



**Jessica Barbara Horne**

The end of an era, but her spirit of resilience, compassion, and commitment to justice will continue to inspire and uplift communities for generations to come.

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Chat Time



**Citizens Not Politicians Could Create Third Push for Redistricting Reform**



Leaders of the campaign to reform redistricting in Ohio, known as Citizens Not Politicians (CNP), are gearing up for a third try after two failed amendments in 2015 and 2018. They argue that while drawing districts may seem complicated, ending gerrymandering isn't: "Political insiders have no business being in the process."

**Understanding the CNP Amendment and Its Importance**

The CNP Amendment is a citizen-led initiative aimed at ending gerrymandering in Ohio. It prohibits lobbyists and politicians from influencing the redistricting process and establishes the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission. This commission empowers citizens to draw fair districts using an open and transparent process.

Ohio faces significant gerrymandering issues, with districts drawn to favor political interests over community needs. The current redistricting process has been marred by inefficiency, with maps being ruled unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court seven times, costing taxpayers millions of dollars without resulting in fair districts.

A new process is needed to remove the

Continued on page 2

**Harold Crawford, Trailblazing Wardrobe Icon, to be Honored on Palm Springs Walk of Stars**



By Imani Capri



Harold Crawford, a legendary Hollywood wardrobe costumer and resident of Cleveland, will be honored in Palm Springs for his remarkable contributions to the entertainment industry. His creativity, passion, attention to detail, and dedication to his craft have made him a sought-after talent for over 50 years.

Crawford's journey into fashion was ignited by his parents, a seamstress, and a tailor, instilling in him a lifelong love for clothing and design.

Affectionately known as Rags, Crawford graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles in 1970. At just 19 years old, he embarked

on his career at Universal Studios, becoming one of the pioneering Black wardrobe customers in Hollywood and among the first 26 students of FIDM. Despite facing obstacles, including racism, Crawford persevered, citing his passion for the craft as his driving force.

Throughout his illustrious career spanning over five decades, Crawford has lent his talents to numerous film, television, and theater productions. His credits include notable works such as Men of Honor, Swordfish, King, Cornbread Earl and Me, and A Woman Called Moses (in film), Everybody Hates Chris, Living Single, The Incredible Hulk, Young and The Restless, and The Academy Awards on television.

Among his many accomplishments, Crawford's notable theater credit includes serving as wardrobe costumer for Robert Guillaume, the first



Comedian Katt Williams and Harold (Rags) Crawford

Black actor to portray the title role in Phantom of The Opera.

Now, Crawford's extraordinary journey culminates in the honor of receiving a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars in 2025, marking him as the first Black pioneer in costuming to be recognized with such a distinction.

This momentous occasion is not only a tribute to Crawford's achievements but a celebration of diversity and excellence in the entertainment industry.

Neal Hodges, Chairman of the Star for Harold Crawford Project Committee, underscores

Continued on page 3

**One Foster Mom's Call to Recruit New Foster Parents**



By Sheila Ferguson



Rhonda Wilson, a community-based service worker in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, emphasizes the critical need for more licensed foster and adoptive homes in Cuyahoga County. "Cuyahoga County and the Greater Cleveland Community is currently in a crisis relative to the limited number of available foster homes to care for children in need," said Wilson.

The breakdown of children in care, based on



the Division of Child and Family Services' July 2023 report, reveals the following distribution:

- 52% are in foster care
- 33% are in Kinship Care
- 2% reside in group homes
- 6% in residential care
- 3% reside in adoptive homes
- 4% live in independent Living.

Demographically, the

children in care are 49% female and 51% male. By race, the breakdown is as follows:

- 25% White
- 64% African American
- 9% Hispanic

Wilson stressed the impact of the shortage of foster-to-adopt homes on families in crisis, noting that families often rely on kinship care providers or friends and neighbors for support. However, she points out that not all families have the capacity to provide adequate care due to various constraints, such as financial limitations, criminal records, or unsafe living conditions.

Wilson calls upon prospective foster parents

to step forward, stating that "the world needs foster parents representing all racial and ethnic groups willing to give children the tender, loving care they need to grow into healthy and productive adults." She particularly highlights the need for more African American families to serve as foster parents, given the increasing number of Black children entering the system in Cuyahoga County.

To become a foster parent, Wilson outlines essential considerations and requirements:

- Loving heart and commitment: Demonstrated

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## Harold Crawford, Palm Springs Walk of Stars

From front page

the significance of this honor for Crawford, the film industry, and the communities of Cleveland and Palm Springs. He emphasizes the opportunity to create a sustainable partnership between the two cities through tourism and the arts.

More than 400 celebrities, including icons like Ginger Rogers, Bob Hope, Elizabeth Taylor,

Frank Sinatra, Liberace, James Earl Jones, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and Sonny Bono have been commemorated on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars.

For further information about Harold Crawford and the fundraising efforts for his star, visit his GoFundMe page, A Star in Palm Springs for Harold Crawford, or

contact [stylebycrawford@gmail.com](mailto:stylebycrawford@gmail.com).

## Citizens Not Politicians

From front page

power to draw district lines from self-interested politicians.

### Understanding Redistricting

Redistricting, also known as political redistricting, is adjusting the boundaries of electoral districts within a jurisdiction to ensure equal representation. It aims to prevent any group or party from gaining an unfair advantage in elections through gerrymandering.

### Understanding Gerrymandering

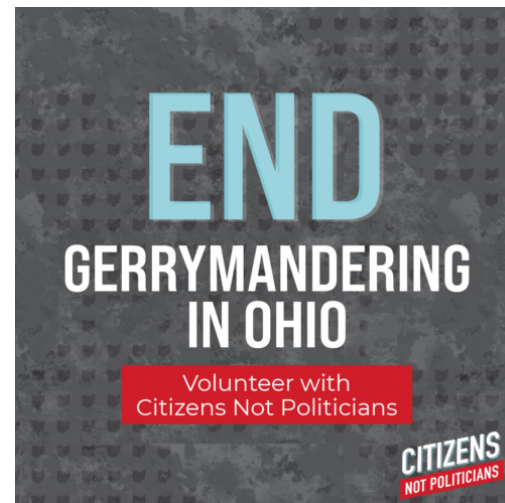
Gerrymandering is the manipulation of electoral district

boundaries to unfairly benefit one political party or group. It can involve concentrating or diluting the voting power of certain groups to influence election outcomes. Partisan gerrymandering aims to give one party an advantage, while racial gerrymandering targets minority communities.

