

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**Making
Christmas
Wishes
Come True**



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December 11 - December 17, 2021 56th Year Volume 33 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Data News Weekly Endorsements



Marlin Gusman
Criminal Sheriff



Lesli Harris
City Council District B



Freddie King III
City Council District C



Oliver Thomas
City Council District E



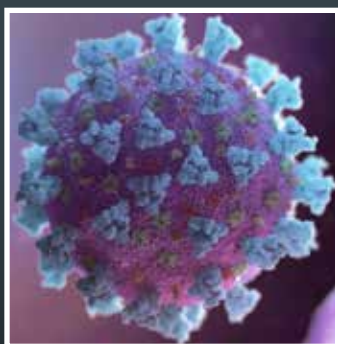
Darren Lombard
Clerk of Criminal District
Court



Eugene Green
City Council District D

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Get Out and Vote**

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Invades
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Xavier
#1 in Upward
Mobility**



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Data News Weekly Endorsements

Election Day December 11, 2021

Get Out and Vote



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Oliver Thomas
City Council District E

Terry B. Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

It is that time again, when our citizens are being asked to go to the polls and vote on December 11, 2021. We are asking all to get out and vote.

In the run-off election cycle, we are endorsing candidates who have experience in elected office, as well as those who display competent leadership. Also, we are spotlighting some who are emerging as future leaders for our city. It is my belief that having visionaries who are battle tested with proven experience and others who bring a fresh set of eyes to city government, will ultimately be a winning formula for the City of New Orleans.

City Council District E: Oliver Thomas

The Race for New Orleans City Council District E is perhaps the most high-profile race on the ballot. We endorse the return of Oliver Thomas because he is what is needed in District E right now. Thomas will be a bold, passionate, and competent voice on the New Orleans City Council. He has the experience and he understands City Government in a holistic way, which is something that is important in an area that since Hurricane Katrina, hasn't received the attention it deserves. Oliver Thomas will be a leader who can work with all of the people of the district regardless of their background. He is a proven leader, with a record of excellence.

City Council District B: Lesli Harris

In the Race for New Orleans City Council District B, a fresh new voice is on the horizon. Lesli Harris, is someone who has the energy and vision to bring together the people of many different interests in this diverse district. This is what is needed now, a bridge builder who can get more young people and disaffected people to the polls. These individuals need a voice on the council that's not tied to political organizations and the politics of old, but a fresh and progressive approach to governing. As an attorney, she's focused on young people and equity, entities that are much needed in a city where our youth need advocates that can collaborate with communities so that all our citizens can have routes to success.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Darren Lombard
Clerk of Criminal District Court



Eugene Green
City Council District D

City Council District C: Freddie King III

In the Race for New Orleans City Council District C, Freddie King, III is a fresh new voice who's making an impact as an attorney and is working to improve the city in business and civic activities. He's currently in forward motion, addressing complex city issues regarding

economic development and education. He's also worked as the Director of Constituent Services in his district, where he's had the opportunity to meet with residents across the spectrum. In this work, he's spoken with the people of District C about the various issues that affect them on both sides of the river. He is the bridge that connects the

Eastbank and Westbank. We are proud to announce this new voice of change for the City of New Orleans.

City Council District D: Eugene Green

In the Race for New Orleans City Council District D, *Data News Weekly* is endorsing Eugene Green. He emerged as the leader during

the primary in a crowded field. Green has experience working in city government, as well as being a business leader in New Orleans. He has the right components needed to move District D forward. He understands that this community is demographically changing, while continuing to be a district full of historic African-American neighborhoods and residents. Green is the one candidate that understands how to balance the influx of newcomers, and longtime residents, by building bridges around the common goal of a better district for all.

Clerk of Criminal District Court: Darren Lombard

In the Race for New Orleans Clerk of Criminal District Court, Darren Lombard is experienced with the competence that matters and the integrity that this job requires. He previously worked as a Deputy Clerk in this office, and is presently serving a term as Clerk of Second City Court, doing an excellent job improving its efficiency and transparency while developing important

partnerships. He is also civically engaged, working with the Silverback Society and the Fore!Kids Foundation, mentoring and inspiring the next generation of future leaders of the City of New Orleans. Darren Lombard is a leader on many levels in our community, and we are asking everyone to support him on Election Day.

