

LOCAL TALK

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“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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CITY OF NEWARK SUED \$10 MILLION BY DEVELOPER - PART IV



By Lev D. Zilbermintz

As was reported in the April 27, 20, April 13 and March 23, 2023 issues of “Local Talk”: the City of Newark, its Municipal Council and certain other parties were sued by the developer, Fairmount Senior Genesis, Housing Urban Renewal Partnership, LLC, Genesis Fairmount Partners, LLC and Genesis Central Ave Partners. The cause of the lawsuit was that the City and its Municipal Council allegedly failed to live up to their side of the agreement and were engaged in unfair play and political shenanigans.

In this, Part 4 of the article, “Local Talk” sheds more light on what happened.

One-sided Allocation of Grant Funding

According to court papers, the City of Newark decided to unilaterally assign Grant Funding. That is, the City would be the only one to decide how the funding would be used. Meanwhile, their partner, the developer, would be left out of the decision-making process.

“The City’s malfeasance and/or misfeasance under the Agreements continued after the rescission of the HOME Agreement funding obligations. On September 22, 2015, Plaintiffs and counsel met with the City to discuss moving forward with the Central and Fairmount Properties project. At that meeting, Deputy Mayor Wilson said he had not considered removing Plaintiffs as redeveloper with respect to the Central Properties site, and represented that the City was not considering that action.

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GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR THE CHILDREN AT THE GRAY CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEWARK

Photos By A Fan of Local Talk

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 To
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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

The looming sword over our heads was the first default in U.S. History. But as expected, President Joseph Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have settled the matter. According to McCarthy, until 2019 the U.S. was spending 19% of the gross national product or GDP. Since the Pandemic of 2020, the U.S. started spending more money about 21%.

Since Biden became president, we are spending more money. Biden's administration is spending about 23% up until 2022. In 2022 our GDP increased by 9.62% which is \$25.46 trillion. In the first quarter of 2023, our GDP rose 1.1%. Due to high inflation, the GDP

has not seen enough growth. Also, under the Biden administration, the expenses have increased drastically. In the first quarter of 2023, Biden's administration spent 24% of our GDP.

After the expense cutting in the GOP proposal, and settled with the Biden administration, there will be control on the expenditures. However, it will not be enough. For the future of America, we must control expenditures. Even in our own homes, the majority of us make sure we spend less than we earn. When we spend more on borrowing from the charge cards, we will have a crunch in the future. So, like in our family matters, it applies everywhere, including the government. When they are borrowing money, it is our debt for the future. As of 2021, each and every person is in debt. In the USA, the debt per person as of 2021 is \$80,983, including newborn children.

The best part about the USA is we have the highest GDP in the world. For your review, here

are GDP of top 10 countries in the world: 1. United States 25,346,805, 2. China 19,911,593, 3. Japan 4,912,147, 4. Germany 4,256,540, 5. India 3,534,743, 6. United Kingdom 3,376,003, 7. France 2,936,702, 8. Canada 2,221,218, 9. Italy 2,058,330, 10. Brazil 1,833,274.

The future of America is not looking great, due to the overwhelming influx of migrants, and spending money on them including housing, boarding, groceries, medical, pocket expenses and more. If estimated, we are spending \$50,000 plus per migrant. What happens to the citizens who make under \$30,000; would the government give them money? No, but the government does collect taxes from those hard-working citizens. I asked a couple of them, they did not deny it and said that they must contribute to society and the government. We all understood the importance of our patriotic duties.

When the elected officials hire their brothers, sisters, family members or friends and they do

not have enough output, we are paying more money than they deserve. We all are paying for their salaries and benefits. There is a law that says elected officials have to have a thorough search before hiring relatives. N.J.S.A. 52:13D-21.2 provides: a. (1) A relative of the Governor shall not be employed in an office or position in the unclassified service of the civil service of the State in the Executive Branch of State Government. But as usual, many of them hire relatives by finding loopholes in the law.

As per Christian News Wire, the Christ Anglican Church has been attacked while Irvington Police Watched and Refuse to Act. Two groups are claiming ownership over the church, including two different Bishops. I will get more info on this and let our readers know when it becomes available.

Have a wonderful week.

I'll talk to you next week.

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
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NEWARK SUED PART IV

(Continued from page 1)

“Plaintiffs at that meeting also requested site access, the issuance of a notice to proceed and an appraisal to move forward with the project plan.

“Plaintiffs did not receive anything from the City, but in reliance on the City’s assurance that it was moving forward did refine a plan over the next couple of months to develop the Central Properties as contemplated by the RDA.”

It sounds like the developer thought that the City’s word was its bond. Because, in legal and business circles, once somebody gave their word on a deal, it has to be kept. This is very similar to the adage, “a man’s word is his bond.” However, politicians go back on their promises any number of times. This is why the developer got itself in this mess. In fairness to the developer, they did not expect such demeanor from the City of Newark.

Court papers show that the developer, aka Plaintiffs, attempted to schedule a meeting with the Deputy Mayor to talk about is-

suues related to the funding. The City allowed the meeting to take place, but still played coy with Grant funding.

According to court papers, “On February 1, 2016, Plaintiffs requested a meeting with Deputy Mayor Wilson for February 5, 2016, to review the plans for the Central Properties. On February 3, 2016, the Deputy Mayor advised that he could not make such a meeting, but that his assistant would arrange a meeting. A meeting to review the Central Properties plan was eventually scheduled for February 8, 2016.”

The meeting brought about a lot of talk, but nothing constructive. Judging by its subsequent actions, the City already had a plan to keep the developer out of the loop while quietly performing politics.

Alleged Corruption & Not Honoring Promises

Court papers convey the shock and disgust the developer felt towards the City. “Despite the scheduling of a meeting to further discuss matters, on or about February 25, 2016, the City notified Plaintiff Fairmount that

it was unilaterally assigning Defendant’s NCC’s rights under the Grant Agreement to itself.”

Huh? What is going on here? It appears as if the City is stripping the developer of its rights.

Court papers state, “The City’s unilateral assignment of the Grant Agreement was wrongful, and without legal basis of any kind. The Grant Agreement cannot be assigned without the consent of Plaintiff Fairmount. Such unilateral assignment without consent is in violation of Sections 8.7 and 8.11 (permitted successors) of the Grant Agreement. The unilateral assignment threatens the funding necessary with respect to the contemplated redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties. By unilaterally assigning the Grant Agreement, the City is seeking to avoid payment for environmental remediation of the Fairmount properties - which it previously owned - since the Grant Agreement monies were intended to be used for environmental remediation of the Fairmount Properties. Plaintiffs have pending before the City invoices for costs incurred with respect to the Project, including for environmental remediation of the Fairmount Properties which was owned but remediated by the City. Payment thereof is now in jeopardy in light of the unauthorized assignment of the Grant Agreement to the City.”