Gerrymandering undermines fair representation and distorts the democratic process, leading to political polarization and reduced accountability.

### How to Get Involved

Citizens can get involved by



signing petitions at various events across Northeast Ohio:

- **Walnut Wednesday**  
Date: Every Wednesday  
Time: 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. EDT  
Location: Perk Plaza, 1717 E. 12th St, Cleveland, 44114
- **Tri-C Metro Campus**  
Date: Thursday, May 2  
Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT  
Location: Tri-C Metro Campus Central Building (inside), 2900 Community College Ave, Cleveland, 44115
- **Screw Factory Spring Art Show**  
Date: Friday, May 3  
Time: 5:45 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT  
Location: Screw Factory Spring Art Show, 13000 Athens Ave, Lakewood, 44107
- **Pop Life Building Waterloo Vegan Market Bakery Bash**  
Date: Saturday, May 11  
Time: noon – 3 p.m. EDT  
Location: Pop Life Building Waterloo Vegan Market Bakery Bash (inside), 5619 Waterloo Rd, Cleveland, 44110
- **Agora Theater**  
Date: Wednesday, May 15  
Time: 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. EDT  
Location: Agora Theater, 5000 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, 44103

Citizens can help push for fair and impartial redistricting in Ohio by engaging in the process. Sources: Ohio Capital Journal, Ohio Redistricting The Sequel

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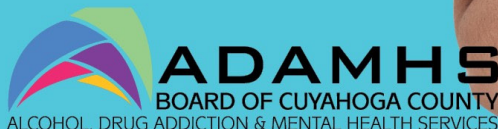
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- Thoughts of suicide
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## Residents Discuss the Future of Slavic Village



Tom O'Brien of Neighborhood Connections leads discussion. Photo Credit: Mark Silverberg



By Mark Silverberg



SCAN TO LISTEN

A meeting brimming with excitement unfolded in Slavic Village at the Darl Center for the Arts. Nearly 70 Slavic Village neighbors, business owners, and representatives of community institutions gathered to envision the future of the Slavic Village community. What were the high priorities of residents? How could residents and institutions cooperate to foster a thriving future? What are the next steps to realize this vision?

### The Discussion

Earl Pike, former Executive Director of University Settlement, highlighted the significant changes underway in Slavic Village in his introduction. New executive directors were on the horizon for University Settlement, Slavic Village Development, and the Boys and Girls Club. Earl emphasized the necessity of collaboration among the institutions in Slavic Village to effectively serve residents' interests, citing ongoing challenges faced by residents.

Tom O'Brien and Taryn Gress of Neighborhood Connections facilitated the meeting, prompting participants to identify one thing they love about Slavic Village. Ten minutes were allocated for small group discussions on this theme. Residents expressed admiration for the resilience of the people, the positive neighborhood organizations, community restaurants, loyalty, churches, and various other aspects of Slavic Village.

Attendees were asked to provide examples of times when the community had united to effect positive change:

- Preventing the establishment of the new Cuyahoga County jail in Slavic Village.
- Transforming Trick or Treat on Fleet into an annual event, now in its fifth successful year. Organizers, led by Tamika Compton, responded to a community need, experimented with different trick-or-treating approaches, and achieved significant success.
- The initiative behind Trick or Treat on Fleet spurred the organization of other community events, such as the recent Bunny Hop. It catalyzed the establishment of the Southeast Cleveland Resource Center, now in its second year.
- Residents addressed concerns about groundhogs at the North Broadway Network Night, launching a campaign supported by a grant from Neighborhood Connections. This effort involved obtaining cages and a certified wildlife trapper, conducting an awareness campaign with t-shirts and yard signs, and hosting a free screening of the Groundhog Day movie. Neighbors collaborated to tackle a common problem.

Attendees also voiced a desire for more of the following in Slavic Village:

- Improved information sharing and communication to keep residents informed about neighborhood developments, with SVD's website highlighted as a valuable resource.
- Establishment of a community calendar and resource hub to disseminate information about events and available resources
- Implementation of a positive media campaign highlighting successes and positive aspects of Slavic Village.
- Development of an asset map

of Slavic Village to inform future planning based on community assets, shifting away from a focus on deficits.

- Provision of small grants to support block clubs and events, as well as to fund block captains, recognizing the importance of block clubs in fostering neighborhood connections.
- Creation of part-time paid positions for neighborhood activists to prevent burnout from volunteering.
- Expansion of spaces similar to Darl's Collection, including the renovation and activation of historical buildings, and the utilization of vacant spaces for creative endeavors such as music and art, as well as

business spaces to support entrepreneurs.

Expectations for the leadership of larger organizations in Slavic Village included:

- To foster cooperation among the leadership of community institutions to benefit residents, setting aside ego.
- To partner with grassroots groups already engaged in community work.
- To ensure transparency regarding programs, plans, priorities, strategies, budgets, and expenditures.
- To advocate for resident democracy, allowing every resident to become a member of the SVD board with voting

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## Jessica Barbara Horne: Community Champion and Legacy of Kawaida Spirit



By Sheila Ferguson



Acknowledged as one of the captains who directed UMADAOP's family and child welfare programming from 2004 to 2012, her legacy remains deeply rooted in love, hope, and healing for all who had the privilege of knowing

her. Horne's commitment to the well-being of the Black community and her efforts to combat the ravages of chemical dependency and addiction are remembered with reverence.

tireless advocacy for cultural pride, uplifting and encouraging words, and intergenerational impact, left an indelible mark on the Cleveland community.

In recognition of Horne's enduring contributions, her family is establishing the Jessica B. Horne Scholarship Fund to empower future generations. The scholarship will honor her commitment to education and community empowerment, while ensuring her legacy lives on for years to come.

Horne's passing marks the end of an era, but her spirit of resilience, compassion, and commitment to justice will continue to inspire and uplift communities for generations to come.

Horne's dedication to the spirit of "Kawaida" permeated her work and community life, leaving an enduring legacy. "Kawaida," as described by African American culturalist Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, emphasizes the value of African culture as a foundation for liberation, ethical insights, and solving complex challenges facing Black communities. Horne's embodiment of these principles ensured her impacts were lasting and profound.

