



# PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS CONTENTIOUS EXECUTIVE ORDER

*Order Addresses Evictions, Unemployment Insurance, Student Loans & Payroll Taxes*

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# BIDEN PICKS RUNNING MATE



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VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 28 \* AUGUST 13, 2020 - AUGUST 19, 2020

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## NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MAKES NEWSWEEK WORLD’S BEST HOSPITAL LIST FOR SECOND STRAIGHT TIME

*Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Also Recognized as a “Best Maternity Care Hospital”*



Aug. 6, 2020 - Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, has been designated as one of the World’s Best Hospitals - USA by *Newsweek*. This is the second-consecutive recognition for Newark Beth Israel. (Continued on page 7)

## INTERVIEW WITH ASSEMBLYWOMAN BRITNEE TIMBERLAKE



**Dhiren Shah:** Welcome to this interview Ms. Timberlake. What is the most important issue due to the Coronavirus Pandemic in your opinion?

**Britnee Timberlake:** Aside from making sure people stay alive and keeping the curve flat, housing is the most important issue during and after coronavirus. I have sponsored a bill known as the “People’s Bill” that will help COVID-19 economically impacted homeowners, renters, and landlords have a fair chance to keep a roof over their

(Continued on page 8)



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**PAGE 16**



**Editorial**

Dhiren Shah  
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The big news on August 11 was Joe Biden picking Kamala Harris, a senator from California, as his running mate. Biden worked with Barack Obama for 8 years as Vice President. So, obviously he knows the work involved in the vice president role. I think the vice president takes away some of the burden on the president and protects him/her against some negative news. Kamala Harris might be the best candidate to protect Joe Biden from any bad elements. She is the best for coming down hard on any political attacks against Biden. Being a lawyer, and once the top legal authority in California, she knows how to defend. Harris can be tough on or work with other politicians with her affluent language control.

However, Joe Biden needs to win six battleground states and six close contest states. The battleground states are: Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Also, some very key states that Trump won in the last election are: Ohio, Texas, and Minnesota. Kamala Harris represents the state of California, which is mostly a Democratic state. Biden does not need support in the state of California, as he will win it anyway. In all of the states I talked about earlier, Harris does not have any weight or influence.

Also, Harris has some baggage as San Francisco district attorney and attorney general of California. She has always taken the side of police over suspects. She has been accused of being tough on small criminals over hardcore criminals. Most of all, she is a charismatic woman and rather than becoming Biden's vice president, she can overshadow him on any given issue.

She is a Black woman with Jamaican and Indian heritage. However, she is not so popular

amongst black people, Jamaicans and Indians as well. Biden can claim her as a black woman, but she does not have the full support of black people as a group. Harris can help Biden in the election, as he is not coming out in the public yet and is taking only pre-picked questions.

New York Attorney General Letitia James files a lawsuit against the National Rifle Association (NRA) on August 6, 2020. She claims that she found misconduct of millions of dollars which lead to a loss of 64 million dollars in the last three years. She claimed that NRA executives used charitable funds for personal gain. She filed suit to close down the non-profit organization. Some elected officials from the state of Texas invited them to move their headquarters to Texas. The NRA, a strong, powerful organization, will contest the lawsuit and it will likely go to the Supreme Court in my opinion. This seems like a political move by AG James.

Every year, schools usually open after Labor Day. Last year, Labor Day was on September 2,

and schools opened immediately. This year, it will be different. The coronavirus has changed our collective way of life. This year, Labor Day is on September 7. Governor Phil Murphy originally announced that it was up to school boards to decide whether they wanted to open in-person classes or work remotely via the internet. Many problems will arise. When parents have to go to work, can their kids stay home alone? With in-person schooling, they will have to be very careful about social distancing, as kids don't think about that during normal of life. Face masks will be a must for students.

Murphy has not announced the opening of indoor dining and gyms but will announce in the near future that those can open with certain restrictions. According to Murphy, public health comes before economic health. I agree with the governor.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HI 85 LO 72	HI 84 LO 70	HI 82 LO 67	HI 80 LO 68	HI 83 LO 70	HI 83 LO 67	HI 84 LO 69

# PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS CONTENTIOUS EXECUTIVE ORDER

*Order Addresses Evictions,  
Unemployment  
Insurance, Student Loans  
& Payroll Taxes*

After Democrats and Republicans could not come to terms on COVID-19 stimulus legislation, President Trump decided to take matters into his own hands.

On Aug. 8, Trump signed an executive order in Bedminster, NJ, which focused on four aspects: Placing a memorandum on student loan payments and interest, halting evictions for those in federally supported housing, deferring payroll tax obligations for the rest of 2020, and extending payments at \$400 per week to those who are unemployed - with state obligated to cover \$100 of that amount.


The last item has been the most contentious, as payments of \$600 stopped at the end of July. Democrats wanted to keep the payouts at \$600, but Republicans wanted to cap it at \$200, as many people on unemployment were making more money not working than at their previous jobs - thus curtailing any persuasion to look for work.

While a few have applauded the President for taking actions while the GOP and Democrats remain at an impasse, other have questioned the legality and practicality of the Executive Order.

Legally, experts are investigating if the President can act on taxes, as Congress is the only federal outlets that can lay and collect taxation. Also, action on payroll taxes have a direct affect on social security and Medicare, as those are funded by the aforementioned taxes.

In terms of practical effect, a deferment on the payroll tax simply means that you can pay it later - but you still have to pay it. Meanwhile, those on unemployment are not paying their end of taxes.

One of those coming hard at Trump over the orders was Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who said in a statement said: "Yesterday's (Aug. 8) executive orders can be summed up in three




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words: unworkable, weak and narrow," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. "Among several deficiencies, these orders totally leave out money for our schools to reopen safely, money for state and local governments that's needed to fight fires, pick up the garbage or employ teachers. Even more worrisome, the president's actions exclude COVID-19 testing, tracing and treatment, which is at the heart of solving the pandemic crisis in the first place. That is why I am calling on President Trump and the GOP to meet democrats in the middle - like we have done in the prior bills - and come up with an agreement that will actually help us get through this crisis."

"The biggest problem with the Executive Orders is not what they do, but what they don't do," added Schumer. Amongst several gaping holes, Schumer explained:

- The orders leave out testing, tracing and treatment of COVID-19.
- The orders leave out money to safely reopen our schools and provide the PPE needed to keep kids, teachers and staff safe.
- The orders leave out help for state and local governments: firefighters, sanitation workers, bus drivers, health care workers, all the people who keep our local governments running could lose their jobs.
- The orders leave out funds to carry out the census, and ensure elections can be carried out safely amid COVID-19.

- The orders leave out funds to keep our local post offices open and operable, a particular concern for rural America.
- The orders leave out funds for food assistance, which jeopardizes kids and families.

Schumer also warned, the actions taken by the orders would jeopardize social security.

"The president did not 'cancel' payroll taxes and this will actually hurt businesses, workers and end up weakening Social Security and Medicare because most employers will continue to withhold the payroll tax so they and their employees won't be hit with a huge tax bill in December when it expires. I warn seniors and people who have paid into Social Security and Medicare - watch out! What is being sold here would deplete the trust funds and destroy Social Security and Medicare as we know it," Schumer added.

