

## Inside



### Black History Began with the Black Press

David Walker, a free Black man born in Wilmington, North Carolina, in the late 18th century

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# CLEVELAND OBSERVER

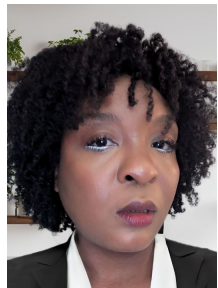
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## Sabotaged Miracle on 105th Street: Winston Willis Story



By Ajah Hales

These are the views expressed solely by the writer and not necessarily those of The Cleveland Observer.

This three-part series explores the rise, destruction, and ongoing fight for justice surrounding Winston Willis' lost empire:

**Part 1: The Rise of a Black Business Titan** – How Willis built his fortune, overcame racial terrorism, and created a thriving Black business district.

**Part 2: The City's War Against Willis** – The media smear campaign, legal battles, and political attacks that led to the dismantling of his empire.

**Part 3: The Erasure of Winston Willis** – How the City seized his properties, erased his legacy, and why Cleveland still refuses to acknowledge what was taken from him.

### The Sankofa Series: Winston Willis Part 1.

Winston Willis came to Cleveland from Detroit in 1959, stopping briefly on his way to Hollywood to gamble. On his first night in town, he won \$35,000 at a pool hall and decided to stay, investing in real estate. “You’ll never be able to do the things you’re talking about doing in Cleveland...it ain’t that kind of city.”

That’s what Willis’ cousin Bo told him when he shared his **vision for urban revitalization led by Black Clevelanders, for Black Clevelanders**. But Willis refused to believe that. By the 1960s and 70s, he had built a multimillion-dollar empire at the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street—a place they called **Inner City Disneyland**.

So, what happened to Winston’s empire? And why don’t more Clevelanders know about this living legend? Why was Winston Willis’ legacy erased, and by whom?

### From Detroit to Cleveland: A Businessman Is Born

Willis’ first business, **Detroit Carpet and Tile**, came naturally. Growing up, he worked in his father’s carpet store, rubbing



Days after a bomb exploded, The Jazz Temple: A Cultural Landmark. Credit:Wikipedia

elbows with jazz legends like Miles Davis and John Coltrane when they stopped by to shop.

That early experience gave him the confidence and skills to open the first of many successful businesses in Cleveland’s East Side.

### The Jazz Temple: A Cultural Landmark Under Siege

With his gambling skills and business acumen, Willis had enough money to open a jazz club in **University Circle**—a bold move in a city where Black entrepreneurs faced constant opposition.

He leased a former auto showroom at **Mayfield and Euclid, directly across from Case Western Reserve University**, and turned it into The Jazz Temple, a liquor-free lounge that welcomed all races. Willis knew the relationships he built in Detroit’s jazz scene would make the club successful—even without alcohol. And he was right.

The Jazz Temple became a **cultural hotspot**, drawing legendary musicians like **John Coltrane, Freddie Hubbard, and Herbie Hancock**. **Celebrities like Redd Foxx, Richard Pryor, and Malcolm X** frequented the venue, along with influential Black Clevelanders—including a rising politician named **Carl Stokes**.

But success came with a price. The Jazz Temple became a target of racial terrorism.

University Circle was already **earmarked for redevelopment**, and city officials had no intention of letting a **Black-owned club thrive in the heart of the district**.

According to Willis’ sister, Aundra, threats poured in every night: racist prank calls, bomb threats, and constant intimidation.

Freddie Hubbard recalled performing one night when another bomb threat came in.

“We were playing *Three Blind Mice*,” he said. “This will take people’s minds off the bomb threat—and it did.”

But the threats weren’t just empty words. **Two weeks later, The Jazz was destroyed by a bombing.**

Dynamite planted in an exhaust vent blew the club apart after hours. No one was arrested, and the police called it an **‘educational warning’**.

The club’s location at the edge of Little Italy fueled suspicions

that its residents played a role. Other Black-owned and interracial mixed establishments—like **Towne Casino Club and Mount Zion Congregational Church**—were also bombed around the same time.

Many Black business owners gave up. **But Winston Willis refused to back down.**

Look for Part 2 in next month’s edition of *The Cleveland Observer*.



