

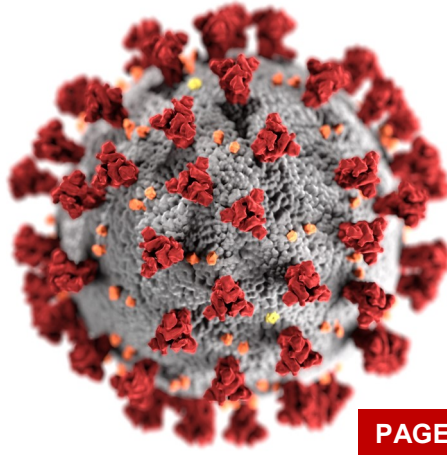


ANOTHER UNARMED BLACK MAN SHOT BY A WHITE COP

NBA players boycott playoff games in support of victim and social justice

Jacob Blake
Photo via Instagram

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FDA APPROVES PLASMA TO TREAT COVID-19

Use of Convalescent Plasma Viewed as Promising

PAGE 5

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NEWARK SET TO MAKE MASSIVE CCRB APPEAL



By Walter Elliott

NEWARK - The City of Newark will be taking its case for a Civilian Complaint Review Board with investigative and subpoena powers to the United States Supreme Court and the New Jersey State Legislature.

Those two approaches are the next steps Ras Baraka and his administrators said here, Aug. 25, will take in response to the New Jersey Supreme Court's Aug. 19 ruling that denied the powers to investigate complaints and subpoena individuals.

"We're going to appeal - we're going to fight this case," said Baraka Tuesday morning on the City Hall front steps Tuesday morning before an audience of 70. "This is necessary - and we're going to win. We've an opportunity to win together."

Thirty supporters - including Municipal Council members, Orange Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and Jersey City's Steve Fulop, the Newark Law Department,, NJ-ACLU, Mayor's Clergy Liaison Scott-

(Continued on page 15)

NEW JERSEY SUES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION



AG Grewal Announces Lawsuit to Protect U.S. Postal Service and Mail-in Voting from Unlawful Cutbacks that Have Slowed Deliveries

TRENTON - Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced Aug. 25 that New Jersey, New York, and a coalition of state, county and local governments are suing to block the policy and operational changes recently put in place by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). The complaint

(Continued on page 3)



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Turn to
PAGE 8



Editorial

Dhiren Shah
Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

INJUSTICE... INJUSTICE... INJUSTICE. It has gone on for centuries. Back in 2005, I wrote in an editorial that there would be protests in the streets. They started around 2012. That time, our president was Barack Obama, and our governor was Chris Christie. Obama was president from 2009 to 2016 and Christie was governor from 2011 to 2018.

On August 23, 2020 in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Jacob Blake was shot in the back 7. Police were attempting him to arrest him for a domestic dispute. In front of his 3 children, he was shot, and his father claims that he is now paralyzed.

The racial injustice is amongst black and white people. However, there is another race besides black and white...money/power and poor/middle class.

When we talk about fatal police brutality, the list goes on and on. Here are just some that come to mind, as our paper cannot list them all.

2014: Eric Garner, NY; accused of selling illegal cigarettes, killed via chokehold despite saying "I can't breathe" - officer was fired, but never prosecuted.

2014: Michael Brown, Missouri; unarmed, accused of stealing a box of cigars.

2014: Tamir Rice, Ohio; a 12 year old boy shot due to showing a toy gun.

2014: Akai Gurley, NY; an officer fired in an unlit stairway and a bullet bounced from the wall and killed Gurley.

2014: Gabriella Nevarez, California; allegedly rammed into police cars when asked to pull over.

2014: Tanisha Anderson, Ohio, taken to mental hospital in handcuffs.

2015: Walter Scott; shot in the back.

2016: Alton Sterling, Louisiana; confronted by officers outside a shop.

2015: Michelle Cusseaux, Arizona; officer thought she had a hammer and shot her.

2015: Freddie Gray, Maryland; arrested and held in a police van, died in 45 minutes, his spinal cord was nearly severed.

2015: Tanisha Fonville, North Carolina; officer claimed she had a knife in her hand.

2016: Philando Castile, Minnesota; shot by police while he was reaching out for his license.

March 2020: Breonna Taylor, Kentucky; police raided her apartment with a "no-knock" warrant. Breonna's boyfriend shot at them, thinking it was a burglary, and in return, officers fired and killed Breonna, a medical technician.

May 25, 2020, Minnesota: The story of a lifetime; George Floyd who allegedly gave a counterfeit \$20 bill and walked away from a store with cigarettes. He lost his life after Officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Like Garner, he told the officers he could not breathe, but was ignored and choked to the death.

2020: Rayshard Brooks, Georgia, killed by Atlanta police officer, who was charged with murder in June 2020, after the momentum of George Floyd's death and protests.

The protests have started all over the country and the world. As of today, they have not stopped.

By the FBI's 2019 statistics, 48 police officers died in 2019 and 56 officers lost their lives in 2018. Out of 48, there were 40 white officers who lost their lives, with 6 at traffic related stops. So, it is not easy for police officers to do their job as well.

That said, when they do not follow protocol, they must be punished severely. Also, the system is wrong. As I have mentioned before, the internal affairs division should be from outside the county. A civilian review board system may not work. The authority goes from the hands of the police department to the mayor of the city, as the council and the mayor are appointing the board members. So, indirectly the mayor becomes more powerful. The council has failed time after time to discharge their duty in putting checks and balances on the administration.

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 94 LO 73 	HI 90 LO 74 	HI 84 LO 65 	HI 79 LO 61 	HI 78 LO 64 	HI 76 LO 67 	HI 82 LO 68

SUZANNE SPERNAL NAMED TO 2020 MODERN HEALTHCARE TOP 25 INNOVATORS LIST



Sernal Recognized for Her Leadership, Influence, and Contributions to Reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate in New Jersey

WEST ORANGE - August 24, 2020: Suzanne Sernal, DNP, APN-BC, RNC-OB, Vice President of Women’s Services, RWJBarnabas Health, was named one of the 2020 Modern Healthcare Top 25 Innovators. This nationwide recognition honors leaders across the country who are instituting innovation and leading transformative programs that improve care.

Sernal is responsible for the leadership, strategy and management of the RWJBarnabas Health Women’s Service line. This network encompasses eight maternity programs supporting approximately 24,000 births every year in New Jersey. Her tasks and responsibilities include assessing key issues and building support for policy agenda related to women’s and family issues, executing solutions and strategies, developing and maintaining partnerships with community-based organizations, creating educational programs as well as mentoring women’s services nursing leaders.

Sernal leads the RWJBarnabas Health OB Collaborative, bringing together the top minds in obstetrics across the system’s eight birthing hospitals to advocate for women’s health, wellness, and safety. This multidisciplinary leadership team is committed to ending preventable morbidity, mortality, and racial disparities in maternity care. The OB

(Continued on page 12)



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NEW JERSEY SUES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

(Continued from page 1)

alleges that these changes have already disrupted vital mail services and could hamper New Jersey’s administration of the upcoming election, which will primarily use mail-in ballots to protect voters from COVID-19.