On the issue of schools, Schumer explained that the massive costs of PPE, barriers, cleaning supplies, remote internet access, transportation and more for students and teachers are prohibitive to reopening plans. In order to meet this fiscal need, Schumer said the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA), crafted alongside U.S. Senator Patty Murray, includes \$175 billion in much-needed assistance for K-12 schools and must be part of any plan to tackle the virus.



## UNITED STATES

### ***NRA in the Crosshairs***

On Aug. 6, New York Attorney General Letitia “Tish” James filed a lawsuit seeking to dissolve the National Rifle Association (NRA), the largest and most influential pro-gun organization in the nation. Attorney General James charges the organization with illegal conduct because of their diversion of millions of dollars away from the charitable mission of the organization for personal use by senior leadership, awarding contracts to the financial gain of close associates and family, and appearing to dole out lucrative no-show contracts to former employees in order to buy their silence and continued loyalty.

The suit specifically charges the NRA as a whole, as well as Executive Vice-President Wayne LaPierre, former Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Wilson “Woody” Phillips, former Chief of Staff and the Executive Director of General Operations Joshua Powell, and Corporate Secretary and General Counsel John Frazer with failing to manage the NRA’s funds and failing to follow numerous state and federal laws, contributing to the loss of more than \$64 million in just three years for the NRA.

In the complaint, Attorney General James lays out dozens of examples where the four individual defendants failed to fulfill their fiduciary duty to the NRA and used millions upon millions from NRA reserves for personal use, including trips for them and their families to the Bahamas, private jets, expensive meals, and other private travel. In addition to shuttering the NRA’s doors, Attorney General James seeks to recoup millions in lost assets and to stop the four individual defendants from serving on the board of any not-for-profit charitable organization in the state of New York again.

“The NRA’s influence has been so powerful that the organi-

zation went unchecked for decades while top executives funneled millions into their own pockets,” said Attorney General James. “The NRA is fraught with fraud and abuse, which is why, today, we seek to dissolve the NRA, because no organization is above the law.”

Since 1871, the NRA has operated as a New York-registered 501(c)(4) not-for-profit, charitable corporation. Under NY state law not-for-profit, charitable corporations are required to register and file annual financial reports with the Charities Bureau in the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The assets are required to be used in a way that serves the interests of NRA membership and that advance the organization’s charitable mission. However, as the complaint lays out, the NRA is alleged to have fostered a culture of noncompliance and disregard for internal controls that led to the waste and loss of millions in assets and contributed to the NRA reaching its current deteriorated financial state.

Upon hearing the news while speaking with the media, President Trump replied, “That’s a very terrible thing that just happened. I think the NRA should move to Texas and lead a very good and beautiful life.”

## ASIA

### ***“TikTok On The Clock...”***

Remember that old Kesha song “Tik Tok” ... - well, it has become literal for one company.

On Aug. 6, President Donald Trump signed an order requiring the social media company to be sold within 45 days. The reason - its Chinese ownership status. It has been alleged that the company is a security risk due to questionable Chinese governmental practices, and the Trump Administration is seeking to end that risk.

Here now is the Order: “By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and section 301 of

title 3, United States Code,

“I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, find that additional steps must be taken to deal with the national emergency with respect to the information and communications technology and services supply chain declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019 (Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain). Specifically, the spread in the United States of mobile applications developed and owned by companies in the People’s Republic of China (China) continues to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. At this time, action must be taken to address the threat posed by one mobile application in particular, TikTok.

“TikTok, a video-sharing mobile application owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Ltd., has reportedly been downloaded over 175 million times in the United States and over one billion times globally. TikTok automatically captures vast swaths of information from its users, including Internet and other network activity information such as location data and browsing and search histories. This data collection threatens to allow the Chinese Communist Party access to Americans’ personal and proprietary information - potentially allowing China to track the locations of Federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage.

“TikTok also reportedly censors content that the Chinese Communist Party deems politically sensitive, such as content concerning protests in Hong Kong and China’s treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. This mobile application may also be used for disinformation campaigns that benefit the Chinese Communist Party, such as when TikTok videos spread debunked conspiracy theories about the origins of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

These risks are real. The Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, and the United States Armed Forces have already banned the use of TikTok on

Federal Government phones. The Government of India recently banned the use of TikTok and other Chinese mobile applications throughout the country; in a statement, India’s Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology asserted that they were ‘stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users’ data in an unauthorized manner to servers which have locations outside India.’ American companies and organizations have begun banning TikTok on their devices. The United States must take aggressive action against the owners of TikTok to protect our national security.”

## MIDDLE EAST

### ***Beirut Support Effort Continues***

The United Nations has said that it is “actively assisting” in the response to the horrific explosions that ripped through the port area of Beirut on Aug. 4, reportedly leaving dozens dead and thousands wounded, among them some UN naval peacekeepers.

The World Food Program (WFP) is racing to prevent food shortages in Lebanon as the country continues to reel from the triple shock of the devastating blast in Beirut, economic meltdown and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking in the capital on Aug. 12, agency chief David Beasley announced that WFP will deliver 17,500 metric tons of wheat flour and a three-month supply of wheat to help replenish food reserves.

The first wheat flour shipment is expected to arrive within the next 10 days.

“It is hard to comprehend the sheer scale of the destruction caused by the explosion until you have seen it for yourself. I am heartbroken,” Mr. Beasley said after spending three days in Lebanon.

“Today, because of the port explosion, thousands of people have been left homeless and hungry. WFP is racing to provide help for the most vulnerable and to prevent food shortages across the country.”

*(Continued on page 5)*

**WORLD NEWS FLASH**

*(Continued from page 4)*

While in Lebanon, Mr. Beasley visited the Ports of Beirut and Tripoli, witnessing food distributions and the provision of food in communal kitchens run by WFP's partner, Catholic relief network Caritas.

He also visited injured WFP staff in the hospital and met with President Michel Aoun and top government officials where he stressed the agency's operational autonomy and neutrality.

The WFP assistance is part of a rapid logistics operation that will also involve setting up warehouses and mobile grain storage units.

Lebanon imports nearly 85 percent of its food and Beirut Port was essential for trade coming into the country.

WFP will also bring in equipment to render the port operational enough so that wheat and other bulk grains can be imported, while a third plane will carry generators and mobile storage units as an immediate solution.

"After examining the port we feel confident that we can establish an emergency operation very soon," said Mr. Beasley. "There's no time to waste as we are looking at a catastrophe in the making if we do not get food in and get this part of the port operational again."

With one million people in Lebanon currently living below the poverty line, according to World Bank data, WFP is also helping families affected by the economic crisis and COVID-19 lockdown measures.

The UN agency has procured 150,000 food parcels for households. Since the Beirut explosion, it has distributed parcels to two local communal kitchens that are providing meals to victims and volunteers.

WFP also will scale-up its cash assistance program, which currently serves more than 100,000 people. The aim is to reach one million across the country, including Beirut residents directly affected by the explosion.

Overall, WFP will require \$235 million to cover this emergency assistance, as well as logistics and supply chain support.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), which supports reproductive and maternal health worldwide, is ramping up efforts to support an estimated 129,000 women and girls displaced by the Beirut explosion, including roughly 4,000 expectant mothers.

As many maternity wards and primary healthcare facilities were damaged or otherwise impacted by the blast, the agency is working to ensure pregnant women can continue to receive ante-natal care and delivery services.

UNFPA has appealed for \$19.6 million to provide urgently needed services in areas such as sexual and reproductive health, obstetrics, family planning, and ante-natal and postnatal care. The UN agency is also procuring medical equipment, medicines and supplies for maternity departments and health facilities, among other action.