It is crystal-clear from the court papers that the developer believes in legal and business codes of conduct. These codes regulate interaction between two or more parties. Thus, the developer is trying to get the City to follow the established, honorable method of doing business via business agreements, legal agreements, and so forth. It seems like the City has its own agenda, one which ignores the standard used by the developer. In other words, both the City and the developer are speaking different languages. As soon as the developer tries to find common ground with the City, the City acts in its own way.

Plaintiff alleges Wrongful Termination of the RDA as to Central Properties

According to court papers, “While the City’s above actions alone, which threatened supple-

mental and subsidized funding sources for the affordable housing redevelopment of the Fairmount Properties under the HOME and Grant Agreements, are wrong in their own right, the City also wrongfully terminated, in part, the RDA (Redevelopment Agreement).

By letter dated February 11, 2016, the City advised Plaintiff Central that it was terminating the RDA, but only with respect to the Central Properties.

Attached as Exhibit P is a true copy of the February 11, 2016 correspondence from the City to Plaintiff respecting the RDA as indicated.

As above indicated, the Central Properties are economically attractive and well situated in the Newark downtown core and were paired with the Fairmount Properties for redevelopment purposes to make the redevelopment of both viable.

The City has purported to terminate the RDA with respect to the more economically feasible of the two (2) sites - Central Properties - but not with respect to the Fairmount Properties, with respect to which the City accepted \$114,100 from Plaintiffs.”

So the City appears to be playing games. First agreements are made, and then voided. Perhaps the developer, judging by court papers, is not experienced at political play. In legal circles, a man’s word is his bond. In politics, a promise is only good until a way can be found to get around it. This is precisely the situation with Newark and the developer.

What the City Of Newark Did Wrong

According to court papers, the City of Newark did many things wrong. These include terminating, or wrongfully breaching agreements, not serving notice of its actions to the developer, making the Plaintiffs spend money and not reimbursing them, making false promises, and so forth.

“The City has by its actions wrongfully breached, terminated and/or unilaterally assigned the Agreements of the Parties, which damaged Plaintiffs,” state court papers.

“It has also by its actions as above threatened the viable rede-

(Continued on page 12)

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

The New York Liberty have gotten off to a good start so far this season. They won another home game, beating the then-undefeated Connecticut Sun. NYL dominated the Sun 25-13 in the 2nd half, with stifling defense throughout, and won the game 81-65. Leading the charge was Breanna Stewart with 21 points and 6 rebounds, Courtney Vanderpool added 18 points, 10 assists and 6 rebounds, and Sabrina Ionescu had 17 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists. New York is 2-1 on the season.

In basketball, the NBA is still searching for the first to overcome a 3-0 deficit, as the Boston Celtics came up short in their quest to become the first. The Miami Heat beat the Celtics

on the road 103-84 to reach the NBA Finals for the seventh time in franchise history. Jimmy Butler led the Heat with 28 points 7 rebounds and 6 assists, getting Eastern Conference Finals MVP honors as well. They will play at the well-rested Denver Nuggets in Game 1 on Thursday, while the Stanley Cup Finals.

Finally, the Stanley Cup Finals matchup is set, after the Vegas Golden Knights dropped the Dallas Stars 6-0 to win the Western Conference 4-2. They will play the Eastern Conference champion Florida Panthers, who took down the Carolina Hurricanes in a 4-0 sweep, in addition to beating the Toronto Maple Leafs and record setting Boston Bruins earlier on in the postseason.



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"LAST LAP" NEWGARDEN WINS 107TH INDIANAPOLIS 500

By Walter Elliott

SPEEDWAY, IN. - The long time coming Indianapolis 500 victory for Joseph Newgarden finally came on the 107th running's last lap at 4:15 p.m. Sunday.

The two-time NTT Indycar Series champion had passed defending race winner and a contending Santino Ferrucci with a three wide outside pass out of Turn 2 and down the backstretch on lap 200.

The Hendersonville, TN resident then held off Ericsson's Turn 3 challenge by crossing the frontstretch pit lane entrance line and almost hug the pit dividing wall by .0974 sec.

The Team Penske Shell No. 2 Dallara-Chevrolet pilot won on his 12th try at 4:15 p.m. after the race's third red flag halt in its last 20 laps.

Indycar Race Control - after having debris clear from a lap 197 frontstretch collision that took out Christian Lundgard, Ed Carpenter, top place rookie Benjamin Pedersen and Graham Ra-

hal - decided to give the 21 remaining runners a variation of "green-white-and-checkered flags."

ICS stewards gave the runners a single, 198th lap from a standing pit road start to take a combined green-and-white-flags on lap 199. The checkered flag was shown on lap 200.

The "Drivers, Re-Re-Restart Your Engines" command was given after five cars were eliminated in two separate collisions on laps 185 and 196. The last restart became somewhat controversial among the 33 starters.

Ericsson, who drives the Chip Ganassi Racing No. 8 Dallara-Honda, called the last-lap shootout format "unfair and dangerous" in that the firestone tires did not have the time to warm up to optimum temperature.

"Congratulations to Josef, he did everything right and is a worthy champion," said the 2022 500 winner. "I don't think that we've ever done a restart from out of the pits. I don't think there were enough laps to do what we did."

Ericsson, in the same post-race interview, said that he had passed Newgarden in Turn 1 on the last restart but "couldn't hold it flat" down the backstretch.

Newgarden, during his winner's press conference here at the IMS Media center Chris Economaki Conference Pavillon, noted that Ericsson had benefited from last year's two-lap shootout against Alex Palou.

We've been adding more and more downforce since (Simon) Paganaud's win in 2019," said Newgarden. "There's a difficult balancing act by the (Indycar) rulesmakers between the drivers and the fans but I think that the cars should be more difficult to drive. The rules right now held the first and second place runners but not the third place runner."

Newgarden and his No. 2 crew had been relatively quiet even among the Team Penske trio. He qualified 17th May 20 while colleague Will Power qualified 12th May 22 and led May 26's Carb Day practice chart.

Both Newgarden and crew chief Tim Cindric said that they were working to have the No. 2 be in a competitive position to challenge for the lead - and the victory - in the late laps.

"Since '19 with Paganaud, we haven't been in position to close the deal," said Cindric. "Today, we didn't even touch the front wings. All we did was change tires, add fuel and have Josef have his winning ways."

Their approach helped Newgarden crack the top six on lap 100 and take the lead three times for 10 laps; laps 157, 193-96 and 200.

The race's first half was largely dominated by polesitter Palou and second place starter Rinus VeeKay. The respective Ganassi No. 10 and Ed Carpenter No. 21 Chevy drivers traded the lead 10 times the first 64 laps until they effectively took each other out from winning contention on lap 95.