In a complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the plaintiffs contend that the changes - including dismantling hundreds of mail-sorting machines, reducing the number of mailboxes available to the public, and rolling back postal worker overtime - are unlawful because they were implemented without a required public hearing before the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The lawsuit also contends that the changes - and the resultant nationwide mail service slowdown - represent an abdication of the USPS’s mission, could be harmful to some individ-

uals who receive medications and other products critical to their health via the mail, and violate the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution by interfering with the States’ authority to set rules for the election.

“Voting by mail is safe, secure, and reliable and we intend to keep it that way for New Jerseyans. Americans will vote by mail in record numbers this November and the Postal Service’s dramatic changes threaten to disenfranchise voters by disrupting mail service. We will continue working with other state Attorneys General to protect the election and voter rights,” said Attorney General Grewal.

“In addition,” Attorney General Grewal said, “countless people in New Jersey and across the nation, including some of our most vulnerable citizens, rely on the mail for prescription drugs and other things that help them survive. During this critical time, Americans deserve better than a mail

slow-down rooted in political gamesmanship.”

Led by New York Attorney General Letitia James, the lawsuit notes that under the USPS’s universal service obligation, the agency has a “legal mandate” to serve all areas of the country, and that its historic commitment has been to ensure that “no Americans are unable to access the mail.”

The complaint also notes that one of the Postal Service’s “most critical functions” is to support federal, State and local elections across the country through the delivery of critical election materials such as ballots, voter registration cards, absentee applications and polling place notifications.

Asserting that the USPS leadership has reduced public access to mail service and essentially institutionalized delays in mail processing and sorting, the complaint alleges harms to both the plaintiff governments and their residents. For instance, the complaint

(Continued on page 14)

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 - Relatives, friends and colleagues of Johnnie Lattner, 55, have scheduled a memorial for the public education advocate for 2-4 p.m. Aug. 27 at Jersey City's Watson Mortuary Service, 23 Gifford Ave.

ECPO detectives are meanwhile pursuing any leads to whoever had a violent confrontation with Lattner in his North Ward apartment before Aug. 17. A relative, after several days of no response, found him during a welfare check.

Lattner, a Mt. Olive, N.C. native who moved here in 2007, may be best known through the Parents Unified for Local School Education (PULSE) he co-founded with Sharon Smith.

PULSE organized a boycott of the Newark Public Schools in 2014. The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights found valid PULSE's 2012 and 2014 complaints that NPS' "One Newark" plan of school consolidation and closings had particularly discriminated against African American and special needs students.

Lattner was a frequent education panelist, public speaker at NPS Board of Education meetings, Rutgers Abbott Leadership Institute class attendee and demonstrator. The 2018 NBOE independent candidate learned his activism skills at San Francisco's Midwest Academy in 2005.

"Johnnie Lattner was a gentleman who worked tirelessly for Newark school students," said People's Organization for Progress President Lawrence Hamm Aug. 25. "What concerns me is that his death is being considered

as mysterious."

ECPO, as of 6 p.m. Aug. 25, still lists Lattner's death as "suspicious." Lattner, who had no biological children, has called NPS' some 40,000 students as his children.

IRVINGTON - A funeral for 1968-80 councilman Joseph P. Galluzzi, 88, was scheduled for Union's Galante Funeral Home, followed by a Mass at Springfield's St. James Church and entombment at Hollywood Cemetery at Union, Aug. 27.

Galluzzi - who also served as Essex County, Treasurer and budget consultant to the county board of freeholders 1982-89 - died at his Springfield home Aug. 15.

The Newark native moved here after marrying Lorraine Distefano and opened his accounting practice in 1960. He was first elected as Irvington's West Ward Councilman in 1968, re-elected in 1972 and 76 and had served as council president along the way.

After unsuccessful runs for state assemblyman (in 1971) state senator (1973) and county Republican chairman (1977), Galluzzi switched to the Democratic party to support Hillside Alexander Manza's U.S. senatorial attempt in 1978. His new party affiliation opened access to the County Hall of Records jobs.

A federal jury in Newark found Galluzzi guilty of 26 counts of bribery and mail fraud April 24, 1989 and was sentenced for a 90-month federal jail term. He was accused of steering \$31 million worth of county and municipal bond issues, including Irvington, to First Fidelity Bank and Gibraltar Securities for kickbacks.

Galluzzi, a Central High School (Class of 1950) and Upsala College (1959) graduate, served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict for four years.

Sons Joseph A. and John, daughter Patricia Calluzzi-Holmes, grandchildren Joseph and Vienna Holmes and brother Anthony Galluzzi are also among his survivors. Memorial donations may be made to Center for Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Rd. Scotch Plains, 07076.

EAST ORANGE - Some 400

people, mostly high schoolers in the city's Summer Work Experience Program, marched from the Sussex (Avenue) Mall and held a "Jersey Wants Justice" rally on City Hall Plaza Aug. 19.

They more than decried the May 23 death of a motorist during an encounter with a New Jersey State Police trooper along a Burlington County stretch of the Garden State Parkway.

The student and adult coordinators brought William O. Wagstaff III, Esq., the attorney of Maurice Gordon, Jr.'s family, to talk about the case. They endorsed the Gordon family's demands for an investigation independent of the New Jersey Attorney General's office and "immediate" release of Gordon's autopsy and toxicology reports.

Those who watched the East Orange Police Department-escorted march and subsequent rally that Wednesday afternoon also witnessed the culmination of SWEP's social justice component.

SWEP is a seasonal college and career preparation program for 300 14-to-18-year-olds. The Mayor's Office of Employment and Training division, with the Seton Hall University School of Social Work, added the social justice component in the wake of Gordon and George Floyd's deaths at the hands of law enforcement 48 hours apart May 23-25.

Wagstaff, on one hand, applauded last year's legislation where the AG's office independently investigated any deaths of people at the hands of law enforcers. The attorney is calling for AG Gurbir Grewal's prosecutors to hand off the Gordon investigation since the State Police directly answers to the AG and therefore a conflict of interest.

The Aug. 19 justice event and the Aug. 21 season-ending SWEPFest here were one of the rare times the students could personally gather. This summer, because of pandemic social distancing, became a mostly on-line Virtual-SWEP.

ORANGE - A Rahway man, as of Aug. 19, became the latest person caught in the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI's four-year investigation of Orange City Hall and Orange Pub-

lic Library finances and contracts.

Jeanmarie Zahore, 56, said U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito in Newark that Wednesday afternoon, was indicted on two counts of wire fraud and a count of "making corrupt payments to an agent of a local government receiving federal funds." The computer consultant's unsealed grand jury indictment also lists a count of "violating the Travel Act to carry on bribery."

Zahore, according to the indictment had approached "Individual One" in early August 2015 about landing a city contract in exchange for a kickback. "I One," on Aug. 14, informed "a Municipal Court official" and a "Police Department official" that the Freddie Polhill Law and Justice Complex "had a computer system vulnerability" that needed a new network. as its remedy.

"I One," continued the indictment, drafted a \$350,000 emergency no bid contract for JZNettech and submitted it to "a City official" in the municipal clerk's office as a late starter to the City Council's Aug. 15 meeting.

"I One" explained the need for the said contract. The council, after several questions regarding the "walked-on" bill, authorized the awarding on a 4-3 vote. "I One," the next day, sent a blanket purchase order to JZNettech.

Zahore, on Sept. 17, sent a \$115,000 invoice back to "I One" for the project's first stage and asked, "do you want a copy sent to you?" It would be the first of three payments of the \$350,000 the city would make to JZNettech/Zahore through Nov. 10.

