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**Black Women United Celebrating
Essence Music Festival**

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**PONTCHARTRAIN PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The legendary Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood, founded in 1952, was home to many African-American political, social and business leaders in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana from the middle of the twentieth century through the late Civil Rights era on to the decade of the 1980s. Pontchartrain Park was one of the first African-American subdivisions of its kind with modern homes and recreational amenities built in the South. The "Park" was once considered the safe cradle for black hope and prosperity. Today, residents continue in the stride of faith, perseverance, and triumph engendered by the "Parks" founding residents. May the legacy of those daring pioneers live on. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Pontchartrain Park

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Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Honored as Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places

Edited by Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief
Data News Weekly

The Making of History

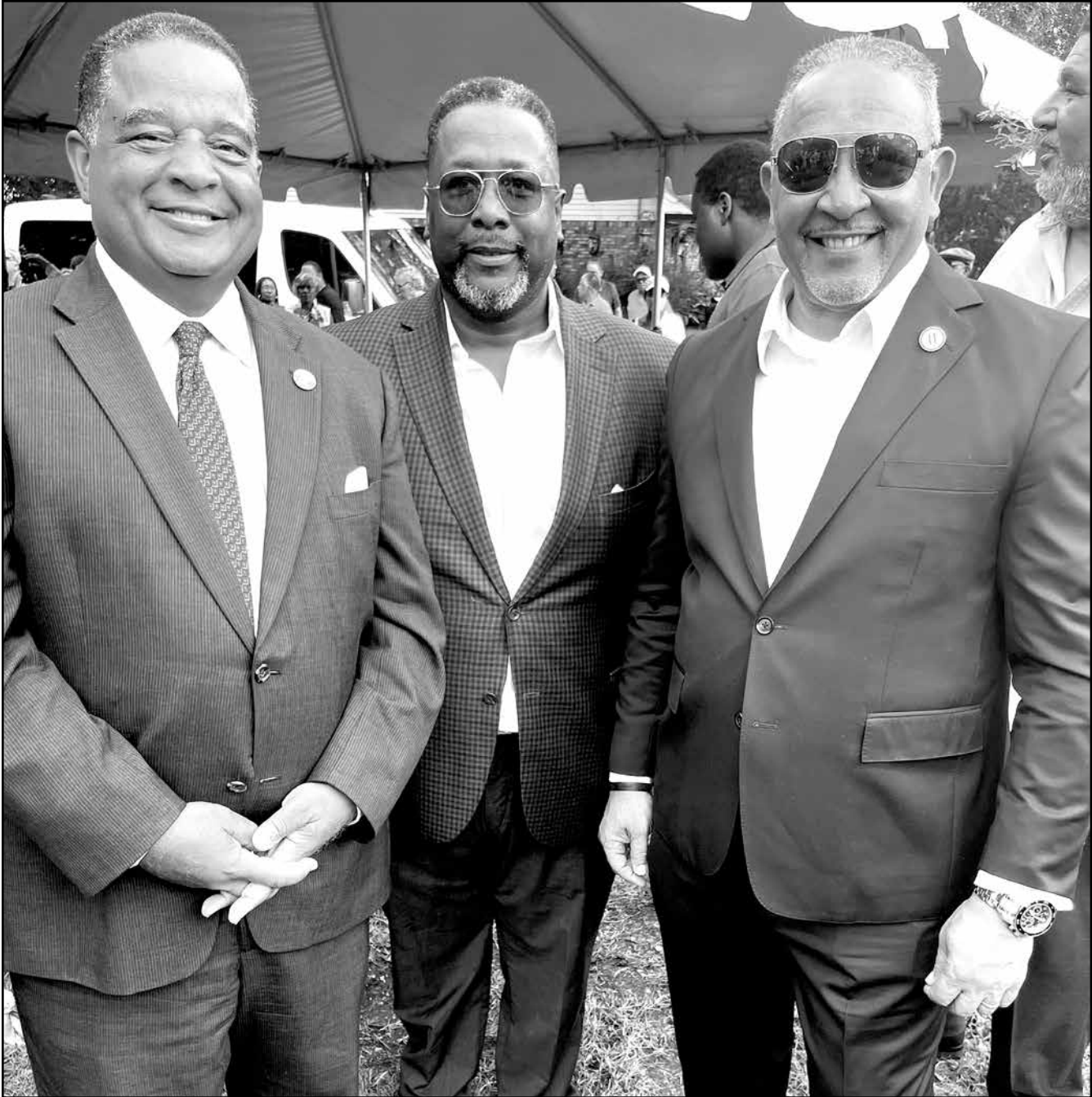
The rich history of this New Orleans Black community was on full display recently when the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood in New Orleans was officially listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that recognizes the 65-year-old community's significant contributions to Louisiana's history, not just for Black New Orleans, but all New Orleans.