Throughout her illustrious career, Horne was hailed as a beacon, pioneer, shero, and superhero, a testament to her unwavering belief in the beauty and uniqueness of all Black people. Her



Jessica Horne Barbara: Founding Director of Cleveland UMADAOP

In the heart of Cleveland's Hough community, a beacon of unwavering dedication to social justice and community empowerment has dimmed. On March 5, Jessica Barbara Horne, the retired founding Director of Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Project (UMADAOP), transitioned, leaving behind a legacy etched in the annals of Ohio's social services landscape. A funeral service was held on March 17, the community mourns the transition of a shero whose 50-year record of service continues to inspire and uplift generations.

## Block Clubs Build Stronger Communities



By Izzy Aparicio



They can get neighbors organized and get active. Block clubs can assist seniors in need and ensure the safety of children during their daily school commute. Clubs can organize block parties and cookouts to socialize as socializing is a necessary part of a functioning neighborhood. Anything to get people working together is a good thing.

In an interview with Cleveland.com, Carol and Kurt Black talked about how they started a block club in 2003 in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood. They mentioned that seeing problems in their community like drugs and crime, which they did not want to continue, made them want to organize others to solve it. Starting a block club helped the community spread awareness, and also get people involved in remedying the issues.

The club went from three to fifteen members, organizing projects like a spring cleanup. Also, many city police departments agree that block clubs help reduce crime and keep people safe.

There are many block clubs in the Cleveland area, especially in the Slavic Village. There have been ones in Lakewood and Ohio City. However, Covid-19 put a damper on some block clubs. It became harder to organize and some block clubs dissipated. But this doesn't have to be where block clubs end.

Maybe a regular block club wouldn't work for you? Vertical block clubs can help people identify issues within a specific apartment building. Walking clubs can increase the overall health of a community while recognizing challenges that the city may need to address. If all else fails, virtual block clubs may be

the answer. Many people have busy schedules and cannot get together in person, so virtual meetings help bridge this divide. These clubs are all about talking with each other to solve problems and have each other's backs. There are multiple ways to make it happen.

In the end, start small. It may be challenging, but a few passionate individuals can start a block club and change their community for the better. All it takes is one person to start a change. Meet up with others and start a block club today.

Block clubs, street clubs, and block associations are local organizations that try to help the people in their vicinity by watching out for each other. One might ask, "Why would my neighborhood need a block club?" The answer: every block can use a block club.

Popularized by The National Urban League, a civil rights and urban advocacy organization, block clubs have been utilized to try to protect individuals and foster community within the area.

What are the advantages of starting and having a block club?



## WWE Summer Slam Returns to Cleveland in August



By Izzy Aparicio



to be revealed. Stay up to date using the official WWE website for updates and pre-sale registration opportunities.

Recently, the WWE received TV and film production tax credits from the Ohio Department of Development, which may be one of the many reasons the WWE chose Cleveland as the host for the 2024 SummerSlam.

Last year's SummerSlam in Detroit shattered attendance and viewership records. Cleveland anticipates replicating this success, expecting the upcoming event to be the largest WWE production ever held in Ohio.

Cleveland is quickly becoming one of the major cities to hold conventions with events like the SummerSlam and FanExpo, which happens in late April. This influx of visitors will not only create excitement but also contribute positively to the city's economic well-being.

Get ready, wrestling fans! The WWE SummerSlam event will return to Cleveland for the first time in 28 years. There will be many events such as the Friday Night SmackDown at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse on Aug. 2 and the main event on Aug. 3, as the action explodes inside Cleveland Browns Stadium.

Prepare for a week-long takeover by WWE, featuring not only these marquee matches but also a variety of fan and community events designed to immerse the city in the world of professional wrestling.

The highly anticipated card and ticket details are yet

## Travel Beyond Without Leaving Cleveland



By Vince Robinson



The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra concluded its 39th season with Bonafide Genius, featuring international bassist, composer, and vocalist Richard Bona, on April 26, at the Maltz

"I didn't want to play for bass players - I wanted to play for truck drivers! I wanted people to dance!" Bona once remarked, expressing his desire to reach diverse audiences.

The concert promised and gave an unforgettable evening of live music, transporting attendees far beyond Cleveland.

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra has been Northeast Ohio's premier jazz voice since 1985. Led by award-winning composer



International bassist, composer, and vocalist Richard Bona Photo Credit: Vince Robinson

Performing Arts Center.

Born into a musical family in a village in Cameroon Central Africa, Richard Bona was surrounded by music from a young age. Recognized for his talent early on, he mastered various instruments, built his own, and taught himself music notation. After spending years honing his craft in Paris, Bona settled in New York where he resided. While his style drew comparisons to Jaco Pastorius, one of his influences, Bona's sound was uniquely his own.

The Grammy Award-winning musician collaborated with musical legends like Herbie Hancock, Pat Metheny, and Sting, infusing jazz, world music, and Afropop into his performances.

and trombonist Paul Ferguson, the CJO showcased jazz in its historical and contemporary forms, featuring a stellar lineup of jazz luminaries, arrangers, composers, and educators. Each CJO concert delivered "the best jazz you've ever heard and the best jazz you've never heard." Through original music and innovative educational outreach, the CJO nurtured young musicians and enriched the region with unique cultural experiences. Visit [www.clevelandjazz.org](http://www.clevelandjazz.org) for more information.

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## August Wilson's Jitney Delivers a Powerful Theatrical Experience



By Vince Robinson

Presented by Lakewood's Beck Center for the Arts, August Wilson's "Jitney" is a captivating portrayal of life in Pittsburgh's Hill District in 1970, brought to life by local actors under the direction of Cleveland's Jimmie Woody. The play premiered on April 5.

August Wilson is one of America's most cherished African American playwrights, renowned for his poignant narratives that intricately depict the complexities of Black life. Set against the backdrop of a makeshift taxi company, "Jitney" follows the struggles of a group of Black men as they strive to earn a livelihood. The owner, Jim Becker, portrayed by the seasoned Karamu Alum Darryl Tatum (known for "Fences"), finds his business in jeopardy as his son Booster (played by Patrick D. Warner) returns home after a 20-year prison sentence for murder.

The ensemble cast skillfully navigates the personal tribulations of their characters amidst the bustling activity inherent to their clandestine operation. Against the backdrop of a rotary dial telephone atop a prominent wooden desk, the tales of triumph and tragedy unfold, culminating in an unexpected finale.

Tatum's portrayal of the steadfast and community-minded Becker anchors the production, while Amar-Malik Culbreath shines in his debut as the resilient Youngblood, a Vietnam War veteran striving to rebuild his life. Bryant Lyles delivers a compelling performance as Turnbo, juxtaposed against Thailand Hodge's portrayal of Rena, Youngblood's conflicted partner.