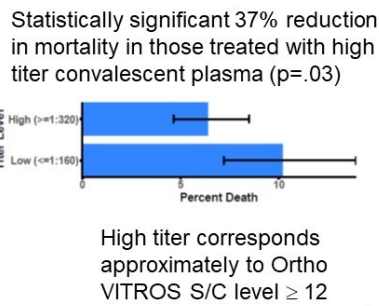
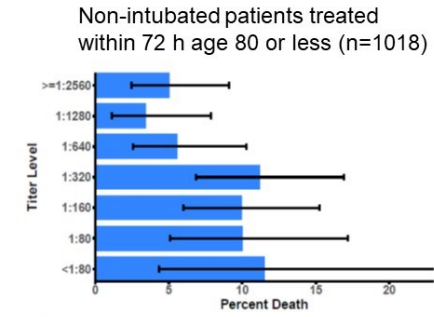
The indictment states that Zahore used \$10,000 in cash, of \$50,000 withdrawn from his bank account Nov. 20 and 23, to pay "I One." Zahore, who was arrested, charged and released on a \$100,000 unsecured bond, has a pending arraignment before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kevin McNulty.

WEST ORANGE - Community Coach 77 will not be running during Labor Day, Sept. 7, nor running afternoon "holiday getaway" runs Sept. 4.

CoachUSA Dispatch Super-
(Continued on page 13)

FDA ISSUES EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION FOR CONVALESCENT PLASMA AS POTENTIAL PROMISING COVID-19 TREATMENT

COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Reduction in Death at 7 Days



High titer corresponds approximately to Ortho VITROS S/C level ≥ 12

WASHINGTON - On Aug. 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for investigational convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to fight COVID-19.

Based on scientific evidence available, the FDA concluded, as outlined in its decision memorandum, this product may be effective in treating COVID-19 and that the known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product.

This action follows the FDA's extensive review of the science and data generated over the past several months stemming from efforts to facilitate emergency access to convalescent plasma for patients as clinical trials to definitively demonstrate safety and efficacy remain ongoing.

The EUA authorizes the distribution of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in the U.S. and its administration by health care providers, as appropriate, to treat suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

"The FDA's emergency authorization for convalescent plasma is a milestone achieve-

ment in President Trump's efforts to save lives from COVID-19," said Alex Azar, Health and Human Services Secretary. "The Trump Administration recognized the potential of convalescent plasma early on. Months ago, the FDA, BARDA, and private partners began work on making this product available across the country while continuing to evaluate data through clinical trials. Our work on convalescent plasma has delivered broader access to the product than is available in any other country and reached more than 70,000 American patients so far. We are deeply grateful to Americans who have already donated and encourage individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 to consider donating convalescent plasma."

"I am committed to releasing safe and potentially helpful treatments for COVID-19 as quickly as possible in order to save lives. We're encouraged by the early promising data that we've seen about convalescent plasma. The data from studies conducted this year shows that plasma from patients who've recovered from COVID-19 has the potential to help treat those who are suffering from the effects of getting this terrible virus," said Stephen M. Hahn, M.D., FDA Commissioner. "At the same time, we will continue



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to work with researchers to continue randomized clinical trials to study the safety and effectiveness of convalescent plasma in treating patients infected with the novel coronavirus."

Scientific Evidence on Convalescent Plasma

Based on an evaluation of the EUA criteria and the totality of the available scientific evidence, the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research determined that the statutory criteria for issuing an EUA criteria were met.

The FDA determined that it is reasonable to believe that COVID-19 convalescent plasma may be effective in lessening the severity or shortening the length of COVID-19 illness in some hospitalized patients. The agency also determined that the known and potential benefits of the product, when used to treat COVID-19, outweigh the known and potential risks of the product and that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternative treatments.

The EUA is not intended to replace randomized clinical trials and facilitating the enrollment of patients into any of the ongoing randomized clinical trials is critically important for the definitive demonstration of safety and efficacy of COVID-19 convalescent plasma. The FDA continues to recommend that the designs of ongoing randomized clinical trials of COVID-19 convalescent plasma and other therapeutic agents remain unaltered, as COVID-19 convalescent plasma does not yet represent a new

standard of care based on the current available evidence.

Terms of EUA

The EUA requires that fact sheets providing important information about using COVID-19 convalescent plasma in treating COVID-19 be made available to health care providers and patients, including dosing instructions and potential side effects. Possible side effects of COVID-19 convalescent plasma include allergic reactions, transfusion-associated circulatory overload, and transfusion associated lung injury, as well as the potential for transfusion-transmitted infections.

Mayo Clinic Expanded Access Program

The FDA initially facilitated access to convalescent plasma for treating COVID-19 by using pathways that included traditional clinical trials and emergency single-patient investigational new drug (IND) applications.

An Expanded Access Program Disclaimer for convalescent plasma was initiated in early April to fill an urgent need to provide patient access to a medical product of possible benefit during a time that the FDA was working with researchers to facilitate the initiation of randomized clinical trials to study convalescent plasma.

As the number of single patient IND requests started to number in the hundreds on a daily basis, the FDA worked collab-

(Continued on page 10)



UNITED STATES

Storm Descends Upon Gulf

In a year that shows no signs of giving people a break, mother nature got in some shots on the southern U.S.

Not one, but two systems slid into the Gulf of Mexico, as systems Laura and Marco achieved name status from the National Weather Service. The whole development ended up being a good news / bad news situation. The good news: Marco eventually dissipated; the bad news: that led to Laura becoming more powerful, as it had more energy to feed upon.

By the time you read this, Laura will have likely battered the Louisiana-Texas region with high winds, storm surge, and pouring rains. Before the cyclone even touched land, President Trump issued Emergency Declarations for Louisiana, Texas, and even Mississippi.

The President's action authorized the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

EUROPE

EU in Talks with Another Vaccine Maker

On Aug. 24, the European Commission has concluded exploratory talks with Moderna to purchase a potential vaccine

against COVID-19. Moderna is the fifth company with which the Commission has concluded talks, following Sanofi-GSK on July 31, Johnson & Johnson on Aug. 13, CureVac on Aug. 18, in addition to the signature of an Advance Purchase Agreement with AstraZeneca on Aug. 14.

The envisaged contract with Moderna would provide for the possibility for all EU Member States to purchase the vaccine, as well as to donate to lower and middle income countries or re-direct to European countries. It is anticipated that the Commission will have a contractual framework in place for the initial purchase of 80 million doses on behalf of all EU Member States, plus an option to purchase up to a further 80 million doses, to be supplied once a vaccine has proven to be safe and effective against COVID-19. The Commission pursues intensive discussions with other vaccine manufacturers.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said, "After intense negotiations, the European Commission has now concluded talks with a fifth pharmaceutical company, to enable rapid access to a vaccine against coronavirus for Europeans. We invest in companies using diverse technologies, to increase our chances to have vaccines that are safe and effective. We continue talks with other companies - as we want to make sure that vaccines are rapidly available on the market. European investments in coronavirus vaccines will benefit the whole world and will help us beat this virus."

Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said, "Today's outcome following the talks with Moderna show that we deliver on our commitment to get access to a safe and effective vaccine. I am pleased to see that we continue to fulfil our target of having a diversified portfolio of vaccines - a necessity to ensure eventual success and protecting our citizens against coronavirus."

