

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

NOLA

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

City Councilman-at-Large

Jason Williams

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City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams

Winning the War Against COVID-19 Will Take All Of Us Working Together

Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief

This is a crucial time for New Orleans in the war against COVID-19 (Coronavirus) that we need strong, focused leadership. City Councilman-at-Large, Jason Williams is one of those persons on the team that's been sounding the alarm for people to stay safe, making the case for the City to get essential resources and himself getting out to help those in need.

Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with Councilman Williams about the COVID-19 crisis; capturing his thoughts as a City-wide leader on the status of their efforts to contain the virus and what citizens can do to stop its spread.

Fighting A Silent Enemy

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a silent enemy that is spreading among communities claiming lives of people across the globe. New Orleans is at its center with the fastest number per-capita of new cases in the world. Many are using military style language; calling this a war and Williams is out there on the front lines strongly speaking about the City and what it needs to successfully combat COVID-19.

"We are at war with this Coronavirus. We need everyone on this battlefield and on the same team to get through this. My job is to be honest, be transparent, and to help keep as many New Orleanians healthy and alive as possible," says Williams of the need for all to take heed to the information that's been given by City and state leaders.

Echoing what's been said throughout this crisis in regard to slowing the spread of Coronavirus; Williams makes a passionate plea to citizens to comply to Stay-at-Home orders and other measures; noting it could spell the difference between life and death.

"To the people of New Orleans: Whether it's a rule or recommendation regarding social distancing, let me say this: If you don't have to be out, we need you to stay put. If ever there was a time for "Netflix and chill" this is it. Everyone of any age, race, or income bracket, please stay home. If you do, you are helping us get through this. All of the things you might feel obligated to do, just push pause on them. Ask yourself if it's worth your own life or someone else's life. By staying home you're helping us get through this by flattening the curve and reducing the rate of spreading this infection. In addition, you're ensuring that our healthcare workers are able to respond to the most urgent need and that our hospitals are not overwhelmed by cases that could have been avoided altogether."

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.



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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Love Thy Neighbor...We Are All In This Together

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) beyond being a public health problem is causing uncertainty for many of the citizens of New Orleans, especially the most vulnerable. Williams is asking those with resources to do what they can to make getting through these tough times easier for them.

"To our larger corporations and those with more means, we need you to absorb some financial hits so that our struggling families and small businesses can survive. It's life or death for them. I'm asking you to put everything on the table, including continued commitment to forbearance, deferring payments, loan forgiveness in some situations, waiving late fees and interest, or otherwise demonstrating great generosity. I'm asking landlords to please be as patient and compassionate as possible when working with their tenants."

Continuing he says...

"All levels of government are continuing to work on solutions, but a national corporation, for example, is in a much better position to take this hit than our families and small businesses. We need big business to get creative to help us survive this fiscally. Scientists and doctors are working nonstop to help us survive this pandemic. Big business, you have a role to play as well. Utilities and telecom companies have stepped up. To other large operators, we need you to step up as well. If you don't, there will absolutely be people in our local workforce unable to afford the most basic life necessities. Local government and related agencies are already involved. City Hall, New Orleans



"Ask yourself if it's worth your own life or someone else's life. By staying home you're helping us get through this by flattening the curve and reducing the rate of spreading this infection," says Williams encouraging citizens to comply with Stay-at-Home Order.



Williams states these are clearly uncertain times for the City, but says he is encouraged by seeing the level of generosity, compassion and sense of community; where this pandemic is bringing out the best coming out in the actions and good works of our people helping their neighbors, loved ones and those in need get valuable resources. . City Councilmember-at-Large, Jason Williams discussing the need for valuable resources for New Orleans to fight the COVID-19 Virus during a recent interview on CBS News.

Business Alliance, and other philanthropic partners are working to inject financial assistance. Again, this is a group lift."

Making The Case For People To Get Help Now

In this time of uncertainty beyond just the health crisis, this pandemic has left many with uncertain futures that potentially can cause many to not have the financial means to survive. Something that concerns Williams, as he says he and others leaders across the City are making the case for people to get all the help they need during these turbulent time.