The many faces of Winston Willis Credit The Willis Family Collection

## How Leadership Can Drive Economic Justice in Our Communities



By Ray'Chel Wilson

### Leadership's Role in Economic Justice

Economic justice is a widely discussed issue, often framed around policy changes and systemic shifts. However, history shows that leadership at all levels, personal, community, and institutional play a crucial role in advancing financial equity. One historical figure who exemplified this was Monsieur de Renty (1611–1649), a devoted social reformer. His structured approach to economic empowerment offers timeless lessons on fostering financial stability and independence.

### A Six-Step Model for Sponsorship and Economic Empowerment

Monsieur de Renty's leadership centered on six key strategies that remain relevant today:

#### 1. Creating Job Opportunities

De Renty believed financial stability begins with access to work. He helped individuals find jobs or start their businesses. Today, we can replicate this by mentoring job seekers, providing job referrals, and investing in Black-owned businesses.

#### 2. Providing Tools and Resources

Empowerment requires more than encouragement—it demands access to necessary tools. In de Renty's time, this meant materials for a trade; today, it includes technology access, scholarships, or startup capital. Leaders must ask: What does this person need to succeed?

#### 3. Buying Their Products and Services

Economic justice goes beyond charity; it involves sustainable support. De Renty personally purchased goods and services from those he assisted. Modern leaders can follow suit by prioritizing local and underrepresented businesses in their purchasing decisions.

#### 4. Spreading the Word

To amplify impact, de Renty gave away these goods as gifts, increasing demand. In today's digital world, we can share small businesses on social media, write positive reviews, and recommend them within our networks.



Economic Justice

#### 5. Encouraging Others to Support

De Renty mobilized his community to invest in those he uplifted. We too can inspire our churches, organizations, and peer groups to engage in ethical and intentional spending.

#### 6. Following Up and Offering Support

True leadership extends beyond one-time aid. De Renty maintained relationships with those he helped, ensuring continued success. Mentorship, networking, and long-term guidance can offer similar support today.

#### The Community Impact: Why This Matters

These principles are not just theoretical, they have real implications for communities striving for financial equity. According to "The God of Intimacy and Action" by Tony Campolo and Mary Albert



Darling, authors of *The God of Intimacy and Action*, faith-based leadership calls for treating individuals with dignity and equipping them with the means to build sustainable success. This aligns with the biblical call in Micah 6:8: "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly..."

By applying these principles, communities can break cycles of economic hardship and create lasting prosperity. Supporting Black-owned businesses, mentoring young professionals, and advocating for financial literacy are actionable ways to drive economic justice.

#### Call to Action: Leadership as Liberation

Economic justice is more than financial transactions, it's about building ecosystems where all individuals can thrive. Leadership, when approached with intentionality and historical wisdom, can transform economic landscapes.

What step will you take today to uplift someone in your community?

#### Author's Bio

Ray'Chel Wilson, a Toledo native, is the author of the internationally selling "Black Wealth Freedom" workbook series and CEO of ForOurLastNames.

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### CLEVELAND OBSERVER

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# KING *James*



**THE CAST:**  
*Robert Hunter & Michael Patrick Trimm*

**MARCH 1 - 23 | OUTCALT THEATRE**

*by* RAJIV JOSEPH | *directed by* MONTEZE FREELAND  
*a co-production with* CITY THEATRE COMPANY *in Pittsburgh, PA*

In the world of basketball, LeBron James is the king. But to die-hard Clevelanders like Shawn and Matt, “King James” is a god, and their fandom forges their unlikely bond. Set in a bar in Cleveland Heights and spanning LeBron’s rookie season to the 2016 NBA Championship, the men navigate their turbulent friendship through their shared love of the game. From the first quarter to the final jump shot, *King James* comes in clutch as a riveting love letter to our beloved home, “Believeland.” Filled with humor, jabs, steps, offensive fouls, and great poignancy, this energetic new play by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph is an intimate exploration of the place that sports occupy in our lives and in our relationships with others.

— TO LIFE! —



# Fiddler on the Roof

**APRIL 26 - MAY 18 | ALLEN THEATRE**

*book by* JERRY BOCK, *music by* SHELDON HARNICK & *lyrics by* JOSEPH STEIN  
*directed by* MICHAEL BARAKIVA

“Tradition!” The word immediately invokes the venerated pillars of faith, family, and friendship. But in the Russian shtetl of Anatevka, Tevye the milkman and his wife, Golde, must walk the fine line of balancing tradition with turn-of-the-century progressiveness. A deeply moving tale about community and generational values, *Fiddler on the Roof* is a heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and love and laughter. “L’Chaim!”

