

Lighting The Road To The Future

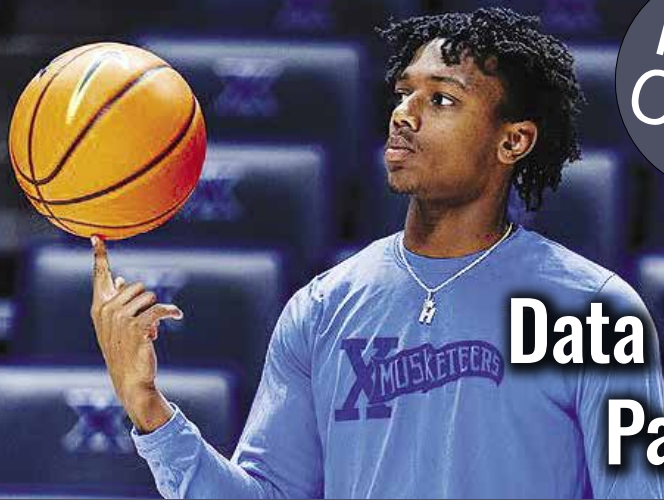
New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Master P's son Hercy headed to Xavier of Ohio



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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A New Approach

United City Council Seeks Solutions to Crime Problem in New Orleans



Having a safer city is not only the responsibility of the police, elected and civic leaders, but parents must do a what they can to instill values in young people, so they would not consider turning to crime and violence.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

The New Orleans City Council is beginning 2022 working together to address a major issue that is affecting the citizens of New Orleans. Crime and violence are something that continues to plague the

city, and it is something that is claiming the lives of too many of the city's youth. Additionally, it is something that impacts the quality of life of all citizens of the city.

On an alarming note, New Orleans ended 2021 with a surge in crime that included the most homicides since before Hurricane Katrina, in addition to increased rates of nonfatal shootings, carjackings and

other violent crimes. Further, the city has seen murder rates rise 77% since 2018.

Recently, the city has experienced a spike in violent crimes throughout the city and the determination by every Councilmember on the new City Council is determined to work together toward solutions. City Council President Helena Moreno is calling

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Crime is on the rise in New Orleans and it is affecting all citizens quality of life.

stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System to come before the Council to explore how to combat this problem through a holistic lens.

The first of these meetings will take place on Thursday, Jan 20th where New Orleans Police Department Chief Shaun Ferguson has confirmed to address the Council during its full meeting on Thursday, January 20th. In addition, a special meeting is taking place on Monday, January 24th, where Orleans Parish District Attorney Jason Williams, criminal and juvenile court judges, re-entry, and rehabilitation groups the First 72+ and VOTE, officials from Mayor Cantrell's office and more will lend their collective voices in search of solutions that can help reduce the uptick in crime and violence in the city.

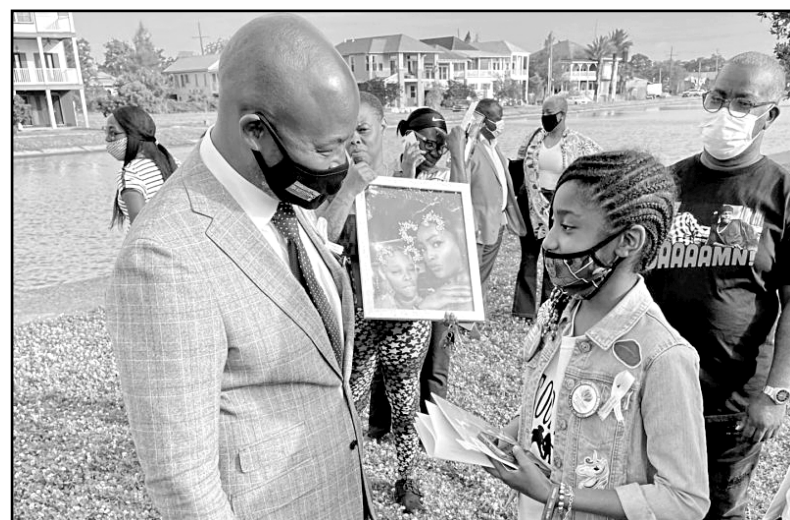
Recently, members of the new council released statements regarding this issue.