"The virus isn't just jeopardizing our physical health. It has and will continue to wreak havoc on our financial health. At a federal level, we need government to move quicker than it is used to moving. The multi-

trillion dollar bill passed last week includes many relief efforts to help our people and small businesses. We desperately need that money to get to our City quickly. I along with other City leaders will continue to press that case."

Speaking of the immediacy of getting help and the possible impact on the City of New Orleans if this doesn't happen Williams states...

"This pandemic is on pace to be the modern-day equivalent of the Great Depression and will require the modern-day equivalent of the New Deal. Our largest industry, hospitality, is in crisis. We've never faced anything like this before. We know people won't be going to restaurants, bars, or hotels for a long time. We need the federal government's continued assistance with new programs to support employees, their employers,

and their distributors. In other countries, the federal government directly helps their people in times of crisis. Now is the time to start doing the same here. Our tourism and hospitality workers are the backbone of our economy. They need support to stay in their homes, not relief after they've become homeless. We have to be proactive, not reactive."

We Are All In This Together

During this crisis the leadership of New Orleans has stood valiantly and in some ways been ahead of state and national leaders in enacting policies to attempt to stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you look around the City most are complying with Stay-at-Home orders and practicing social distancing and other measures. These are the things it will take to win this war against this silent enemy.

New Orleans and its people are resilient and Williams is confident and optimistic about the City's and what they are doing to get the resources to the City, but stating clearly that to truly win the battle against Coronavirus (COVID-19) all of the people of the City have to do their part.

"While these are the worst of times, conversely, we are seeing the best coming out in the actions and good works of our people working together to stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and also helping their neighbors, loved ones and those in need get valuable resources. It will take these types of efforts from our people who are courageous, loving and resilient and as a member of the City Council, I will continue to make the case for New Orleans."

Publisher

Getting Serious About Coronavirus



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

As the Publisher of Data News Weekly I would like to say we are fully committed to giving our readers the most current and accurate information surround-

ing the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. In our role as the People's Paper, we will continue to be a publication that help arm our readers with facts, so that they can make the best possible decisions to keep themselves and their families safe.

Also in this time, I must say that while we are a City who love our festivals and social gatherings; but at this crucial time we must take heed to the messages of both The Governor, our City's Mayor and medical experts.

By now everyone knows that there is a stay at home order in our

City and state and have become familiar with the term social distancing and of course washing your hands and other preventive measures that may help prevent one from getting the Coronavirus.

So please understand that when any person does not take this seriously, that you are putting all of us at risk including your own loved ones.

Especially as New Orleans is the City with the fastest growing COVID-19 cases in the world and warnings of things getting worse. It is now that we have to take heed to what our leaders are asking us to

do; so I ask, take these stay at home orders as if your life depended on it.

In this case it may be the difference in you being healthy or becoming ill, or worse, it could be life or death of you or someone you love.

We at Data News Weekly will continue as we have for over 50 years continue to be your voice. We know that these are tough times for all of us, but we are a resilient people whose proven time and time again we can make it through tough times.

And we will do it again, but we all have to do our part in this together.



