselves hoping to increasing Black wealth among its citizens.

Jeffrey May MURP
Principal, International Development and Planning (IDP)

During Black History Month Data News Weekly has given our readers a series on All-Black Towns. It was important for us to not only educate, but to inform and inspire our people of our storied past but our promising future.

For the last part of our series we asked Jeffrey May,

who is the owner of International Development and Planning, who for over two decades have worked with cities across America in the areas of providing access and equity in the area of housing for African Americans and other protected classes of people.

We at Data News Weekly believe that while they are no longer all-Black towns, but there are cities such as New Orleans and others that continue to be majority Black and issues of how people are empowered and build wealth are of paramount importance. We be-

lieve this is what will sustain these cities in the face of change, where in the face gentrification can absorb new people coming in but still retain a Black population that will not only survive but thrive.

Fair Housing Planning: How to keep your community alive.

When I worked at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) as the Assistant Director of National Neighbors, the Fair Housing and

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Fair Lending Enforcement arm of NCRC, I was responsible for investigating the largest banks and mortgage lenders in the United States of America. Part of settling a complaint, is the negotiating between the parties to arrive at terms to resolve the issues; and to cure any damage or injury caused by the alleged act(s).

To address fair housing and fair lending issues like, redlining of Hispanic and Black communities, denial of prospective homebuyers from viewing housing in certain neighborhoods, utilizing discriminatory underwriting that adversely impact women. Any consent decrees and community benefit agreements I was directly involved with, had to have a community reinvestment plan or relief equal to the harm or injury.

My 20 years in fair housing inves-



Home ownership is an important step in creating wealth that can be passed on, but Blacks still have more problems than whites accessing credit and problems of discrimination still exists.



A key to Black wealth is for Black consumers to begin to spend more money with Black businesses and allow money to circulate inside the community to build wealth that can benefit the entire community. (use this caption for bottom two photos)



tigations and training as an Urban and Regional Planner, aptly qualified me to recommend approaches and initiatives to these banking and lending institutions. My objective was to not only foster compliance with the federal Fair Housing Act, as amended and Community Reinvestment Act in the mortgage lending and banking industry; but propose plans that would have a long-term positive impact in the af-

ected communities. So when I was asked by the Data News Weekly, what recommendations would I give to small predominantly Black towns and large cities across America to survive and grow, my advice is the same guidance my firm provides to cities, counties and states we work with across the Country. Whether you are small township or a megalopolis, and anything in between, to maintain your existence,

vitality, identity or anticipate future problems, your jurisdiction must embrace Fair Housing Planning.

Fair Housing Planning is an approach to the Consolidating Planning process that involves a lot of community engagement to find out from residents what is going on, in

their communities; and how can government better address their needs. It emphasizes reaching out to those most vulnerable community members, persons with special needs, the homeless, at-risk youth and the elderly. And secondly, it requires a county, city or state to

analyze barriers to accessing housing through a civil rights lens to determine if disparities exist for federally protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, as amended. This federal law prohibits discrimination in housing and mortgage lending on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability and familial status. These forms of government using Fair Housing Planning to determine the needs of residents and deciding how to address them with Community Development Block Grant funds is akin to how a good medical doctor examines her patients.

Find out what is going with the patient.

Like a physician asking a patient what brought the patient into the office for the visit, government must get input from Residents. – Research the history of a jurisdiction, examine what are the contributing factors that have shaped the township, village, county, city, state or country to its present state or condition.

Cover Story, Continued
on page 4.



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DCHC to Provide Free Dental Services on Give Kids A Smile Day

Give Kids A Smile Day

DCHC

NEW ORLEANS - DePaul Community Health Centers (DCHC), formerly Daughters of Charity Health Centers, will offer free dental services for Give Kids A Smile Day, Saturday, February 29th at the Health Care Organization's Carrollton Health Center, 3201 South Carrollton Avenue, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services for children ages 2 to 17 include free dental screenings and fluoride treatments. Additionally, children will enjoy face-painting, balloon art, story time, characters and lots of giveaways! Prospective participants are asked to register by Wednesday,



DCHC staffers engage children in the joy and importance of reading through its Read for Your Health initiative at last year's Give Kids A Smile Day event.