"The acknowledgment of Pontchartrain Park on the National Register of Historic Places is significant because it is an additional contribution to African American history. This moment for the residents of Pontchartrain Park is powerful because our history is finally being recognized," said Gretchen Bradford, President of the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association and Pontchartrain Park Community Outreach.

Breaking New Ground and Showcasing Black Excellence

The National Register of Historic Places is the "official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation." To qualify, buildings, sites and other historic resources typically must be at least 50 years old.

Pontchartrain Park, which broke



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Councilman Eugene Green, Actor Wendell Pierce and former New Orleans Mayor and present National Urban League CEO, Marc Morial.

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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	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	New Orleans Agenda	Pubinator.com
Editor	DNW Staff Writer	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Scott Myers	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Dionne Character	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
June Hazeur	City of New Orleans	Distribution
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	by Terrence Lee

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Actor and businessman Wendell Pierce, who grew up in Pontchartrain Park speaking at the dedication of the historic neighborhood becomes a historical landmark.

ground in 1955, was conceived when segregation was strictly enforced across the South and in Louisiana. Due to racially motivated redlining and protective covenants, African Americans were not allowed to purchase homes in many neighborhoods. By the 1950s, however, there was enough political will to develop land specifically for African American families among the new neighborhoods that were being constructed near the New Orleans' lakefront. Houses in Pontchartrain Park would share the appearance and amenities of the adjacent Gentilly Woods, then a Whites-only community.

Many of the Pontchartrain Park homes were sold to World War II veterans through the GI Bill, creating a neighborhood filled with young families, whose children would grow up together, creating a community cohesion that continues today. In addition to newly constructed homes Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) was built and have educated generations of leaders that has impacted New Orleans and the world. The neighborhood also featured a golf course designed by accomplished architect, Joseph M. Bartholomew, who worked on courses at Metairie Country Club, New Orleans City Park and across the nation. Bartholomew was African American, so Pontchartrain Park would be the first public course he designed at which he also would be allowed to play.

Preserving a Rich Legacy for Future Generations

To recognize this extraordinary history, the Preservation Resource Center (PRC), at the invitation of residents, worked alongside the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association to nominate the com-



Marc Morial pictured with his mother Sybil Haydel Morial.

munity to the National Register. The nomination required the PRC Staff to document the condition of each building in the neighborhood.

This work was made possible thanks in part to a Historic Preservation Fund Grant with federal funds from the National Park Service administered through the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation. PRC was assisted in this work by Tulane University.

The Pontchartrain Park Historic District is bounded by France Road, Dwyer Canal, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Campus Boulevard, Emmitt W. Bashful Boulevard, Press Drive and Hayne Boulevard.

