

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Agatha Randolph Jones



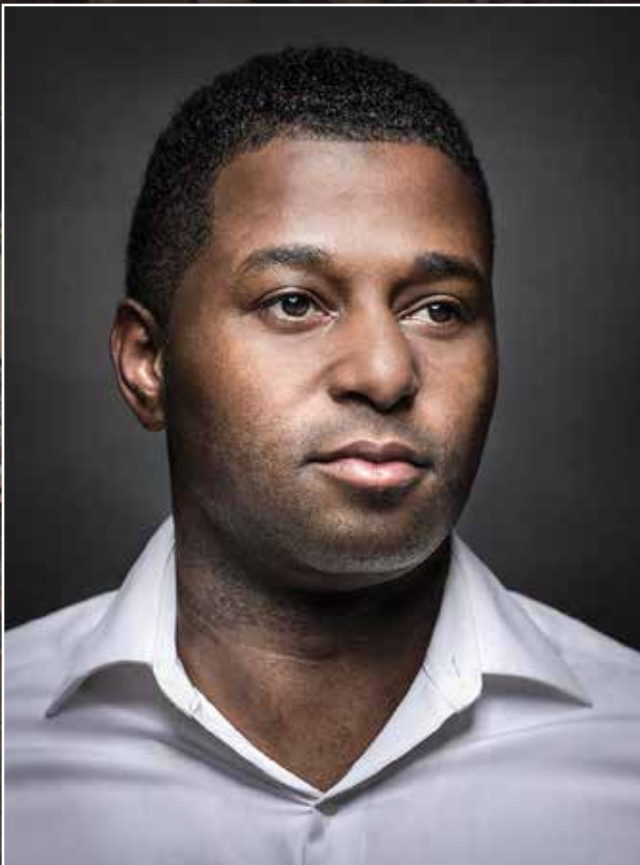
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Black to Business



Pain But Rarely Gain For Black Owned Businesses

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Black to Business

Pain But Rarely Gain For Black Owned Businesses



Above: Black-owned businesses have faced challenges once they reach a certain level of success. An example of this was Metro Services Group, who lost a lucrative city contract, but in spite of this continues to be a leading Black-owned business in New Orleans.

At Left: "I've been told 'no' so much that I've come to expect it," says Otis Tucker, owner of T.I. Contracting, of his struggles with securing loans. Boasting an 820% growth rate, Tucker's company was just ranked one of the fastest-growing private companies in America.

Otis Tucker Think504.com

As a great-grandson and grandson of an entrepreneurial family, I studied the history of Black Businesses in this city. I looked at the rise and fall (and mostly fall) of Black businesses in New Orleans.

I believe it is very important that we know how Black Entrepreneurship has gone in similar fashion for many. Hopefully, the pitfalls and potholes of the past can be learned from and then avoided. Hopefully, the hardships and failures become fewer.

Pain But No Gain

What happened to our iconic Black-owned New Orleans based businesses? What happened to Mercadel and Slaughter and James and Hewitt and Washington? And whatever happened to Keeler and Hamps and Metro and Richard's? Why did some go away? Just

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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vanished!!

And why did others just get knocked out politically and replaced? How did a few grow to prominence in one era but cease to exist in another? Black businesses make our communities stronger and safer. Black businesses hire Black people and pay them more than other businesses. Our city is stronger when Black businesses are strong. Yet we see no studies about sustaining local Black businesses are conducted. No study exists about why these businesses shrunk and or died. Forget about potential solutions like increased funding or contractual preferences. Maybe it's just race, politics, colorism or class? Or maybe it's just us?

As a young businessman and entrepreneur, this has bothered me for quite some time now. Can a Black Business be too big to fail? Can a Black business be too important to the city and its culture to be penalized for the wrong political decisions? Or can a Black Entrepreneur be insulated, supported, and protected because they have the right relationships and are good at what they do? Can our examples



Richard Disposal is one of the long-standing waste management companies in the City of New Orleans receiving a debris collection contract after Hurricane Katrina, that's been recently renewed. While they have also struggled and fought to retain their contract, many more Black-owned businesses have struggled or gone out of business in post-Katrina New Orleans.

for Black excellence and Black proprietorship be off-limits? I don't know...