February 26th by calling (504) 483-8370.

Give Kids A Smile was launched nationally by the American Dental Association in 2003. Since that time, more than five million under-served children have received free oral health services. Nationwide, services are provided by approximately 10,000 dentists annually, along with 30,000 other dental team members.

The February 29th event at DCHC Carrollton is made possible by the American Dental Association Foundation in partnership with Henry Schein Dental Supply Company. Additional gifts courtesy of MCNA Dental and Dentaquest.

Clerk of Civil District Court—Chelsey Richard Napoleon

In honor of Black History Month, I am inviting the community to visit our office and tour our Notarial Archives to view many historical documents that are stored here.

Schedule a tour of our Notarial Archives today by calling (504) 407-0106.

Here is some information regarding our Notarial Archives.

The New Orleans Notarial Archives holds some 40,000,000 pages of signed acts compiled by the notaries of New Orleans, Louisiana, over three centuries. They reside in the only archive dedicated to notarial records in the United States. For centuries, citizens visited the local notary, or perhaps their family's notary, to execute agreements.

Since July 1970, records are filed directly in the Notarial Archives and receive an NA number for identification purposes.

The location of the Notarial Archives has changed over time. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina forced the rest of the Notarial Archives out of the courthouse basement and into new office space on the fifth floor of 1340 Poydras.

The Notarial Archives continues to preserve the valuable documents under its care and to make them accessible to the legal community, the academic research community, architectural historians, genealogists, and to the general public at large. Thanks to New Orleans' colonial legacy, the notarial record-keeping system that arrived with the French, endured through the Spanish, and survived Americanization created a wealth of historical documents that continue to this day to restore and refresh the city's rich cultural experience.



Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



The legacy of Black Cities and Businesses are being re-discovered and inspiring a new generation of African-Americans to think about building Black Wall Streets across majority Black cities across America.

Like checking the vital signs, x-rays and blood work to determine the patient current medical condition.

Small and large governance structures must conduct a Needs Assessment for its jurisdiction. - Determine the number of low-income residents and households are living in poverty. Identify and examine the socio-economic issues or impediments experienced by protected classes under the local and Federal Fair Housing Laws.

What is the prognosis? Review past and current treatment and medications of the patient must be assessed to determine future treatment.

So, a jurisdiction must conduct a Market Analysis. - An analysis of

data to determine past, present and future demographics; Determine what is the demand for your jurisdiction's assets or industry in the regional, nation and international markets.

Medical treatment plan equal Strategic Plan for government

Examine progress from the past Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Consolidated Plan. Based upon the community engagement and data analysis, goals and priorities should be set. Each goals and priorities need to have a justification for its selection and assignment of parties to complete the task(s). Forecasting and allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds, Rural Development funds, Department of Transportation funds and private

Cover Story, Continued on page 5.

RTA Seeks Comment on Downtown Bus Hub Location

Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is seeking public comments on the proposed Downtown Transit Center hub locations resulting from an RTA commissioned study, New Orleans Downtown Transit Center Alternatives Analysis.

Interested community members are encouraged to attend the Riders Advisory Committee Meeting on March 4th at 5:30 p.m. to learn more about the project and to provide feedback. The meeting will be held in the board room



The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is seeking public comments on the proposed Down-town Transit Center on March 4th at 5:30 p.m.

at the RTA Building located at 2817 Canal St. People are also encouraged to provide written comments using the online form by March 11th. The RTA will also meet with community stakeholders and conduct direct surveys with riders at Duncan Plaza to gain additional input.