New Orleans Criminal Sheriff: Marlin Gusman

In the race for Criminal Sheriff, *Data News Weekly* is endorsing Marlin Gusman. He is one who continues to provide stellar leadership and vision for the New Orleans Parish Prison. He is tough, yet reform oriented. During his time in office, he continues to win re-election because he knows how to get things done. Gusman is an effective leader, who can bring people together, taking a holistic, big picture approach to leadership. This is why we are endorsing Marlin Gusman, a proven leader for Criminal Sheriff.

Data News Weekly is Encouraging Everyone to Get Out and Vote!!!

THE TIME FOR OLD-SCHOOL POLITICS IS OVER. THE TIME FOR LESLI HARRIS IS NOW.



ENDORSED BY:



LES LI HARRIS

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT B

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Leslie Harris

See Lesli's full plan at
LesliHarris4Nola.com



**ELECTION DAY
IS SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 11th**

Making Christmas Wishes Come True



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Macy's is known for creating and sharing joy throughout the holiday season, from its traditional Christmas Parade to its annual Santa letter writing campaign "Believe." The goal is to celebrate the innocence of a child's belief in Santa Claus and helping make wishes come true by giving believers of all ages a chance to do something special for kids fighting critical illnesses. Now through Dec. 24th, for every letter sent to Santa online at www.macys.com/believe or dropped off in Macy's Lakeside Mall, Macy's will donate \$1 to Make-A-Wish, up to \$1 million to help children battling illnesses.

"Each holiday season, we are awed by the outpouring of support from our customers and colleagues

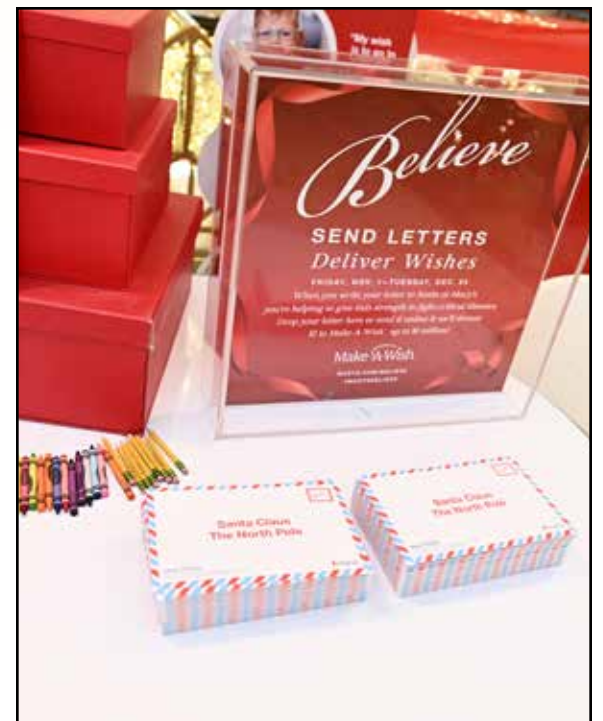
who write their letters to Santa and help us raise millions of dollars for our friends at Make-A-Wish,"

Sam Di Scipio, Macy's Senior director of Corporate Communications, giving and volunteerism. "Through Macy's Believe campaign, we can grant wishes that renew hope and transform the lives of children battling critical illnesses."

In celebration of National Believe Week, Macy's stores, Make-A-Wish chapters, and community partners across the country will host letter-writing parties and encourage letter drop-offs. Now more than ever, these letters to Santa can bring hope and joy to wish kids who are isolated and some of the most vulnerable members of our population.

For parents, educators and community leaders interested in

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



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



participating in National Believe Week, Macy's has made available a tool kit that will provide resources and lesson plans to easily execute within the new environment of virtual learning. These educational materials include letter writing guides, holiday activities and more, offering fun and unique ways for children to learn the importance of giving back to those in need.

This year, Macy's will help grant

wishes across the country, including a Baton Rouge 3-year-old diagnosed with a metabolic disorder, who wishes "to restore her toy collection after Hurricane Ida."

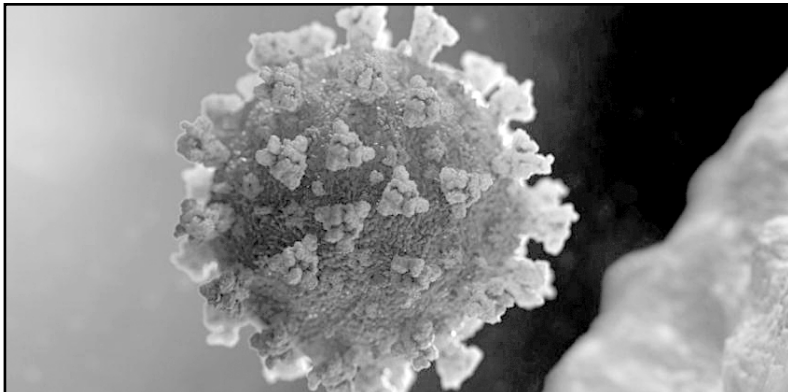
Since 2003, Macy's has donated more than \$137 million to Make-A-Wish, including more than \$25 million through the retailer's annual "Believe" campaign, helping grant more than 16,200 wishes.