"The is the beginning of an intensive public dialogue around crime and solutions to curb violence," said Council President Helena Moreno. "We must use every tool in the toolbox to search for strategies, both short-term and long-term, because there is fear in every neighborhood of our city. During my time in the Legislature and Council, I have led Criminal Justice Reform measures. I don't believe that the 'lock-up everyone' approach is effective, but those committing egregious violent crimes must be caught and held accountable. My colleagues and I want to see a new urgency and to learn of any challenges or hurdles potential Council action could address to help disrupt violence before it starts. We also want to see meaningful ways to invest in solutions that attack the roots of violence, including poverty, trauma and the lack of mental and behavioral health services."

"These meetings are not about



Property crimes are on the rise as well.



Orleans Parish District Attorney Jason Williams is scheduled to speak to the council. In his one year in office, he's been at the forefront of taking a holistic approach to reducing crime in the City of New Orleans.

letting off steam or political theater," said Councilmember At-Large JP Morrell, who has been a champion on the forefront of Criminal Justice Reform as a legislator, and now is bringing that passion to the council. "This city selected a new City Council based on a promise of action, a Council that shares your sense of urgency. We must, as a city, focus on our crime problem with the same urgency with which we have fought COVID."

This is impacting all districts of the city, where no one is immune regardless of income, education,

and zip code.

"Over the past several weeks, residents have increasingly reached out to me about the spike in violent crimes," District "A" Councilmember Joe Giarrusso continued. "Everyone wants to see solutions. The Council is calling this special meeting to ensure solutions are publicly discussed and implemented."

"Addressing violent crimes was at the top of my list when I ran for office, and the Council, working alongside other City officials and stakeholders, is taking the critical



The present New Orleans City Council comes with varied experiences in helping in the crime fighting efforts of the city. They realize that crime is more than a police problem, but a social problem. They are getting off on the right foot working together to help find better approaches that would help reduce crime, increase opportunities for the most vulnerable citizens and come up with solutions to make New Orleans a safer city for all its residents.



The special meetings will take place with Police Chief Shaun Ferguson, and other city leaders speaking on how to combat the increase in crime in New Orleans.

first step to reducing gun violence, carjackings, domestic violence and all the crimes that has plagued our city for years," said District "B" Councilmember Lesli Harris. "I am encouraged that we are prioritizing this so early in the term, and I am committed to the long road ahead to keep our residents safe and ensure we can all rest easier knowing the city we love is protected."

"This meeting is very much needed, and it's important that we as leaders listen to our criminal justice stakeholders and come together to address this problem plaguing our city," said District "C" Councilmember Freddie King III. "I welcome the conversation and look forward to finding sustainable solutions."

"The most important issue to be addressed in our city at this time is the reduction of violent crimes," District "D" Councilmember Eugene J. Green continued. "Our residents deserve to feel comfortable living in the city in which they have invested so much and in which they and their family members live, work, and recreate. Murders, shootings, and armed robberies increased in 2021 and over the past few years. A different approach and focus are needed to

make our city a safer place to live. All areas of policing, prosecution, court operations and community service providers must do more. It is good and most important that the new City Council, which provides taxpayer funding to much of the criminal justice apparatus, holds the entire system more accountable. I look forward to not only the January 24th special meeting but to a future that includes the prioritization of work that makes our fellow residents more able to enjoy their lives with a reduced threat of violence."

"Our citizens don't want or deserve excuses about why they don't feel safe," District "E" Councilmember Oliver Thomas stated, as someone who as an elected official and private citizen has continued to advocate for safer streets and opportunities for young people that would help give them options to crime and violence. "They just want us to do something so that they can feel safe now."

The January 20th full Council meeting where Chief Ferguson will present and the Council special meeting on January 24th will both be held virtually and will begin at 10 am. To view and submit public comment, visit Council.NOLA.gov.

Master P's son Hercy, who transferred from Tennessee State basketball, tweets he's headed to Xavier of Ohio

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Former Tennessee State Basketball standout Hercy Miller, the son of New Orleans hip-hop mogul Master P, indicated on Twitter Monday he has transferred to Xavier of Ohio.

Miller tweeted "GOD opens doors, no man can shut #DreamBig #MLK" along with a photo of himself at Xavier's Cintas Center.