The businessperson must always be on the right side politically. And they must have someone advocating in the White business community, or you can be a target because of your success. Sadly, many times the people shooting at the target

(ie., the Black business and business owner) will too often be people politically who look like you or political brokers who want a piece of your success. Other times, the shooter is the dominant business community because they see you stepping outside of the boundaries they set for your success.

Will these less than favorable

outcomes for Black-owned businesses ever change? When should we demand change?

Consequently, what policy changes or community efforts will it take to protect Black-owned business advancements now that Affirmative Action protections are abolished/overturned by the Supreme

Court? What changes will come to DBE and other minority programming? Can we survive?

Moreover, and equally important, will we ever thrive and collectively reach our full potential in the great City of New Orleans? To be candid, your guess is as good as mine!

By the Numbers

95% of Black-owned businesses have no paid employees

59.74% of New Orleans' population is Black

2% of New Orleans sales receipts go to Black-owned businesses, even though they make up 36% of the city's businesses.

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FIRST OF THE SEASON!

In Rememberence of Agatha Randolph Jones *Matriarch of Data News Weekly*

The Jones Family Data News Weekly Contributors

Agatha Randolph Jones, aged 99, of New Orleans, on March 26, 2024, went home to be with the Lord, after living a life rich with purpose, passion, impact, and a commitment to serving others.

She was the third child born to Edna Delandro and Allison Bernard Randolph Sr. on July 20, 1924. Early in life, Agatha developed a love for sports, fashion, and caring for her siblings. A graduate of Xavier University, she pledged Delta Sigma Theta sorority and dreamed of a career in interior decorating. After briefly living and working in New York, she determined it was not for her after a year of teaching there and returned to New Orleans. Where she spent her professional life dedicated to teaching and inspiring young minds. She had a long and purposeful teaching career in the Catholic school system and later worked at several Orleans Public Schools before retiring in 1980 from Pierre A. Capdau.

Agatha married Joseph Madison "Scoop" Jones in 1948. The couple had three children: Toya, Terry, and Kim Maria. She took great pride and joy in maintaining a beautiful peaceful home. She and Joseph happily welcomed siblings, in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends to enjoy what she had created. All who visited left with lasting memories of her hospitality and loving nature. She was also known for an open-door policy, providing a listening ear and watchful eye on her children's neighborhood friends

Teaching home economics greatly influenced her personal life as she was an avid homemaker, gardener, cook, and seamstress. There were rarely any household tasks that she did not plan and complete while her husband traveled as a salesman for Seagram Distillers. She loved decorating and designing wardrobes for herself and her children. Her grandsons were lucky recipients of tailored coats with matching caps, sailor suits, and more.

She was instrumental in the creation of Data News Weekly's Newspaper founded in 1966 with her husband



Agatha Randolph Jones



Mrs. Jones, Kim Jones Brown and Terry Jones.



Toya Jones Hayes, Terry Jones, Kim Jones Brown, seated Mrs. Agatha Jones.



Joseph Madison Jones, Data Founder and wife, Agatha Jones.



Nephews, Keith Brown, Justin and Seth Brown.



Gabriel, Terry, Glenn, and Mrs. Jones.



Scoop Jones and wife, Agatha.

"Scoop Jones" and later led by her son Terry Jones, who continues to stay true to their mission of being "The People's Paper" serving the community for almost 60 years. She followed its prog-

ress throughout the years. She was an advocate for Data News Weekly and our community until recently.

A celebration of her life will be held on April 20th, 2024, at St. Maria Goretti

Catholic Church, 7300 Crowder Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70127, where loved ones will gather to share stories and honor her memory and legacy., "May She Rest In Peace."