Royce Ruffin embodies the suave yet troubled Fielding, whose penchant for alcoholism contrasts with his impeccably styled wardrobe. Kym Williams captivates as Shealy, a slick numbers runner who conducts business amidst the chaos of the office. Pete Robinson brings depth to the role of Doub, providing a steady presence amid the conflicts between Turnbo and Youngblood.

Greg White rounds out the ensemble as Philmore, a patron of the taxi service whose sporadic appearances offer insights into the community dynamics. Warner's portrayal of Booster, haunted by past transgressions, catalyzes the play's climactic events, showcasing



The cast in the photograph, from left to right: Greg White, Bryant Lyles, Pete Robinson, Patrick D. Warner, Amar-Mallik Culbreath, Darryl Tatum, Kym Williams, Thailand Hodge, and Royce Ruffin.

the rising talent of this promising actor.

"Jitney" captivates audiences with its dynamic pacing and compelling narrative underscored by a meticulously crafted set. Director Jimmie Woody's curated soundtrack, featuring hits from the 70s, enhances the immersive experience, inviting viewers to journey through moments of tension and joy. As the final curtain falls, audiences are left with a profound sense of gratitude for the theater's storytelling, providing both a glimpse into history and a reflection on the Black experience in America.

The production runs through May 5 in the Studio Theater of Beck Center for the Arts.

Wilson's legacy as one of America's foremost African American playwrights is beautifully upheld in this remarkable performance.

*Vince Robinson, based in Cleveland, Ohio, is an artist, broadcaster, photographer, and journalist.*

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## Jesus Cares About You



By Pastor Larry Frazier



I heard an interesting story on the news some time ago. There was a Marine Corps sergeant who had been in the service for 11 years. He had been highly decorated for his service to the nation, but when he came forward and announced that he was an illegal immigrant in the country, he became subject to the rules of the government. His transgression against the law was not automatically forgiven due to his good works. The young man did, however, make an interesting statement. He said that the Marine Corps was on his side because, "They take care of their own."

"Taking care of one's own" is my initial point. Calling, saving, and taking care of the church is what Jesus' life is all about. The Resurrection is the pinnacle of Jesus' care for His church. Like that marine, we too have committed sins under the law, but Jesus' sacrifice says, "I take care of my own." In the Gospel reading for Easter Sunday in John chapter 20, we read how the risen Savior, by just calling her name, brought comfort to Mary Magdalene as she wept outside of the tomb.

The disciples were fearfully hiding in an upper room. There was one among them that needed some special attention—the Apostle Thomas. Thomas was considered one of the quiet workers and along with Jesus came from the region of Galilee. Thomas was devoted to Jesus, but he showed a weakness in faith when he was told that Jesus had arisen from the dead. When told of that event Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my fingers where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it" (John 20:25).

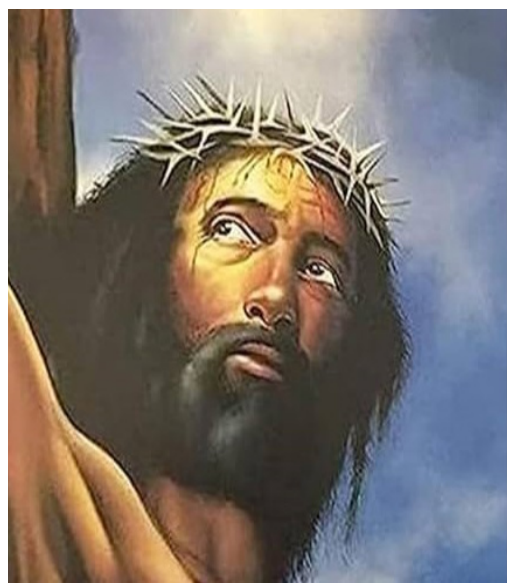
All of the disciples needed spiritual care. John 20:9 says, "They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead." Thomas, however, needed more immediate attention, and Jesus was ready to come to his aid.

John further wrote, "A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" (verses 26-28). Thomas' faith was restored to the strength it was earlier in John chapter 11 where it is told that

the other apostles were afraid to return with Jesus to the vicinity of Jerusalem for fear of being stoned to death. Thomas spoke up and said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

There are times when our faith seems especially strong like when nothing seems impossible to us, and nothing can hinder us. That is the kind of faith that Paul refers to in 1 Cor.12:9. It is not saving faith, but a faith that believes God, who is all-powerful, can do the extraordinary things that man cannot do. Extraordinary faith and saving faith are both gifts of the Spirit. A strong believer in Christ will go into danger with Him and



for Him, trusting in God's ultimate salvation even if death comes near. The Holy Spirit works to remove the stumbling blocks to faith. Stumbling blocks are statements of unbelief.

When we put them in our own way, or in the way of another, we hinder the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants all men and women to know that they have peace with God the Father through the blood of the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus' important work is to restore peace between us and the Father so that we can then have peace with each other.

When we deny reconciliation between ourselves, we deny the work of the Holy Spirit. After saving us by faith in His all-sufficient sacrifice, Christ then gives us the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our hearts. The Spirit then begins living a God-pleasing life within us.

Jesus Christ does all of this not because of something that He needs, but He does it because it is important to Him to make us holy as He is Holy. Christ desires that we should be set aside for service to God as His Body, the Church. That is why it was so important for Jesus to retrieve Thomas from his unbelief. Thomas was an apostle, a brick in the foundation of the Church. Thomas, along with the other apostles would carry the Words of Jesus to the nations of the world. They would be the witnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They would provide the eyewitness accounts and later the written accounts of all they had seen and heard. The prophets and

the apostles have handed down God's Word to us so that we may hear Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Our souls are important to Jesus.

**Mr. Gilbert's Hats**

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## Cleveland Police Shortage and Recruitment Efforts



By Izzy Aparicio



The City of Cleveland struggles to gain and retain police officers.

In a meeting of the Cleveland City Council's Public Safety

that they would begin a recruiting campaign. So far it has not borne fruit. According to information gathered by News 5 from a city spokesperson, the City of Cleveland, in partnership with the marketing firm Little Jacket, was supposed to create a campaign. However, it is unclear what stage they are at in this process.

This drop in police officers has put a strain on city officials as they worry about what may happen,



Photo credit: Cleveland Division of Police

Committee, Ward 1 Councilman Joe Jones said, "It seems like we're going from bad to worse."