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Staying at Home NOLA Style

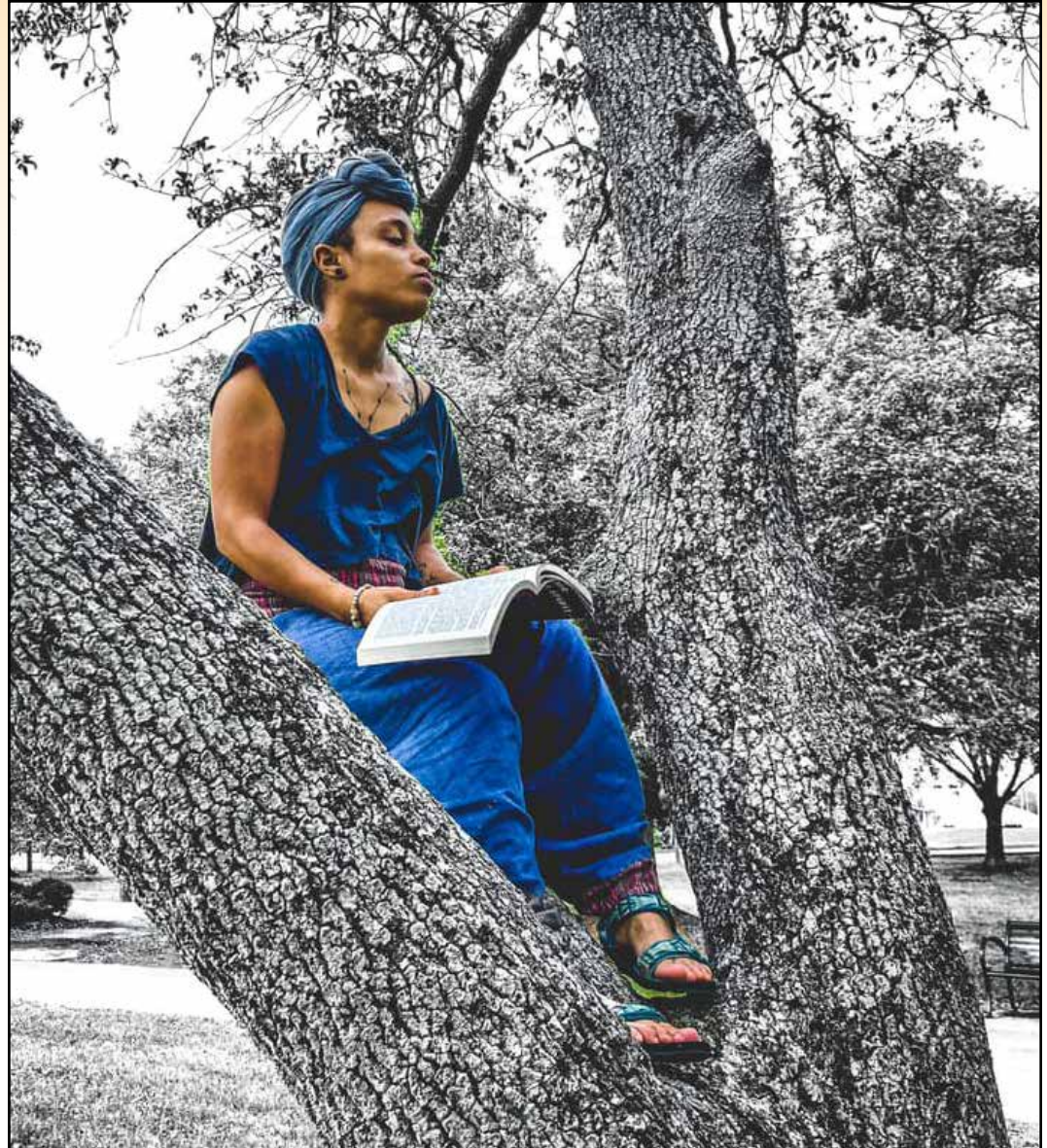
Part 1

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

Today because of COVID-19 many are doing a lot from home these days. While physical contact is being limited, people are reaching out and becoming close by staying apart.

Using social media platforms people are posting their activities as well as things that are important to them such as family, friends and loved ones.

Data News Weekly is shining the light on some of these people with the hope to inspire our citizens that our best days are ahead of us. So, we are asking all to stay safe and stay informed!!!