Miller was a highly recruited high school player who signed with TSU last spring after also receiving scholarship offers, he said, from Vanderbilt, LSU, UCLA, Southern Cal, Missouri, South Carolina, Arizona and Georgetown.

In the changing landscape of college sports where athletes can now sign lucrative endorsement deals, Miller signed a \$2 million dollar name, image, likeness sponsorship deal with Web Apps America after signing with TSU.

Miller suffered a hip injury that cut his freshman year, short, but he is destined to return to the court as a member of Xavier's squad next season.

Percy "Master P" Miller told The Tennessean on Dec. 8th, Hercy was transferring because he didn't believe TSU was equipped with the proper medical staff to care for the injury to his son Hercy.

He also said Hercy's NIL deal is still intact as long as he remains a college athlete. Beyond basketball this is an important development, as Master P, is securing his son's financial future as well as his continuing to maximize on his potential as an athlete reaping the benefits of his talent.



Hercy Miller, left with his father Hip Hop Legend Percy, "Master P" Miller recently announced he is transferring from Tennessee State to Xavier of Ohio.



Standout college basketball player Hercy Miller transferred to Xavier of Ohio. He also has signed a lucrative 2 million dollar endorsement deal. His father Percy "Master P" Miller is passing his business savvy to his son who is cashing in on his talent.

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Time Capsule for The A.P. Tureaud Statue and Civil Rights Memorial Park

One-page submissions or short audio messages requested...

Vincent Sylvain New Orleans Agenda

The A. P. Tureaud Legacy Committee is inviting the public to submit entries of written statements of no more than one page or recordings of audio messages of three minutes or less in remembrances of A. P. Tureaud and the other honorees of the A. P. Tureaud Statue and Civil Rights Memorial Park for archival placement in the time capsule that is being developed by NewCorp.

Originally commemorated in 1997 by Mayor Marc Morial's Division of Housing & Neighborhood Development consisting of a street-scape project and a statue in the likeness of Alexander Pierre "A. P." Tureaud, Sr.; the A. P. Tureaud Statue and Civil Rights Memorial Park is currently undergoing restoration.

The new project includes a large plaque honoring A.P. Tureaud, Sr., a low circular wall with plaques honoring fifteen other New Orleans area civil rights leaders



Pictured from left to right, Brandon Adams, Landscape Architect, Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Vaughn Fauria, President of NewCorp Inc., and Shelenn P. Jones, Sculptor Image provided by Perez

who fought courageously to end racial segregation in Louisiana. The refurbishment of the existing statue of Mr. Tureaud also includes new decorative pavement, new benches, and new plantings including trees surrounding the memorial area.

The renovation of the memorial, designed by landscape Architect Brandon Adams of Perez APC, is

being made possible by NewCorp, Inc., a private non-profit 501(C)(3) CDFI, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the City of New Orleans, and the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, which is under the administration of Lt. Governor William Harold "Billy" Nungesser.

Pam Broom, NewCorp's 7th Ward Revitalization Project

Manager, is the point of contact. She will receive your written or audio vignettes honoring those commemorated and answer additional questions. Pam can be reached at pamela@newcorpinc.com or (504) 919-3442. Please make submissions by Friday, January 21, 2022.

Listed here are the fifteen additional honorees represented on the plaque will be as follows:

Louis A. Martinet (1849-1917) – Louis A. Martinet was admitted to practice law in 1875. He subsequently studied medicine and practiced both medicine and law. Louis Martinet founded the New Orleans Crusader, a weekly newspaper used to combat the increasingly virulent racism of other New Orleans newspapers.

Homer A. Plessy (1862-1925) – Homer Plessy worked as a shoemaker, laborer, clerk, and insurance agent. But he will ever be remembered for refusing to vacate a "Whites Only" seat on the East Louisiana Railway. He was charged with violating an 1890

Louisiana law requiring separate transportation accommodations by race and challenged his arrest; and became a plaintiff in the landmark case – Plessy v. Ferguson in which the U. S. Supreme Court upheld the doctrine of "separate but equal."

Arthur J. Chapital (1901-1972) – Arthur J. Chapital was educated in the New Orleans Public Schools and Straight College and worked for the U. S. Postal Service. For ten years he served as President of the NAACP. Throughout his life, Arthur Chapital was devoted to achieving equal rights for African American people.