In the past, the city budgeted for 1,640 officers, but this year the budget allows for 1,350 officers, many with pay increases.

Currently, a new class of cadets is going through the process of becoming officers. However, three have already dropped out. It is unclear how many more will.

After the city extended the age range for applicants, they did see slightly more recruits, but this is not enough.

In response to this problem, in 2023, the City of Cleveland said

but it does not look like anything will change soon.

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## California's \$20 Fast Food Wage: Mixed Impact Ohio for Workers and Businesses



By Izzy Aparicio



California's recent enactment of a new law, establishing a separate minimum wage of \$20 specifically for fast-food restaurant employees, has ignited a significant debate. Effective April 1, this wage hike represents a substantial 25% increase for some workers. While many employees welcome the boost in their earnings, business owners are grappling with the accompanying financial strain.

Franchise owners statewide have swiftly implemented measures to counterbalance the heightened labor costs. Reports abound of businesses trimming employee hours and, in some cases, resorting to layoffs, with Pizza Hut announcing plans to eliminate 1,000 delivery driver positions.

Consumers have also felt the reverberations of the wage increase. Nearly all fast-food establishments have adjusted their pricing structures, citing the need to balance operational expenses. Many have preemptively initiated price hikes, with increases ranging from 5%-15% across various menu items. Consequently, customers find themselves confronted with higher costs for familiar products, impacting their purchasing power and household budgets.

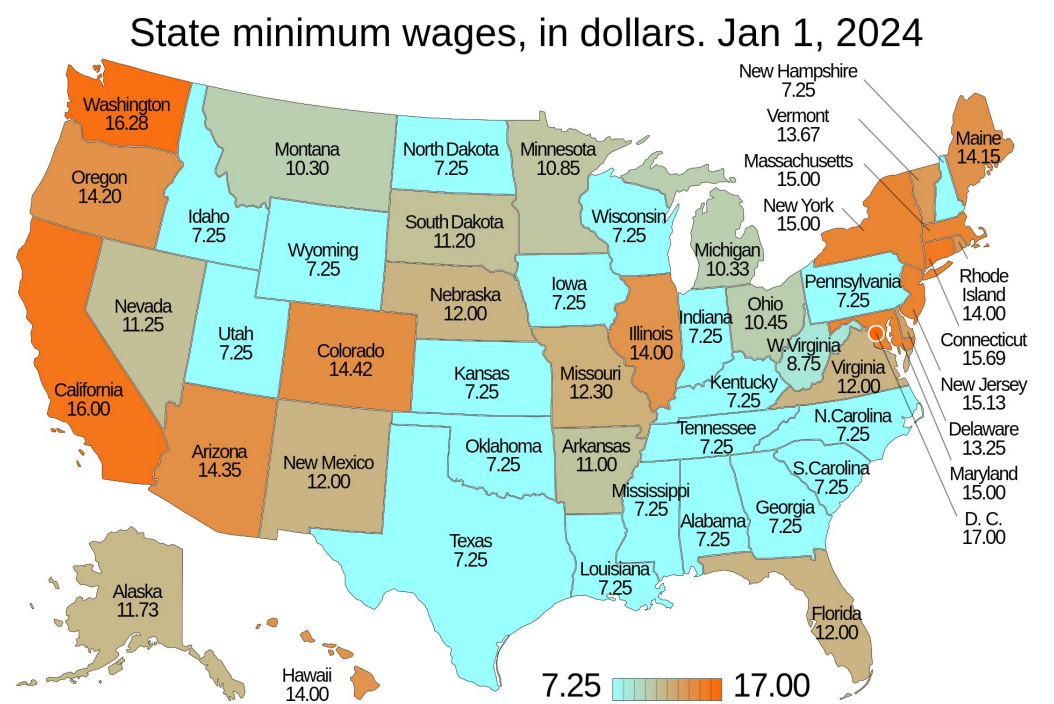
Amid these developments, a central question emerges: who benefits from this wage adjustment? Primarily, it remains a

positive development for workers. Given California's status as one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, employees understandably welcome the additional income, which enables them to better afford essential expenses such as groceries and bills. However, for business owners, the situation presents a complex challenge. The looming question is whether they will persist in reducing staff and cutting hours or if they will discover alternative strategies to navigate the financial landscape. Only time will reveal the long-term implications for both workers and businesses in California's fast-food industry.

While the \$20 fast food wage law may benefit workers by increasing their incomes, it could also have negative consequences for businesses, employment opportunities, and economic competitiveness in California.

### Potential Negative Effects:

- **Job Losses:** Businesses may respond to increased labor costs by reducing their workforce through layoffs or hiring freezes.
- **Reduced Hours:** Employers may cut back on employee hours to offset higher wages, resulting in reduced income for workers.
- **Business Closure:** Smaller or struggling businesses may find it challenging to absorb higher labor costs and may be forced to close.
- **Price Inflation:** Businesses may raise prices on products and services to cover increased labor costs, impacting



- **Reduced Hiring:** Higher labor costs may discourage businesses from hiring new employees or expanding operations, hindering job growth
- **Competitive Disadvantage:** Businesses in California may face a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states with lower minimum wages.

### Potential Positive Effects:

- **Higher Incomes:** The wage increase directly benefits fast-food workers, potentially improving their quality of life.
  - **Reduced Income Inequality:** Increasing the minimum wage can help reduce income inequality.
  - **Increased Consumer Spending:** Higher wages could lead to increased consumer spending, benefiting local businesses.
- Improved Morale and Productivity: Higher wages can boost employee

morale and productivity. Social Benefits: Higher wages can lead to improved overall well-being for workers.

### Potential for Economic Growth:

The wage increase could stimulate economic growth and create demand for goods and services. While there may be concerns about the negative impacts, higher wages can also bring positive outcomes for workers, businesses, and the economy as a whole. Overall, the adoption of a \$20 fast food wage law in Ohio policymakers would need to carefully consider these factors and weigh the potential benefits against the potential drawbacks before implementing such a policy.

## Residents Discuss Future of Slavic Village

From page 3

rights, similar to the model on Cleveland's west side, and electing board members from the community.

- To improve reporting on the follow-through of priority issues identified by residents.
- To strengthen connections with stores and businesses in the neighborhood.

### Conclusion and Next Steps

Considerations of why certain neighborhoods receive more funding from the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and other funders encompass various factors. These include the tax base of a neighborhood, the origins of its leaders, and the magnitude of longstanding structural challenges. However, one certainty prevails, when residents have a voice in decision-making, it results

in investments of funds and energy that are more likely to yield lasting and impactful outcomes.