Llovee Riley

People Who are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based upon available information to date, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Other high-risk conditions could include:
 - + People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - + People who have serious heart conditions
 - + People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment
 - + People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk
- People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk with severe viral illness, however, to date data on COVID-19 has not shown increased risk

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases



David Johnson and family



Tareen Rudolph

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Nat LaBeaud and Daughter Travonda



Charles Vaughn



Shayla De La Rose



Davaughn Phillips

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



If I could do one thing,
I'd have a daycare
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If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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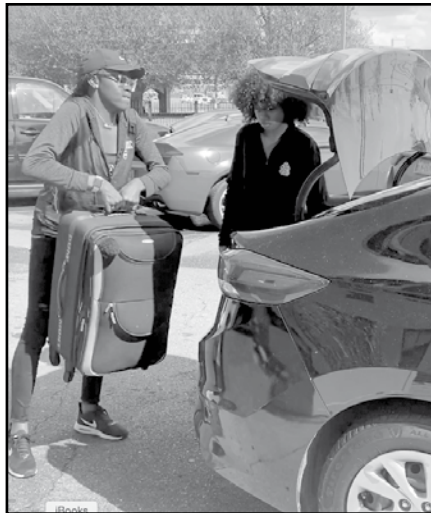
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Coronavirus Leaves College Students Scrambling

Story and Photos
by Hallie Wesley
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The first case of the coronavirus was discovered in New Orleans on March 9, 2020, and since then, the number of Louisianans infected has grown to be one of the fastest infection rates in the nation. The rapid increase of cases in the state prompted New Orleans universities to first switch to online classes on March 16th, and to later close campuses by March 20th. Thousands of college students in the city and across the state vacated their campus dorms to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. By March 13th, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards immediately put an end to gatherings of more than 250 people until April 13, 2020.

"I'm kind of out here by myself right now. I was prepared to move



New Orleans university students sent home on March 20 as campuses closed around the city for COVID-19.

out in May because my family would have come to help me pack, but now it's such short notice, so I wasn't able to do that," said Tia Melton, a Xavier University student from California.

When face-to-face instruction was suspended by New Orleans

universities and switched to online until further notice, many students initially remained on campus, while others went home until further instructions from their universities. When all of the city's campuses officially announced that they would be mov-

ing online permanently for the remainder of the semester, and required students to evacuate the dorms, many students that initially went home temporarily, had to rush back to New Orleans within days to pack up all of their belongings in the allotted time.

"It's been traumatic. We have friends who literally just drove back home on six- or nine-hour road trips and now, they have to come right back to pack up," said Keona Hodges, a Xavier student from Michigan.

While Xavier students said they were given approximately four days to move everything out of their dorms, other college campuses gave students roughly 24 hours to make arrangements. For students who live in other states, like Chandler McBride, a Dillard University student from Seattle, Wash., packing proved a daunting task.

"You had college students packing up their entire dorms in 24 hours and I didn't have the luxury of traveling to Mississippi, Alabama or a Louisiana city," McBride said, "I live 2,000 miles away. I had to leave a lot of my belongings behind."

Students said they had to travel by plane, which was deemed risky by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and some of their home states already had higher rates of infection than New Orleans, like California, Washington and New York.

"My flight here was kind of eerie and only twenty-five percent booked. It's kind of a lose-lose situation. You're sending me home to where the highest amount of coronavirus deaths are," said McBride, a Seattle native.

Students said despite the disruption, they must continue their work remotely in order to complete the academic year.

"I still have classes to deal with, tests, quizzes, so many for next week and it's just abrupt, like a rug was pulled from underneath me," said Kennedy White, from New Orleans.

Fighting the Virus with Facts

Dispelling some Myths about Coronavirus COVID-19

Myth #1: Regularly rinsing your nose with saline can help prevent against Coronavirus.

While regularly rinsing your nose with saline may help you recover more quickly from the common cold, it hasn't been shown to help prevent respiratory infections in general, including Coronavirus.

Myth #2: Eating garlic can help prevent Coronavirus.

If you've ever eaten a piece of raw garlic, you know that stuff is pungent—but it won't protect you against illness. Despite having some antimicrobial properties, according to the WHO, "there is no evidence" from the current outbreak that the potent herb will protect you from Coronavirus.

Myth #3: Coronavirus only affects older people

Unfortunately, people of all ages can be infected by the new Coronavirus. However, "older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus," the WHO points out.

Source: World Health Organization

House Passes \$2 Trillion Stimulus Package Deal

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

The \$2 trillion stimulus deal reached earlier by the Senate, was finally passed by the House on Friday, March 27.