"A downtown bus hub is a necessary step to improving the transit experience and is long overdue. Public input is critical at this point so that RTA can determine a location that best serves riders," said Laura Bryan, Director of the Mayor's Office of Transportation.

Cover Story, Continued from page 4.

investments needs to be connected to each goal and priority.

Stick to the plan and if you can, do not engage

is risky behavior that got you hurt or injured.


Just to be clear, this is my advice to all villages, townships, counties, cities and states: Do not let cronyism and corruption cause your community to crumble!

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YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
AT ALL**

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Zulu Coronation Ball 2020

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly
Staff Photographer

The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Inc. recently held its annual coronation ball. This event brings people from all over America



Zulu, Continued on page 8.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events



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Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Annual Gala and Parade

Photos by Carl Lynch

The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale glistened in the glow of love Friday, February 14th, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, with the gala theme “Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Presents Love Songs”, on a night that couldn’t be more befitting - love’s holiday – Valentine’s Day.

Established in 2013, the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale features over 800 members. Its mission is to offer women of all creeds and colors a unique opportunity to promote and support New Orleans’ Cultural Landscape through participation in the Annual Mardi Gras Season while uplifting the community through various endeavors of engagement, awareness and social enhancement in order to further the growth of the organization. It was formed for social purposes, to establish between its members ties of friendship, sociability and esteem, for the promotion of good fellowship



Board of Directors at Love Songs Gala



Queen Maychell Cooper-Rodney, Founder Gwen Rainey and Future Femmes.



Parade Co-Captain Ann Marie Allen, Queen Maychell and President and Parade Captain Dr. Takeisha C. Davis. Grand Marshals Wanda Rouzan and Council-woman Cyndi Nguyen.



Dr. Davis, Queen Maychell with attendants Shelita Mundy Jones, Kirsten Murry, Kelsey Murry, and Angelique Roublow and princesses Alexis Foster, Kendyl Harrell, Morgan Haydel, and Toni Mundy



Grand Marshals Wanda Rouzan and Council-woman Cyndi Nguyen.



If I could do one thing, I'd tell the world she counts.

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Rev. William Barber's Poor People's Assembly and Moral March will be "Generationally Transformative"



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

NEW YORK - In the richest country in the world, 140 million people struggle with poverty and low wealth.

Over the last 50 years, the U.S. economy has grown 18-fold. Yet wealth inequality has exploded. The top 1 percent's share of the economy has nearly doubled, to more than 20 percent of our nation-

al income.

In 2017, the 400 wealthiest Americans owned more wealth than more than two-thirds of the entire U.S. population, and three individuals possessed a combined wealth equal to the wealth of 50 percent of the country.

The Poor People's Campaign, led by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, is a national call for a moral revival. It is a continuation of the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was just beginning to build the campaign when he was assassinated in 1968.

On June 20, the campaign will lead the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington, a "generationally transformative" gathering to demand that both major political parties address



The Poor People's Campaign, led by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, is a national call for a moral revival. It is a continuation of the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

the "interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism."

At the National Urban League's 2017 Conference in St. Louis, Rev. Barber delivered a powerful and inspirational message of justice, drawing parallels between Nebu-

chadnezzar, King of Babylon, and modern political figures.

"They were former slaves, and he was oppressing them in this historical moment because they were growing in power and influence and he saw this as the last chance to stop a growing diversity," Barber said of the Hebrew people. "He wanted to control their influence. He wanted to control their wealth. He wanted to control their faith. He even wanted to control their health."

He suggested that the nation is in a third reconstruction.