At the community meeting, residents expressed hope that the dialogue they initiated would

persist into the future. Perhaps the new leaders of Slavic Village Development, Shauna Sanders, and University Settlement, Richaun Bunton, could play a role in facilitating this process.



Neighbors in Slavic Village. Photo credit: Mark Silverberg

The meeting underscored the neighborhood's existing wisdom necessary to envision and cultivate a flourishing Slavic Village. Numerous examples illustrate residents coming together to drive positive change, such as Community Yahoos, Slavic Village Stakeholders, the Southeast Cleveland Resource Center, Slavic Village Neighbor Night, and others. The challenge now lies in harnessing this reservoir of knowledge, establishing an ongoing community engagement process that prioritizes resident voices, and effecting lasting, positive change aligned with resident priorities.



## Preparing for Adulthood



By Sarai Murdock



Life comes with certain experiences nobody can escape, adulthood is being one of them. The transition from being treated like a minor to being treated like an adult can be exciting but also comes with scary and uncomfortable beginnings.

Forty-seven states, and Washington DC, consider 18 the “age of majority” which signifies that you are no longer considered a minor and legally have the rights and responsibilities of an “adult.” From that point is when most people begin to take on the journey of independence and maturity which comes with a whole new set of experiences. This journey can look different for everyone depending on your upbringing and environment.

“Growing up I thought being grown was more relaxed and laid back,” said 22-year-old De’Von Means. 21-year-old Andrew Easterling, a college junior, agrees. He thought that adulthood would be a bit more carefree and consist more of partying and staying out late. “I see now that there’s actually just a lot more responsibilities and there’s just always some different obstacle happening every day and it’s just about navigating through those,” he said.

“The first thing I noticed was people definitely view you differently, you’re not a kid anymore so nobody expects you to have that kid mindset. So it’s definitely a big expectation,” said 19-year-old actor Jeremy Murray. Dashiah Welch, a 21-year-old nursing assistant and model, says for her it was eye-opening having to learn more about herself, her goals, and the type of people she wanted to be surrounded with as an adult. “Learning who you are as a person, figuring out what it is that you really wanna do with your life because I feel like that’s a recurring thing as well in some adults when you just don’t know what you really wanna do.”

One big difference between being a minor and becoming an adult is work and income. In a world that experiences capitalism, this can be very hard for upcoming adults just stepping their foot in the door of financial stability. According to Forbes, the average annual salary in the U.S. is less than \$60,000 per year. “We are out here paying to breathe damn near. I make my guests walk around my house with candles, like do not turn them expensive lights on. But in all seriousness, the bills were the first thing I noticed about adulthood, something is always due,” said

20-year-old Shylynn Gordon.

“The amount of financial responsibility compared to what we make and how much work we put in is way out of whack,” said 26-year-old Darnese Birch. “A lot of the facade or fantasy I guess of everything being figured out and having a career has to do with movies and TV shows and then later as I got in my teens and college years that’s when social media became more prevalent, so social media kind warped that whole perception of being an adult, it’s so much pressure around your early 20’s/ mid 20’s to have your career and to make like \$70,000 a year, have a big family or big house, and have all these nice things but that’s not the reality at all,” she said.

In the past few years, social media has grown exponentially. Some of the most popular social media apps consist of TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat. On TikTok,



Photo credit: Istock FatCamera, monkeybusinessimages, alvarez and AaronAmat

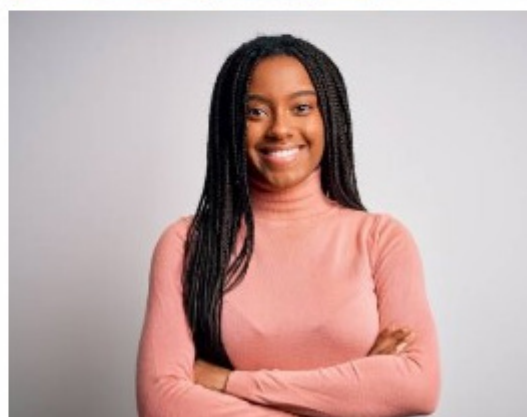
you can come across millions of different users from all around the world. Lifestyle videos and content have become more popular where content creators will take videos of what a day in their life looks like, how much money they spend in a day, and the kind of lifestyle they are living. In today’s time, people now have different opportunities to make an income through social media content. Constantly seeing so many young people live a lifestyle that you perceive as “better” than your own can impact self-esteem.

“Adulthood makes me feel anxious,” said Shylynn Gordon. “I also compare what I’m doing and what I see others doing. It always puts me in a down mood and I shut down for a few days. I definitely take more self-care/mental days to try to stay sane.”

The question is, are young people being properly prepared for adulthood, and if not, what is the contributing factor to this issue? “A lot of people be in their own world and they really don’t pay attention to the youth and the youth needs us,

just like we need them. They teach us, we teach them, they’re showing us something new,” said Dashiah Welch. “Putting more programs in the school, more programs, clubs, communities, I mean just building a community, somebody just stepping up front.” She believes that this society needs the right group of people to build up the youth, especially when it comes to the teachers and leaders in school. “Everybody is not fit for that role. But somebody that’s really trying to put power and build them to be better than what they are or just in general just being a better person, being smart, being knowledgeable.”

Darnese Birch offers a different perspective to the conversation. “Kinda goes back to your village, your family, your friends, I feel like we could do a better job at holding one another accountable rather than putting the power into systems like schools.” She believes



kids for financial literacy or how to handle certain things and prep for adulthood?”

With all that said, what are some things that older teens about to enter adulthood can do and expect?

### Save and Build Money

“Save, Save, Save! Sometimes you don’t need to buy the new iPhone or clothes every week. It’s better to have something put up for emergencies or rainy days and not have to call on nobody to help,” said Shylynn Gordon, a 20-year-old entrepreneur.

“Save your money, you never know what could happen. You might not have nobody to turn to but if you know you’re good with that money and you got money in your pocket you gon’ always, forever, be good,” said Dashiah Welch, a 21-year-old nurse assistant and model.

### Focus and stay prepared

“Work on your time management and organization skills. You gotta know how to be adaptable with things,” said Andrew Easterling, a 21-year-old college film major.

“Focus on what’s in front of you,” said De’von Means, a 22-year-old model.