UNFPA also wants women and girls to be able to access quality services to address gender-based violence (GBV).

As a result of the crisis, the agency anticipates increasing risk of GBV and sexual exploitation due to displacement, economic hardship and the establishment of temporary shelters.

**EUROPE**

**COVID-19 Research Gets Funding**

The European Commission has set aside €128 million (euros) to support 23 new research projects in response to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. The funding under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation program, is part of the Commission's €1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative, launched by President Ursula von der Leyen in May 2020.

The 23 projects shortlisted for funding involve 347 research teams from 40 countries, including 34 participants from 16 countries outside of the EU. The funding will enable researchers to address the pandemic and its consequences by strengthening the industrial capacity to manufacture and deploy readily available solutions,



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develop medical technologies and digital tools, improve understanding of behavioral and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, and to learn from large groups of patients (cohorts) across Europe. These research actions complement earlier efforts to develop diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: "Emergency funding from Horizon 2020 will enable researchers to rapidly develop solutions with and for patients, care workers, hospitals, local communities and companies. The results will help them to better cope with and survive coronavirus infections. It's encouraging to see the research community mobilize so rapidly and strongly."

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, added: "The excellent response to this call shows the wealth of new ideas to tackle coronavirus, including new digital health solutions. Digital solutions and technologies enabled us to stay connected and interact with each other during the confinement. They will also be an essential part of the long-term response to this virus and to increasing our resilience."

The Commission is currently negotiating grant agreements with the selected beneficiaries. The new projects will cover:

- Repurposing manufacturing for rapid production of vital medical supplies and equipment needed for testing, treatment and prevention – for instance using injection molding and additive manufacturing (3-D printing),

adaptive production and supply chain methods, and repurposing manufacturing as a service network for fast reaction.

- Developing medical technologies and digital tools to improve detection, surveillance and patients' care – for example through the development of new devices for faster, cheaper and easier diagnosis (including remotely) plus new technologies to protect healthcare workers.
- Analyzing behavioral and socio-economic impacts of the responses of government and public health systems, for instance on mental health, including gender-specific aspects in risk factors and the socioeconomic burden, to develop inclusive guidance for policymakers and health authorities and enhance preparedness for future similar events.
- Learning from large groups of patients (cohorts) by connecting existing cohorts in the EU and beyond to assess their exposure to certain risk factors to better understand the possible causes of disease in order to improve responsiveness to the virus and future public health threats.
- Enhancing collaboration of existing EU and international cohorts by networking research institutions that are collecting data on patient care to enable studies into patient's characteristics, risk factors, safety and effectiveness of treatments and potential strategies against coronavirus.

# TOWN WATCH

**DISCLAIMER:** *The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*

**NEWARK** - Both the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the Newark Police Division have said little of the man found dead in a public school here Aug. 7 outside of stating that no foul play was involved.

Emergency responders told Newark detectives, the ECPO Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force members and the New Jersey Regional Medical Examiner that they were allowed into 142 Mt. Vernon Place at about 3:50 p.m. Friday. The Mt. Vernon School there had been closed to students since March and instructional staff this summer.

They said they had indeed found "an unconscious and unresponsive man" in the building as per the emergency call. The man, believed to be in his 60s, was later declared dead at the scene.

Responders said that they "believe that the man had a massive heart attack" while at work on the property. The deceased has been called "a laborer" in reports - although it is not clear whether he was a Newark Public Schools employee or was working for an NPS vendor or contractor.

Although the county task force was called into the Ivy Hill section elementary school as a standard operating procedure, ECPO has not announced that it is conducting an investigation. Responders added that the man's dead was not COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus-related.

**IRVINGTON** - A township man, said Newark police, is wanted for a string of vehicle-related thefts done in a critical area of their city.

Newark Public Safety Direc-

tor Anthony Ambrose said Aug. 11 that Rashon Hayes, 29, of Irvington, is wanted for questioning. They want to know what Hayes knows of items taken from several vehicles parked at the Ivy Hill Apartments July 15 - Aug. 9.

Ambrose did not say why or how Hayes may be linked to those thefts. He did not say whether the burglaries were done on vehicles parked in the apartment complex's lot or along its side streets.

The Ivy Hill Apartments, at 200 Mt. Vernon Place, borders Maplewood and South Orange and is within walking distance of Irvington and East Orange.

**EAST ORANGE** - City police detectives are investigating the circumstances of a man opening fire on at least two or up to four people here near the Newark border Aug. 8.

EOPD officers responded to gunfire reports from a block of Steuben Street at 10:30 p.m. Saturday. They promptly taped off the block and soon found "a female victim suffering a non-life threatening gunshot injury" and a "male struck by a bullet."

Residents told police that a man had arrived minutes before and "fired multiple shots in the direction of several people." They said the male victim was shielding the female during the shooting.

Neighbors added that there may have been two more people hit by bullets before the suspect left. The two injured people were taken to a local hospital for treatment and release.

The Steuben Street shooting is so far not connected to an Aug. 9 shooting at 59 Ampere Pkwy. that left a man severely injured. Witnesses said that "a light colored four-door car" had stopped there at 11:30 p.m. Sunday so that its passenger could shoot the unidentified man.

**ORANGE** - A makeshift shrine for James B. Allen, Jr. has been set up a corner of the East Orange intersection where the city bicyclist was struck and killed July 29.

The shrine, marked by white and blue candles, was set on a lot off the southeast corner of Freeway Drive East and Evergreen

Place. The lot, used for local office building parking, is near the crosswalk where Allen and his bicycle were found by police 2:30 p.m. that Wednesday.

ECPO and east Orange police detectives said that at least two vehicles had struck Allen, with one remaining at the scene.

Allen's funeral services have not yet been announced as of presstime. The county continues its investigation.

**SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - The Maplewood-South Orange Youth Coalition's Aug. 9 painting of its "Black Lives Matter" street mural here along the latter's Springfield Avenue may have to wait awhile.

MAPSO YC, given its reason for putting off Sunday's painting, may be waiting into Autumn. The group, on its Facebook page Saturday, cited "an uptick in COVID-19 cases" for postponing to a yet-to-be-announced date. Sunday afternoon, as it turned out, was punctuated by a strong wind and rainstorm.

South Orange and Maplewood already have an on-street BLM mural - and perhaps the only one in the country painted by a municipal border - since July 2.

The Maplewood Township Committee had its DWP workers paint "BLACK LIVES MATTER" along Valley Road between Parker Road and Hixon Place, by the South Orange border. The yellow capital letters face Columbia High School, which is shared by both municipalities.

It is presumed that the Essex County DPW Division of Roads and Bridges had granted Maplewood permission for the street painting like it had for one - fronting the county's Hall of Records - along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Newark.

Where the lettering was painted were on parts of Valley and King are also county-owned roads.

Newark, for the record, also has a similar BLM mural along its Halsey Street south of Central Avenue.

**MONTCLAIR / WEST ORANGE** - DeCamp Bus Line riders here and in seven other

"Local Talk" towns, since Aug. 7, find themselves taking alternate transportation modes for the second time in five months.

Some of the around 400 average daily rush hour riders from the four bus routes that DeCamp revived June 8 may be taking Community Coach 77 line at the Essex County Codey Recreation Complex. Community Coach 77 parent, CoachUSA, said on Aug. 6 it will honor DeCamp tickets Aug. 10-31.