"The first reconstruction was from 1868-1880. The second reconstruction was from 1954-1968, when Black and brown and White people came together — par-

Commentary,
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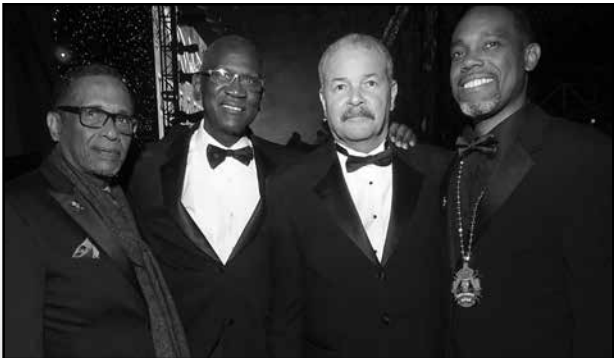
Zulu, Continued from page 9.

to what many consider the premier ball of the Mardi Gras Season.

This Year's King is Brian Sims, a Zulu member for 24 years. His Queen is Dr. Chana Macias, an educator and businesswoman.

Entertainment at the 2020 Zulu Coronation Ball was provided by the sounds of The SOS Band, Musiq Soul Child, Doug E. Fresh and Friends, with special appearances by Choppa Style and others who kept the crowd moving.

During this season Zulu holds many amazing events, but their ball is the place to see and be seen. Data News Weekly was there.



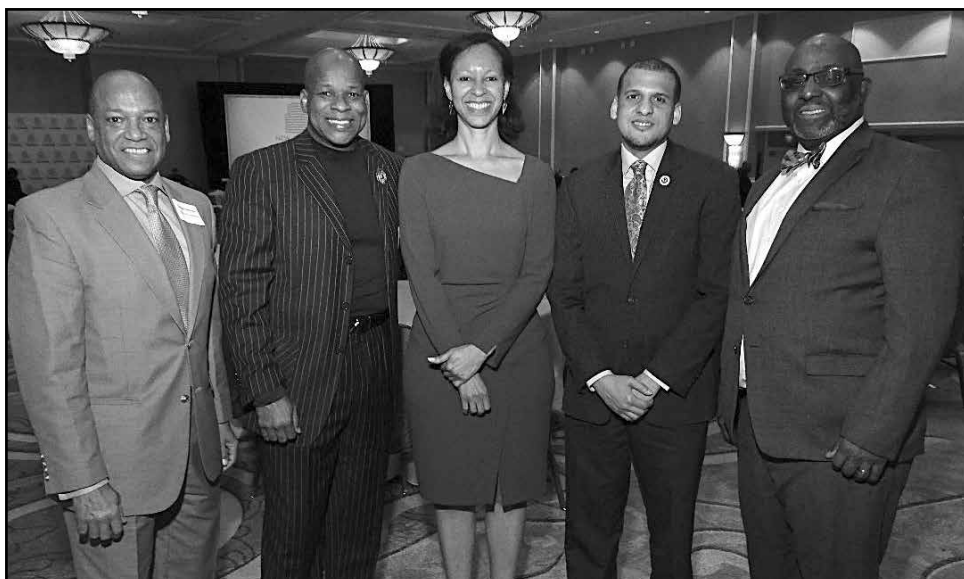
N.O. Chamber of Commerce 1st Quarter Luncheon

June Hazeur
Data News Contributor

The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce held their 2020 1st Quarter Business Luncheon on February 19th at the Roosevelt Hotel. It was a full house with Stephen Waguespack, President & CEO, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry as the keynote speaker. Data News Weekly was represented by Photographer, Glenn Summers; Terry's Sister, Kim Brown; Advertising Comptroller for Data, June Hazeur; Blue Lion Karate, CEO, Eric O'Neal; Tracee Dundas, Fashion Analyst of New Orleans Fashion Week and an associate of Tracee's, Samantha McKinney along with Terry Jones, himself as a Member of the Chamber.



(L to R) Kim Brown, Terry Jones, June Hazeur, Samantha McKinney, Eric O'Neal and Tracee Dundas. Photos by Glenn Summers



Dwight Barnes, Eric O'Neal, Chamber Board Member, State Rep. District 100, Jason Hughes, Chamber Member.