VeeKay and Palou, who had pitted together the same lap, collided while trying to exit the pits.

(Continued on page 15)



UNITED STATES

ARREST MADE IN DWUMFOUR MURDER

After months of no answers, some may finally be coming in the death of a local native turned groundbreaking councilwoman.

On May 30, Middlesex County Prosecutor Yolanda Ciccone announced that an arrest had been made in the murder of Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour. The East Orange and Newark native by way of Ghanaian heritage was shot Feb. 1 right outside of her home at around 7:17 p.m. and was pronounced dead not long after.

The suspect in question has been identified as Rashid Ali Bynum, 28, of Portsmouth, Virginia. Bynum was arrested at 10:45 a.m. outside a residence in Chesapeake City, Virginia without incident. He has been charged with first-degree Murder, second-degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, and second-degree Possession of a Handgun for an Unlawful Purpose.

So far, no motive has been established, but preliminary evidence suggested that the suspect was labeled in the victim's address list under the acronym "FCF," which Ciccone said stood for Fire Congress Fellowship. went to the same church in some capacity. Cell phone and E-ZPass data were used to link Bynum to the crime, and a murder weapon had been recovered.

"Local Talk" will bring you more details as they become available.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 5-30-2023 at 12 p.m.

2023 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 308 (including Newark)
- Total Dead: 429
- Total Wounded: 1167
- Shootings Per Day: 2.05
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of May 9: 150

Latest High Profile Incident

Location: 1200 block North Boardwalk - Hollywood, FL (not to be confused with a Hollywood, SC shooting.)

Time: Around 6:40 p.m. local time, May 29.

Deceased: None, by some miracle.

Injured: 9, including 4 children.

Shooter(s): Five suspects.

Weapon(s): Handguns.

Motive: An argument between two groups.

Status: Three suspects at large, two in custody, charged with firearm offenses.

Notes: Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy: "It is completely unacceptable that innocent people spending time with family on a holiday weekend have been affected by a shooting altercation between two groups who came into our city with guns and no regard for the safety of the law abiding public around them ... Law enforcement agencies are fully engaged in their investigation, and I assure you that no stone will be left unturned in bringing the perpetrators to justice."

NORTH AMERICA

NOAA EXPECTS "NEAR NORMAL" HURRICANE SEASON

The United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts "near-normal hurricane activity" in the Atlantic this coming storm season, said the UN weather agency on Friday, forecasting between five and nine major storms that could become hurricanes.

The US National Hurricane Center acts as WMO's Regional Specialized Meteorological hub, based in Miami, Florida.

There is a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, 30 per-

cent possibility of an "above-normal season," and also 30 percent of a below-normal season, according to forecasters with the Climate Prediction Center.

The hurricane season covering the Atlantic region, including the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and US east coast, lasts from June 1 to November 30.

NOAA forecasts between 12 and 17 total named storms, which means winds of at least 63 kilometers per hour, or 39 miles per hour.

Among the potential hurricanes, it forecasts one to four "major hurricanes" - categories three to five - with winds of at least 178 kmh, or 111 mph.

WMO said that NOAA has "a 70 percent confidence in these ranges.

"It is expected to be less active than recent years, due to competing factors - some that suppress storm development and some that fuel it - driving this year's overall forecast for a near-normal season, according to NOAA," WMO reported in a press release.

The agency reminded however, that it takes just one land-falling major hurricane to set back years of growth and development.

Statistics presented to the ongoing World Meteorological Congress showed how Small Island Developing States suffer disproportionately in terms of both economic impact and the human toll.

For instance, Hurricane Maria in 2017, cost the Caribbean island nation of Dominica, a staggering 800 percent of its Gross Domestic Product.

"Between 1970 and 2021 tropical cyclones (the generic term which includes hurricanes) were the leading cause of both reported human and economic losses worldwide, accounting for more than 2,000 disasters," said WMO.

However, the death toll from deadly storms has fallen from around 350,000 in the 1970s to less than 20,000 in 2010-2019. Reported economic losses in 2010-2019 were at \$573.2 billion.

"Tropical cyclones are major killers and a single storm can

reverse years of socio-economic development. The death toll has fallen dramatically thanks to improvements in forecasting, warning and disaster risk reduction. But we can do even better," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

AFRICA

FEAR SPREADS ABOUT TAINTED COUGH SYRUP

In the summer of 2022, 70 Gambian babies and young children died from kidney failure after ingesting cough syrup spooned out by their caregivers. The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global alert that four tainted pediatric products had originated in India, as local health authorities continue to investigate how this tragedy unfolded.

This feature, which focuses on the illegal trade in substandard and fake medicines, is part of a UN News series exploring the fight against trafficking in the Sahel.

From ineffective hand sanitizer to fake antimalarial pills, an illicit trade that grew during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is being meticulously dismantled by the UN and partner countries in Africa's Sahel region.

Substandard or fake medicines, like contraband baby cough syrup, are killing almost half a million sub-Saharan Africans every year, according to a threat assessment report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The report explains how nations in the Sahel, a 6,000-kilometer-wide swath stretching from the Red Sea to the Atlantic, which is home to 300 million people, are joining forces to stop fake medicines at their borders and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Fake or substandard antimalarial medicines kill as many as 267,000 sub-Saharan Africans every year. Nearly 170,000 sub-Saharan African children die every year from unauthorized antibiotics used to treat severe pneumonia.

NEW JERSEY'S ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION FACING UPHILL BATTLE

By Walter Elliott

NEWARK / TRENTON - Whether and which campaign finance law violations will be enforced within and outside of "Local Talk Land" this season may be subject to newly-enacted restrictions on the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

The four-member ELEC, from its Trenton headquarters April 5, had filed a complaint against current Newark West Ward Dupre Kelly for failing to file any finance reports on his 2018 and 2021 campaigns.

"DoItAll" Kelly had run an unsuccessful independent campaign in 2018 but had won the 2022 election while as a member of Mayor Ras Baraka's "Moving Newark Forward" ticket.

While Kelly may be facing fines from the state panel for failing to report in 2022, he will not face penalties for similar 2018 violations. Similar charges against seven other municipal office candidates that the ELEC filed complaints on April 5 may also be moot.

The Election Transparency Act of 2023 - passed by the State Legislature in March 28 and signed by Gov. Phil Murphy April 3 - limits the ELEC scope for violations to two years.

Complaints against Kelly and Baraka - who, according to the ELEC database, last filed a campaign finance report in autumn 2021 - may or may not face penalties if the state panel does not get to their cases before 2023's end.

The three ELEC watch dogs may not even be available to hear the 2021-22 Dupre and/or Baraka matters. Their May 7 meeting was cancelled for the lack of a quorum.