Moderna is a U.S. based company pioneering the development of a new class of vac-

cines based on messenger RNA (mRNA). mRNA plays a fundamental role in human biology, transferring the instructions which direct cells in the body to make proteins, including proteins that may prevent or fight disease.

The exploratory talks concluded are intended to result in an Advance Purchase Agreement to be financed with the Emergency Support Instrument, which has funds dedicated to the creation of a portfolio of potential vaccines with different profiles and produced by different companies.

CARIBBEAN

ANOTHER Puerto Rican Legislator Indicted

On Aug. 19, a federal grand jury in the District of Puerto Rico returned an eight-count indictment against legislator Nelson Del Valle Colon (Del Valle Colon), a member of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives, as well as two of his employees, Nickolle Santos-Estrada (Santos) and her mother Mildred Estrada-Rojas (Estrada), for their alleged participation in a multi-year theft, bribery, and kickback conspiracy.

The indictment charges Del Valle Colon, Santos, and Estrada with conspiracy as well as theft, bribery, and kickbacks concerning programs receiving federal funds. Del Valle Colon is facing two additional counts of honest services wire fraud, and one count of obstruction of justice for destroying data on his cell phone.

According to the allegations in the indictment, in early 2017, Del Valle Colon fraudulently inflated the salaries of Santos, Estrada, and another individual for no legitimate reason, and corruptly agreed that out of their inflated paychecks, the employees would keep a portion for themselves and kick back the other portion, generally between approximately \$500 and \$2,000, to Del Valle Colon.

"Puerto Rico legislator Nelson Del Valle Colon and his employees allegedly embarked on a

years-long conspiracy to enrich themselves by embezzling funds and using bribes and kickbacks to defraud the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian C. Rabbitt of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "As this case shows, the Department of Justice and our law enforcement partners are committed to holding elected officials accountable for corrupt conduct."

"Public corruption destroys the trust we have in our elected officials, which is essential for democracy to thrive," said U.S. Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow for the District of Puerto Rico. "In this case, the citizens of Puerto Rico were betrayed by legislator Del Valle Colon, an elected official who abused his position for personal gain, and who must be held accountable for violating one of the basic tenets of public trust, that is, serving his constituents with integrity and honesty. The U.S. Attorney's Office, and our law enforcement partners, will continue to relentlessly investigate and prosecute anyone who tries to undermine our system of government."

"As we have said numerous times, public corruption is and will continue to be a priority for the FBI," said Special Agent in Charge Rafael Riviere of the FBI's San Juan Field Office. "May today be a reminder that we will not tolerate corruption and we will act swiftly to remove those who would violate public trust. Special thanks to our DOJ partners for their support of our mission."

The indictment further alleges that the defendants used a variety of means to transfer the kickbacks to Del Valle Colon. Allegedly, Santos, Estrada, and the other individual would sometimes transfer cash by hand to Del Valle Colon. The defendants would also sometimes transfer kickbacks in approximately \$500 increments to Del Valle Colon using ATH Móvil, a mobile phone application that allows individuals who bank at certain financial institutions to send

(Continued on page 7)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

money to each other through an interface on their cell phones.

The honest services wire fraud counts against Del Valle Colon involve WhatsApp messages sent by Del Valle Colon that furthered the scheme to defraud and deprive the citizens and the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of their right to Del Valle Colon's honest services.

This indictment also charges Del Valle Colon with obstruction of justice. After becoming aware of the investigation into illegal activities at his legislative office in or about July 2020, Del Valle Colon deleted data on his cell phone including communications between himself and Santos, and between himself and Estrada.

The indictment is the result of an ongoing investigation by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Jonathan E. Jacobson of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Anderson from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico.

An indictment is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

AFRICA

Online Crime Draws Concern

A new INTERPOL report on online organized crime in Africa shows how digitalization is transforming almost every major crime area across the continent.

"Online crime now represents a bigger security issue for law enforcement in Africa than ever before," reads the report, which goes on to detail how the different layers of the Internet (surface web, deep web and dark web) are being used by organized crime groups in Africa to perpetuate crimes.

Africa continues to rank lowest in rates of Internet con-

nectivity in the world. In 2019, only 28% of Africans were reportedly using the Internet, compared to 83% in Europe, according to figures from the International Telecommunications Union cited in the INTERPOL report.

However, relatively low rates of online connectivity have not stopped organized crime groups from taking advantage of the Internet.

Malware incidents are increasingly prevalent in Africa. In one East African country alone, the cost of cyber fraud more than doubled between 2017 and 2018, reaching nearly USD 6.5 million.

Even the criminal activities that have longed formed the 'bread and butter' of organized crime groups are being digitalized.

Social media is used to facilitate migrant smuggling, as evidenced by the INTERPOL-supported Operation Sarraounia, which saw the rescue of 232 victims of human trafficking in Niger, 46 of whom were minors. The operation revealed that 180 male victims had been recruited online with messages that promised "decent work."

As in other world regions, organized crime groups in Africa also use the Internet to facilitate the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, leveraging digital tools to contact and solicit victims as well as sell child sexual abuse materials.

The African continent is also a growing global transit hub for the trafficking of drugs and a range of illicit commodities, with narcotics, pharmaceuticals, stolen motor vehicles and other goods sold and bought online on the surface, deep and dark web.

A key factor driving the increase in Internet-enabled crime in Africa is that many countries lack comprehensive policies and strategies to combat cybercrime, the report argues.

While the African Union (AU) adopted the Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection in 2014. By January 2020, only 14 out of 55 AU member countries had signed the convention by Janu-

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The convention needs to be ratified by at least 15 member countries to enter into force. As of January 2020, only seven countries had ratified it.

"This shows that cybersecurity is still not perceived as a necessity by many African countries, which further exacerbates the problem," the report reads.

Through ENACT, INTERPOL assists police in Africa to adopt proactive strategies to

combat organized crime threats, facilitate information exchange and enhance analytical skills.

Project ENACT is the first initiative of its kind to cover the entire African continent in analyzing the scale of organized crime and its impact on security, governance and development. This analysis serves to inform decision-makers and strengthen law enforcement cooperation at regional and continental levels.



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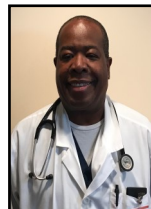
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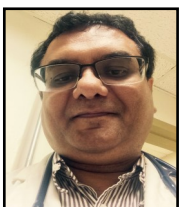
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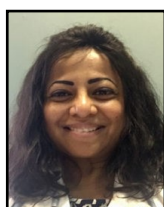
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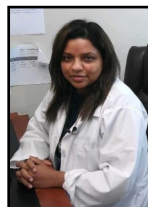
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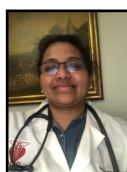


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From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

The Cult of Personality

Over the last few weeks, I have heard the terms "personality leadership" and "cult leadership" being used to describe what is currently taking place in the United States. Such usage has allowed me to reflect on the common phenomenon in many other parts of the world - from communist countries to the Islamic nations - and other countries that are struggling to find a model for their leadership.

In fact, when one thinks of the cult of personality leadership, one can go back to Nimrod, the leader of those who built the Tower of Babel in the land of Shinar. According to the historical records, Nimrod's kingdom included Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh, in Shinar (cf. Gen 10:10).