## New Era Cleveland Receives \$150K Grant to Expand Community Services



By Sarai Murdock

New Era Cleveland, a grassroots organization focused on violence prevention and community activism, has received a \$150,000 grant from the Saint Luke's Foundation, part of a \$1.7 million funding initiative awarded to 20 local organizations.

This marks the first time New Era Cleveland has received a six-figure grant, a milestone for the organization, which has historically operated with minimal funding.

"We have a major responsibility as a grassroots organization to set the tempo and prove we can be trusted with this funding," said Chairman Fahiem, who leads the group. "We've been producing results with no funding, so now it's time to show what we can do with it."

Antoine Tolbert Representing aka.Fahiem NewEra Cleveland at city council public comment on Feb 10, 2025

New Era Cleveland operates in neighborhoods such as Buckeye, Woodhill, Kinsman, and Mt. Pleasant, providing emergency assistance,

Community patrols, missing persons recovery, and trauma support

The organization has provided meals to 250,000 families and assisted in recovering six missing children in recent years.

In one case, New Era Cleveland helped locate a 12-year-old girl who had run away and was exposed to violence. The group worked with local residents and law enforcement to bring her home safely.

"We built trust in the neighborhood, and that got us the information we needed to find her," Fahiem said. "We reminded people—this could be your little sister."

**We built trust in the neighborhood, and that got us the information we needed to find her," Fahiem said. "We reminded people—this could be your little sister."**

New Era Cleveland also partners with The Love Project Movement, led by President Austreeia Everson, which provides mental health support and holistic healing programs for families in crisis.

### Empowering Youth Through Leadership

New Era Cleveland mentors at-risk youth, helping them transition into adulthood.

and women to discuss trauma and healing

- "They created a space where I could be myself," Askew said. "Seeing Chairman Fahiem be vulnerable for his people made me realize—it's okay to be vulnerable as a man."
- Grant to Fund Community Hub for Resources

New Era Cleveland plans to use the grant to establish a community clubhouse, where residents can access multiple services under one roof.

"We're creating a hub where people can come in and get what they need—whether it's food, clothing, mental health support, or job training," Fahiem said.

The "one-stop shop" will

include:

- Food pantry and community closet
- Mental health and trauma response services
- Art rooms for creative expression

A digital content studio for podcasting and music production New Era Cleveland: Building a Stronger Community

As part of its mission to uplift and empower Cleveland residents, New Era Cleveland is launching several new initiatives aimed at fostering creativity, self-care, and economic growth. The organization will introduce a digital content studio for podcasting and music production, a cultural library, and a salon loft for self-

care services.

Additionally, pop-up shops and community events will provide local entrepreneurs with opportunities to showcase their businesses. The clubhouse is set to open in March 2025 and will welcome all Cleveland residents.

### Training and Safety Measures

Given the nature of their work, New Era Cleveland equips its members with essential skills to ensure community safety and preparedness. Training includes firearm safety and de-escalation techniques, CPR and trauma response, conflict resolution, and emergency response, often supported by social workers and medics.

Volunteers can take on leadership roles as they gain experience within the organization.

### Commitment to the Community

New Era Cleveland's mission is driven by a deep love for the people they serve.

"We lead with love. Everything we do is because we love our people," said Fahiem, a key organizer. "They can count on us, no matter what."

With additional funding and a growing network of partners, the organization aims to create lasting, transformative change in Cleveland's communities.

### How to Get Involved

To follow New Era Cleveland's work or support their initiatives, visit their website or social media pages for updates on events and volunteer opportunities.



Antoine Tolbert, aka Fahiem, representing New Era Cleveland at City Council public comment on Feb. 10, 2025. Credit: YouTube

violence intervention, and youth development programs.

### Community Impact and Core Programs

New Era Cleveland works to meet immediate community needs, providing resources for families facing financial hardship, eviction, and violence-related trauma.

- Emergency relief: Food distribution, housing assistance, and crisis response
- Youth development: Mentorship programs and work with juvenile detention centers
- Violence intervention:

Rameer Askew, a 19-year-old freshman at Cleveland State University, joined New Era Cleveland as a mentee and was recently promoted to mentor. Inspired by his experience, he launched New Era Scholars, a program aimed at engaging students in community service and activism.

