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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**Sidney Poitier**  
94,  
A Life  
Well Lived



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**Data Zone**  
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January 15 - January 21, 2022 56th Year Volume 38 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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# The Dream Renewed in 2022



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., led a movement the Civil Rights Movement that led to many gains for equal rights for African Americans. Today in the 21st century, the struggle continues for justice and fairness in American society.

**Benjamin Bates**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

The state of MLK’s Dream in 2022, is one that is still illusive, as the United States continue to grapple with how to become a more just humane society. In this day even after the passing of Civil Rights Laws in the 1960’s

and the election of the nation’s first African American President, states across this country are working hard to restrict voting.

Indeed, this great nation founded on Liberty, and Justice for All is one that’s evolved, but some of the things that impede our cities, states, and nation from reaching its full potential continue to exist. In our na-

tion today, the lives and rights of Black people are disregarded by some in law enforcement. Where specifically, Black males continue to be brutalized and even killed by those who are charged with protecting and serving its citizens.

However, people tend to forget that at the end of MLK’s life, he’d launched the Poor People’s Cam-

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher		Production
Edwin Buggage	Benjamin Bates	Pubinator.com
Editor	Dionne Character	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Stacy M. Brown	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant		datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	DNW Staff Writers	@gmail.com
Accounting	Fleur De Lis	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

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The Dream of MLK is alive in 2022, as a generation of young people have taken up the cause for freedom, justice and equality.



paing, to give voice to the issue of economic justice. Today, one could reasonably argue that lack of access to quality education, affordable housing and safe neighborhoods are barriers to many of the citizens of America having a bridge into the middle class.

This does not only threaten the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, but Democracy itself. For when citizens do not have access to basic things, they will resort to alternative means to get them. Something that poses a threat to us all. To combat this, we must make the investments in those who need the most help in our communities. Of course, this does not mean a hand-out, but a hand up to reach their full God given potential.

In 2022, we must restore hope and optimism in a nation that's experiencing a culture war in a demographically changing America. We must begin to realize while we came here on different ships, we

are in the same boat. Today, we must ask ourselves in what direction will we sail, or will we sink into the abyss of a declining nation torn apart from within.

Admittedly, the United States and its founding principles were ideals that were not rooted in the lived realities of its inhabitants. Slavery, sexism, institutional racism, were embedded in a nation where a more perfect union and all people created equal were words reeking of hypocrisy as this nation Declared its independence from tyranny.

However, America has only become a more just nation because of people fighting for what's right. People from all walks working together for justice and equality. Today, we are witnessing the same thing as citizens continue the fight against injustice. Advancing the Dream of MLK and so many others who have fought to make this nation one where Liberty, Justice and Equality for all can become a reality.

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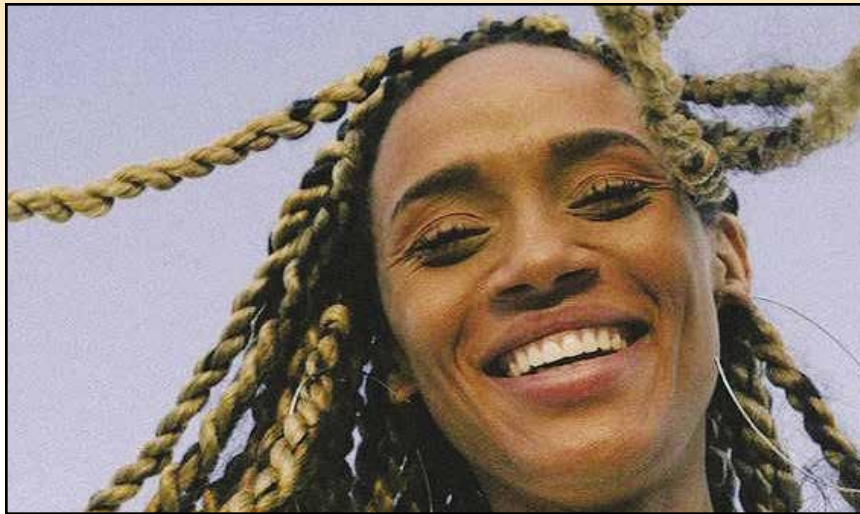
# 2022: A Year to Focus



**Diva Dionne Character**  
Female Empowerment  
Columnist

As we walk into this New Year of 2022, inhaling brand new opportunities, relishing in becoming more rejuvenated with life, let us mentally focus on making our way through this season, bringing forth new intentions and goals.