Oretha Castle Haley (1939-1987) – To bring down retail segregation, Oretha Castle Haley played a major role in the powerful demonstrations that the Consumers League of Greater New Orleans and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized against Canal Street and Dryades Street merchants. She served as the New Orleans Chap-

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Commentary

Black America Salutes CEO Robert F. Smith for Accelerating Racial Equity and the Spirit of Giving



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President and CEO of the
National Newspaper Publishers
Association (NNPA)



Robert F. Smith at US Embassy in Berlin, 2018 Image provided by Perez.

Today we are witnessing an increased spirit of giving to help underserved communities across the United States. The Black Press of America acknowledges and takes public note of both the responsibilities and the opportunities for corporate leaders to be "Thy Sisters and Brothers Keepers." Good social corporate responsibility matters.

This is particularly true in communities of color, which continue

to be mired in poverty and insufficient access to transformative economic improvement opportunities. One of the key indicators of economic advancement and sustainability in today's global marketplace is the extent to which effective community-based organizations have access to equity funding and high-tech innovations.

With 2021 behind us and prepa-

rations and commitments now being made for 2022, we are revisiting the progress accomplished by a leading African American entrepreneur and corporate leader, Robert F. Smith, who is helping to increase racial equity funding and bridge the digital divide in six southern cities where a large percentage of African Americans now reside: Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Houston, New Orleans and Charlotte.

Earlier last year, we highlighted the game-changing initiative that, along with PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, and BCG CEO Rich Lesser launched called the Southern Communities Initiative. This initiative is "A catalytic effort to coordinate and accelerate racial equity funding, programming, and convening organizations in six southern communities that are home to approximately 50% of the African American population."

According to information recently posted on Smith's dedicated website, we were pleased to learn that the Southern Communities Initiative already has identified, embraced and activated the following local leadership appointments and activations in those six states.

There are four racial equity pillars for the initiative: Wealth Creation – supporting Black-owned business growth and access to capital; Housing – providing access

to resources that enable home ownership at fair rates and terms; Education / Workforce Development – creating advancement opportunities via formal education/skills training for minorities; and Health Equity – eliminating health disparities through equal access to quality, affordable healthcare.

There are also two racial equity enablers that are part of the initiative: Digital Access – providing access and adoption of affordable high-speed internet solutions for low-income and minority households; and Physical Infrastructure – providing access to affordable, reliable real-estate and civil infrastructure to support minority families and businesses.

In each of the six states, there is a well-known community servant and leader who has been designated as the "Community Lead" of the Southern Communities Initiative.

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Maya Angelou First Black Woman on U.S. Coin

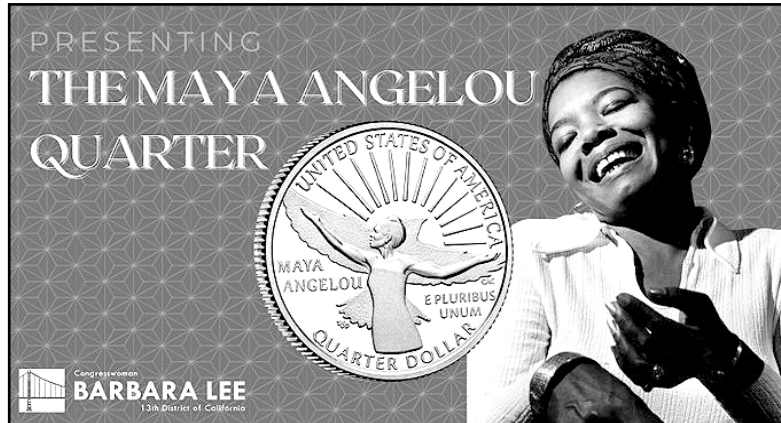
Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Famous author and noted civil rights leader Maya Angelou became the first African American woman featured on the 25-cent coin.

The U.S. Mint began shipping the quarters on January 10th.

Reportedly, the Angelou coin is the first in a series designed to celebrate the accomplishments of American women.

"Each time we redesign our currency, we have the chance to say something about our country — what we value, and how we've progressed as a society," U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said in a statement. "I'm very proud that these coins cele-



brate the contributions of some of America's most remarkable women, including Maya Angelou."

Angelou, whose works include such classics as "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "And Still I Rise," and "The Heart of a Woman," died in 2014.