"Being conscious means understanding your responsibilities and working toward fulfilling them," Askew said.

Starting in February, New Era Scholars will:

- Mentor high school students
- Address social issues on campus
- Create safe spaces for young men

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## City Council Legislation Undergoes First Reading: January - February 2025



The Cleveland Observer is dedicated to keeping residents informed about legislative activities under review. By reporting on ordinances and resolutions during their initial stages, the Observer enables community members to engage with their Council members, providing feedback or expressing support before final decisions are made.

### How Your Tax Dollars are Being Spent

Cleveland City Council introduced a series of ordinances and resolutions during its meetings the last four weeks. These measures address a range of issues, including infrastructure improvements, public safety, community development, and economic growth. After their first readings, the legislation was referred to the appropriate city departments and committees for further scrutiny before advancing toward final passage.

The legislative process involves multiple steps to ensure transparency and accountability. Following the first reading, each ordinance or resolution undergoes detailed review by city departments and committees. This is followed by a second reading and additional discussion during the Council of the Whole meeting, where members debate and refine the proposals before a final vote.

### First Reading

**Jan 31, 2025: Emergency Ordinances**

#### Ord. No. 104-2025

##### Unlawful Discriminatory Salary Practices

**Sponsors:** Mayor Bibb; Council members Santana, Slife, Howse-Jones

**Summary:** Prohibits employers from inquiring about a job applicant's salary history to address wage disparities. Mandates salary transparency in job postings.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified.

#### Ord. No. 105-2025

##### Lease Renewal at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Port Control to renew a lease with PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. for office space supporting wheelchair operations and ground services at the airport.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified



#### Ord. No. 106-2025

##### Marketing & PR Services for Cleveland Hopkins and Burke Lakefront Airports

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Renews a contract with Recess Creative, LLC for marketing, promotional, and public relations services for both airports.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

#### Ord. No. 107-2025

##### Lease Agreement for Aviation Services at Cleveland Hopkins Airport

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Approves a triple-net lease for PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Inc. for office and storage space at the airport to support ground handling and maintenance operations.

**Funding Amount:** Determined by independent appraisal

#### Ord. No. 112-2025

##### Lease Amendment for Menzies Aviation

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Modifies an existing lease with Menzies Aviation to include provisions for locating and repairing disabled vehicles under FAA guidelines.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

#### Ord. No. 113-2025

##### Establishment of a Neighborhood Development Subfund

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Kelly, Hairston

**Summary:** Creates a Neighborhood Development Subfund to support community development initiatives through Community Development Corporations (CDCs).

**Funding Amount:** Allocations determined annually

#### Ord. No. 119-2025

##### Expansion of Lucky Park

**Sponsors:** McCormack

**Summary:** Authorizes the purchase of land from St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral to expand Lucky Park and amend an agreement with Tremont West Development

Corporation for park maintenance.

**Funding Amount: \$90,000**

#### Ord. No. 121-2025

##### Airport Capital Improvement Plan Amendments

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Amends Ordinance 1365-2023 to include additional airport improvement projects, including Taxiway Victor expansion and wildlife fencing upgrades.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

#### Ord. No. 122-2025

##### Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant

**Sponsors:** Polensek, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Authorizes the City to apply for and accept a **\$15,000** grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to purchase firefighter turnout gloves.

**Funding Amount: \$15,000** (plus **\$3,000** City match)

#### Ord. No. 123-2025 – Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

**Sponsors:** Polensek, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Allows the City to apply for and accept a **\$246,761** grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for three air compressors and 35 multi-gas meters for the Fire Division. **Funding Amount: \$246,761** (plus **\$24,676** City match)

#### Ord. No. 126-2025 – Amendment to DigitalC Broadband Contract

**Sponsors:** Kazy

**Summary:** Modifies terms of the contract with DigitalC for the Citywide Broadband Network Project, adjusting the performance metric for internet service expansion.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