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

French Quarter Fest 2024

Demian Roberts
Photographer

French Quarter Fest 2024 was a great success. People from all over came out to this amazing celebration. This event is becoming the go-to festival for locals and tourists. For it showcases the city's food, music, and culture and is accessible to all. People from all walks of life came out to enjoy the four-day fest, and Data News Weekly was there!!!



Erica Falls



George Porter



James Andrews



Jenifer Jones



John Boutte



Lawrence Cotton



Quiana Lynel

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

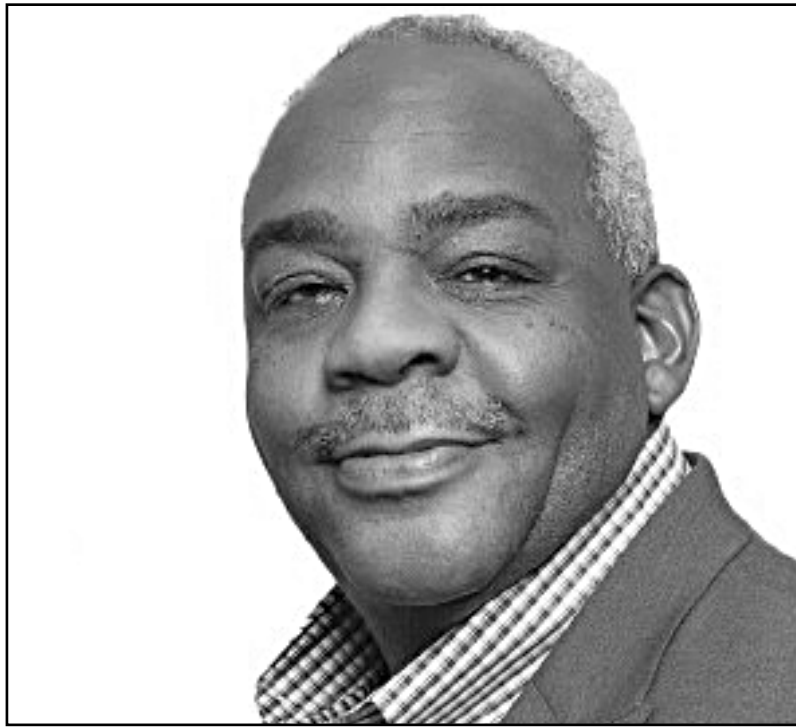
David C. Buggage Appointed to ICBA Consumer Financial Services Subcommittee and the Minority Bank Advisory Council

New Orleans Agenda

Louisiana Banker to advocate on behalf of the nation's community banks

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) recently announced that David C. Buggage, Senior Consumer Lender and Partnership Officer of Liberty Bank and Trust Co. was elected to serve on ICBA's Consumer Financial Services Subcommittee and on the Minority Bank Advisory Council. ICBA is the nation's voice for community banks and is committed to its founding mission to create and promote an environment where community banks flourish.

"Community Banks, as relationship lenders, prioritize the needs of their customers and serve as trusted stewards of their financial



David C. Buggage

future," said Buggage. "I'm proud to be a community banker and honored to be called upon to help ICBA safeguard our industry by underscoring the vital role Community Banks serve in our nation's economy and working to ensure a strong diversified financial sector that benefits every American."

"David is an esteemed civic leader and dedicated community banker, generously contributing his time to champion and advance the crucial role of Community Banks within our financial system," said ICBA Chairman Lucas White, President of the Fountain Trust Co. in Covington, Ind. "We are honored to leverage David's talents and resources in support of ICBA's efforts, and we extend our sincere gratitude for his unwavering commitment to securing a vibrant future for community banking."

State & Local News

New Orleans Mass Shooting Leaves 1 Dead 11 Wounded

Leaders Searching for Answers for Senseless Violence

Data News Staff Edited Report

A woman is dead and 11 others wounded after a mass shooting Sunday night at a nightclub in the Warehouse District of New Orleans.