One can also go back to the Pharaohs of Egypt, who enslaved the Jews. The Pharaohs assumed the title of divine kingship, and declared themselves children of the Sun god Ra. And of course, one cannot bypass Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who built a statue 90 feet to represent himself. And he used the statue to threaten with death, anyone who would not bow down to worship it (Daniel 3).

One can also think of Herod Antipas, who killed John the Baptist, and the Caesars of Rome who thought of themselves as divine. The historical and contemporary lists are long but too prominent to forget are

Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein, and the current dictatorships worldwide.

While I have mentioned leaders in the political realm, I would be negligent not to mention, at least three religious cult leaders who caused so many Americans' lives to be lost. Firstly, James Warren Jones, the American preacher, civil rights activist, faith healer, who turned cult leader and conspired with his inner circle to direct the mass murder - of his followers in his jungle commune that he had set up in Jamestown Guyana. More than 800 of his followers died.

Secondly, we cannot forget Vernon Wayne Howell, who took the name David Koresh, claiming to be a prophet of the Branch Davidians. He and his followers built their commune in Waco, Texas. The end of their story is that many died in a great inferno as they sacrificed their lives in obedience to Koresh. They got into one of the most extraordinary confrontations with the civil authorities that America has ever seen.

Finally, Marshall Applewhite, the leader of the Heaven Gate (religious group) in Texas. He was a self-proclaimed prophet, drawing rhetoric from science fiction and scripture. He led his group to commit mass suicide in 1997 in hopes of being lifted into a spaceship, which they supposedly thought was attached to the tail of the approaching Hale-Bopp comet. This spaceship, they thought, would take their spirits to a final resting place in heaven.

It is quite fascinating how many persons can be drawn into a cult of personality leadership. But here is what interested me why I began to reflect on the theme this much. I heard one person saying, "Cult leaders are those who act as saviors, but want their followers to die for

them rather than them dying for their followers."

Such leaders are usually very charismatic; that is, they project domineering personalities; they have no positive guiding principles, values, vision, or character, but they use their narcissistic personalities, power, popularity, manipulation, lying, cheating, and all kinds of dysfunctions to have their way. In the political realm, such leaders will use arguments of loyalty, patriotism, mass, and social media, (the most contemporary) propaganda, art, organized demonstrations and counter-demonstrations, spying, resentment, rage, and the poisoning of their enemies literally, or by demonization, and threats of every kind in order to have their way.

The blindness with which people are following personality cult leaders today is profoundly disturbing. Whether it is a pop star personality, political leader or religious leader, it needs to be understood that the same disaster that took place at the Tower of Babel (that is why it is called Babel, the seat of confusion), or in Germany with more than 6 million Jews killed, numerous Christians, Gypsies, and many others, we will never know.

Or whether it is Cambodia where Pol Pot killed more than 2 million of his citizens, Jamestown in Guyana with more than 800 deaths, the Waco inferno with David Koresh, or the Heaven Gate group, the result of following a cult leadership is always disastrous. When a whole nation or a large part of it follows such a leader with heedlessness, there will be a grave calamity.

My real reason for this reflection is to ask the following twelve questions:

1. Who are you following?
2. What is the nature of the

character of the one you are following?

3. What principles does such a person hold?
4. What are the moral standards and values of such a person?
5. What is the vision of such a person? Is the person following the Hale Bopp Comet?
6. What kind of loyalty is the person demanding of you? Unquestioning loyalty?
7. Is the person narcissistic?
8. Is the person asking you for the worship and the reverence reserved for the divine?
9. Is the person asking you to put patriotism above the freedom of conscience?
10. Is the person standing for the absolute truth, or is that person a peddler of lies?
11. Is the person stirring up anger, hatefulness, and resentment, or is that person a bringer of peace?
12. Is the person a prostitute of religion by using the name of God ("In the name of God") to carry out evil actions?

If you are serious about your individuality, freedom, and relationship with God, let me advise that you take a second look at every person who comes along, pushing charisma or personality above character and positive principles. In fact, let me suggest that you ask the Lord for guidance in following any leader, from the world of business to the political and religious, arenas these days.

It has always been and still is the devil's dream to cause the world to "wonder" after personalities and powers that have no interest except to promote demonism. John of the Revelation says this is how it is going to be in the last days. People are going to "wonder after the beast" (Revelation 13:3). Is this what is happening in our present time?

PLASMA (Continued from page 5)

oratively with industry, academic, and government partners to implement an expanded access protocol to provide convalescent plasma to patients in need across the country via the national expanded access treatment protocol. The program was developed with funding from the HHS' Biomedical Advanced Research

and Development Authority (BARDA), with the Mayo Clinic serving as the lead institution. To date, the program has facilitated the infusion of over 70,000 patients with convalescent plasma.

The EUA was issued to the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The EUA remains in effect until the termination of the

declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of drugs and biologics for prevention and treatment of COVID-19. The EUA may be revised or revoked if it is determined the EUA no longer meets the statutory criteria for issuance.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects

the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

The Doctor Is In



Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED

Healthcare Insurance Monopoly: Has The Government Failed Us?

Has the government failed us as regards healthcare insurance monopoly? The short answer - Yes.

The long answer - Also, yes. The government has failed us as regards health insurance monopoly. How? I'll explain.

One thing that seems constant in the healthcare industry today is insurance premiums increasing. They've been increasing for years now, which is worrying because there are many big insurance companies today. In a normal market system, the effects of competition amongst these big companies should cause prices to fall. But the insurance market is not a normal one. It's an outright crazy one.

Competition is reducing in this market, while collusion and cooperation between big companies are increasing. And we are starting to get used to it, which is just sad. We are starting to settle for the fact that it is okay for these big companies to merge, that it's okay for insurance companies to drop doctors because they'll recommend other doctors, that it is okay for premiums to increase once in a while. None of these is fine.

I don't want to bore you, so I'll cut right to the chase. How is the government involved? These companies are privately-owned, so why am I blaming the government? Well, because the govern-

ment has sat and watched competition in the healthcare insurance industry disappear.

The government takes on a more aggressive approach when it comes to other industries. There are laws in place that prevent a monopoly. This is why you wouldn't hear cases of monopoly in many other industries in the country, including the communications, transportation, and retailing industries. The way they do this is by using antitrust laws and some other policies that foster competition in these industries.

These laws and policies are what regulate the market in other industries, but the exact opposite is what is happening in the healthcare insurance industry. The government has, in fact, given companies in this industry an exemption from these antitrust laws. This happened way back in 1945, as the McCarran-Ferguson Act, when the health insurance industry was still at its infancy stage.

What is the McCarran-Ferguson Act? I know this is a health article, not a law one, but trust me, you will want to hear this. This Act grants insurers a partial exemption from federal antitrust scrutiny. Partial in the sense that the government is still involved in mergers and acquisitions, but not in how insurance companies can share pricing information between themselves.

Insurance companies, because of this Act, can meet to share information amongst themselves and agree on the prices of premiums. Yes, these companies can meet to talk about how they want premiums to be priced when they should actually be trying to get the better of one another. In oversimplified terms, the companies in the health insurance industry can fix prices, cooperate with one another, and set their own markets with no fear of investigation by the government.

And the effects of this? Little competition in the healthcare insurance industry. The effects of little competition in the healthcare insurance industry? Increase in the prices of premiums. The effects of an increase in the prices of premiums? More health risks for people that can-

not afford it.