“When you’re focused, you’re more in tune and you’re more tapped into the world, more than a lot of people are. I feel like a lot of people aren’t tapped into what’s really going on so as long as you stay focused, as long as you stay happy, everything’s gonna be okay,” said Jeremy Murray, a 19-year-old college student/actor.

### Continue to Be Yourself

“Be yourself and do whatever it is that you wanna do no matter how crazy it sounds and save your money,” said Darnese Birch, a 26-year-old videographer/photographer.

*Sarai Murdock, born in New York and raised in Cleveland, is a local journalist, multi-disciplinary artist, and the young author of Bully Free Zone: How to Stand Up for Yourself.*



## Navigating Power Outages: Comprehensive Guide to Preparation and Safety



By Sheila Ferguson



When winter's cold and summer heat creeps in, power outages become a big worry. Power outages are when the electricity suddenly goes out. They come in different types: short ones called transient fault losses, dim ones called brownouts, and serious ones called blackouts which can last a long time and affect a large area.

Outages often happen due to inclement weather like storms, hurricanes, or snowstorms. These days, they're happening more because of climate change. They destroy homes, hospitals, and other important places, but there are things we can do to get ready for power outages and stay safe. "We were without power for two full days, it changed our life," said Ray Nevell, a Cleveland resident. Inspired by this experience, Nevell invested in a gas generator and now keeps a storage area stocked with food, water, and gasoline for emergencies.

Sam Dickerson, who added a gas whole house generator, expressed concerns with his energy provider and the constant failure of their equipment, and its effect

on his family's safety. "I'd rather have what I need than to be caught without," said Dickerson.

Additionally, Dickerson researched a neighborhood solar project and discovered that the city power service provider refused to meet with his group. It was determined that the service provider could not move forward with integrating a solar farm because of aging equipment and limited resources. Dickerson expressed, "Besides all that, safety was my concern."

First, it's good to know about your own needs during an outage. This means thinking about things like where you'd go if it's not safe at home, what you'd do if you can't use your fridge or your phone, and how you'd manage if you needed medical help.

It's also smart to have friends or family you can count on and who may help you. It's important to stay in touch with what's happening around you by listening to the radio or having a way to charge your phone.

You can also prepare by learning some basic skills, like what to do in an emergency and how to use flashlights instead of candles. It's good to have supplies like food, water, and medicine, in case you can't get to a store.

During a blackout, it's crucial to be careful and avoid dangers like downed power lines, and using

things like gas stoves indoors. Once it's over, it's still important to be cautious and get help if necessary. Together, we can get through power outages by being ready and looking out for each other. Stay safe out there!

### References:

"Twin Calamities: How to Survive a Heat Wave When the Grid Goes Down"

Power outage - Wikipedia

Power Outages | Ready.gov

How to Prepare For Emergencies

| Be Red Cross Ready | Red Cross

AIP Florida Tornado Safety  
Homer Glen Emergency Safety Plan

Renu Solar Company

For more info and tips, you can check out the links provided.

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

## Brain Boost: Nurturing Cognitive Wellness Workshop

**MAY 25 2024**

**1-4PM**

Martin Luther King Branch Library  
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**Guest Lecture By:**  
**Dr. Jonathan Haines**  
Chair, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences  
School of Medicine

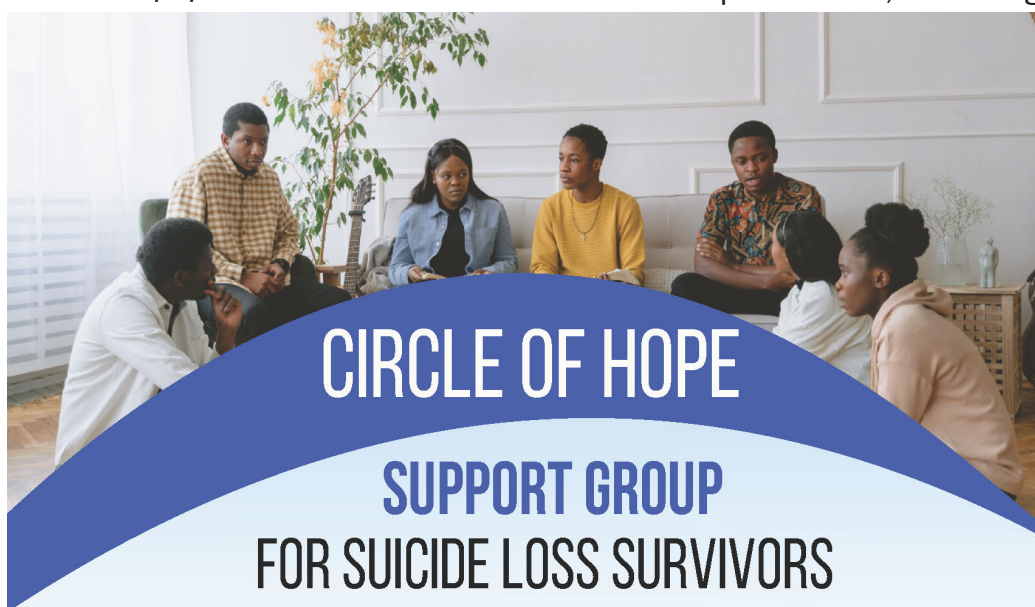
Nutrition Demonstration

Chair Yoga Session

Lunch Will Be Provided







## CIRCLE OF HOPE SUPPORT GROUP FOR SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS

**COMING MAY, 2024**

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- Find strength in sharing
- Rekindle Hope
- Learn about helpful local resources

**Adult Support Group**  
Starts Wednesday May 8, 2024  
Every 2nd and 4th  
Wednesdays  
6:00PM - 7:30PM  
LOCATION: 17325 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH  
44112



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**Youth Support Group**  
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Join us Saturday, **May 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Martin Luther King Library, 1962 Stokes Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106, for the "**Brain Boost: Nurturing Cognitive Wellness Workshop,**" a collaborative effort by the Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. This interactive workshop aims to equip our community with practical insights and strategies for improving brain health and mental wellness.

Led by experts in psychology, neuroscience, and holistic wellness, participants will delve into key aspects of brain health, such as cognitive stimulation, stress management, and lifestyle factors. Through engaging sessions and hands-on activities, attendees will learn about the brain-body connection and mindfulness practices to enhance cognitive resilience and emotional balance.

Whether you're seeking ways to enhance your cognitive well-being or support others in their mental wellness journey, this workshop provides valuable resources for all. Let's come together to prioritize brain health and cultivate a culture of well-being in our community.