NJTransit is also cross-honoring DeCamp tickets on bus routes that either go directly into New York City or on a combination of local buses that feed its Montclair-Boonton or Morris & Essex commuter rail lines. Its buses include the No. 191, 192, 705, 72, 29, 28, 21 and 13 routes that serve parts of Upper Montclair, Bloomfield Avenue, Main Street/King Boulevard or Washington Avenue/Broadway.

Jonathan DeCamp, from his Greenwood Avenue garage office Aug. 5, declared that all service would be indefinitely suspended as of Midnight Aug. 7. That suspension includes its casino and charter bus service plus the layoff of all 160 personnel except the human resources officer and an accountant.

DeCamp, Aug. 5, cited continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for putting the 150-year-old family company into an induced coma. The company CEO told several reporters that the 6,616 average pre-pandemic daily riders had dwindled to around 400.

DeCamp said that he had hoped more NYC offices would reopen, drawing more riders aboard, for resuming June 8. Although the company stretched its seven weeks of Federal CARES Act Payroll Protection Program funds to 16 weeks, it could not meet expenses with 400 riders.

What bothers riders and local officials is that the Aug. 7 suspension is more indefinite than DeCamp's March 24 shutdown. DeCamp said that he will see whether more offices will open and more riders will come aboard "in September." He is also urging riders to urge Congressional passage of the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act,

(Continued on page 15)



Photos Courtesy RWDSU

**NEWARK BETH ISRAEL**

(Continued from page 1)

Newark Beth Israel ranked among the top 250 U.S. hospitals and is one of only five New Jersey hospitals on this prestigious list, which also includes The Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins and Massachusetts General.

“It is truly an honor to receive this designation for a second time. Newark Beth Israel remains committed to delivering world class, high quality, safe care and an excellent experience to all of our patients and their families,” said Darrell K. Terry, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of New Jersey.

“The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has made clear, among other lessons, that having first-rate frontline care can be a matter of life or death. It has never been more crucial to know where to turn for health care for yourself or a loved one when confronted with a health crisis or a frightening diagnosis,” said Nancy Cooper, Global Editor in Chief of *Newsweek*.

In addition to this recognition, the facility has also been named a Best Maternity Care Hospital by *Newsweek*.

“We deliver approximately 3,000 babies at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center every

year and the health and safety of those newborns and their mothers are our top priority. It is an honor to receive this national designation for providing high quality, safe care and an excellent experience to our expecting families, said Terry.

Newark Beth Israel is one of 231 hospitals across the country that demonstrated excellence in maternity care, including nine New Jersey hospitals.

The distinction recognizes facilities that have excelled in providing care to mothers, newborns and their families, as verified by the 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Best Maternity Care Hospitals is part of *Newsweek’s* Best Health Care series, powered by data from The Leapfrog Group.

Hospitals named as Best Maternity Care Hospitals have fully met The Leapfrog Group’s standards for maternity care on evidence-based, nationally standardized metrics. This includes lower rates of early elective delivery, NTSV C-section, and episiotomy, as well as compliance with process measures including newborn bilirubin screening prior to discharge and blood clot prevention techniques for mothers delivering via C-section.

“Safety is at the core of everything we do to guide our expecting parents through a healthy pregnancy and a re-

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warding labor and delivery experience,” said Khalid Sawaged, DO, FACOG, Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. “Just as Newark Beth Israel continues to meet and or exceed national safety and quality metrics, we have built a program that does better than benchmark in key maternity quality measures.”

*Newsweek* created the World’s Best Hospital listings in partnership with Statista Inc., a respected data-research firm. Their researchers and experts assessed public data, surveyed medical professionals and patients, and found that Newark Beth Israel Medical Center sets the standard for excellent care.

**TIMBERLAKE INTERVIEW***(Continued from page 1)*

heads. If the bill passes, it will be the first in the nation with strong protections for everyone. If it does not pass, we are looking at an unnecessary wave of homelessness.

The passing of this bill will save the state millions of taxpayer dollars by reducing the amount of money needed to combat a tsunami of homelessness created by evictions and foreclosures that will lead to the need for more social services like, food insecurity, unemployment, shelter, mental and physical health, etc. The bill offers an opportunity for landlords and renters to work out an affordable repayment plan for any months of missed rent during the State's Public Health Emergency. These payments would begin after the Public Health Emergency is over, and would be paid on top of their regularly agreed upon rent.

It is important the repayment plan be affordable to families as to not just delay an inevitable eviction down the road. If a landlord simply moves to evict without working a repayment plan out, depriving a COVID-19 financially impacted family the opportunity to keep a roof over their heads, then good luck to that landlord as they try to recover those lost months from a now homeless person. This bill gives a greater chance for families to keep a roof over their heads with no impact to credit or fear of being placed on a renter blacklist, while simultaneously giving landlords the best chance to recover lost months owed to them.

The bill is also good for homeowners and landlords because some banks are not offering fair mortgage forbearance. Some are requiring full payment on a 90-day forbearance due on the 91st day. Lump sum payments like this are not affordable to most or fair. It will only lead to eventual foreclosures down the road. New Jersey is already number one in the country in foreclosures, this bill keeps us from adding to that crisis.

The People's Bill establishes a uniformed mortgage forbearance where the payment is put on the back-end of the loan, thereby extending the loan term with no addition fees, interest,

lump sum payment, or impact on credit. Landlords can apply for the forbearance to help ease the financial impact of renters who may not have been able to pay their rent during COVID-19 or to ease their own COVID-19 financial struggles.

**DS:** What is the most essential resource for your constituents right now?

**BT:** Again I will say housing. There are people who are still waiting on their unemployment struggling to keep a roof over their heads all waiting for the "People's Bill" to pass. In the meantime, I encourage people to visit the State's DCA website to learn their rights about rental assistance programs available to them. Renters should contact their landlords if struggling to pay rent, and try to work a payment plan out. Also visit the HMFA website to learn about pending and existing assistance for small landlords and businesses. Those with mortgages who are financially struggling themselves, or who have tenants struggling should call their mortgage lender to see what their options for forbearance are; not all banks are behaving badly. Lastly, contact your local municipality to see if they are offering any COVID-19 housing relief.

**DS:** This is the most critical election of our lifetime. Why are you supporting Joseph Biden? Is it mainly because he is a democrat?

**BT:** I am supporting Joe Biden not only because he is a Democrat, but because I believe our current president is reckless, racist, sexist, and a poor leader. Our foreign and domestic relations are suffering under this president's leadership. His poor response to both the Coronavirus and the movement to create equality and equity by dismantling systemic and systematic racism against black and brown people is embarrassing. If we are to have a good chance to move this country forward is the healthiest way, voting for the Biden Harris ticket is what we all should do.

**DS:** What do you think of Vice President Joseph Biden picking Senator Kamala Harris?

**BT:** I am proud the pick is a woman, and the cherry on top is that she looks like me. The black female vote turned out over 90% for Hillary Clinton. It is no secret black women have been the driving force of the Democratic Party's success for years, it is nice to see some recognition for that by way of a minority VP pick. She will do a fantastic job and I cannot wait to see her debate current VP Mike Pence.

**DS:** What is the key difference between the State Assembly and State Senate?

**BT:** The State Assembly is what Congress is on the federal level, while the State Senate is what the Senate is on the Federal level. There are more State Assembly (80) people than State Senators (40). It is a system of checks and balances and both balance the creation of state laws. The State Senators do have something called "senatorial courtesy" within their counties and are the ones who must sign off on major appointments such as County Prosecutors. This is a power Assembly members do not have.