The three commissioners - Eric Jaso (R-Morristown), Steve Holden (D-Merchantville) and Marguerite Simon (D-Edgewater) - had resigned March 30 in protest of the Election Transparency Act's passage and imminent signing. They were protesting against what

they saw as Gov. Murphy's "blunt force" attempt to usurp the ELEC's independence.

Whether Kelly, Baraka, other suspected campaign finance law violators and/or their attorneys will see any of the resigned commissioners or an all-new four member panel may not be known until July 3.

The ETA's language allows for Murphy (D-Rumson) to appoint the four commissioners and an executive director without the advice and consent of the State Senate. The Governor, when he had signed the act April 3, started a 90-day clock. Appointment power reverts to the Senate on July 4.

Holden and Simon, on May 5, had asked Murphy to rescind their resignations; the Governor replied with, "No. The positions remain vacant."

The three resigned commissioners and Executive Commissioner Jeff Brindle are holdovers from Gov. Christopher Christie's administration. The fourth, Republican seat has remained vacant through Murphy's tenure.

Since 1973, the Senate has selected two Democrats and two Republicans to the ELEC plus an executive director.

The chain of events began either in February or October when Murphy's office discovered an email from Brindle to a colleague over National Coming Out Day. "No Washington's or Lincoln's birthdays," responded Brindle, "but we've a National Coming Out Day."

Brindle, in his lawsuit against Murphy and several of his administrators, said that Chief Ethics Officer Dominic Toth had used the email to get the three commissioners to try to fire him.

Brindle, who has been executive director since 2009, was brought to the Commissioners for a March 28 hearing in Trenton - where the panel found no cause to take action.

Murphy, on his March 21 "Ask the Governor" show from WBGO-FM, said that the ETA

(Continued on page 15)

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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 - Mayor Ras Baraka has until June 12 to sign into law an ordinance designed to crack down on illegal dirt bike and All Terrain Vehicles use in public streets - if he has not signed already.

The Municipal Council passed on May 24 an addition to the city code's Chapter 20 on "Peace and Good Order" regarding the use of dirt bikes, ATVs and motorized bicycles and scooters. Ordinance 23-0609 had been introduced by Council President/Central Ward Councilman LaMonica McIver May 4.

The ordinance bans the operation of said unlicensed vehicles unless they are being transported or conveyed by another legally registered vehicle.

Petroleum filling station operators can only fuel the said vehicles if they have been brought there by another legally registered vehicle. The station employee or manager may call the Newark Police Division should he or she is suspicious of the said vehicle being brought in. There is a \$3,000 fine for fueling the illegal vehicles and a provision that an employee or station owner may also report of any threats by the illegal vehicle's owner.

Those storing the said vehicles may welcome them so long as they arrive on a legal vehicle's flatbed or tow hook.

The new law allows NPD and other law enforcement officers to confiscate the said illegal vehicles should they be unable to identify the owner and/or find registration and insurance liability documentation and/or be involved in an accident causing major injury. Confiscated vehicles, in the measure's language, "will be destroyed."

The Chapter 20 addition intends to curb the use of such ve-

hicles by "The 12 O'Clock Boys" - packs of mostly youths who run dirt bikes and ATVs on public streets. They were so named by a 2011 documentary from Baltimore of similar packs who also conduct stunts - usually without helmets or other safety gear.

IRVINGTON - A federal judge has sentenced a township man and accused gang leader nicknamed "Hellboy" May 25 to 10 years imprisonment for drug trafficking and weapons possession.

U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton, from her Newark bench that Thursday, further sentenced Tyree Thomas, 29, to five years' supervised release once his prison time is served.

Thomas is accused of possessing PCP and marijuana for distribution from an address each here and in East Orange May 1 - Aug. 21, 2019. Undercover federal agents said that he had sold them the narcotics "on multiple occasions" those four months.

The agents had said that they found quantities of marijuana and PCP plus a 9 mm. Glock 19 and a .380 caliber Grendel P10 with loaded ammunition while executing a search warrant at "a stash house in East Orange." They said they had found more of the same narcotics in "several other locations."

Wigenton's sentence is the result of Thomas having pleaded to nine federal counts lodged against him. Those charges included possessing controlled dangerous substances with intent to distribute, conspiracy thereof, distributing CDS to a minor and "possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking."

Thomas is alleged to be the leader of the East Orange-based "Sheedside Pirus" Bloods set and of being a member of the MOB Pirus in the same city.

EAST ORANGE - A city man had pleaded guilty before a Newark-based federal judge May 23 for a 2019 shooting of a man he said was an FBI informant.

Kalil Bryant, 40, pleaded before U.S. Judge John Michael Vazquez that Tuesday to a count each of "retaliating against a victim, witness or an informant" and for being a convicted felon in possession of ammunition.

Bryant was accused of pointing a gun at another man's abdomen, calling him a "rat" and firing on Aug. 24, 2019. The victim survives after receiving medical

treatment.

Bryant, on Aug. 19, 2019, had sent text messages to a mutual acquaintance to "Tell (him) he gonna Die soon because he is a rat," "Prepare to bury Hm soon" and "Get your black dress ready." The victim had previously cooperated with the FBI, providing them information that led to the conviction of one of Bryant's associates.

A jury, after an eight day trial, had found Bryant guilty on Feb. 17 of transmitting threats over interstate commerce and retaliation.

Bryant faces a maximum 10 years in prison on the ammunition possession and 30 for the retaliation of the informant. The retaliation count he was found guilty of carried a five year maximum sentence plus up to 30 years for being found guilty of retaliation. Judge Vazquez is to sentence Bryant Oct. 10.

U.S. Attorney-New Jersey District Attorney Philip Sellinger thanked East Orange Police Chief Phyllis Bindi and the police department for their help in the investigation. The U.S. Marshal's Office, Jersey City and Metuchen police departments were also thanked.

ORANGE - The City Council, on April 18 had approved a Memorandum of Understanding between city administrators and the three property owners who hold the Orange Memorial Hospital, Ippolito Funeral Home and 184 Matthew St. sites on how to proceed with the overall 9.97 acre property's redevelopment.

The MOU between the city - who hold \$3.5 million of tax liens plus mortgage liens - and property owners Orange Flats and SYMREC, together as Project JV, starts with the latter side paying the city the owed tax liens before proceeding.

Project JV, once that tax liens are paid off, will have 30 days to proceed with presenting redevelopment plans to the Orange Planning Board. There is no mention of the plans going to the Orange Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The redevelopment on the properties framed by Henry and Matthew streets and Central and South Essex avenues will be done in three geographic site phases. Site A will be for Block 3601, Lots 1, 3-8, followed by Site B (Block 3601, Lots 2-5)

and Site C (Block 3702).