**First Reading: Emergency Ordinances Read in Full and Passed. Rules suspended**

#### Ord. No. 108-2025

##### Pat Joyce Fund 5K Permit

**Sponsors:** Slife

**Summary:** Approves the issuance of a permit for the Pat Joyce Fund 5K, scheduled for July 26, 2025,

and managed by Run the Land. The race will take place on Rocky River Drive, Amber Drive, Claire Avenue, Marquis Avenue, Lucille Avenue, Dartmouth Avenue, West 165th Street, and West 169th Street, with street closures as determined by the Cleveland Division of Police.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified  
**Vote:** Passed unanimously (16-0);  
**Absent:** Kelly

#### Ord. No. 109-2025

##### Pete Leneghan 5K Permit

**Sponsors:** Spencer

**Summary:** Grants a permit for the Pete Leneghan 5K event on September 13, 2025, managed by Hermes Sports & Events. The race route includes Herman Avenue, West 65th Street, West 69th Street, Father Caruso Drive, Lakefront Bikeway, West 58th Street, and West 45th Street, with street closures as needed.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified  
**Vote:** Passed unanimously (16-0);  
**Absent:** Kelly

#### Ord. No. 114-202

##### Cleveland Public Theatre Adult Education Program

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Spencer

**Summary:** Authorizes an agreement with Cleveland Public Theatre to provide an Adult Education Program using funds from Wards 3 and 15 Casino Revenue.

**Funding Amount: \$20,000** (**\$10,000** from Ward 3, **\$10,000** from Ward 15)  
**Vote:** Passed unanimously (16-0);  
**Absent:** Kelly

#### Ord. No. 115-2025

##### Cleveland Public Theatre Student Theatre Enrichment Program

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Starr, Griffin, Conwell, Kelly, Maurer, Spencer, Slife

**Summary:** Allocates Casino Revenue Funds from Wards 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, and 17 to support the 2024 Student Theatre Enrichment Program, offering youth theatre education.

**Funding Amount: \$50,000** (**\$10,000** from Ward 3, **\$5,000** each from Wards 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 17; **\$10,000** from Ward 15)  
**Vote:** Passed unanimously (16-0);  
**Absent:** Kelly

#### Ord. No. 116-2025

##### Famicos Foundation Food Card Distribution Program

**Sponsors:** Jones, Howse-Jones, Polensek, Conwell, Hairston, Kelly, Santana, Kazy

**Summary:** Authorizes an agreement with Famicos Foundation for a Food Card Distribution Program funded by Neighborhood Equity Funds from Wards 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 16.

**Funding Amount: \$172,500**

Continued on page 6

## City Council Legislation Undergoes First Reading:

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(\$50,000 from Ward 1, \$20,000 from Ward 7, \$5,000 from Ward 8, \$25,000 from Ward 9, \$50,000 from Ward 10, \$2,500 from Ward 11, \$15,000 from Ward 14, \$5,000 from Ward 16) Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 117-2025

#### Famicos Foundation Beautification and Litter Program (Ward 7)

##### Sponsors: Howse-Jones

**Summary:** Allocates Ward 7 Casino Revenue Funds for Beautification and Litter Program in partnership with Famicos Foundation, supporting community cleanup initiatives.

**Funding Amount:** \$37,900

Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 118-2025

#### Famicos Foundation Beautification and Litter Program (Ward 10)

##### Sponsors: Hairston

**Summary:** Allocates Ward 10 Casino Revenue Funds for Beautification and Litter Program in partnership with Famicos Foundation.

**Funding Amount:** \$19,200

Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 124-2025

#### Collinwood Senior Health and Wellness Walkers Club

##### Sponsors: Hairston

**Summary:** Amends Ord. No. 1063-2024, adjusting the start date of the Collinwood Senior Health and Wellness Walkers Club agreement with Famicos Foundation.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 125-2025 – Buckeye Summer Health and Wellness Series

##### Sponsors: Griffin

**Summary:** Amends Ord. No. 1070-2024, adjusting the start date of the Buckeye Summer Health and Wellness Series agreement with Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 127-2025 – Jefferson-Puritas West Park Development Corporation Agreement

##### Sponsors: Kazy

**Summary:** Amends Ord. No. 1331-2024, clarifying the agreement name for a Ward 16 Casino Revenue Funded Safety Series Expo.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Ord. No. 151-2025

#### Cleveland Commission on Black Women and Girls Activities

##### Sponsors: Howse-Jones, Gray

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Finance to allocate funds for food, beverages, and mementos for activities, events,

and training sessions hosted by the Cleveland Commission on Black Women and Girls. Funding Amount: Not specified Vote: Passed unanimously (16-0); Absent: Kelly

### Feb 7, 2025: Emergency Ordinances

#### Ord. No. 156-202

#### 2025 City Budget Appropriations Sponsors: Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** This emergency ordinance appropriates funds for the daily operation of municipal departments for the fiscal year January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. It allocates \$805.6 million from the General Fund, alongside additional appropriations from Special Revenue, Debt Service, Internal Service, and Enterprise Funds. The ordinance ensures financial provisions for all city departments, including Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, and Public Health.