It is time to let go of those foolish thoughts of not being good enough, not being skinny enough, and not being smart enough to fulfill your dreams. Girl, put aside all of those things and people



In 2022 focus on being positive and set new goals for yourself.

who continue to discourage you and relish in the thought that all things are possible when you focus on your dreams and aspirations, as you journey through

self-discovery and start loving you more.

Start aligning yourself with more powerful women who can help you with setting intentions as you give birth

to new projects, increasing your level of self-love with attainable goals.

Today, I urge you to release on paper and start journaling. Set yourself free from all of those negative thoughts running through your head, realizing, everything hidden after a short time will be brought to light sooner or later. It is time you stop amplifying the why you can't and realize how you can.

You have the power to transform your future. All you have to do is believe and move forward. The sisterhood will always be here to help you. This year, do with it, what you enjoy!

Think about where you'd like to be and do whatever it takes to align yourself because you were built to withstand all obstacles, as you travel the path to a better you in this New Year of 2022.

Dionne Character can be reached at [characterinhollywood@gmail.com](mailto:characterinhollywood@gmail.com).

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## IN MEMORIAM:

# Legendary Actor, Sidney Poitier 94, A Life Well Lived

**Stacy M. Brown**  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

## 'The Measure of a Man'

Legendary actor Sidney Poitier, who broke barriers and stood for justice and Black lives during the most tumultuous times of the civil rights movement, has died.

Poitier, whose iconic 71-year career, included starring roles in "A Raisin in the Sun," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Uptown Saturday Night," was 94. His cause of death has yet to be confirmed.

In an exclusive phone call with the Black Press of America, Bill Cosby said he will miss his long-time friend and co-star.

"He was honored by AFI. And, along with many stars of the stage, screen, politics and higher education who came out to speak, I brought with me the paperback of his autobiography and I said of all groundbreaking movies that Sidney starred in this book is the real story of this man and his journey," Cosby remarked. "I am honored to have been close enough to him and work and work on serious matters.

According to PBS, Poitier moved to New York City at age 16 after living in the Bahamas for several years with his family. In the Big Apple, he found work as a janitor at the American Negro Theater in exchange for acting lessons. From there, he took up acting roles in plays for the next several years until his film debut in the racially charged, "No Way Out."

Race and social justice would become central themes in much of his work throughout the '50s and '60s.

A Broadway play focused on the life of the Bahamian born star, who earned his first Academy Award nomination in 1959 for his work in "The Defiant Ones," is in the works.

As noted in the New York Post, the nomination was significant to America as he was the first African American to be nominated for Best Actor. That role also earned him a Golden Globe win and a BAFTA Award.

Poitier broke even more barriers in 1963 with his hit film "Lilies of the Field." The following year, Poitier became the first African American to ever win the Best Actor at the Academy Awards.

His career continued to climb for



Sidney Poitier was an amazing talent, bringing dignity, class and a commitment to Black Excellence, both on and off the screen. He paved the way for many in the entertainment industry and inspired future generations of African Americans to aspire to greatness.



several more years. In 1967 he starred in "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," an interracial romance comedy that ruffled feathers in America. Then came other memorable films, "They Call Me Mister Tibbs," the sequel to the controversial blockbuster "In the Heat of the Night," and "Uptown Satur-

day Night" opposite Cosby.

He released several more works; "The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (2007)" "Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter (2008)."

"As I entered this world, I would leave behind the nurturing of my

family and my home, but in another sense, I would take their protection with me," he said in "Measure of a Man." "The lessons I had learned, the feelings of groundedness and belonging that have been woven into my character there, would be my companions on the journey."

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these stories.