**DS:** If vaccination for the coronavirus is introduced, what advice would you give to your constituents?

**BT:** Listen to your health care providers.

**DS:** There are quite a few protests going on right now. While some are peaceful, others are not. Why do you think some have devolved into violence?

**BT:** I believe there are outsiders who have joined peaceful protests and disrupted them with violence in an attempt to change the narrative. I do not accept this change in narrative and choose to support the Black Lives Matter peaceful protests and what they stand for. The nation's response is a long time coming.

Although disgustingly heinous, George Floyd's murder was no more terrible than Philando Castile who was shot with his daughter in the back seat and his fiancé in the driver's seat, while his hands were visible and he was obeying the officer. It was no more heinous than Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old father of

five, who was shot in the chest and back by a Louisiana police officer outside a convenience store in Baton Rouge, La. The murder of George Floyd was no more heinous than Tamir Rice a 12-year-old playing in a park, Sean Bell the night before his wedding, or Amadou Diallo said to have a gun which was instead his wallet and was shot 41 times. Sadly, the list goes on and on. Protests all over the country occurred then, but it was like no one could hear.

This time it seems Coronavirus quieted down the country just enough to hear the outcry of black and brown people. While I am grateful our cries seem to now be heard, policies to end systematic racism are moving forward, and law enforcement is taking a stand for better justice, I cannot help but think of how many people's lives could have been saved if this response occurred 4 years, 10 years, 50 years ago. Or how about in in 1963 when Dr. King told the world in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

**DS:** What is your opinion about defunding the police?

**BT:** It is possible to support both police and the Black Lives Matter movement; everyone should try it. My first bill passed in the Assembly required an independent investigation occur when a person dies in police custody or during an interaction with law enforcement. It was a great leap toward authoritative accountability. When administered, this law should be of assistance to officers who are doing the right thing while also sifting out biases that exist amongst those armed with power. As the mother of a son, it was important to me to fight for this bill to become a law to deter the use of excessive force and saves lives. There are other measures and laws that should be looked at as potential solutions to the long-time issue of racism and biases in law enforcement.

**DS:** Thank you very much for your valuable time. Once again, the best of health to you and your family.



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## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY  
DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### A Healthy Skepticism

When I was in college and my mates and I wanted to show that we were among the intellectuals, we took **pride** in debating what it meant to have a healthy skepticism. In those days, when one spoke of skepticism, many people immediately thought that we were all wrong.

You see, skeptics were connected with "infidels." And infidels were among the greatest mockers of religion. It was thought that to think along the lines of the infidels and skeptics of the period was to be defiling the mind and living in the devil's camp. It was treating the claims of God's law with jest scoffing and denial. It was casting aside one's faith and the Bible and to live in a world of total distrust.

And, we are not to doubt that skepticism has been used by the devil for leading the world to lose confidence in God and separate people from the divine love. Or put another way, there is a plot to keep the world in ignorance, false pride, and final destruction, because as is said, "skepticism is attractive to the human mind."

But if I dare use the term skepticism as we used it in college, the world needs "a healthy dose of skepticism" right now. I do not mean it in how we relate to God or the Bible, but how we relate to social media and much of what is being put out as news and trolls. Some "healthy skepticism" seems especially needful during this time of political crisis

when dictators and extremists are trying to use all kinds of "tricks" to capture people's minds.

Just think of the claim shared on a viral video of anti-racist protesters in Portland, Oregon, apparently **burning** a stack of **bibles**. The video went viral quickly. The president of the United States and one senator commented, saying, "This is who they (the protestor) are." And it is interesting as one looks at how the Bible burning was reported. One headline read, "Protestors in **Portland, Oregon burned a Bible** in the street during a protest outside a federal courthouse in the early morning hours of August 1." Another said, "According to sources at the peaceful protest in **Portland**, ... more and more peaceful protesters (began) to join in on the **Bible burning**." Other social media posts used more cunning headlines, depending on what they were trying to communicate.

After much investigation, the Intelligence community reported that the Portland Bible burnings appear to be one of the first viral Russian disinformation hits of the 2020 presidential campaign, intended to influence individuals to vote for the candidate of their choice. In reality, after the protest, individuals cleaning up the debris found a Bible that was burned. But it was not an effort to disrespect the Bible, but social media picked the burning, and the Russians were quick to pounce on it to spread division.

Let us also think of the announcement that has been made by President Putin, that he has approved a coronavirus vaccine in Russia. One comment on the announcement read, "Russia has become the first country in the world to approve a vaccine for the coronavirus, President Vladimir V. Putin announced on

Tuesday, though global health authorities say the vaccine has yet to complete critical, late-stage clinical trials to determine its safety and effectiveness."

My question on the vaccine is, "Are you ready to take the vaccine, or are you prepared to wait until this or any of the 150 other efforts being made to secure a vaccine across the world is tested, tried, and declared safe?" I know what I will do, God, helping me to be alive. I will wait.

I have mentioned the Bible burning and the vaccine to highlight two case studies that might lead us to think that there has to be such a thing as **healthy skepticism** for us to survive. When I was a college professor, we used the term "critical thinking." I usually reminded students that they should read critically and listen carefully. In these days of rapid information sharing, critical skills are needed more than ever. What I taught my students and what I am calling for is nothing new, and not just my own making.

Today, every good teacher, parent, mentor, or capable newscasters must still call for "healthy skepticism" or critical thinking. My grandmother, who was illiterate, used to say, "You can't believe everything you see or hear." She was right. Although Grandma was not always right, on this one, she was "right on."

In his book, *The Anti-Education Era*, Dr. James Gee said it more intellectually, "human intelligence can easily run off the rails. We humans can be made stupid in many different ways, ways that often combine to lead to super stupidity." He argues that we run into stupidity by going after what we feel to be meaningful to us, instead of searching for the truth. We like to fool our minds to believe things that have nothing to do

with reality. We do what we do because we are enslaved by our ideas, ideologies, traditions, and bad histories. Instead of wisdom (healthy skepticism), we choose ignorance.

Jesus taught his disciples what we need today; that is, learn to search for the truth. Apart from his word about, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free (cf. John 8:31, 32)," Jesus reminded the disciples that the search for truth is hard work.

Look at his two parables on the kingdom in Matthew 13:46, 47. Notice that if one were not prepared to dig beyond the surface, one would not be able to find the kingdom's treasure. And if one were not willing to sell what one has (the things that hold one in a prejudicial position) and embrace the pearls, one could not obtain the kingdom.

Yes, to have a healthy skepticism, we need:

1. Divine wisdom - so we can see beyond the fake and façade of deceptions.
2. Humility - so that we will not just trust our judgments or emotions, but trust the one who leads us into truth.
3. Faith - so that we can be taken beyond our normal human vision.
4. Patience - so that we do not rush to judgment.
5. Determination - so that we will not get discouraged before we find the truth.

My point is more straightforward than just to endorse what we called in college, "Healthy Skepticism." It is to challenge us to evade false knowledge and untrue stories that are spun to deceive us. The time has come for us to earnestly pray that God will guide us to think more carefully about what we believe, rather than accepting every little piece of fakery peddled to us.