**Funding Amount:** \$2,123,353,193

#### Ord. No. 157-2025 – Public Art Installations for Recreation Centers & Fire Station

**Sponsors:** Spencer, Howse-Jones, Bishop, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Capital Projects and City Planning to enter into contracts with Svona Studio LLC, Lauren HB Studio LLC, and Kistler Studio LLC for designing and installing public art at the Clark Recreation Center, Sterling Recreation Center, and the new Fire Station No. 26. The final artwork designs will be approved by the City Planning Commission to comply with Cleveland's Public Art Program.

##### Funding Amount:

Clark Recreation Center: \$80,000 Sterling Recreation Center: \$87,813

Fire Station No. 26: \$148,000

**Total: \$315,813**

#### First Reading Emergency Ordinances Read in Full and Passed. Rules suspended

#### Ord. No. 158-2025 – Youth Football & Tutoring Program (Ward 4 Casino Revenue Funds)

##### Sponsors: Gray

**Summary:** Authorizes an agreement with Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. to provide funding for the Reddog Nation – Youth Football and Tutoring Program.

This program will use Ward 4 Casino Revenue Funds to support local youth development through structured athletic and academic activities.

**Funding Amount:** \$5,000

#### Ord. No. 159-2025 – CHN Believe in Home 5K Permit Approval

##### Sponsors: Slife

**Summary:** Grants approval for the CHN Believe in Home 5K event

scheduled for August 9, 2025, managed by Hermes Sports & Events. The race will begin at Saint Joseph Academy, travel along Rocky River Drive and Riverside Drive, and include street closures as determined necessary by the Cleveland Division of Police.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

#### Ord. No. 160-2025 – Job Creation Tax Incentive Agreement (Canon Healthcare USA, Inc.)

**Sponsors:** Hairston, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Approves a Job Creation Income Tax Incentive Agreement with Canon Healthcare USA, Inc., supporting job creation efforts in Cleveland. The agreement grants a 50% income tax withholding credit for five years, contingent on the creation of at least 50 new full-time jobs.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

#### Ord. No. 161-2025 – Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement for 105th Cedar Partners, LLC

**Sponsors:** Hairston, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Reinstates and extends the Enterprise Zone Agreement No. CT9501 NF 2017-028 with 105th Cedar Partners, LLC to provide a 9-year, 60% tax abatement for real property improvements at 10500 Cedar Avenue. This measure aims to support job growth and office space development in the Cleveland Area Enterprise Zone.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

### Feb 14, 2025: Emergency Ordinances

#### Ord. No. 176-2025

#### Amendment to Waste Disposal Contract

**Sponsors:** Bishop, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Public Works to amend the contract with Lorain County Landfill, LLC for additional waste disposal services, including handling and disposal of municipal solid waste loads with a radioactive signature.

**Funding Amount:** \$1,300 per load

Referred To: Directors of Public Works, Finance, and Law; Committees on Municipal Services and Properties; and Finance, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### Ord. No. 177-2025 – Amendments to Municipal Court Employee Compensation

**Sponsors:** Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Amends Ordinance No. 194-2021 to adjust salary ranges for various Municipal Court employee classifications, including Deputy Bailiffs, Clerical Staff, and Administrative Assistants.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

**Referred To:** Directors of Human Resources, Finance, and Law; Committee on Finance, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### Ord. No. 178-2025 – Carter Road Lift Bridge Rehabilitation

**Sponsors:** McCormack, Bishop, Griffin (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Capital Projects to hire consultants for the preliminary design, final design, and construction services for the Carter Road Lift Bridge rehabilitation. Allows the City to apply for and accept grants and loans from state and private sources for the project.