First Probable Omicron Variant Case Reported in Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

Baton Rouge, La. — The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is reporting its first probable case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in Louisiana. The case involves an individual in Region 1, the Greater New Orleans area, who recently traveled within the United States.

"We now know Omicron is here



in Louisiana. This is cause for concern, but not panic," said State Health Officer Dr. Joseph Kanter. "We have been expecting and preparing for this moment. To all Louisianans, the single best action you can take to protect yourselves and your families is to get yourself and loved ones vaccinated and boosted if eligible."

"The Governor and I promised earlier today we would share with

the public as soon as we had information that Omicron was in our state," said Dr. Kanter. "We know families have questions and concerns. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep the public updated."

CDC and LDH recommend everyone 5 years of age and older get vaccinated and that everyone 18 years of age and older get a booster. On Nov. 26, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified a new variant, B.1.1.529, as a Variant of Concern and has named it Omicron. This new variant was first reported to the WHO by government officials in South Africa, and the number of cases of this variant appears to be increasing throughout the Republic of South Africa.

So far, the virus has been detected in more than 30 countries and at least 9 states.

New information is still emerging, but Omicron includes multiple mutations across the SARS-CoV-2 genome. There is concern this new variant may be more transmissible than previous strains and that Omicron may carry an increased risk of reinfection compared to other variants of concern. We expect to learn more about Omicron in the coming days.

LDH has established a network of laboratories to conduct genomic sequencing on positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens in order to track circulating SARS-CoV-2 lineages, including newly emerging variants such as Omicron. Epidemiologists, laboratorians and researchers will continue to closely monitor these data in order to continue to identify Omicron cases in Louisiana.



FREDDIE

KING

#46

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT C

VoteFreddieKing.com @voteffreddieking

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF FREDDIE KING, III



FREDDIE IS READY

- To Tackle Violent Crime and Provide Real Solutions So That Our Residents Aren't Plagued By Fear.
- To Bring More Small Business Opportunities to District C.
- To Stop Illegal Dumping.
- To Fight The Red Tape of City Hall and to Review the Permitting Process.
- To Hold Entergy Accountable When It Comes To Unnecessary and Costly Rate Increases for Our Residents.

ENDORSED BY:



Troy Carter
U.S. Congressman



Mary Landrieu
Former U.S. Senator



Jason Williams
District Attorney



Chelsey Napoleon
Orleans Parish Clerk of Court



Gary Carter
Louisiana State Senator



Cynthia Butler-McIntyre
Education Advocate and Activist



James Carter
Former New Orleans
Councilmember, District C



Donna Glapion
New Orleans
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Tammi Griffin-Major
Community Activist



Sandra Wilson
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ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021

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New Orleans Continues to Inspire the Works of Filmmaker Phillip Youmans

Tamir Wright,
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The pandemic did not slow down New Orleans filmmaker and director Phillip Youmans. He served on the jury for the 2021 Gotham Awards on Nov. 29 for this year's "Breakthrough Director" category, a title he won in 2019 for his critically acclaimed film "Burning Cane," that was picked up by Netflix, and starred actor Wendell Pierce, also a New Orleans native. In 2021, Youmans also returned to major streaming services with the Hulu-released "Voodoo" as part of the network's "Huluween Celebration," and once again, Youmans also cast an up-and-coming New Orleans actor Rico Brown.

Youmans' "Voodoo," was a neo-noir mystery thriller set in near-future New Orleans following a homicide detective, Chance Griffin, played by Brown, as he deciphers a riddle that unlocks answers to an occult crime investigation.

"I thought about how it would be cool to have a sort of Black Blade Runner where a detective is guided by Voodoo ... where Voodoo is a force for good on this detective's journey to solving a crime," said Youmans, as he spoke to Xavier University Film Club students as a featured speaker for "Reel Talk" on Nov. 30, 2021. "I took that idea of Voodoo being what guides this detective as a way to create a metaphor for Voodoo as a metaphor of cultural



New Orleans native Phillip Youmans' 2021 film "Voodoo" aired on Hulu this year as part of the network's Initiative 29 to feature more diverse filmmakers and content.

appropriation," Youmans said. Hulu's "Huluween Celebration" was a curated, Halloween-themed hub where viewers were able to watch classic horror films and TV shows, spooky children's programming, and original movies and short films throughout the month of October this year. Youmans brought his own spin to horror, inspired by the city he grew up in.