According to the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Division of Historic Preservation, the National Register designation may make property owners of commercial or residential rentals "eligible to apply for and receive federal tax

Former New Orleans Mayor and present National Urban League President Marc H. Morial participated In Pontchartrain Park's Historical Marker Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony Confirmed Guests Included: Louisiana State Senator Joseph Bouie, Jr., Louisiana State Representative Matthew Willard, Councilman Eugene Green, and Actor, Wendell Pierce. On Thursday, June 30th Marc H. Morial delivered a keynote address at Pontchartrain Park's Historical Marker Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony. Pontchartrain Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 2022. It is recognized as the 1st suburban-styled subdivision in the nation that was developed specifically for African Americans to have homeownership during the time of segregation. Pontchartrain Park was founded in 1952. The first homes were built between 1955-1961. The homes were designed modern, and the neighborhood had recreational amenities. Pontchartrain Park attracted many middle and upper-class African American residents and became a symbol that the American Dream could be a reality for all Americans.

Cover Story, Continued on page 5.

Black Women United Celebrating Essence Music Festival



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

There is nothing more powerful than strong Black women from all walks of life coming together to enjoy a weekend full of clarity, empowerment, and mindfulness, embracing sisterhood with the purpose of becoming more independent with the spirit to uniquely believe that you represent a tribe of women who are amazing as a race.

Last weekend, we celebrated Essence Music Festival, let us remain in



harmony realizing that yes, sometimes life may be difficult but united, we can all rise like the Phoenix and soar with the knowledge of knowing when we fellowship with likeminded woman with dreams and aspirations, we become unstoppable.

Ladies do not let anyone break your soul because you are authentic, and you have exactly what it takes to be a successful Black woman. Stop being afraid and realize that you are capable of starting a business, writing a book, and living out your dreams aloud.

No matter the long road, what is for you is for you and no one can take what the universe has in store for your life. You are gifted and brave. Continue to stand in your power because you are the essence of what an amazing Black woman should be.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

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credits for historic rehabilitation projects, provided they agree to certain federal guidelines.”

“A place on the National Register of Historic Places says to the community — and the nation — that this neighborhood has true historic significance,” said Danielle Del Sol, Executive Director of the Preservation Resource Center. “PRC was honored to work with the residents of Pontchartrain Park to have this community’s history officially celebrated.”

Since it opened, Pontchartrain Park has been home to many notable New Orleanians, including Mayors Dutch and Marc Morial, Grammy-winning Musician Terence Blanchard, Actor Wendell Pierce and former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, among others.

“Pontchartrain Park was very instrumental in shaping the lives of many,” Bradford said. “We pay tribute to our Pontchartrain Park pioneers who led the way for us. And a special thanks to the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association Historical Committee for their hard work, including Carrie Mingo Douglas, Wiletta Ferdinand, Gaynell Lawrence, Patrick Clementine, Wilfred Arnolie and Elder Delereze Perkins. In addition, we would like to say thanks to the Preservation Resource Center for supporting us and helping us to get to this moment.”

Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and ALY Media contributed to this report.



Marc Morial at the dedication of Pontchartrain Park as a historical district.



City Councilmember Eugene Green with Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association President Gretchen Bradford.

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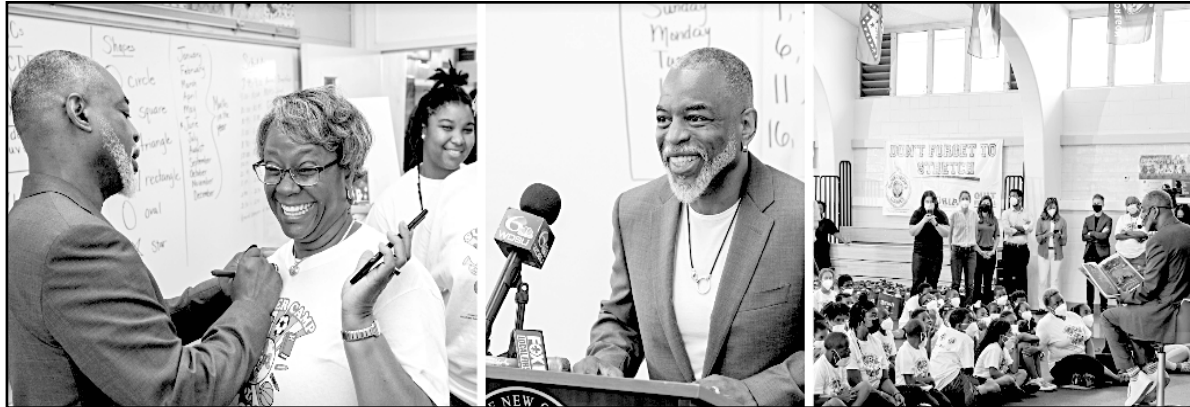