## The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

### Can The U.S. Slash Health-Care Costs By More Than 75% With Only Two Changes?

Yes, Yes it can. It's simple, really, fund the Health Care Savings Account Deductible and as Walmart or Whole Foods, or any other company as a matter of fact, does, put real prices on everything. It's that simple? What? You don't believe me?

Look at what Singapore has done with its healthcare system. Wait, what? Singapore is another country and it doesn't work the way the United States does. That's ok; look at what Indiana has done. We have the potential to cut spending by more than \$2.4 trillion per year across individuals, businesses, and the government.

What should be the first policy? Put price tags on everything. It's practically impossible to get prices on labs and imaging. Just recently I made a list of imaging companies in my home state and called them asking for cash pricing for X-rays, Ultrasounds, etc., and it took me several months with consistent calling to get "estimates" of what the pricing is. One estimate, a local hospital provided, "\$729 for a thoracic spine x-ray", and over "\$4000 for an MRI chest with contrast!"

Am I losing my marbles here? I've called other centers, in and out of my home state, where a "thoracic spine x-ray" would cost between \$40 and \$60. It took me several phone calls and attempts, at times having to set up 'sham appointments' to be able to get such estimated pricing. Can you imagine what it would be like for a working parent with children who may be in need of an imaging study for their child trying to get such pricing?

Let's look at LASIK, which, by the way, is eligible for reimbursement with a flexible spending account (FSA), health savings account (HSA), health reimbursement account and even a limited care flexible spending account! Because such institutions are openly competing for business, providers have figured out a way to make the process more efficient while making it cheaper. In the 1990s, the cost of LASIK was nearly \$4000 per eye! The average price these days is around \$2000 per eye and you can even get it done for as little as \$1000 if you do your due diligence find the best deal! I recently had mine completed for \$3500 with state-of-the-art equipment!

Placing price tags will force the existing systems to fairly charge everyone. In our existing system, the charge for the same services differs significantly depending on the insurance one carries. The price tags will also potentially help eliminate the middlemen and women and help reduce administrative costs in our existing system.

The second policy, also known as the deductible security, should do what Indiana did: pair an insurance policy that has an annual deductible with a health savings account that the policy's sponsor, which can be a private employer or the government, funds each year with an amount equal to the annual deductible. Say, for example, the

annual deductible is \$5000, then that is what the employer or government entity would fund for the individual or family. The latter has been instituted by Indiana which has offered this policy since 2007.

Despite Indiana offering its workers a variety of health-care plans, the vast majority have opted for the deductible security, under which the state covers the premium and then gifts about \$2850, equal to the annual deductible, into each employee's HAS every year. This allows each person to have money to pay for any of the out-of-pocket expenses. Because the unspent HSA balance is theirs to keep, they spend judiciously. This is all possible, because people are now motivated to spend prudently.

This sounds good in theory, but what's the evidence? The evidence is Indiana! The state tracked healthcare spending and outcomes for state employees during 2007 to 2009 and it concluded that those who chose the deductible security plan were 67% less likely to go to the emergency rooms, and rather chose low-cost centers, such as urgent cares. They also spent \$18 less per prescription! All-in-all this resulted in 35% lower healthcare spending than when the same employees were enrolled in traditional health insurance. With subsequent analyses of the study, the state concluded that such persons were more likely to take part in preventive screenings, such as mammograms, annual checkups, etc.

What about Medicare for all? Would that help? Recently, Oregon randomized 10,000 previously uninsured people into a single-payer health insurance in 2008, and it noted that the recipients' annual health-care spending jumped by 36% without any statistically significant improvements in health outcomes!

If your next question is, how would this work in a National

level? Our best example is Singapore. It's the only country to implement the above two policies and is able to provide universal health coverage with excellent health outcomes while spending 77% less per capita than the United States and 60% less per capita than the UK, Canada, or Japan. Despite the fact that the government spending constitutes about half of all health-care spending, as is in the US, it only spends about 2.4% of GDP on health care as opposed to the US government which spends about 8% of GDP!

In this country, despite the bureaucratic control and nonsense our healthcare system is, we have a group of physicians already doing this. Look at Remedy Health at Oklahoma, for example, or AtlasMD in Kansas or Forest Direct Primary Care in VA and you'll see the transparent pricing. Such physicians are working with their patients and teaching them how to utilize HSA's with health sharing ministries or high deductible plans, inadvertently mimicking the aforementioned policies.

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# GOVERNOR MURPHY: PUBLIC & CHARTER SCHOOLS CAN OPEN NEW SCHOOL YEAR "ALL-REMOTE"

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - Gov. Phil Murphy's 1:15 p.m. Aug. 12 announcement that all of New Jersey's 600 public and charter school districts may open the 2020-21 school year with "all-remote learning" has school administrators here and throughout "Local Talk" land reworking their instructional procedure plans.

Administrators here in Newark Public Schools are deciding whether and how to deliver more laptops and other materials conducive to at home remote learning to all of the estimated 34,000 Kindergarten-12th Grade students' homes. Sept. 8 is the district's first day of schooling.

Murphy's announcement comes less than 48 hours before Aug. 14. Friday has been the NPS' deadline to learn from parents or legal guardians if they intend to keep their charges home for learning for 2020-21. It is to the understanding of "Local Talk" as of presstime that the Aug. 14 deadline still stands.

While school superintendents and administrators across the state are reworking their plans, they are at least glancing at what NPS will do. It is New Jersey's largest school district in terms of student enrollment, worker employment, number of school buildings, budget and state aid.

"When our schools open in September, they must be ready to safely provide the high-quality education to all students

that is a hallmark of New Jersey. We know the first day of school is not going to be like any other in our history. We're fully committed to getting this right," Murphy posted on Twitter.

Murphy's announcement comes some three weeks before most public schools would have reopened - or at least logged on.

The school districts may start 2020-21 with their teachers instructing students on-line or via teleconference like Zoom. The districts, however, may phase in hybrid learning - where some days are spent online and others in an in-person classroom setting - later in the school year.

When and how the districts would have phased in their hybrid learning have been filed with the New Jersey Department of Education earlier this summer. Those plans may be modified by Murphy's announcement - and whether the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus' spread has been curbed.

Murphy's decision is seen by observers as a reversal of his desire to start the new school year with some in-person instruction. A flurry of calls and actions from various communities have been mounting the last week.

NJEA President Marie Blistan plus respective New Jersey Association of School Administrators and N.J. Principals and Supervisors Association executive directors Richard Bozza and Patricia White sent a joint letter to Murphy Aug. 11 urging an all-remote learning start.

## ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of August 12, 2020

Municipality	8-11-2020	8-12-2020	Deaths
Belleville	1,025	1,039	65
Bloomfield	1,139	1,136	67
Caldwell	123	123	9
Cedar Grove	492	494	112
East Orange	2,042	2,031	228
Essex Fells	26	26	2
Fairfield	148	148	17
Glen Ridge	42	41	9
Irvington	1,494	1,486	158
Livingston	524	530	70
Maplewood	351	352	27
Millburn	164	166	6
Montclair	465	467	51
Newark	8,170	8,182	652
North Caldwell	48	48	4
Nutley	524	524	35
Orange	1,056	1,051	88
Roseland	88	89	14
South Orange	121	120	4
Verona	140	141	14
West Caldwell	292	292	46
West Orange	1,296	1,300	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,770</b>	<b>19,786</b>	<b>1,864</b>
<b>Negative tests</b>	<b>129,850</b>	<b>130,994</b>	

### OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 8-12-2020)

**New Jersey: 185,938 cases / 14,046 deaths (Plus 1,839 probable)**

**United States (approx.): 5.163 Million / 165,000 deaths**

**Worldwide (approx.): 20.4 Million / 744,500 deaths**

***NJ Gov. Phil Murphy has announced that the rate of COVID-19 transmission has fallen below 1. (This means that for every one person with the virus, less than one other person gets infected.)***

Newark Teachers Union President John Abeigon, that Tuesday morning, said, "If I'm a Newark parent and have children, I'm not sending my kid to school - especially if they have medical issues."