# City Council Inducts New and Returning Members and Confirms Committee Appointments During Inauguration Events

## Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS - On January 10, 2022, New Orleans welcomed five new and two returning members to serve on the City Council for the next four-year term: Councilmember-At-Large Helena Moreno, Councilmember-At-Large JP Morrell, District "A" Councilmember Joseph Giarrusso III, District "B" Councilmember Lesli D. Harris, District "C" Councilmember Freddie King III, District "D" Councilmember Eugene J. Greene, Jr., and District "E" Councilmember Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

This morning's inauguration ceremony kicked off with a special performance from local Musician James Andrews, followed by the procession and introduction of each member and the Pledge of Allegiance from several of their children.

After the conclusion of the cere-



Standing (left to right): Councilmembers Oliver Thomas, Eugene Green, Lesli Harris, Freddie King, and Joseph Giarrusso III. Seated (left to right): Councilmembers-at-Large Helena Moreno and JP Morrell.

mony, the Council held a special organizational meeting to elect Clerk of Council Lora W. Johnson and Assistant Clerk of Council Sharon B. Temple and confirm the following appointments to its standing committees via Motion M-22-41:

"All of us are here as a result of our tremendous passion and dedication to this city. Before you sit a truly tremendous group of individuals, willing to do the hard work necessary, day in and day out, to make New Orleans better," said Council President Helena Moreno. "While our peoples' trust in us can bear a heavy weight, I and each of my colleagues have learned to use the pressure of that weight not to be overwhelmed but to be motivated. Motivated to search for new ideas, solutions, and results for the people of New Orleans."

The newly inaugurated Council will hold its first regular meeting on Thursday, January 20th.

## Fleur De Lis



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# A Rebuilding Year for the Black and Gold

Fleur De Lis  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Happy New Year to all. What a year it's been for the Black and Gold. It was a year where Ida, injuries and COVID-19 had the Saints fighting an uphill climb from the beginning of the season, until it ended during the last game of the season.

The first year without Drew Brees, showed that the Saints can win. In what was a year of rebuilding to come this close to making the playoffs was an amazing feat. This year they found new ways to win games, and were able to not only beat, but shut down the best teams in the league.

This despite injuries our Saints are showing that they have what it takes to be a contender in the coming years. On both sides of the ball, they showed they have everything they need to win. Cam Jordan and company did their thing on de-



fense, and Saints Head Coach Sean Payton made the adjustments to keep the team competitive.

We as fans, of course would have like to our Saints get to the playoffs. With many of us believing that they would have found ways to win and

been a tough team to beat. But as always, we have next year to cheer them to victory as they continue to rebuild. This is Fleur De Lis, giving you everything 5-0-4 and Black and Gold. Again, have a blessed and prosperous 2022.

# Eight HBCUs Receive Bomb Threats on Same Day

Data News Staff Edited Report

At least eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) received bomb threats on Tuesday, Jan. 5th, prompting evacuations and lockdowns of the campuses.

According to The Washington Post, Florida Memorial University, Howard University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University, Prairie View A&M University, Spelman College, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Xavier University all received bomb threats.

According to spokespersons from several of the universities, the respective Departments of Public Safety as well as local law enforcement searched the campuses for active devices. All issued "all clear" notices, but some urged their cam-



Recently, eight HBCU's, including Xavier University received bomb threats on the same day. Fortunately, all the campuses after their respective campus police and local law enforcement searched for active devices none were discovered.

pus communities to remain vigilant. "All clear. Howard's Department

of Public Safety (DPS) and MPD responded to a potential bomb threat

on campus this afternoon. The perimeter was secured and searched. No active devices were found, and the area has been cleared," Howard tweeted Tuesday afternoon.

In a statement by Xavier University of Louisiana President Dr. Reynold Verrett, he said, "The Xavier campus is secure. Campus Police with assistance of local and federal law enforcement are increasing security. The cabinet is assessing and updating our emergency plans and systems."

He also noted, "The current state of the nation calls for all our attention and vigilance. It is how we sustain our calling to educate and to learn. This education we offer is our foremost gift to the present and to the future. We are not dissuaded from our work toward a just and humane society. We follow the footsteps of our predecessors."

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