## Algebra Tea House: A Beacon of Community and Cultural Harmony



By Amahriah Ransom

Today, we bring you a narrative on the pivotal steps taken by small businesses, exemplified by the journey of Algebra Tea House, nestled at 2136 Murray Hill Rd. in Cleveland, Ohio, radiating warmth and solace.

Helmed by Palestinian native Ayman Alkayali, Algebra Tea House isn't merely a café; it's a conduit for community cohesion and solidarity with Palestinian causes.

Established in 2001, the tea house has evolved into a hub where diverse patrons connect over 28 exquisite teas and dishes steeped in Palestinian heritage. Ayman, the visionary owner, infuses his passion for art into every corner, adorning the space with handcrafted marvels that embody his ethos of inclusivity and cultural appreciation.



Algebra Tea House shopping area. Photo credit: Ron Calhoun

At Algebra Tea House, the ambiance exudes tranquility, enveloping visitors in a sanctuary illuminated by soft lighting and adorned with evocative pottery

and paintings. The establishment's ties with the Palestinian community run deep, evident in its culinary offerings, Middle Eastern spices,

and symbolic scarves representing resilience and freedom. Purchasing these scarves not only supports the tea house but also signifies solidarity with its mission.

Ayman's penchant for community-building stems from his worldly experiences, driving him to raise awareness about societal issues. Algebra Tea House stands as a testament to this ethos, aligning with movements like the Cleveland Resisting Movement and fostering unity between Black and Brown communities.

For patrons seeking a second home, Algebra Tea House offers a haven of serenity, culinary delights, and diverse perspectives. It's a place where connections are forged, thoughts are shared, and peace reigns supreme—a sentiment embodied in every corner of this cherished establishment. Come. Experience the comfort and camaraderie of Algebra Tea House—a home away

## One Foster Mom's Call

From front page

- dedication to caring for children.
- Clean character and work History: No criminal record.
- Time Commitment: Willingness to complete the Foster Care-Foster to Adopt licensing application and training.
- Training Requirements:

- Completion of 30 hours of foster-to-adopt licensing training covering various topics related to caregiving.
- Personal Qualifications: Minimum age of 21, financial stability, good physical, emotional, and mental health,


- and stability in relationships.
- Unconditional love: Willingness to provide support and care to children facing challenges.
- Prospective foster parents are encouraged to initiate the process online through foster care and adoption or the

appropriate agencies handling licensing and training. According to Wilson, answering "yes" to these considerations means that individuals are ready to begin the journey of fostering or adopting a child in need.

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Time: 2:00PM - 4:30PM  
Michael J. Zone Recreation Center  
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Cleveland, OH 44102



Make Your Voices Known - Through Conversations Which Heals Your Community



## Bills Pending in Ohio Legislature Seeks to Uplift Black Community



By Greg Moore



There are several bills pending in the Ohio legislature that could have a profound impact on African Americans in the state of Ohio. Many of these bills are tied to longstanding issues related to closing the education, health, and wealth equity gaps that have existed for Black communities in Ohio for decades.

Members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) led by its president, Cleveland's own State Representative Terrance Upchurch (D-20), have been working at the statehouse in Columbus for years to address many of the social, economic, and political empowerment issues that impact the Black community in Cleveland, and across the state.

The OLBC has also served

new president Shayla Davis and her team have been focusing on monitoring several key bills, and actively engaging with legislators and state officials to ensure that the concerns and interests of Black Ohioans are adequately represented.

OLBCF also provides research and public policy support for OLBC members and other stakeholders across the state who share in their mission to address critical issues related to African Americans. Davis highlighted many pending bills being tracked by the OLBCF that are often overlooked by the media but can have a profound impact on the lives of Black Ohioans if passed into law.

### Economic Empowerment

Upchurch helped lead a successful bipartisan effort in the Ohio House to pass HB 2 the Direct State Funds for Economic Growth and Community Development Act which would redirect \$2 billion of

higher than white diabetics. Even with health insurance coverage, monthly insulin costs can be beyond the reach of many seniors and diabetics on fixed incomes.

### Criminal Justice Reform

Ohio Sen. Catherine Ingram (D-9) has introduced SB 37, the Regards driver's license suspension law; Financial Responsibility Act which removes several offenses as reasons to suspend driver's licenses, including a penalty of a suspension for certain drug offenses, and for outstanding financial obligations. A 2022 report released by the Cleveland Legal Aid Society revealed that approximately denied a job interview due to their hair.

Humphrey (D-2) has also introduced HB 44, the Require Electronic Recording of Parole Board Hearings Act to facilitate access to and transparency in parole board hearings. The bill aims to improve criminal legal

systems through transparency and accountability.

Ohio Rep. Dontavius Jarrell (D-1) introduced House Joint Resolution 2, the Prohibit Slavery or Servitude as Punishment for Crime. The resolution would eliminate the archaic exception to slavery in Ohio's constitution by proposing to amend Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit slavery or involuntary servitude in Ohio for the punishment of crime.

Davis highlighted the bills as a few examples of Black lawmakers' efforts to "move the needle" in the area of public policy.

"We know that systemic racism remains as the root cause for many of the barriers that exist today. Our efforts are centered around dismantling these barriers and advocating for addressing racial disparities through to public policy."



Photo Credit

as the leading opponent to an array of regressive legislative proposals that have been advanced by the heavily Republican-dominated House and Senate since 2011. The OLBC focuses on a cluster of bills ranging from criminal justice reform, increasing educational opportunities in higher education, promoting equity in funding K-12 schools, access to affordable health care, and a series of bills that promote economic development in the Black community.

One of the most powerful vehicles that assist the members of the legislature and other advocacy groups in addressing these public policy issues is the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, (OLBCF), a separate non-partisan 501 (C) (3) research and policy organization. Since taking over the OLBCF in November 2023, the foundation's

new state funding for construction and economic development projects that prioritize community investments. If passed by the Ohio Senate, HB 2 would help generate economic growth and increase employment opportunities in the state's most underserved communities. HB 2 includes restoring \$700 million from the One Time Strategic Communication Investments Fund (OTSCIF) set aside in the most recent state operating budget.

### Health and Wellness

Rep. Latyna Humphrey (D-2) introduced HB 7, the Insulin Drugs, and the Diabetes Devices Act. A recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention study revealed Black insulin users are more likely to report rationing insulin at 23.2%



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