The NJEA local had circulated a survey last week among its members whether they were willing to go physically back to their schools. NPS policy, previously approved by the NTU, allows teachers with documented health conditions or having approved medical or family leave can request to work remotely or online.

"At this rate, I'd advise everybody to keep their children

home from school," said Mayor and former Central High School Principal Ras Baraka during his Aug. 10 press briefing. "I wouldn't send anybody to school."

Members of the Newark Secondary Parents and Newark Education Workers Caucus meanwhile held a rally outside NPS' headquarters at 465 Broad St., that Monday, calling for more information for parents on school building cleaning and ventilation.

"They need to start listening," said NSP official Johnnie Lattner of the administration. "We're talking about people's lives here."

# BIDEN PICKS RUNNING MATE

## *U.S. Senator Kamala Harris Becomes First Woman of Color to Appear on a Presidential Ticket*

After months of anticipation, we now know who likely-Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden has chosen to be the nation's second-in-command if he wins.

On Aug. 11, the former Vice President selected California Senator Kamala Harris to be his running mate. Barring any setbacks, Harris will become the first woman of color to appear on a Presidential ticket.

"Back when Kamala was Attorney General, she worked closely with Beau. I watched as they took on the big banks, lifted up working people, and protected women and kids from abuse. I was proud then, and I'm proud now to have her as my partner in this campaign," Biden tweeted.

"@JoeBiden can unify the American people because he's spent his life fighting for us. And as president, he'll build an America that lives up to our ideals. I'm honored to join him as our party's nominee for Vice President, and do what it takes to make him our Commander-in-Chief," Harris wrote on Twitter.

"I've known Senator @KamalaHarris for a long time. She is more than prepared for the job. She's spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair shake. This is a good day for our country. Now let's go win this thing," former President Barack Obama tweeted.

Not long after the news, the Trump campaign put out an attack video, dubbing her "Phony Kamala."

Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland CA to a mother who emigrated from India and a father who emigrated from Jamaica. She identifies as an African American woman, and grew up attending both a black Baptist church and Hindu temple.

At 12 years old, Harris and her sister Maya moved with her mother to Quebec, Canada.

In the 1980s, Harris would go on to study at Howard University with a double major in political science and economics. In 1989, she would earn her law degree from the University of California and was admitted to the state bar the next year.

Throughout the next twenty years, Harris moved up the legal ladder, obtaining positions that included deputy district attorney in Alameda County, Assistant District Attorney and later lead DA in San Francisco.

In 2010, Harris won election as California Attorney General, and was reelected in 2014. In 2016, upon the retirement of Senator Barbara Boxer, Harris ran for the U.S. Senate seat and defeated Loretta Sanchez in the general election.

In 2019, Harris announced her candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2020. Along the campaign trail, she participated in several debates, famously going after Biden on race. When the subject of busing children to schools came up, and Biden gave an unsatisfactory answer, Harris replied, "There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bussed to school every day. And that little girl was me."

In December, Harris withdrew from the race, citing lack of funds to continue.

Upon hearing the news, New Jersey's U.S. Senator Cory Booker tweeted, "I'm proud to call @KamalaHarris my dear friend and sister - and next year, I'll be even more proud to call her our Vice President.

"This is history. Kamala is a trailblazer who will serve this country well as the first Black and Asian

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## **SPORTS WRAP**



By William Hathaway

The College Football is in danger of cancellation, with some teams wanting to play their seasons in the spring due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Big Ten Football Conference, home to a Rutgers team that has had 16 players test positive, has cancelled all fall sports for 2020, similar to the Mid Atlantic Conference which recently made the move. Old Dominion has cancelled its fall sports program along with the Mountain West and Southwest Athletic conferences. The PAC-12 also cancelled fall sports.

In other sports news the National Hockey League has started its playoff format, in which the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs will see matchups like top-seeded Philadelphia play the Montreal Canadiens, while Tampa Bay will skate against Columbus. In the Western Conference, Chicago will play Vegas among those matchups.

Within the NBA "Bubble" in Florida, the Nets have clinched a playoff spot along with seven other teams, while the Grizzlies will have to participate in an 8-9 play-in series.

In Major League Baseball news, the St. Louis Cardinals' season is a mess, as 10 players and seven staffers have tested positive for COVID-19. As of this writing, they have missed at least 13 consecutive scheduled games. Meanwhile, the New York Yankees are in first place with a 10-6 record, while Mets pitchers Marcus Stroman has opted out of the season, along with Yoenis Cespedes.

Finally, wrestling fans are remembering James "Kamala" Harris - not of any known relation to California Senator Kamala Harris. The "Ugandan Giant" was most known for his time in the WWF (now WWE) where he engaged in feuds against the likes of Hulk Hogan, "Macho Man" Randy Savage, The Undertaker and more. He died Aug. 9 at the age of 70, reportedly from COVID-19 and other health complications.

American woman on a major party's ticket."

Unless there are any unusual developments, Biden and Harris will represent the Democratic Party as its respective presidential and vice presidential nominees against incumbents Donald Trump and Mike Pence. Three presidential debates have been tentatively scheduled, while one is reserved for VP candidates.

## Legally Speaking



**Cassandra Savoy, Esq.**  
**OP/ED**

### IT'S THE CHILD'S NEEDS THAT COUNT, NOT YOURS!

Public policy as established by the New Jersey legislature favors joint legal custody and shared parenting. The policy is based on the idea that *both* parents have an *equal* right to love and care for their children. More importantly, children are generally best when they have the emotional support and the ongoing involvement of both parents.

Most parents have the ability to develop and sustain safe, stable, and nurturing relationships with their children. Developing and maintaining these relationships require that the children spend significant time with each parent, whenever possible.

All too often, each parent thinks that he /she has all the right answers and that he or she is the only parent who should love, care for, nurture the child. Wrong! Consequently, learning to effectively co-parent can save you lots of money and more importantly, lots of time spent in court going over the same ole, same ole...

For the next couple of weeks, I will focus on children and how to have child focused parenting time; how to co-parent. As an attorney, I spend far too many hours of my day speaking with adults who believe they "own" their children exclusive of the other parent. I speak with parents who use their children as pawns in some unspoken drama where they either relive anger and grudges from their past or plot revenge against the other parent.

There are many ways parents can respond to a child's needs

with sensitivity and provide the child love and guidance, and these may differ between parents and among cultures. Both parents don't have to be exactly alike. The thing is that when you have children together regardless of what the current state of your relationship with the other parent, you owe it to your child to help them to grow up healthy and happy. Here are some do's and don'ts for creating a child centered parenting relationship.