**Funding Amount:** To be determined by grants and bond funds  
**Referred To:** Directors of Capital Projects, Finance, and Law; Committees on Municipal Services and Properties; and Finance, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### Ord. No. 186-2025 – Illegal Distribution of Tobacco and Nicotine Products

**Sponsors:** Conwell, Griffin, Santana, Kazy (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Amends Section 607.15 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland to prohibit the sale of tobacco and alternative nicotine products to individuals under 21 years of age, aligning with state and federal law. Imposes fines and penalties for violations.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified

Referred To: Directors of Public Health, Finance, and Law; Committees on Health, Human Services, and the Arts; and Finance, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### Ord. No. 187-2025 – Tobacco Retail Licensing Program

**Sponsors:** Conwell, Griffin, Santana, Kazy (by departmental request)

**Summary:** Establishes a local licensing system for tobacco retailers, requiring permits, age verification, and compliance inspections to reduce underage tobacco sales. Creates a Tobacco Enforcement and Education Fund to support enforcement and public awareness initiatives.

**Funding Amount:** Permit fees and fines to be determined

Referred To: Directors of Public Health, Finance, and Law; Committees on Health, Human Services, and the Arts; and Finance, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

#### First Reading Emergency Ordinances Read in Full and Passed

#### Ord. No. 179-2025 – Ward 4 Community Awareness Campaign

**Sponsors:** Gray

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of Community Development to contract with iFilm, Inc. to enhance public resource communications through the Ward 4 Community Awareness Campaign.

**Funding Amount:** \$8,500 (Ward 4 Casino Revenue Funds)

**Vote:** Passed (14-0); Absent: Gray, Santana, Spencer

## Political Fatigue Is Real: How to Stop Doomscrolling and Start Healing



By Marissa Valentine

Some may remember the isolation, pressure, and anxiety that surfaced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now some may feel held hostage by the unprecedented barrage of breaking news articles documenting everything that has happened since the recent change of office in the White House.

If you're like me and the 70% of Americans who use social media, avoiding your feed can be nearly impossible. As of January 2024, the United States had approximately 239 million social media users, representing 70.1% of the total population.

A news feed updated daily by networks often leaves one questioning the validity of the latest shocking article. It can also create a sense of helplessness about how to contribute, resist, or support initiatives that align with your beliefs.

If you believe that all people, regardless of race, creed, or religion, should be treated with dignity and respect but feel overwhelmed in navigating these next four years, below are four tips to help you take action while preserving your physical and mental health.

**Tip #1 Find reliable news sources and specific times to process information**

Several news networks have updated us on things we are familiar with: Fox News, Breitbart, and CNN. However, the Tangle newsletter may be the proper read if you seek a more brief, politically neutral, yet factual news source.

According to its website, Tangle summarizes coverage from both left-leaning and right-leaning news media and provides its own analysis.

While politically neutral information may not be everyone's cup of tea, news that tells the story straight without appearing like the proverbial sky is falling may be what our brains need to remain calm enough to process information.

According to clinical psychologist Dr. Adam S. Anderson of the Mayo Clinic, "News outlets, particularly social media, are geared toward showing things wherein the more attention they catch, the more advertising it brings."

Adams added that our brains naturally seek out threats. Setting a consistent time and limit for consuming news can help reduce overwhelming feelings, providing a sense of relief and reassurance.

**Tip #2 Join or support organizations that align with your beliefs**

With the current government administration's mandate to roll back any DEI initiatives, many companies have dropped their pledges to remain inclusive to minority groups and various small businesses.



People who use their purchasing power as activism feel defeated as many of their favorite stores have caved to political pressure. However, major corporations like Costco, Old Navy, Nordstrom, and TJ Maxx have pledged to support fair, equitable, and inclusive business practices.

Suppose you would like a more active approach to helping your local community. In that case, there is the Cleveland Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, the Alliance for Justice, and many more.

Supporting these organizations can provide a sense of empowerment and control in a situation that may otherwise feel overwhelming and helpless.

**Tip # 3 Reading is an act of resistance**

We all know that knowledge is a source of power, and what better way to decrease the amount of disinformation shared on the internet than picking up a banned book?

Books are often banned or challenged by those who disagree with the content. As we begin Black History Month, why not pick up *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs, or *Native Son* by Richard Wright?

Other books on the banned list that are not by Black authors but hold great relevance to our current political climate are *A Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *1984* by George Orwell.

Reading these books is not just a leisure activity, but an act of resistance, making you feel more engaged and active in combating disinformation.