What would be the third attempt to redevelop the closed-since-2004 Orange Memorial Hospital complex now includes the closed Ippolito Funeral Home and 184 Matthew - an amalgam of 14 lots. Most of the hospital's lots and the buildings on them have been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2017.

Ordinance 186-2023's first page, however, had described that "The Hospital Redevelopment Site had fallen into substantial disrepair, becoming an attractive nuisance and a risk to public health and safety." Part of that deterioration was due to the second developer's internal quarrels that led to neglect.

City Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk, on April 18, said that nine of the buildings can be demolished pending Orange Planning Board approval of applications for Sites A, B and/or C. The statements that meeting leaves which of the National Register of Historic Places buildings will face the wrecking ball.

WEST ORANGE - Township Attorney Richard Trenk and West Orange's citizens may learn how long or short his days of municipal representation will be numbered at the Township Council's June 13 meeting.

The council, in a 4-1 split vote May 16, introduced an ordinance that would officially rescind renewing Trenk's legal services contract into 2026. The contract was passed by Mayor Susan McCartney's tie-breaking vote on April 18 - only to learn that the mayor here does not have that power.

"I'm disappointed that we're at this place but I think it's important that we're clear that Mr. Trenk doesn't; have a contract," said new bill sponsor Councilman William "Bill" Rutherford. "There was a reason why he had not gotten support from this council; there are plenty of reasons why."

Council President Tammy Williams and Council Members Rutherford, Susan Scarpa and Asmeret Ghebremichael carried the introduction May 16. Councilwoman Michele Casalino dissented.

Trenk's supposed latest contract was actually two. One was to represent West Orange Dec. 31, 2022-Dec. 31, 2026; the other

(Continued on page 13)



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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY PROTESTERS AND ADMINISTRATION REACH COMPROMISE

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

SOUTH ORANGE - As reported in the May 17 and May 24 issues of Local Talk, Seton Hall University students protesting a lack of African American Studies faculty took over President's Hall for at least five days. The protesters also blocked South Orange Avenue and Ward Place entrances to Seton Hall University on May 5.

Protect AFAM (African American Studies) group listed seven demands that had to be met before protesters would leave President's Hall.

The Seven Demands:

1. The first demand was the pardoning any and all participants of Protect AFAM from any and all punishment by Seton Hall University policy.
2. The second demand includes a cluster hire of 3-4 full-time professors at a minimum who are experienced and recognized as Africana professionals.
3. The third demand is that the Africana studies Program be reinstated as a department that is fully funded and supported by the institution by Spring 2024.
4. The fourth demand is the hire of a full-time tenured director of the Africana

Studies program. This hire will not be included as part of the 3-4 full-time professors.

5. The fifth demand is the inclusion of Africana Studies students to serve as liaisons with voting power on the search committee for new directors and professors.
6. The sixth demand is to have both increased and truthful advertisements for AFAM (African American Studies Program).
7. The seventh demand is to have Black House be reinstated physically as a safe space for black students and a center for the organization of the Black Caucus.

Statement by Protect AFAM after meeting with Seton Hall University administration, SGA

"Local Talk" has learned of progress made by protesters. The statement below was posted on Instagram by Protect AFAM.

"On May 8, 11 Protect AFAM representatives met with President Nyre, Provost Passerini, Monica Burnett (VP of Student Services and Chair of DE&I at Seton Hall), Dr. Forrest Pritchett (Interim Director of Africana Studies) Britnee Timberlake (Seton Hall Alum and Assemblywoman) SGA President

and other Seton Hall representatives to discuss the protests and the future of Africana Studies at Seton Hall. After almost six hours of negotiations on our demands, Protect AFAM and Seton Hall administrators were able to come to a consensus that satisfied the needs of both parties at the time.

"Understandably, there are many questions regarding what has happened to our movement since then. In a show of good faith, Protect AFAM removed our signs from the walls and windows of President's Hall and ceased overnight occupation of the building from 8 am - 8 p.m. until the end of the semester. In addition, Protect AFAM representatives has, and will continue to meet with Monica Burnett, President Nyre, Provost Passerini, and other Seton Hall representatives to grow our Africana Studies Program.

"Due to confidentiality reasons, we cannot share all details of the May 8th meeting, or other meetings with the administration, at this time. However, we value transparency and are able to share our finalized wins!

"Among the list of initiatives (outlined on the Seton Hall website) that were decided in a meeting on Monday, May 15 was a commitment to expand the resources for the pro-

(Continued on page 14)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Accept One Another

After the murder of George Floyd, one journalist reflected that “The United States is living through a moment of profound and positive change in attitudes toward race, with a large majority of citizens coming to grips with the deeply embedded historical legacy of racist structures and ideas.” Was the journalist too idealistic in the above conclusion or in the proclamation that “recent protests and public reactions to George Floyd’s murder are a testament to many individuals’ deep commitment to renewing the republic’s founding ideals?”

It seemed wise that the journalist went on to take further note that “there is another, more dangerous, side to this debate - one that seeks to rehabilitate toxic political notions of racial superiority, stokes fear of immigrants and minorities to inflame griev-

ances for political ends, and attempts to build a notion of an embattled white majority which has to defend its power by any means necessary. These notions, once the preserve (sic) of fringe white nationalist groups, have increasingly infiltrated the mainstream of American political and cultural discussion, with poisonous results.”

Yes, it is a reality that the politics of the nation at the moment seems to be putting people on a path of a deep divide. We are hearing more and more about white nationalists or pan-nationalists and the need for blacks to get ready to defend themselves. We are also hearing more of radical liberals and MAGA conservatives, socialists and purists, Christian conservatives and liberal Christians, pro-abortionist and anti-abortionist, upper class and lower class, all the labels that can be used to create a divide, are being given much emphasis. And the bills being passed in Congress and the various states and city councils do not seem interested in building bridges to change the culture of alienation at this time.

I believe the devil does all he needs to create and place us into our little silos to divide us. Or

maybe I should say that Charles Darwin and his evolutionist view of “the survival of the fittest” is winning. It’s a “dog eat dog” world, and we are invited to live in it. It is the way to win, we are being told.

I am glad for the appeal from the Bible, which suggests a different view from the “dog eat dog” world. It simply says we are to “Accept one another” (Romans 15:7). I have been thinking much about what that means and have come up with the following ten suggestions.

1. Learn to think of others. The world is not all about me - it is not all about self.
2. Learn to overcome the fear of the other. It is easy to fear people we do not know.
3. Learn to take some time to know the other.
4. Learn to love the other - we are not born loving, but we can learn to love.
5. Learn to respect every person created by God. We need to accept that we are of the one Heavenly Father.
6. Learn forgiveness - along the path of life, it is easy to bruise each other - but learn to forgive and ask for forgiveness. Do not accept the

notion that “a big person” never apologizes.