She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Barack Obama.

The commemorative new coin features Angelou with her arms uplifted a bird in flight and a rising sun behind her.

"They are images inspired by her poetry and symbolic of the way she lived," officials at the U.S. Mint said in the statement.

To the right are the words "e pluribus Unum," Latin for "out of many, one," a phrase also on the national seal.

The flip side features a portrait of George Washington.

"Excited to announce that Maya Angelou becomes the first Black woman to appear on a U.S. quarter," California Democratic Rep. Barbara Lee wrote on Twitter.

"The phenomenal women who shaped American history have gone unrecognized for too long — especially women of color," Rep. Lee wrote.

"Proud to have led this bill to honor their legacies."

Commentary, Continued from page 6.

tative. In Atlanta, The Reverend Dr. Bernice King, Chief Executive Officer at The King Center, is the Lead. In Houston, the Lead is LaTanya Flix, Senior Vice President, DEI at Greater Houston Partnership. In Memphis, there is Sarah Lockridge-Steckel, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder at The Collective Blueprint, while the Lead in

Charlotte, NC is Janet LaBar, President & CEO at Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. In Birmingham, the Lead is J.W. Carpenter, Executive Director at Prosper Birmingham, and in New Orleans, it is Judy Morse, President & CEO at Urban League of Louisiana.

The philanthropy and corporate leadership of Robert F. Smith is appreciated by numerous recipients and Smith should be applauded for

helping make a difference and providing hope to millions of people in underserved communities. The issues of economic equity and racial justice are still critical for the future of the nation.

Yet, the contributions of Smith and others appear to be gaining support because as of today more than 70 major corporate entities have now endorsed the Southern Communities Initiative.

The truth is there can be no real racial justice without the reality of sustainable racial equity and economic advancement of communities of color. We, therefore, without hesitation salute Robert F. Smith.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations across the U.S. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

Newsmaker, Continued from page 6.

ter and State President of CORE and aggressively entered the fight against police brutality and segregation of the City of New Orleans-operated recreational facilities.

Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial (1929-1989) – Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial was the first African American to graduate from LSU's Law School. He entered his practice under the mentorship of A. P. Tureaud. Dutch Morial was the President of the NAACP and the National Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He was actively and persuasively involved in many civil rights cases that broke down educational and public accommodation barriers to African Americans. He was the first African American elected to the Louisiana Legislature in the 20th Century, and many firsts followed. Dutch Morial was the first African American Juvenile Court Judge and State Court of Appeals Judge. Thereafter, he was elected New Orleans' first African American Mayor.

Clarence "Chink" Henry (1910-

1974) – Clarence "Chink" Henry began work as a longshoreman at the age of 18. In 1954, "Chink" Henry was elected President of Longshoremen's Local 1419. He fought unceasingly for his members on many fronts, including wages, safety laws, job discrimination, equal public accommodations, and voter registration. He was an organizer and member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Board of Directors, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Other Trailblazers in Civil Rights include:

Reverend A. L. Davis, Jr. (1914-1978), Alvin Bazile Jones (1922-1973), A. Marcel Trudeau (1927-1978), Ernest J. Wright (1909-1979), Daniel E. Byrd (1910-1984), Israel M. Augustine, Jr. (1924-1994), Earl J. Amedee, Sr. (1919-1990), Judge J. Skelly Wright (1911-1988)

Note: Information made available by NewCorp, Inc. and Perez APC were used to develop this article.

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If you are not yet vaccinated, you are unprotected. Vaccines protect you against severe outcomes from COVID-19, like hospitalization and death. According to data from the CDC, unvaccinated people are 10 times more likely to be infected and 20 times more likely to die due to COVID compared to a fully vaccinated person with a booster shot.

- ✓ **Get vaccinated** and, if eligible, get boosted.
- ✓ **Wear a mask** in all public indoor settings, all indoor private spaces with people who are not in your immediate household, and outdoors when not able to social distance.
- ✓ **Limit exposure** to those outside your household.
- ✓ Practice **social distancing**.
- ✓ **Stay home** if you are not feeling well.
- ✓ **Wash your hands** with soap and water.
- ✓ **Get tested** if you're experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

LET'S GIVE COVID THE BOOT IN 2022!



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