"It all starts with the script, you know. It all starts with that as the foundation," said Youmans, who grew up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, and who wrote, directed, and edited the film. Youmans has filmed for Hulu in the past, also writing, directing, and editing "Imagine a Moon Colony" for Hulu's Black History Month in 2020. "I think that the substance of what you're shooting is more important than the aesthetic, but the aesthetic is what elevates



New Orleans artist Rico Brown starred in Youmans' 2021 film. It was the first film project for Brown.

it," Youmans added.

The rising film star is known for his imagery and use of colors in his films that are inspired by the sights, sounds, and feelings of New Orleans. His visuals have allowed his films to stand out and skyrocketed him to the top ranks of young filmmakers. At the age of 19, he became the first and youngest African-American director to win the Founder's Award for Best Narrative Feature at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival for his film "Burning Cane." The film caught the eye of Ava DuVernay, whose company ARRAY, picked up and distributed the movie to select theaters around the country and later had it released on Netflix. Youmans then made the Forbes 30-Under-30 list in entertainment in 2020.

Rico Brown, who played detective Chance Griffin in Youmans' 2021 film "Voodoo," described the

adrenaline rush to work on a set with Youmans for his first role as an actor. Brown is a local artist in the city, who also specializes in bead art for Mardi Gras Indian costumes. "There were times when we weren't on the clock, at all, shooting. There was no budget, there was no money and we were just chasing the art, chasing the vision, chasing the script, chasing the film," Brown said. "It was a feeling that I would always want to go back to," he said. "It was all a great experience. Working with Phillip is an honor."

The film premiered as a part of Hulu's Initiative 29 movement, in which Hulu releases socially conscious short films on the 29th of every month. "Voodoo" capped off Hulu's month-long celebration of the horror genre. Youmans said he has plans to expand "Voodoo" into a multiple-episode project. "I have an expansion clause with Hulu, so whenever I bring them the expansion of what this story is...I talked to all of them about what it could be like as a mini-series. Something strung out to nine episodes where I could direct each one," Youmans said.

As a young director and cinematographer, he said he remains grounded, connected to his city, and the art that inspires him to move forward to future projects. "Keep making art and stay accountable to the work you want to see, and the growth you want to see," Youmans told the students.

State & Local News

Xavier #1 in Upward Mobility According to Report

Data News Staff Edited Report

According to a report released on Thursday by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) using data from Opportunity Insights, a research institute based at Harvard University, the most successful Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in terms of upward mobility is Xavier University of Louisiana. The study of social mobility outcomes showed that HBCUs help more than twice as many students rise from the bottom 40% of income earners to the top 60% category.

The report, entitled "HBCUs Transforming Generations: Social Mobility for HBCU Alumni," pro-



vides an "in-depth review of the Move into Middle Class+ mobility rate and its efficiency as a measure of social mobility for Black students at HBCUs." It found that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are remarkably successful at supporting social mobility among their students.

Social mobility, or the movement

of individuals, families, or communities/groups through a social hierarchy or stratification system, has become a primary measure for understanding the return on investment for college students and their families. Many HBCU students are economically disadvantaged due to socioeconomic disparities and intersectional disenfranchisement of wealth and resources. Nearly half of HBCU students are first-generation students, and the majority of students who attend HBCUs are Pell-grant eligible.

The success rate the UNCF used in their Move into Middle Class+ mobility rate is defined as the fraction of students from the bottom two quintiles that earn their way

into the top three quintiles, which is also referred to as the top 60% of the income distribution. Institutions with high success rates are the most successful at moving students from the lowest socioeconomic tiers to a higher tier. Xavier's success rate was calculated at 78.9%.