7. Learn compassion - a lot of people are isolated and hurting. Pause a moment and listen to them and do what you can to help.
8. Learn humility - there is too much boasting in the world. We are all of the dust together.
9. Learn generosity - Do not think so much of what you can get, but of what you can share.
10. Learn that the spirit of competition is often destructive. Understand that too much importance is placed on one winning over the other.

Yes, the appeal is to “Accept one another.” In another context, I have read what someone says, “This is not only an invitation; it’s a requirement.” To avoid the destruction of our homes, churches, and communities, we must learn to accept one another. We cannot live as if we are not part and parcel of a whole. God made us part and parcel of each other. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, used to speak of “The Universal Community.” We must accept it as a fact and do all we can to maintain it. May God help us to do so.

NEWARK SUED PART IV

(Continued from page 4)

velopment of the Fairmount Properties. Plaintiffs were never served with any notice of other indication of default under any of its Agreements with the City as described above. Defendant City was in no position to act to default, terminate and/or unilaterally assign any Agreement as a result. Plaintiffs were at all times in compliance with their contractual obligations and relied upon same to their detriment.

“As a result of the City’s failure to abide its obligations under the various Agreements, and its own Defaults under the RDA (including its Section 3.3.2 obligation to furnish an appraisal and its Section 2.4(b) obligation to furnish the Relocation Notice), Plaintiffs have not been able to proceed with the Project.

“Despite the fact that Plaintiffs have had several meetings with City representatives to discuss either (i) ways the City can fulfill its financial commitments and comply with the terms of the RDA to move the Project forward, or (ii) otherwise terminate the RDA and reimburse Plaintiffs for their damages, including costs associated with their performance and due diligence, the City has none-

theless acted in abrogation of those Agreements.

“On or around February 3, 2016, Plaintiffs’ principal and the City’s Deputy Mayor and Director of Housing and economic Development, had communicated with respect to moving the Project forward, and had scheduled a meeting to further discuss same, as above indicated.”

Simply put, the developer explains in court papers how they believe the City lied, dragged out things, made excuses, and did not reimburse the developer for wasted money, time and effort.

Litigation

After all the excuses, and broken promises, the developer had enough. According to court papers, “on March 11, 2016, Plaintiffs filed a Verified Complaint in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division - Essex Vicinage under Docket Number L-1738-16 against Defendants City of Newark, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, Newark Animal Shelter, Inc., Community Foundation of New Jersey and ABC Corporate Entity 1-10 and John Doe 1-10.

“Upon initiation of the Litigation, settlement negotiations between Plaintiffs and the City commenced. On November 7, 2016, the

Litigation was referred to mediation by Order of the Court. On November 14, 2017, following a meeting between the parties, the City “memorialized” an agreement as to the following: (a) the City would withdraw its prior termination of the development agreement and reinstate said agreement and (b) Plaintiffs would dismiss the Litigation without prejudice and release the Fairmount Properties back to the City. ...

“On January 5, 2018, Plaintiffs responded to the City’s letter to request reimbursement of \$189,190.90 in out-of-pocket costs in exchange for the release of the Fairmount Properties. ...

“On January 11, 2018, the parties filed a Stipulation of Dismissal Without Prejudice of the Litigation.”

What all this means, in simple English, is that once the developer filed a lawsuit, the City started maneuvering. According to criminaldefenselawventura.com, dismissal without prejudice means that the party filing the case can bring it up again. The case is not dismissed forever. Charges can be refiled. By comparison, dismissal with prejudice means that the case is dismissed permanently and cannot be brought back.

Next: Kawaida Towers, more legal maneuvering by the City of Newark, response by city council members

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING FOR THE CHILDREN AT THE GRAY CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEWARK

By A Fan of Local Talk
OP/ED

Last week I had the pleasure of attending The Math and Readathon at The Gray School. It was truly an amazing experience, as I saw Kindergarten students reading, interpreting text and reciting multiplication tables, fifth graders reading and acting out novels and performing mental math, and eight graders perform Shakespeare's MacBeth in a puppet show and solve advanced mathematical problems.

In attending the program, I saw why The Gray Charter Students excel and score high on statewide tests. Gray students have consistently performed well

on state testing year after year. This year, over 76% of the third grade passed the state exam. We are living in a changing world which requires children to have a good education. The foundation of learning happens in kindergarten and the lower elementary grades, leading to children that graduate from Gray Charter well prepared to attend high school.

It's not solely academics that form the recipe for success here. Although Gray Charter has a strong emphasis on math, science and reading, the students are taught an appreciation of music, dance and new experiences like ski club and support charitable causes such as The American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Hearts program.

TOWN WATCH (Cont. from pg 10)

was for a \$175 per hour litigation rate.

Trenk had been Township Attorney since 1998. He had been drawing a \$42,000 annual salary from taxpayers.

SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD - Columbia High School's indoor pool, since the South Orange - Maplewood School District Board of Education's May 25 approval of \$34.8 million of building improvements, have made its last laps.

The two-town board, that Thursday night, approved a plan that includes replacing Columbia's roof and HVAC system and renovate its library/media center and science laboratories.

The work, which will start this summer, includes replacing the four-lane pool, its locker rooms and related equipment with "a student commons area." The student commons' installation will end a decade of deciding whether to renovate and/or expand or replace the pool.

The pool, which opened with the CHS core building in 1927, was part of freshmen's physical education requirement. It used to hold high school meets until the NJSIAA decided that its four lanes fell short of the optimum eight lanes.

A 2013 study found that it would cost \$8.1 million to repave the pool and \$5.9 million

to repurpose it. The then SOMSD school board voted against renovation and closed it in 2016.

CHS's swimming teams have since used the Maplewood Community Pool as their home natatorium. Some parents in 2016, citing an equity issue, said that it costs a family \$500 in annual MCP membership and \$50 per swimming lesson.

An SOMSD board member was penalized after using confidential floor plans of the student commons during is July 2022 presentation.

BLOOMFIELD - Both Maplewood and South Orange have separately renewed their animal control contracts with Bloomfield as of July 1.

The Maplewood Township Committee approved a new one-year 2023-24 interlocal services contract on May 23. The Village of South Orange Trustee likewise followed at about the same time for the same year.

Maplewood and South Orange first engaged Bloomfield Animal Control for respective six-month contracts on or around Jan. 1. They were among the 16 New Jersey municipalities that had scrambled to replace Madison's St. Hubert's who let its service contracts expire on Dec. 31.

South Orange and Maplewood join Glen Ridge, Nutley and Caldwell as Bloomfield's clients. Bloomfield is best known



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Family Support Organization of Essex County (FSOEC) offers workshops and support groups for parents and caregivers of children with challenges. We encourage your attendance this month.