It's an ugly and vicious cycle. One that should have no place in our economy. This Act would have been a blessing if the insurance companies we have actually care about the lives of people, both doctors and patients, more than the profit they can make. They are greedy, always seeking mergers and ways of further eliminating competition to achieve a perfect monopolistic system where they control both the demand and the supply. Giving these companies this sort of power just doesn't make any sense. Not only do they not need it, but they also don't deserve it.

But that's not even the most shocking part of this. Would you believe that while these insurance companies are enjoying exemption from antitrust laws, doctors and hospitals are bearing the brunt? Yes, that's right. The people who render healthcare to people are the ones under scrutiny. It's utterly ridiculous. In 1938, the American Medical Association tried to undermine the creation of a maintenance organization that they believed would affect the autonomy and income of doctors. Their efforts were futile, as the Department of Justice stepped in and sued them.

Look at where we now. Doctors are getting dropped day by day, many of them are having their medical groups bought off by insurance companies, and those that are resisting are running out of business fast. So, the power lies solely in the hands of insurance companies now, and the results of this power they wield are what we can see now. Patients that have built bonds between themselves and their doctors have to break these bonds, and this is spelling disaster for many of them. This break in bonds has caused many of these patients to stop visiting doctors altogether, and this is setting the country up for a medical crisis.

To be fair to the government, over the last few years, certain regulators have started scrutinizing the healthcare insurance industry. Two deals that would have effectively ended competition of any sort in some regions of the country were blocked. The mega-deals were between Aetna

and Humana, and Anthem and Cigna. But it's a little too late, don't you think? This pest that is healthcare insurance monopoly has eaten deep into the fabric of this nation. It's not looking very promising at all.

Despite these regulators that the government has put in place, they still have no idea of how to control the ever-increasing power of insurance companies that is occurring due to them buying off many healthcare industries and also merging. Something has to change, and soon too. If this current state continues, America's healthcare sector will be in an even worse state. And that's just a scary sight to imagine considering how bad the sector is right now.

No industry is as bereft of competition in the United States today as the health insurance industry. That's something that cannot become the new norm. It must not. The cost of leaving these insurance companies unchecked by exempting them from antitrust laws and other competition policies is one we cannot afford. The cost of leaving this industry like it is now is people being denied quality health care, which will ultimately lead to a spike in the number of severe medical conditions and deaths we have in the country.

As I said, it is one we just cannot afford. We can only hope the government sees it this way too and gets something done. Anything at all.

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SPORTS WRAP



By William Hathaway

So far, the National Basketball Association has not had its "Bubble" burst in Florida, as there have been no positive COVID-19 cases causing disruption in play.

Two first round series came to a quick conclusion, as the defending world champion Toronto Raptors swept the Nets 4-0, while the Boston Celtics ended both the Philadelphia 76ers' season and Brett Brown tenure as Philly head coach after seven seasons. Meanwhile, the Western Conference playoff game have been exciting, with Donovan Mitchell and Jamal Murray having dueling 50-point games in the Utah-Denver series, and rising star Luka Doncic leading the Mavericks against Kawhi Leonard and the Clippers.

Another sport engaged in playoff competition is the National Hockey League. Although the Rangers have been

SPERNAL

(Continued from page 3)

collaborative team has developed and implemented many innovative programs including an alert system in the emergency department to better recognize and treat fourth trimester complications. Additionally, under Spernal's leadership there has been a system wide reduction of cesarean section, episiotomy, and early elective delivery rates.

"Modern Healthcare's recognition of Suzanne as one of the Top 25 Innovators is a well-deserved testament to her passion and dedication toward re-

eliminated, the Islanders are still in the hunt, thanks to the efforts of their coach, who sued to run the former champion Washington Capitals coach leading their squad. After a poor performance, that team just fired his replacement in Washington.

While the NBA has gone on without a hitch, that can't be said for Major League Baseball and the National Football League. The scheduled "Subway Series" between the Yankees and Mets had to be canned, as two Mets tested positive for COVID-19. Also, the NFL has had its COVID-19 issues - but in name only. A testing lab in New Jersey announced that there were several false positive tests, which had teams reeling. There is no word as to why the tests were faulty. In other news, the Baltimore Ravens cut ties with safety Earl Thomas after he committed conduct that was deemed detrimental to the team.

ducing maternal morbidity and mortality within RWJBarnabas Health as well as the greater New Jersey community," said Barry H. Ostrowsky, President and Chief Executive Officer of RWJBarnabas Health. "Suzanne's focus on a woman's total health, not simply maternity services, has made way for a new frontier in women's services. She will continue to impact countless lives through her work."

Dr. Spernal earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Rutgers University and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Monmouth University.

ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 CASE TALLY

Statistics available as of August 26, 2020

Municipality	8-25-2020	8-26-2020	Deaths
Belleville	997	1,000	61
Bloomfield	1,153	1,155	68
Caldwell	128	128	10
Cedar Grove	498	499	113
East Orange	2,056	2,040	232
Essex Fells	31	31	2
Fairfield	150	155	17
Glen Ridge	45	43	9
Irvington	1,476	1,457	157
Livingston	539	536	69
Maplewood	347	345	27
Millburn	171	171	8
Montclair	482	483	51
Newark	8,300	8,320	646
North Caldwell	46	43	4
Nutley	531	534	35
Orange	1,035	1,045	91
Roseland	87	86	13
South Orange	125	122	4
Verona	143	142	13
West Caldwell	300	304	45
West Orange	1,296	1,304	186
Total	19,936	19,943	1,861
Negative tests	146,389	147,214	

OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of 8-26-2020)

New Jersey: 190,306 cases / 14,134 deaths (Plus 1,780 probable)

United States (approx.): 5.8 Million / 179,200 deaths

Worldwide (approx.): 24 Million / 821,700 deaths

NJ Gov. Phil Murphy has announced that gyms, fitness clubs, and indoor amusement areas can reopen on Sept. 1, with social distancing rules in effect and at 25% capacity.

MAYOR BARAKA STATEMENT REGARDING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

"According to CDC statistics, in the U.S., 76 percent of the COVID-19 cases among children are those from black and brown communities. In Newark, it is known, that we are a primarily black and brown community and we need to take the strongest measures possible to protect our children from a virus that has already taken so many lives. We are doing everything necessary to reduce risks to our youth and situations where they may be exposed.

"Come the second week in

September, we will reassess our COVID-19 data and make a determination of what youth sports can be allowed safely. We are going to base this on science and not on pressure. This is about saving lives and these decisions will not be taken lightly.

"Our children are disproportionately impacted by this disease, so this is an alarming truth of why we need to continue to do what is in all of our power to keep everyone safe and I am calling on everyone in our city to understand."

ANOTHER UNARMED BLACK MAN SHOT BY A WHITE COP

Kenosha, WI - Despite the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others to count, a group of white police officers have once again threatened the life of another unarmed black person.

On Aug. 23, Kenosha Police responded to a domestic incident at a home, though the reason for the disturbance was not released as of presstime. Leaving the home was 29-year-old Jacob Blake, who was unarmed. Witnesses at the scene said that Blake was trying to break up an argument between women in the area.

Video of the incident shows Blake walking toward an SUV with at least three officers with guns drawn following him. Blake is seen walking away from the officers and trying to get into the driver's side of the SUV.