President Trump is expected to immediately sign the massive legislation that promises to provide a much-needed shot in the arm for working and unemployed individuals, and small and big businesses.

The deal includes approximately \$367 billion for small business loans administered through the Small Business Administration.

It also includes direct payouts to most Americans and more money and an extension of unemployment benefits.

While the bipartisan measure unanimously passed in the Senate, at least two Republican congressmen opposed the bill.

Earlier, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) blasted Senate members for including \$13 million for Howard University, a historically black college.

Earlier, several civil rights organizations noted watching with vigilance as Senate negotiations and, later, voting in both chambers took place.

"We know that when the economy goes into decline, people of color always bear the brunt," said Teresa Candori, communications director for the National Urban League.

"We will be fighting to make sure the most vulnerable communities are not an afterthought."

The coronavirus is "an equal-opportunity pandemic," stated Melanie Campbell, president of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

"If you think about (Hurricane) Katrina, if you think about other catastrophes, a lot of times, bailouts ended up taking care of the top, and then it trickles down to the people," Campbell said.

"Our federal government has to be bold about responses as this is an ever-evolving pandemic that can become a real catastrophe for people's daily lives."

Many said they're reminded that the household wealth of communities of color declined during the



The agreed upon stimulus package includes one-time direct payments of \$1,200 per adult who made \$75,000 or less in 2019 and \$2,400 for couples who made less than \$150,000. An additional \$500 will be added for each child. If individuals haven't filed 2019 taxes, the payouts will be based on their 2018 returns.

2008 recession.

They said those losses never recovered, and it's led to fears that minorities will again suffer a severe and long-term hit as the nation battles COVID-19 and whatever the aftermath might present.

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An additional \$500 will be added for each child.

If individuals haven't filed 2019 taxes, the payouts will be based on their 2018 returns.

The payments will phase out at a rate of \$5 per every additional \$100 in income over \$75,000 in adjusted gross income for single adults, \$112,500 for heads of household, and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The checks would be directly deposited into bank accounts if you included direct deposit information on your tax form. If you did not, your check would be mailed.

Lawmakers and President Trump have said they want the checks mailed by April 6. Still, because the Internal Revenue Service

has reduced staff at all of its locations because of the coronavirus, many believe the checks may not go out until May.

Residents are not expected to have to fill out any forms or call the IRS because the government will automatically send payment based on information culled from a 2018 or 2019 tax return.

Meanwhile, with unemployment rates expected to approach 20 percent – and as much as 30 percent among minorities, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) emphasized the need for more available benefits and a more extended period.

Under the stimulus deal, the federal government adds \$600 per week to the state benefits jobless workers currently receive. The deal adds four months to the 26-week limit that benefits are paid.

"It's unemployment insurance on steroids," Schumer proclaimed. "But, and most importantly, the federal government will pay your salary, your full salary, for now, four months."

Michele Evermore, the senior policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project, called the inclusion of the new unemployment

provision, "unprecedented."

"Because this situation is so different, we have to break all the rules," Evermore stated.

The new stimulus also adds a "pandemic unemployment assistance program," which provides jobless benefits to independent contractors, gig economy workers, and the self-employed, who typically don't qualify for such assistance.

For small businesses, the stimulus means they will get \$367 billion to keep making payroll even while workers are required to stay at home.

Companies with 500 employees or less that keep paychecks steady could get up to \$10 million each in forgivable small business loans.

Federally guaranteed loans will provide eight weeks of assistance for qualifying employers who maintain payroll.

Those who meet requirements would have costs such as utilities, mortgage interest, and rent forgiven. Individuals can also defer payment of their 2020 payroll taxes for up to two years, and employers are allowed to cut workers' hours but not lay them off.

Those workers are then eligible for some unemployment benefits.

Businesses can apply for COVID-19 relief through the stimulus by visiting, www.sba.gov/coronavirus. The website is expected to become operational soon.

**Louisiana
Stay-at-
Home Order
is Now
Extended to
April 30th**

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Job Opportunity

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coronavirus.gov