(L to R) Staff members from AT&T - Michael Ruffin, Regional Director for External Affairs; Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly; Matt Adams, Area Manager for Legislative Affairs; David Aubrey, Regional Vice President.

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Kobe & Gianna Last Goodbye

Vanessa Bryant was Solemn and Utterly Courageous



Vanessa Bryant gave an emotional farewell to her husband NBA Great Kobe Bryant and their daughter Gianna, who was killed in a plane crash. People filled the Staples Center to celebrate the life of the NBA great.

Kenneth Miller
Publisher Inglewood Today

The widow of famed basketball legend Kobe Bryant and budding prodigy Gianna Bryant had been invisible and sparsely making Instagram post since that infamous day of January 26, 2020.

Vanessa Bryant, more than any other person, lost the most when her 13-year old daughter and dotting husband of 20 years Kobe succumbed in that tragic helicopter crash that took their lives and seven others.

However, that all changed when "A Celebration of Life" honoring the victims was held at Staples Center on Monday February 24, 2020 nearly a month to the day that the Southern California region and basketball universe was dramatically altered forever.

While it was promoted as a celebration of life, it was essentially a memorial as Vanessa donned an all black knee length dress and most of the other famous VIPs were also wearing black.

Of the three memorials held at the arena that was built to host the Lakers, professional hockey, boxing matches and concerts there was something that distinguished each of them.

With Michael Jackson it was his



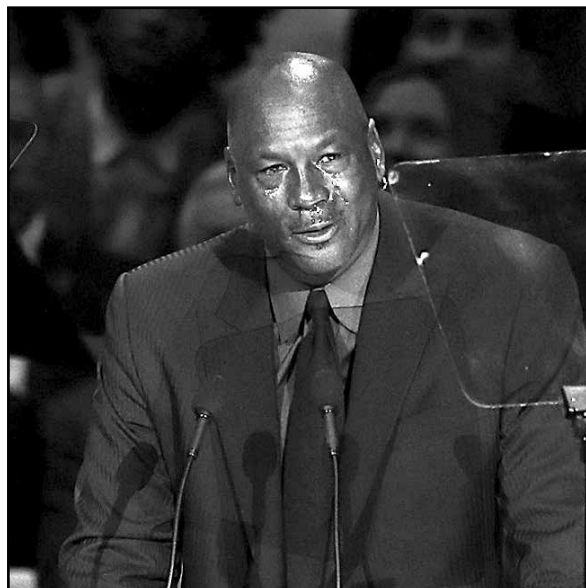
Many were on hand to pay tribute to Kobe and Gianna Bryant including Beyoncé, who sang moving renditions of "XO" and "Halo."

pure iconic celebrity, with Nipsey Hussle it was the raw urban community that personified him and with Kobe it was the exquisite detail that was orchestrated by Vanessa.

Even in her riveting grief that punctuated her silence before, much like her late husband during his illustrious soon to be Hall of Fame career, Vanessa was dynamically in charge of the celebration that reflected upon the other victims was dominated by thoughts of Gianna and Kobe.

Many had pondered when the public celebration for Kobe and Gianna would be held, especially after both were buried in a private ceremony on February 7th, but all respected the space of his broken widow.

The memorial for Kobe was royal, regal and detailed just as Vanessa planned it, from the date 2.24.2020, 2 for Gianna's Mamba uniform number, 24 for Kobe's uniform number and eerily 2020 because that's how long Kobe played for the Lakers and how long Vanessa and



Basketball Great Michael Jordan gave a moving and tearful speech honoring Kobe Bryant.

Kobe were wed and to the length it would last, about two hours. It was all Vanessa, and by gosh it was beautiful.

When she gingerly walked to the stage at Staples, a gulping silence ensued, and then for the first time she spoke.

She began "I'd like to talk about both Kobe and Gigi," as the first speaker.

The surreal occasion would not allow for her to revel about her daughter in the past tense.