However, Blake then has his shirt grabbed by one of the officers, who proceeds to shoot him seven times in the back. That officer has not been identified as of this report. All three cops have been placed under administrative leave.

Blake's three children were inside the car as the shooting happened. He was airlifted to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, where he lays paralyzed from his injuries.

The shooting ignited understandable outrage in the community, as residents gathered to protest the police. Squad cars were damaged and at least one officer was hit with a brick. Officers decked out in riot gear confronted protesters near the site of the shooting. The unrest triggered a state of emergency and curfew being declared in the

County of Kenosha.

On the third night of protests since the shooting, 17-year-old "Blue Lives" supporter Kyle Rittenhouse pulled out a long gun and opened fire, killing two people. He was located in Illinois and promptly taken into custody, charged with 1st degree murder.

"While we do not have all of the details yet, what we know for certain is that he is not the first Black man or person to have been shot or injured or mercilessly killed at the hands of individuals in law enforcement in our state or our country," said Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers.

The news of the shooting resonated throughout the nation. After a victory over the Houston Rockets, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Chris Paul gave his support to Blake and his family.

President Trump also chimed in, tweeting, "...TODAY, I will be sending federal law enforcement and the National Guard to Kenosha, WI to restore LAW and ORDER!"

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, has signed on as co-counsel for Blake in this matter.

In protest of Blake's shooting, NBA playoff games scheduled for Aug. 26 were postponed as of 5:00 pm EDT. The decision to suspend all action for that day came after the Milwaukee Bucks, who are based out of Wisconsin, boycotted Game 5 of their series with the Orlando Magic. There is no word as to when games would resume. The Milwaukee Brewers of MLB also postponed their game.

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 4)

visor Maurice Butler posted the no Labor Day service announcement from its Paramus garage onto the Community Coach 77 Riders Facebook page Aug. 25. CoachUSA has been running the former DeCamp route since the 1990s.

Community Coach 77 has remained some riders only one seat direct service to New York's Port Authority Bus Terminal since DeCamp suspended all of its service Aug. 7. Both DeCamp and "CC77" have provided weekday rush hour direction-only service since June 16.

CoachUSA/CC77 continues to honor unused DeCamp bus tickets into Aug. 31. Regular rush hour-only service resumes Sept. 8.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - The South Orange-Maplewood Joint Fire Department's first day of watch has been indefinitely postponed while all parties cope with the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus pandemic, leaving the respective municipalities to draft their own fire departments' budgets for 2020-21.

South Orange FMBA Local 40 and 240's personnel, when the joint department is complete,

will have had several members promoted and several new hires - made by the Village Administration and Village Trustees. Those promoted will have endured a two percent cut in their previously agreed-to salaries for 2020-21.

That was what negotiators among the village administration, Locals 40 and 240 the Police Superior Officers Association and the Teamsters Union local have agreed to since Aug. 3. PBA Local 12 and the village remain at the bargaining table.

The negotiations had continued after Village Trustees passed their COVID-19 impacted Calendar Year 2020 Municipal Budget June 8. The spending plan, revised to absorb the cost of curbing COVID-19's spread, includes freezing salaries and increases while also cutting some of the public's fees.

Village President Sheena Collum and Maplewood Mayor Frank McGehee said their monthly joint fire department discussions with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs had been postponed since Gov. Phil Murphy issued his March 13 public health state of emergency.

The joint department, after some 20 year's discussion and votes, has had its opening day postponed from Jan. 1 to April 1 and Oct. 1.

MONTCLAIR - A public referendum question on whether the Montclair Public Schools Board of Education should become a voter-elected panel may be on a 2021 ballot - should a petitioning group attain sufficient signatures.

Vote Montclair is conducting a second voter survey, however, before deciding on making a petition drive. The group, who advocates greater Montclair voter participation, is holding a "runoff" survey based on the findings of a first survey it had conducted earlier this summer.

The group said that 77 percent of 333 respondents of that first survey favored an elected MBOE, followed by 13 percent unsure and nine percent wanting to retain the mayor-appointed board.

Vote Montclair is hoping that at least 15 percent of the township's registered voters, in the second survey, favor an elected school board. State election law allows a public question to go directly on the ballot based on 15 percent of registered voters. The alternative would be the MBOE passing a resolution calling for the question to go on the ballot.

Montclair and East Orange are two of 11 Type One public school boards statewide whose members are appointed by the mayor. Orange switched to a

Type Two elected board 2017-20.

The Montclair League of Women Voters, however, found a majority of township voters favoring an appointed board in their 1995 and 2009 surveys. Questions on switching to an elected board had been defeated at the 1963, 69, 71, 95 and 2009 polling booths.

BLOOMFIELD - Township law enforcers said they have a Belleville man in custody regarding an Aug. 12 robbery at an Ampere gasoline station - but are still looking for the second male.

Brandon K. Boyd, 29, said Bloomfield Public Safety Director Samuel DeMaio Aug. 19, has been arrested in the nighttime holdup of the 7-Eleven at 122 Bloomfield Ave. Boyd was remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility on a count each of robbery and conspiracy.

The gas attendant told responding BPD officers that two men walked into his booth and demanded cash and his cell phone. They fled east towards Ampere Parkway after taking \$100 cash and a \$600 iPhone.

BPD detectives are looking for the second suspect. He is described as an African American male wearing a blue pullover hooded sweatshirt and a purple face covering.

Legally Speaking



Cassandra Savoy, Esq.
OP/ED

Do I Need A Will?

A Will is a legal document that outlines your wishes regarding what happens to your property after your death. A Will provides for an orderly end to your life.

Do you need one? Well, do you care who gets your property if you die? Do you care who gets your money if you die? Do you care who is appointed the guardian of your minor children if you die? If your answer to any of these questions is "Yes," then you need a Will. Planning for what will happen when you die is called estate planning, and one of the primary instruments for estate planning is a Will.

Many people think that only the rich and wealthy need a Will but regardless of how much or how little money you have, a Will ensures that your wishes are heard regarding the disposition

of your money and property. Having a Will is especially important if you die while your children are under the age of eighteen. In that case, having a Will ensures that you get to choose your children's legal guardian. Without a Will, a judge, a stranger who knows nothing about you or your family will decide who will be your children's legal guardian, and how your money will be spent.

With a Will, you get to give authority to carry out your wishes to a person you know and trust. The executor will pay off your debts, gather your assets and distribute them as you choose. Unfortunately, a Will is not a do-it-yourself project and you will likely need the assistance of an attorney.

Most people who come to an attorney say, "All I need is a simple Will" as if they expect the lawyer to pull a form out of a drawer and fill in the blanks. Preparation of a Will is a complex process and requires a lot of deliberate thought on your part. The abbreviated version is as follows.

First, select an executor or executrix, a man or woman whom you designate to wrap up your life. Don't select your sister who lives on the West Coast who has two jobs and four children. Select someone who lives close by and who has the time to settle your affairs.

Second, make specific gifts, called bequests, to the beneficiaries. If you own a home, you can name who you want to have the property when you pass on.

Remember; however, that you can only give away what you own. This means that if you still owe a mortgage on the property, the mortgage may need to be paid off before you can transfer title to the property. The lender trusted you to repay the mortgage; the bank doesn't know your first cousin and has not agreed to lend money to her.