Literacy Advocate LeVar Burton Holds Reading Event With City Of NOLA and Osmo

Data News Staff Edited Report

Recently, literacy advocate and award-winning actor, speaker and author LeVar Burton (Reading Rainbow, Star Trek, Jeopardy!), hosted a LIVE reading event with Osmo from BYJU'S at the Milne Rec Center in the City of New Orleans.

Burton, who was recently named Osmo's Chief Reading Officer and partnered with the company to introduce the new



LeVar Burton reads his children's book *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm* to kids at the Milne Rec Center in New Orleans on June 28 as part of his new role as Chief Reading Officer for Osmo from BYJU'S. Photo Credit: Scott Myers

Learn-To-Read Program Reading Adventure, spoke about how to create joyful readers and lifelong learners. Burton also discussed his passion for literacy, why it's so important to his life's work and what he thinks the future will hold for technological advancements and tools to teach young readers. Burton closed the event with a live reading of his children's book, "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm" to a room full of 100+ children from the NORD summer camp.

State & Local News

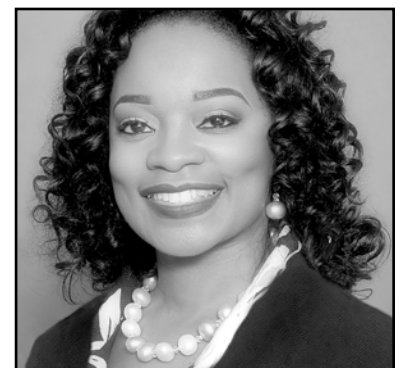
New Orleans East Hospital CEO Becomes First African American Female to Serve as Board Chair for United Way of Southeast Louisiana

New Orleans Agenda

Takeisha Davis, MD, MPH, President, and CEO of New Orleans East Hospital, has been named Board Chair of United Way Southeast Louisiana's Board of Trustees for the 2022-23 year. Dr. Davis will be the first African American Female to serve in this role for the region.

"Community members across our region are struggling, but none more than those who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color," said Dr. Takeisha Davis, CEO of New Orleans East Hospital. "That is why I am proud and grateful to step into this role as the first African American Female Chairwoman of the Board to lead an organization committed to providing investments in communities with a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens."