The shooting left one person dead and happened before 12 a.m. local time at a New Orleans nightclub called Republic NOLA, according to authorities. The victim was found face down on the sidewalk outside the club.

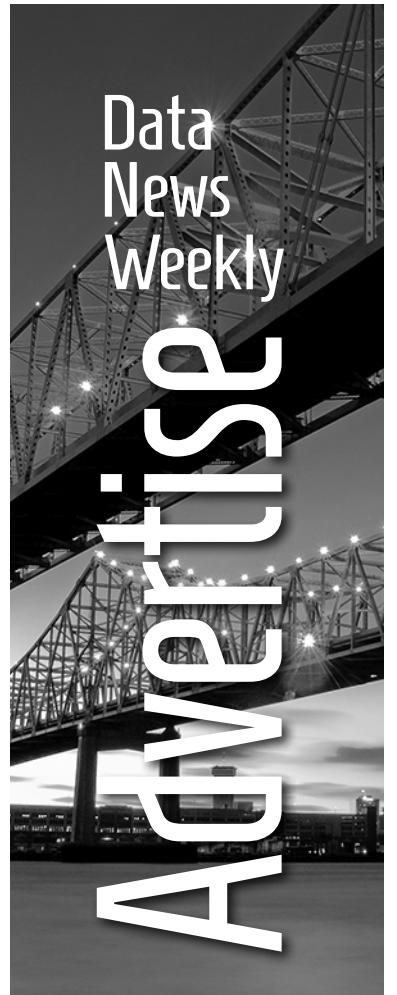
Council President Helena Moreno has issued the following statement in response to last night's mass shooting in downtown New Orleans:

"Last night's mass shooting is incredibly tragic, and I have grave



Mayor LaToya Cantrell along with other City leaders are outraged at the recent mass shooting that took place in New Orleans and plan to use the resources they have to bring the person responsible to justice. Collectively, they say they are committed to making the city safe for everyone.

concern that we may see situations like this increase when the state's concealed carry law goes into effect. This law will make it even more difficult for NOPD to take guns off our streets in New Orleans and prevent shootings. I hope that legislation by Rep. Alonzo Knox (D) or Sen. Kirk Talbot (R) is approved so at least New Orleans will have some carve-out protections to ensure firearm enforcement in high-traffic areas. These two legislators demonstrate that there is bipartisan support for common-sense regulations. The victims of this shooting are in my prayers, and I have been in contact with Chief Kirkpatrick to ensure the perpetrator is swiftly arrested."



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Baseball Hall of Fame to Honor Hank Aaron with Statue Unveiling; U.S. Postal Service to Issue Commemorative Stamp



1982 after a 23-year career with the Braves and Brewers, Aaron's legacy extends far beyond his monumental 715th career home run, which surpassed Babe Ruth's record on April 8, 1974. A 25-time All-Star, Aaron still holds records for the most career RBIs and total bases.

Just how good was Aaron? Even if all his 755 career home runs were removed from the record books, he would still boast over 3,000 hits. The slugger, who died in 2021, made the All-Star team 25 times, established a record with 2,297 RBIs, 1,477 extra-base hits, and 6,856 total bases.

The U.S. Postal Service announced that it will issue a commemorative Forever stamp to celebrate Aaron's life and career further. The stamp art will feature a digital painting of Aaron as a member of the Braves, with the selva showcasing him watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974.

USPS said in a statement, "The selva showcases a digital painting of Aaron watching the ball he had just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974."

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In conjunction with the opening events for the new exhibit, "More Than Brave: The Life of Henry Aaron," at the Atlanta History Center, Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board

Jane Forbes Clark announced plans to unveil a bronze statue of Aaron at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown on May 23. The statue honors Aaron's remarkable contributions both on and off the field.

"Hank Aaron's impact transcended the game of baseball," Clark stat-

ed. "His philanthropy, advocacy for youth empowerment, and trailblazing achievements as an executive have left an indelible mark on society. We are privileged to safeguard his legacy and are honored to unveil this statue as a lasting tribute to an American hero."