**Most children benefit when:**

#### 1. Parents support their child's relationship with the other parent by:

- Helping the child have regular contact with the other parent when they are not together by having regular facetime or Zoom calls, texts and e-mail messaging;
- Speaking positively about the other parent;
- Responding positively when the child talks about their time with the other parent;
- Helping the child feel good about their time with the other parent;
- Showing each other respect when attending the child's activities at the same time;
- Supporting contact with grandparents, stepparents, and other extended family members so the child does not lose these relationships;
- Allowing the child to display picture of the other parent and other family members;
- Respecting differences in parenting styles and practices; and,
- Signing a child up for activities that affect the other parent's parenting time only after agreement of the other parent.

#### 2. Parents support consistency in their child's life by:

- Following the parenting-time schedule;
- Explaining the schedule in age-appropriate words;
- Following similar times for bedtime and naptime in each home; and,
- Sharing information about the child such as illness, medication, behavior and discipline.

#### 3. Parents communicate positively with each other by:

- Using respectful communication with the other parent;
- Agreeing on communication methods with the other parent;
- Letting the other parent know about the child's activities and appointments as soon as possible;
- Giving as much advance notice as possible to the other parent about special occasions or requested changes to the parenting schedule; and,
- Providing the other parent with travel plans and how the child and the parent can be reached well in advance of travel.

**Most children are harmed when . . .**

#### A. Parents do not support their child's relationship with the other party by:

- Making the child choose between the parents or "take sides";
- Failing to show respect for the other parent
- Questioning the child about the other parent's activities or relationships;
- Making negative remarks about the other parent or the other parent's family;
- Allowing others to make negative remarks about the other parent or the other parent's family;
- Discussing what led to the parents' break-up within earshot of the child;
- Failing to allow an informant or a child of any age to develop a relationship with the other parent;
- Inappropriately preventing or restricting the child's contact with the other parent;
- Posting inappropriate photos, video, and comment about the other parent or the other parent's family on social media;
- Sharing (adult) information or documents with the child about the parents' legal, financial or other disagreements, including child support over what is going on in court; and,
- Asking the child to keep secrets from the other parent.

#### B. Parents do not support con-

sistency in their child's life by:

- Dropping in and out of the child's life;
- Failing to show up on time or at all for scheduled parenting time;
- Failing to follow through on agreements about changes to the parenting schedule;
- Failing to follow through on commitments or agreements with the child;
- Interfering with parenting time because child support has not been paid.

#### C. Parents do not communicate positively with each other by:

- Using their children as a messenger, spy or mediator;
- Using disrespectful language; and,
- Failing to communicate with the other parent in a timely manner.

And the real "biggie" that is all too frequently violated is what happens at the transition for parenting time.

Parents **do not support** conflict-free transitions at parenting time exchanges by:

- Engaging in arguments;
- Showing a hostile attitude;
- Making negative remarks or gestures to the other parent;
- Engaging the child in extended good-byes; and,
- Bribing or guiltting the child not to go with the other

Parents **do support** conflict-free parenting time transition by:

- Treating the other parent respectfully;
- Being on time and informing the other parent if there are unavoidable delays;
- Having the child ready to go on time with the other parent
- Letting the child carry "important" items with them between parents' homes;
- Informing the other parent if another person will be taking the parents' place for the transition; and,
- Being aware of the impact of having other people involved in the transition - This means if you have your new boyfriend pick up your children, it *could* cause conflict.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 6)

based that New Jersey's \$1.4 billion share of the CARES Act funds went all to NJTransit.

DeCamp told one reporter that he is negotiating with NJTransit about taking over its bus routes. NJYTransit spokeswoman Nancy Snyder said that the state agency "is not about to absorb" DeCamp's routes.

**GLEN RIDGE** - Those taking NJTransit's Montclair Boonton Line from here or nearby local stations found their Aug. 11 afternoon rush hour trains delayed by up to 20 minutes.

NJTransit reported that "signal issues near Bloomfield" caused several trains to be 15 to 20 minutes late Tuesday. The problem, which may have been on the Bloomfield-Glen Ridge border, was resolved by 5 p.m.

An equipment problem with a train at the Montclair State University station cancelled the 7:10 a.m. eastbound local train there and turned the 7:10 express into an all-local-stops train.

NJTransit restored service along the MBL and M&E lines in time for Aug. 10's morning rush hour - six days after they were suspended Noon Aug. 4 due to storm-related fallen trees and utility wires.

**BELLEVILLE / BLOOMFIELD** - People both at Belleville's Municipal Building and the Bloomfield Board of Education Administration Building are united in mourning for James A. Messina III since his Aug. 5 death.

Messina, 73, was Belleville's First Ward Councilman 1990-2000 and Mayor 1994-96. He had previously been a

Bloomfield BOE member 1978-79. Messina's Belleville and Bloomfield strands started in his formative years. Born in Belleville's Silver Lake section, June 13, 1947, he was raised in Bloomfield and was among Bloomfield High's graduating Class of 1965.

Messina's Bloomfield time was interrupted by the Vietnam War and studies at Northeastern Louisiana University. The MACS intelligence officer became a member and unofficial mayor of AMVETS Belleville Post 26. He graduated from LSU with a degree in English literature.

"Big Jim," his exuberance, loud laugh and mustache would grace many a masonry and construction project in the two-township area. The JMP Construction founder was proudest of renovating Belleville High School's baseball field and, with father James II, the Belleville Little League field and house.

Messina moved to Belleville before the township council took a ward and at-large format. He was elected First Ward Councilman, which includes Silver Lake, by a two-to-one margin in 1990 and was re-elected in 1992 and 1996. His council colleagues named him mayor 1994-96, during renovations of the Municipal and Public Works buildings and completion of the Public Safety Building.

Messina, who owned the Belleville Pub in the 1980s, was the DPW Commissioner until his 2009 retirement. Wife Maria, brother Michael, sisters Karmel Ann Citrodello, Deana Nisivoccis and Kathy Cooney; two grandsons and four granddaughters are among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America vva.org/donations or the St. Jude's Children's Hos-

pital stjude.org

**NUTLEY** - ECPO spokeswoman Katherine Carter announced on Aug. 7 that they are dismissing the township police department's cyberbullying charges against five people who posted and redistributed a detective's image during the June 26 Christopher Columbus statue confrontation.

"After reviewing the cases, we concluded there was insufficient evidence to sustain our burden of proof," said carter Friday. "Consequently, we moved today to dismiss the charges."

Belleville residents Kevin Alfano, Diana Lubizaca and Kamila Mikulec, Nutleyite Andrew Koslecki and Georgana Sziszak, of Queens Village, N.Y. said they received NPD summonses in the mail six weeks after the Nutley for Black Lives and counter-demonstrators' face off.

Alfano was accused of posting on his Twitter account a photo of an NPD officer between the demonstrators, wearing a "Blue Lives Matter" flag mask and adding "If anyone knows who this b---h is, throw his info under this tweet." The other four were accused of reposting the photo and message on their Twitter accounts.

The NPD officer was later identified as Det. P.J. Sandomenico. The summons filers said that Sandomenico had come to fear for harm to himself, his family and their property from the five's postings.

The five, all between 18 and 21 in ages, were facing a fourth-degree felony. They, if found guilty, were to have each faced maximums of \$10,000 in fines and 18 months state imprisonment.

Alfano and Sziszak have started GoFundMe.com fundraiser pages for legal bills.

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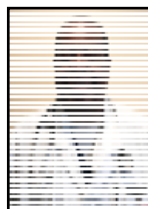
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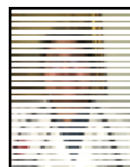


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