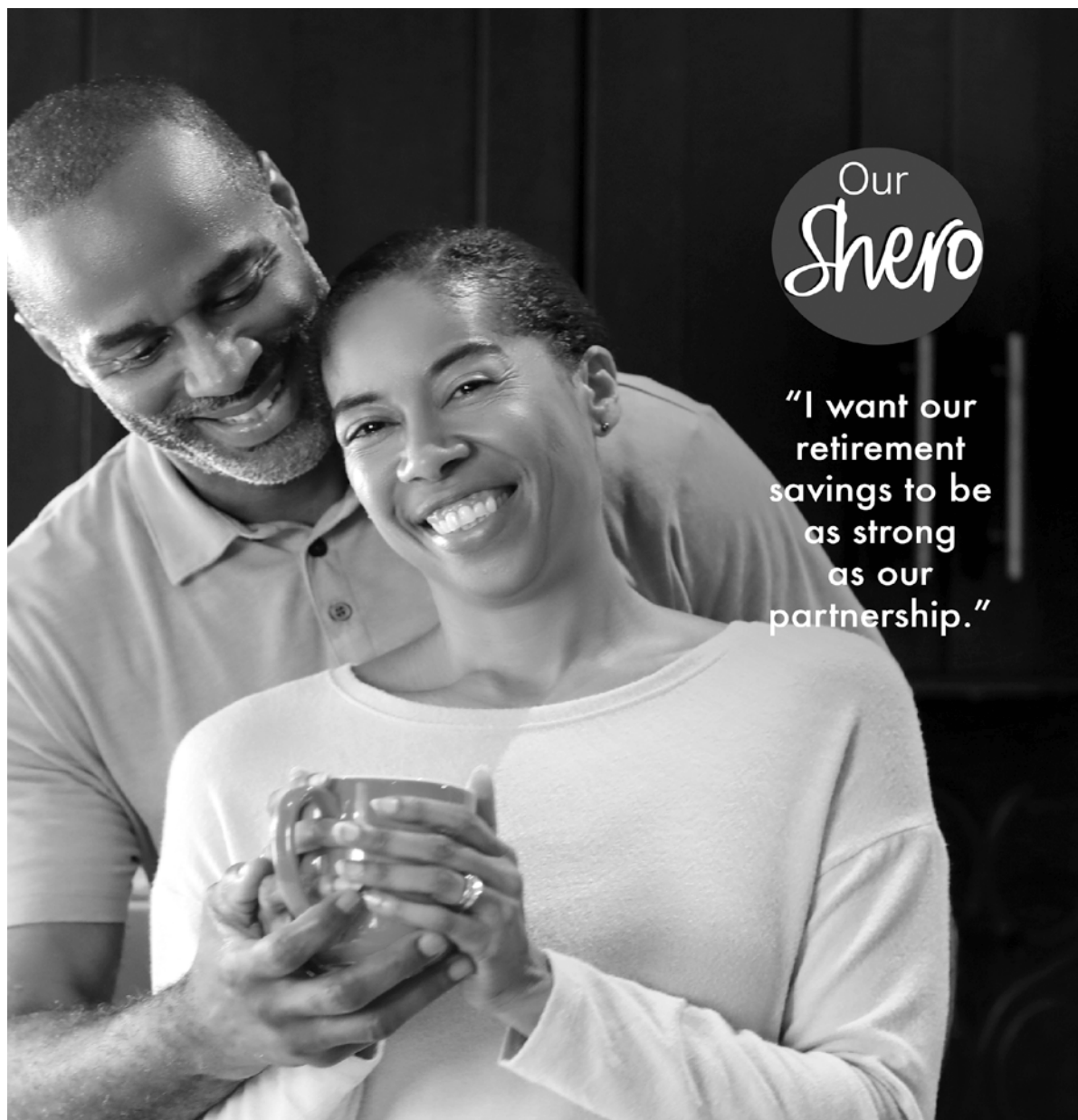
A proud native of New Orleans, Davis takes immense pride and responsibility in her cultural identity as an African American woman with a gift for healing communities on a widespread level. With the sheer amount of adversity facing Southeast Louisiana in coming years, the role as incoming board chair will prove vital to the organization and the path it intends to create to advance equity



Takeisha Davis, MD, MPH

and address the myriad of issues that ultimately impact thousands of lives.

The incoming board chair announced that the organization is targeting its efforts to impact Orleans Parish, as well as Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines parishes, and others, who all have over one-third of citizens living under the poverty threshold or in an Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) household. ALICE households represent families and singles who work every day but are still unable to meet their basic needs such as food, housing, childcare, and more. With inflation on the rise and the consequences of the Pandemic looming, this is an increasing reality that will be seen across the region. The organization will work aggressively to address these barriers under the leadership of Dr. Davis.



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Akron Authorities Release Disturbing BodyCam of Shooting of Black DoorDash Driver

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Authorities on Sunday released disturbing bodycam footage of Jayland Walker, an unarmed Black Door Dash delivery driver with no criminal record shot dozens of times by Akron Police Officers.