Elected to the Hall of Fame in

Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.
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- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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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 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.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

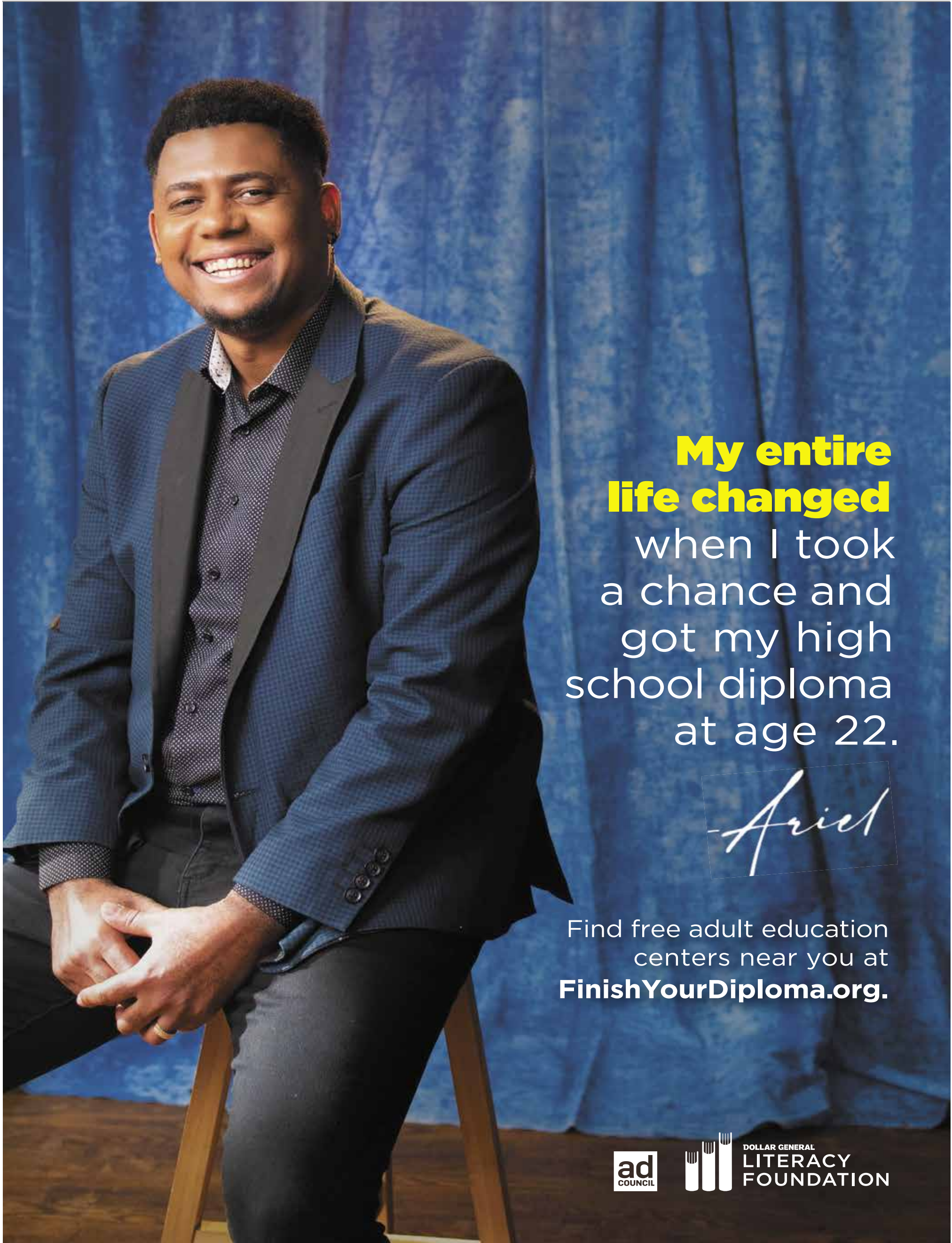
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