- **JUNE 8: Better Togethers Dads** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.
- **JUNE 13: Let's Talk - Parents Support Group** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 2nd Tuesdays to help parents learn new strategies that effect positive change.
- **JUNE 20: Nutriendo el Corazón** se reúne a las 7:00 p.m. el tercer martes para darles a los padres la oportunidad de conectarse y abordar sus inquietudes, preguntas y emociones que sentimos cuando estamos criando a un niño con necesidades especiales.
- **JUNE 27: Nurtured Heart Approach** meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Tuesdays to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

These support groups occur on Zoom, so visit our website for the links: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

P.S. FSOEC is hiring parents as Family Partners
learn more at <https://bit.ly/fsoechiring>

for its Mayor John A. Bukowski Memorial Animal Shelter.

MONTCLAIR - State Superior Court Judge Stephen Petrillo intends to issue on June 2 a 58-page memo to the "Rao vs. Township of Montclair and Timothy Stafford" parties on what evidence and materials will and will not be admissible in the upcoming whistleblower civil trial.

Petrillo is setting boundary lines and his May 26 pretrial session rulings in writing to Montclair CFO Padmaja Rao, the Township, former Town Manager Timothy Stafford and their lawyers.

The judge, for example, had not granted on May 26 Township lawyers' motion to outrightly dismiss Pao's suit. Petrillo also dismissed Montclair's attorneys' May 22 request to seal the hearing's transcript and bar the public from the courtroom gallery.

Montclair, as represented by Derrick Freijomil of outside firm Riker Danzig, had asked for the transcript sealing and barring public attendance on grounds that the materials include personnel records. Nancy Erika Smith, representing Rao, countered that the records had been in the pub-

lic arena for seven months since her client's Oct. 24 complaint filing.

Petrillo ruled, in Friday's three-hour hearing in Newark's Historic Courthouse, out only direct personnel records from the pool of documented evidence. The judge added that he will rule out any materials that are brought up without prior communication and/or not pertaining to the case.

The judge, for instance, wants a copy of Assistant Township Attorney Gina DeVito's Aug. 22 memo that Township Council Members, who each get a \$10,000 annual stipend, are not eligible for the full-time state health benefits program. That memo was simultaneously sent to Rao, Stafford, council members and the Montclair Law Department.

Petrillo admitted into evidence Montclair Affirmative Action Officer Bruce Morgan's Aug. 29 internal report on the Town Manager's Office working conditions. Morgan, in his report, confirmed Rao's complaint of workplace harassment and retaliation. DeVito, on Sept. 28, replied to Morgan that "Montclair had rejected" his findings.

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

A PENNY EARNED
A PENNY SPENT

I felt that lump in my throat, a punch in the ol gut, and then a slap across my head during our introduction. When buzzwords really buzz, OMG. At first glance to onlookers, I definitely had the ol deer in headlights thing going on. But I felt that it was finally time to make amends. So bring it on tax man and money, you do matter, but taking care of things that matter when it comes to you is another story.

Taxes and law are a pretty good conversation. Having that convo with an inside man makes it much less intimidating. Swallowing that lump hard with fingers crossed now. So let's take a glance beforehand, which is undoubtedly much better than be-

ing made to look later. Andrea Dialect said that!

ZOOM ZOOM BABY

Dispel that fear and that myth, those things that hover over you like when you die, by going to the Internal Revenue website. Like Donald Trump, if you know the tax laws especially at those levels, you can make it work for you. There are all kinds of credits and strategies out there. - Rodney Williams

Rodney: As with my upbringing, many people have been taught that money is the root of all evil and all that foolishness by those who don't understand the importance of money, when many of those in scripture were



The Tax Man Rodney O. Williams
Financial & Business Consultant
Photos By Andrea Dialect



very wealthy. Even Jesus had a wardrobe when he died that they fought over. So money is very important Biblical teaching.

Overall, the Bible states that money answers all things. in Ecclesiastic 10- 19. But your religion may have a poverty mindset against money, so that's a direct paradox. The Bible speaks very kindly of money, and once again, many of those people were very wealthy, from Solomon to King David, Joseph, and the Queen of Sheba those personalities were wealthy. You have to make sure that you have the correct theology so that it doesn't mess up that powerful message in scripture.

Money also comes in various forms. Often those basic know-how can be banked on. Whether you know how to build furniture, sew, or if you know how to cook, you can build a restaurant,

or you like to clean a cleaning business. Many opportunities come through obstacles and life itself. For instance, if you were raised as a Jehovah's Witness and you were knocking on doors.

But when I went into the Internal Revenue Service after passing that Governors exam, I had also been called to work for Social Security, but I chose the IRS basically because you got summers off and unemployment. That training gave me great command and conformability in the financial world. ...

Read this article in its entirety at www.localtalkweekly.com and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to localtalkandrea@gmail.com.

SETON HALL PROTEST

(Continued from page 11)

gram (meaning funds), begin the search for instructors, and decouple the director and new tenure-track position. Additionally, the administration will continue to collaborate with the Council of Africana Scholars, Protect AFAM representatives and the Student Government Association to grow the program in the coming weeks and especially during the Fall 2023 semester.” (Richards)

“In addition to these accomplishments, we also have secured multiple seats on the hiring committee. We are still advocating for students to have voting power on future search committees. The Council of Africana Scholars/Protect AFAM is in collaboration with SGA to work toward building a strong foundation for all organizations under the Black Caucus. We will work toward making sure that Africana Studies is supported be-

yond the statements on the school website.”

“Note: Because the Council of Africana Studies (CAS) founded Protect AFAM, we will use the CAS title as an official organization under the university to integrate our demands into Seton Hall. CAS will also serve as the direct point of correspondence for concerns regarding Africana Studies at SHU.

“Our fight for Africana Studies does not end because a list of initiatives that collectively operate to accomplish all of our demands were signed into action, and we will continue our fight in every meeting.

“We understand that over the past two weeks, you have all been concerned for us and want to ensure that our efforts do not go in vain. At this time we ask that you refrain from asking questions regarding the specific details of our collaborations with the administration until it is all said and done. We do not have a specific time or date that this process will be over. The central committee of

Protect AFAM/2023 executive board of the Council of Africana Scholars is committed to ensuring the security and longevity of the Africana Studies Program at Seton Hall.

“This statement serves as a sign of good faith to community members and other students supporting the movement that Protect AFAM will not stop advocating for our rights to fair and adequate education, spaces, and resources at Seton Hall. We ask that you all continue to trust us through this ongoing process.

“We All Got! - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sincerely, Protect AFAM and The Council of Africana Scholars”

A second statement, posted on Instagram by AFAM, thanked everyone who helped Protect AFAM during its days of protest, May 3 - May 8, 2023. It is given below in its entirety.