The lawyer for the 25-year-old's family called it an execution, telling media members that police fired 90 shots, hitting the young man "60 to 80 times."

As the video rolls, several officers are seen approaching Walker's vehicle with their guns drawn.

Police Chief Stephen Mylett claimed Walker had a ski mask on, reached toward his waist during a foot chase, and turned toward pursuing police officers.

He claimed that's when officers opened fire. Mylett said authorities found a weapon in Walker's car, but it wasn't clear if he discharged the gun.

He admitted that Walker didn't exit the car with a gun.

While handcuffed and bleeding profusely from his wounds, Mylett claimed officers attempted to provide lifesaving help for Walker.

Officials placed the eight directly involved in the shooting on administrative leave.

"It was difficult to watch and shocking," Mylett stated. "I'm not going to pass judgment."



The chief and Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan commended Walker's family for calling for peaceful demonstrations.

"The video is heartbreaking, and it's hard to take in," Horrigan said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and the FBI field office in Akron issued joint statements noting that they were "closely monitoring and reviewing the circumstances."

"The FBI continues to coordinate with state and local partners to provide resources and specialized skills," officials wrote in the statement.

"If the evidence reveals potential

violations of federal criminal statutes, the Justice Department will take appropriate action."

To quell tensions, Horrigan announced the cancellation of Akron's Fourth of July Festival.

Walker's family Attorney Bobby DiCello called for a federal investigation.

"This brutal," DiCello asserted.

"It's going to stir up some passion. It's going to make people uneasy."

Former Democratic Ohio Congresswoman Nina Turner told her more than 534,000 Twitter followers that the DOJ must investigate.

"Jayland was unarmed and running away when police opened fire, firing 90 shots, hitting him 60

times," Turner wrote as she posted the bodycam video. "The Department of Justice needs to step in to investigate immediately."

Turner noted that officers were reckless.

"The cop almost shot two other cops," she tweeted. "Just absolute recklessness."

Turner then compared the incident to another Ohio shooting.

"This is like Cleveland all over again, with the 137 shots fired at Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams," Turner recalled. "Jayland's family is urging protestors to remain peaceful. Something has to change."

In November 2012, more than 60 Cleveland Police officers pursued a vehicle driven by Russell and Williams, whom authorities claimed had fired on them – it turned out their car simply suffered a backfire.

The 23-mile chase ended when officers surrounded the vehicle and opened fire, killing the unarmed African American couple in the middle school parking lot.

A jury later acquitted two officers charged with manslaughter. Eventually, six Cleveland officers were fired for their actions.

Walker's family said they are wary of their deceased loved one becoming demonized.

"They want to make him a masked monster," DiCello stated. "I'm glad the police chief made one thing clear – he was unarmed."

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Sworn-in as First Black Woman on U.S. Supreme Court

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson officially joined the U.S. Supreme Court, marking a historic first for an African American woman.

After receiving the required two oaths – Chief Justice John Roberts administered the constitutional oath, and outgoing Justice Stephen Breyer, provided the judicial oath – Jackson joined a court in turmoil.

Protests have erupted with the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade, and other controversial decisions



by the high court, including expanded gun rights at a time where the nation has witnessed nearly a deadly mass shooting each day.

Judge Jackson's ascent to the bench still provides hope, she remarked.

"It took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States," Jackson asserted earlier.

"It is an honor of a lifetime to have this chance to join the court, to promote the rule of law at the

highest level, and to do my part to carry out shared project of democracy and equal justice under law forward, into the future."

The court's new term begins in September and Jackson immediately will help decide momentous opinions like the federal government's jurisdiction over wetlands; an Alabama voter suppression law, and affirmative action cases that challenge admission policies at the University of North Carolina and Harvard.

Jackson has stated she'll recuse herself from the Harvard case because she served on the school's board of overseers.

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