Consequently, what you may end up giving your beneficiary is the right to sell the property, pay off the bank and keep the cash as a down payment on a similar property. You can make bequests or gifts to people or institutions. For example, you can leave your property to the Red Cross, or to your alma mater, Spelman College, or to the local humane society.

Third, if your children are minors, nominate a guardian for your children. You can even nominate two guardians: one to watch the kids, and one to watch the money. For example, suppose you really trust your elderly parent with your children, but she may not have the energy to keep up with two, active six and seven year old children. Your sister can keep up with the kids, but she's a bit of a spendthrift. You can nominate Sister to address the day-to-day activities of the children, and Grandmother to monitor expenditures. You can also nominate an alternate guardian, say for instance, Sister becomes ill, or no longer wishes to serve a guardian.

Fourth, make sure there is enough cash to cover expenses. For example, suppose you have

a house without a mortgage valued at \$350,000. You have a \$150,000 life insurance policy naming your brother as the beneficiary, and you have a bank certificate of deposit (CD) of \$200,000 made payable on death to your mother. When you die, the insurance money goes directly to your brother. The money from the CD goes directly to your mother, and the house may be worth \$350,000, but the funeral director nor the credit card lenders can be paid with the equity in your home.

As a lawyer who has done her share of divorces, I have one story about Wills and insurance policies and other "end of life documents" that I tell often. Make sure you review your Will every couple of years or if there is a significant event in your life.

True story! A man has a daughter with his first wife who is six when they divorce. He remarries and with the second wife he has a child who is severely handicapped and has many special needs. He quits his job at Johnson and Johnson to start his own business. He drops dead leaving \$235K in debts and unpaid bills to the 2nd Wife and the disabled child. When the Wife attempts to claim the \$1,000,000 insurance policy, she learns that child #1 remains the beneficiary and all of that money will be placed in trust for child #1's exclusive benefit.

If you remarry, have another child, a beneficiary dies before you, **GO BACK AND REVISE YOUR WILL!**

NEW JERSEY SUES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

(Continued from page 3)

alleges that on August 16, 2020, a USPS distribution center in Jersey City, New Jersey, was still storing Marketing Mail packages that had been scheduled for delivery as early as July 18.

Americans "will vote by mail in record numbers" in the November 2020 election, the complaint asserts, and the mail service slowdown caused by USPS's "dramatic" changes not only threatens to disenfranchise

those voters, but also to require states to expend "substantial economic and administrative resources" to accommodate vote-by-mail delays.

And while Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has said certain of the changes at issue will be suspended, the complaint notes, he has said that removed sorting machines and other equipment will not be returned, and has not presented a plan to restore timely mail service.

Underlying the disruptive changes implemented by the Postal Service, the complaint asserts, is President Trump's op-

position to mail-in voting for partisan political reasons, and his "concerted efforts to interfere with" the mail-in voting process by undermining the postal service.

"The Postal Service's unofficial motto states that 'neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds,'" said Attorney General Grewal. "The Postal Service has served Americans well since our country's founding. We are filing this lawsuit to ensure that even political-ly motivated cutbacks won't pre-

vent the timely delivery of our residents' mail."

The complaint concludes by asking the court to vacate all changes implemented by USPS because they are illegal, and because millions of Americans will not be voting in person in November and are depending upon the timely delivery of election mail to ensure their votes are counted.

This matter was handled by Deputy Attorney General Tim Sheehan under the supervision of Assistant Attorney General Mayor P. Saxena of the Division of Law.

NEWARK CCRB APPEAL

(Continued from page 1)

Rountree and colleagues and People's Organization for Progress founder Lawrence Hamm - stood with Baraka during the hour-long announcement.

Some of the standees and audience were with the mayor Aug. 20 when he declared, "We can't run with anger, which goes away after a month or two. We have to run with commitment," the day after SCONJ's ruling.

The SCONJ justices - in their 52-page ruling and six-page syllabus Aug. 19 - ruled that the Municipal Council had not the authority to delegate its subpoena power to the Newark CCRB in 2016. Ordinance 6PSFB-2020, the five justices found, violated state law where police department discipline rests with the police chief, police director or director of public safety.

The subpoena part of the ruling reverses a June Appellate Court ruling - which allowed the power but kept complainants and police officers' names confidential and the CCRB's directives to the chief or director non-binding.

The majority of justices further ruled that the police department's internal affairs investigation takes priority over the CCRB's probe. The civilian panel would therefore have to wait for evidence and testimony until IA's turn was done.

"To understand how we got here:" said Newark Corporate Counsel Kenyatta K. Stewart Tuesday morning while holding an index finger up. "Of all the complaints brought to Newark Police IA for investigation between 2007 and 2012, they filed charges against only one officer."

Stewart and First Assistant Counsel Avion Benjamin had spearheaded Newark's case and appealed through state Superior and Appellate courts to SCONJ. Benjamin made the oral argument before the state's high court April 27. Oral arguments were also made by lawyers for Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 12 and the N.J. State Association of Police Chiefs.

Amicus briefs were filed by the state Attorney General's Office and NJACLU.

"We thank Chief Justice (Stuart) Rabner for his dissent," said Baraka. "We hope that his opinion will affect his fellow justices."

"The (State) Supreme Court found value in having a civilian oversight board," said Stewart. "What they said was that the powers to subpoena and to investigate are not spelled out in state law."

Newark is the only New Jersey municipality who has created a CCRB. The

Orange Municipal Council is considering one, as is Jersey City Mayor Fulop. Maplewood's Community Board on Police has been holding monthly meetings since Nov. 1, 2018.

Baraka, who has been advocating for a CCRB for four decades, said he has been getting calls from other N.J. municipalities' mayors. He said he has support from East Orange's Theodore "Ted" Green, Irvington's Anthony "Tony" Vauss, Hillside's Dahlia Vertreese and Plainfield's Adrian Mapp although they were unable to appear Tuesday.

"I got a call from a mayor whose name and town I won't say," added Baraka. "She was asking about a civilian review board - and her municipality is majority white. The legislation we're working on will not only help Newark and Jersey City but Camden, Trenton and Atlantic City."

The mayor was talking about a bill to go before the State Legislature in Trenton that will give municipalities and counties the ability to establish CCRBs with the rights to access documents and summon witnesses in their investigations. A town will have the choice to join a county board or have one of its own.

"A municipality may form a CCRB with three options," said Stewart. "A mayor may ask the council to form one or the council can form one independently.

Citizens of a community may petition their government to put a CCRB question on the ballot."

"This can include sheriff's officers," added Baraka in answering a reporter's question. "All law enforcement should have oversight since they work for the people. The military has oversight."

A General Assembly bill is being drafted by Angela McKnight (D-Jersey City) The McKnight bill is sponsored by Cleopatra Tucker (D-Newark), Shavonda Sumter (D-Paterson), Benjie Wimberly (D-Paterson) and State Sen. Ron Rice (D-Newark). There is also a Senate bill which, Baraka said, Essex and Passaic county state legislators are working to combine with McKnight's bill.

"Having a civilian oversight board," said Mayor Warren, "will help the police department root out the few ne'er-do-wells who do not uphold 'serve and protect.'"

"One of the realities I found was that police hirings, promotions through the (State) Civil Service are done solely by the test," said Mayor Fulop. "The other is that New Jersey is the only state where the chief of police has the final say in discipline and with the police budget."

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