Xavier's success rate puts it on par with Ivy Plus Institutions such as Yale University and Columbia University of New York. The top 10 HBCUs with the highest success rate were all above the national average, which means that even though HBCUs serve more economically disenfranchised students than most U.S. institutions, they also facilitate upward mobility for the majority of their students.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

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.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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

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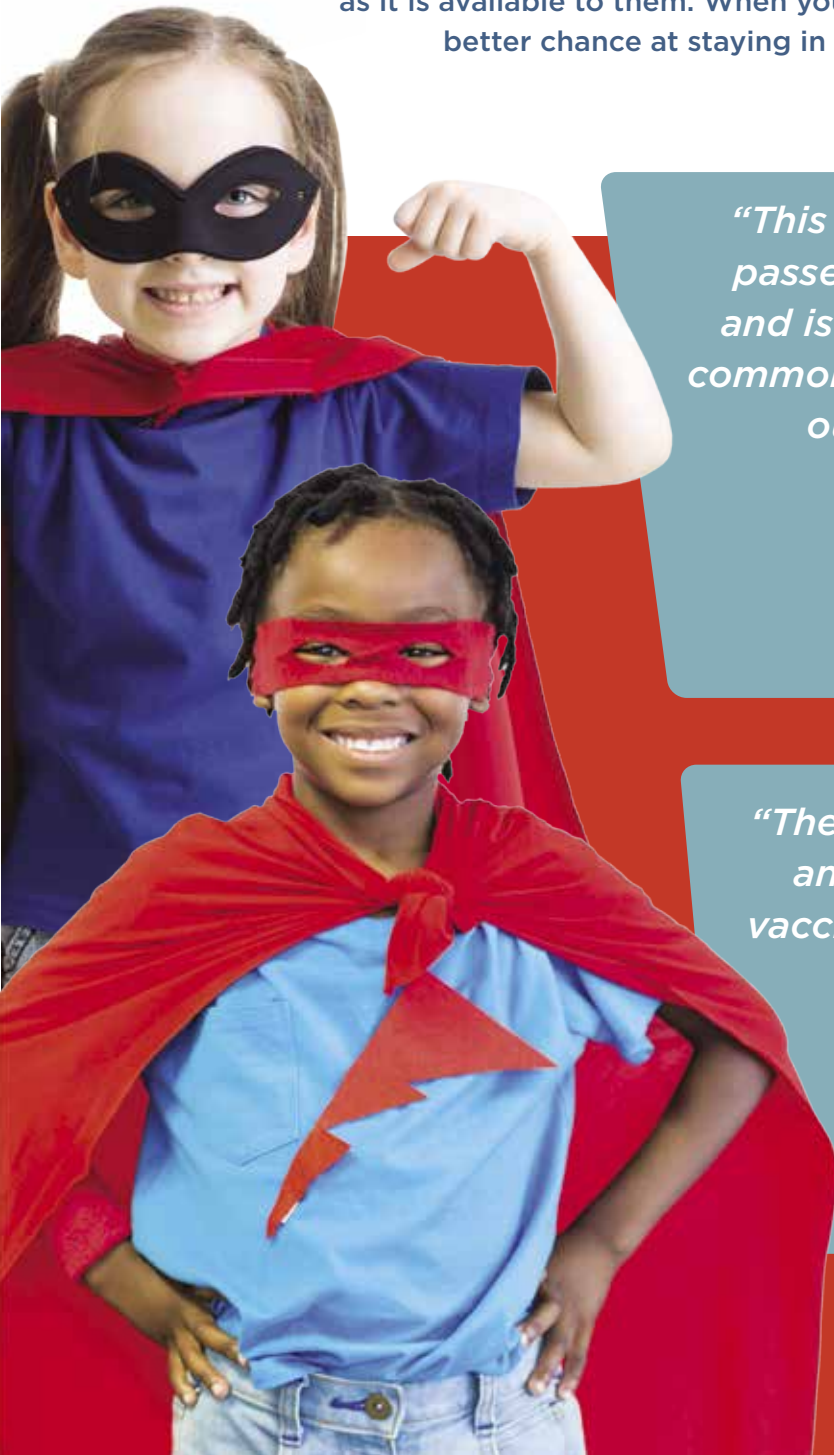
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The vaccines have proven to be safe and effective in children as young as 5 years old. The vaccine is so safe that the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) urge all eligible people to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to them. When your child gets vaccinated against COVID-19, they also have a better chance at staying in school and participating in the activities they enjoy.



“This vaccine for children has passed rigorous clinical trials and is safe – just like the other common vaccines we recommend our children receive.”

DR. WANDA THOMAS
PROFESSOR OF
PEDIATRICS,
LSU Health
Shreveport



“These vaccines are as safe and as effective as any vaccines we’ve ever had for any disease.”

DR. MARK KLINE
PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF
AND PEDIATRICIAN,
Children’s Hospital
New Orleans



BRING BACK
LOUISIANA

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