“Dear AFAM Community,

(Continued on page 15)

INDY 500 (Continued from page 5)

VeeKay suddenly moved left into Pato to avoid a third exiting car. Pato was sent into the inside pit exit wall.

Palou's crew repaired the No. 10 sufficiently for what would be a fourth place finish. VeeKay finished 10th after serving a lap 103 penalty for what Race Control deemed "avoidable contact."

They were among those pitting for the race's first caution on laps 92-96. Series Rookie Sting Ray Robb had lost the handle and crashed in Turn 1.

Graham Rahal, driving for the injured Stefan Wilson, was meanwhile laboring under a two-lap deficit. The just-for-the-500 Dreyer & Reinbold No. 24 Chevy driver's car had stalled on the first formation lap and had missed the 12:46 p.m. start.

Rahal, in an agreement Reinbold, Rahal's regular RLL team and Indycar would start the 500-only United Rental-Five-Thirds Bank car from last place. Wilson, in a back brace, came to the D&R and RLL garages to wish G. Rahal well.

Wilson fractured a back vertebrae when he and RLL-500-only driver Katherine Legge collided during a May 22 practice session. Legge had sent Wilson's car airborne, cracking his back upon landing.

Rahal was among those put out by the lap 196 collision.

Arrow McLaren's Felix Rosenqvist and Pato O'Ward, then took turns leading 10 times on laps 64-175. Except for pit stop cycles, the duo was trading the point in part to save each other some Shell ethanol.

"The Felix and Pato Show" ended in separate crashes.

Rosenqvist, on lap scraped the wall, broke his steering and collided with Andretti Autosport's Kirkwood in Turn 2. Their impact sent Kirkwood's right rear wheel between the Turn 2 bleachers and the Riley

Children's Hospital Suites onto an unoccupied car - and ushered the first red flag halt.

O'Ward tried to reclaim the lead on lap 180 but ran into Pagenaud. The Mexican was then run into by Canapino, who had apparently lost his brakes - resulting in the second red flag session.

Arrow McLaren did see its other two drivers - Alexander Rossi and Tony Kanaan - fifth and 16th. Kanaan and former boy karting rival Castroneves battled for 15th place in the former's last Indycar start.

Santino Ferriucci was Sunday's surprise. The AJ Foyt Racing No. 14 Chevy driver from Woodbury, Ct had started sixth and led twice for 11 laps to finish third.

Ericsson, who would have been the first back-to-back 500 winner since Castroneves in 2001-02, was Newgarden's late race challenger. The Swede led five times for 19 laps spreading from lap 133 to 199.

Newgarden's victory Sunday proved to be popular. Instead of climbing the front grandstand's catch fence, "JoeNew," instead, slipped between a gap with the outside wall and was briefly congratulated by fans before walking back to Victory Circle.

"The (win) takes the weight off; you're expected to win the 500," said an exhausted Newgarden. "There are drivers who have fine careers without winning the 500. This is the toughest race in the world to win and it doesn't compare to winning the (Indycar) championship.

"It got to the point where I wasn't going to settle for second, third or fourth anymore. In the late laps, I was either going to win it or hit the wall."

Sunday's results remain unofficial until Monday night's 500 awards banquet. It is anticipated that Pedersen will receive the 500 Rookie of the Year title for being the highest placed of the four first-time drivers here.

The NTT Indycar tour heads to downtown Detroit June 4.

FINISH: 1.) JOSEF NEWGARDEN (CHEVROLET), 2.) Marcus Ericsson (Honda), 3.) Santino Ferrucci (C), 4.) Alex Palou (H), 5.) Alexander Rossi (C), 6.) Scott Dixon (H), 7.) Takuma Sato (H), 8.) Conor Daly (C), 9.) Colton Herta (H), 10.) Rinus VeeKay (C), 11.) Ryan Hunter-Reay (C), 12.) Callum Ilott (C), 13.) Devlin DeFrancesco (H), 14.) Scott McLaughlin (C), 15.) Helio Castroneves (H), 16.) Tony Kanaan (C), 17.) Marco Andretti (H), 18.) Jack Harvey (H), 19.) Christian Lundgaard (H), 20.) Ed Carpenter (C), 21.) Benjamin Pedersen (ROOKIE) (C), 22.) Graham Rahal (H), 23.) Will Power (C), 24.) Pato O'Ward (C), 25.) Simon Pagenaud (H), 26.) Agustin Canapino (R) (C), 27.) Felix Rosenqvist (C), 28.) Kyle Kirkwood (H) C9.) David Malukas (H), 30.) Romain Rosjean (H), 31.) Sting Ray Robb (R) (H), 32.) RC Enerson (R) (C), 33.) Katherine Legge (H).

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page 7)

was "not perfect" but will "bring outside money inside" and "bring greater bipartisan transparency."

Murphy was referring to the increased maximum donation limits in the act.

Regarding Baraka's unfiled 2022 campaign finance reports, campaign treasurer David McKnight referred a reporter to the PKF O'Connor Davies accounting firm. A PKF spokesman has not responded to date.

Kelly, on April 17, said that he "and my team are engaging in an aggressive audit of the 2023-18 records to ensure that all required records are filed; identify a deputy campaign treasurer for extra support; and establish a campaign and finance compliance committee."

SETON HALL PROTEST

(Cont. from page 14)

"Protect AFAM would like to extend our thanks to any and everyone who supported us through the protests and beyond. We see and appreciate everyone who has provided food, money or supplies, helped with our day-to-day operations or offered advice and words of encouragement. We truly would not have been able to save the Africana Studies Program at Seton Hall without you all.

"For the individuals who slept in President's Hall and/or stood with us on the front lines, we cannot describe how much of an honor it was to witness everyone coming together as a true family. You may think you depended on us for guidance but in reality, we depended on you.

"Beyond your presence, your commitment to the movement and all your sacri-

fices do not go unnoticed. Protect AFAM is bigger than us, bigger than Seton Hall... in times of doubt, we looked to you for inspiration. Knowing that you all sacrificed your safety, time, education and futures in an effort to support the cause motivated us to keep showing up as well. Thank you.

"It was a blessing to be able to facilitate a safe haven for BIPOC [Black, People of Color] students, but without you that would have been impossible. We did more than save Africana Studies, we created impenetrable bonds. We hope that when you look back on this moment you are proud of yourselves and proud of all that we've done.

"We made history at Seton Hall, but our story doesn't stop there. We encourage you all to stay connected and involved, Protect AFAM is far from over..."

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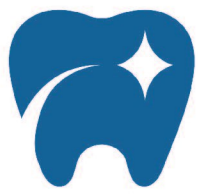
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