"I'll start with my baby girl

first," she began. "My baby girl Gianna Bryant is an amazingly sweet, gentle soul. ... She would always kiss me good night, kiss me good morning."

While many recognize Gianna as a future basketball star, Vanessa reminded us that she was a smart, loving and caring person.

"Last August, she made a beautiful birthday cake for daddy," she said. "It had fondant and looked like it had blue agate crystals. ... She made the best chocolate chip cookies. ... She loved watching cooking shows and "Cupcake Wars" with me. ... She loved watching "Survivor" and NBA games on TV with her daddy. ... She also loved watching Disney movies with her sisters."

As she clutched a white tissue she explained she would not be able to see GiGi as she was affectionately known attend high school with her sister, go on the University of Connecticut and then revolutionize the WNBA. She and Kobe would not be able to walk their daughter down the aisle in marriage and have children. It was beyond emotional as anyone who saw or heard could immediately connect to their own child.

Vanessa described Kobe as her soul mate, he was as she said "he was Kobe-Kobe, my boo-boo, my bay boo, my papi chulo."

The 51st Annual NAACP Image Awards

Data News Staff Edited Report

It was another year celebrating Black Excellence at The 51st Annual NAACP Awards that took place on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

The show was broadcast live on BET and featured many performers and presenters giving out awards in an array of categories. Recording artist and Fashion Mogul Rhianna received the President's Award.

The red carpet was amazing as usual and the show was again a must see.

The NAACP Image Awards are an annual awards ceremony held by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that honor the best in motion pictures, television, music, and literature during the past calendar year.



The 51st Annual NAACP Image Awards that took place on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Recording Artist and Fashion Mogul Rhianna received the President's Award.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

ticularly in the South," he said. "And when we broke through the Southern Strategy and elected President Obama, that represented the possibility of a third reconstruction. What we see happening is a Nebuchadnezzar spirit that is trying to block the transformation of America. Nebuchadnezzar might be dead, but the spirit — that narcissistic stuff still lives."

That "Nebuchadnezzar spirit," he said, is evident in the massive voter suppression effort that has swept the nation since the gutting of the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

In addition to the Poor People's Campaign, Rev. Barber is President of the faith-based social justice organization Repairers of the Breach; Bishop with the College of Affirming Bishops and Faith Leaders; Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary; and Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

He came to national attention



Rev. William Barber, founder of Moral Mondays, events that was created to protest poverty, inequality and injustice.

in 2015 when, as president of the North Carolina NAACP, he organized weekly protests at the State Legislative Building that were

known as "Moral Mondays."

"Some ask the question, why don't they be quiet?" Barber wrote of the Moral Mondays protests.

"Well, I must remind you, that it has been our collective silence that has quietly opened the city gates to these undemocratic violators of our rights. If we must pray forgiveness for anything today, it will be the silence with which we have allowed this to happen in the dark. Thoreau said in his famous essay, 'Civil Disobedience,' that if he had to repent of anything, it would be his good behavior. What possessed me, he asked himself, that I behaved so well in the face of such evil?"

"As people of faith, we understand that we have been called to be the voice of the voiceless and the shepherd of God's beloved community. What we do here today is only what any responsible shepherd does to alert God's flock to the presence of the predators of democracy."

The Urban League Movement is proud to support the Poor People's Campaign and count ourselves as allies of Rev. Barber. We look forward to the Assembly and March in June.

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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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*From the desk of***MIKE BLOOMBERG**

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

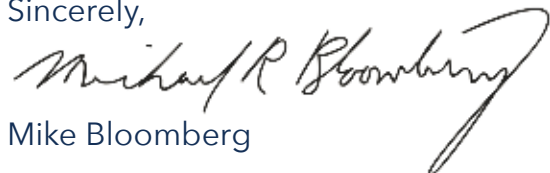
- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country's 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. **We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs.** We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won't happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I've included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I'm President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,



Mike Bloomberg



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For more information visit

MikeForBlackAmerica.com