**Tip #4 Rest is essential in the long run**

Resting is an act of resistance in an economy that champions work, hustle, and capitalism. Simply taking time to rest is not only beneficial to your physical health, but sleeping improves your long-term memory.

*Continued on page 10*

## Chris Hedges Says America's Democracy Is in Danger—And It's Not Just Trump



By Ron Calhoun

With Donald Trump back in the White House, many Americans wonder: Is democracy at risk?

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges says the problem didn't start with Trump. In a recent interview on UpFront, he warned that the country has been moving toward an authoritarian system for years—and that both Democrats and Republicans share the blame (Al Jazeera).

"Trump doesn't have to build an authoritarian state from scratch. The mechanisms are already there, largely put in place by the Democratic Party," Hedges said.

**Are Democrats and Republicans Working for the Same People?**

Hedges argues that both major political parties have stopped representing everyday Americans and instead cater to the wealthy and powerful.

"The Democratic Party transformed itself into the Republican Party, and the Republican Party was pushed so far to the right it became insane and cultish," he said.

As an example, he pointed out how Democratic leaders like Kamala Harris have embraced figures like Dick Cheney, a former vice president once condemned by his own party. According to Hedges, this shows how the political establishment—on both sides—has merged into one ruling class as per *The Intercept*.

**Trump's Billionaire Cabinet**

Even though Trump claims



Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges on UpFront, with Marc Lamont Hill. Credit: YouTube

to fight for the working class, according to the *New York Mag.com* and *Forbes.com* his administration is filled with some of the richest people in history—worth a combined \$450 billion.

Hedges believes that corporations and billionaires continue to control both parties,

regardless of who is in office.

"We are not witnessing the return of democracy but the continued rule of an oligarchy. The economy, the government, and the media are all controlled by billionaires," he said.

**What's Next for America?**

*Continued on page 10*

## 9 Steps to a Positive Mindset in Uncertain Times



By Desiree R. James,



Portions of this content were created with assistance from OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Having a positive attitude is important when times are tough. I remember a time when I was faced with a sudden problem, and it was my positive mindset that helped me overcome it.

The world changes a lot, and problems can come up suddenly. Staying hopeful and strong helps us handle these moments better.

The way we think affects how we see life. Being flexible to change and seeing challenges as opportunities to grow can help us learn and improve. It doesn't happen overnight, but every step we take makes a difference.

Instead of waiting for things to get better, we can take action. According to South Travel, trying new things like a new hobby, a different exercise routine, or even

a new recipe, and stepping outside our comfort zones helps us and those around us. Every small effort teaches us that moving forward is what matters most.

**A positive attitude doesn't just help one person—it helps whole communities:**

- **Better Friendships:** A good attitude helps people get along and trust each other.
- **More Kindness:** Positive thinking helps people be more caring and understanding.
- **Helping Hands:** People with a positive outlook create strong support systems to help each other.
- **Happier Communities:** When more people stay hopeful, everyone feels better and works together.
- **Good Role Models:** Those who remain positive often inspire others to do their best.
- **Staying Strong:** A community with hope can handle tough times and return stronger.
- **New Ideas:** Positively helps people think of creative solutions when facing challenges
- **Teamwork:** When a group



- stays positive, they work better toward common goals.
  - **Hope for the Future:** Being hopeful helps us believe in and work for a better tomorrow.
- Remember, hard times don't last forever. But the strength and

kindness we show during them can make a big difference. Being positive helps us all move forward with hope and confidence, knowing that brighter days are ahead.

## The 5 x 5 x 5 + 5: A Simple Way to Grow Spiritually



By Ron Calhoun



- It's easy to do – Just 20 minutes a day can make a big difference.
- It helps you grow – Writing and memorizing verses help you remember what you learn.
- It makes you feel closer to God – Talking to God and reading the Bible helps you understand His love.

### Growing the Practice

As you keep practicing, you might want to spend more time with God. When you're ready, increase your time. Try **10 x 10 x 10 x 10 + 10**. This means you spend 10 minutes on each step, plus 10 extra minutes writing in your journal. Taking more time helps you think more deeply and feel even closer to God.

### How to Start

Find 20 minutes each day—maybe in the morning or before bed. Keep a notebook or journal to write down your thoughts. Don't give up if you miss a day—just try again!

Whether you are just starting or have been learning about God for a while, the **5 x 5 x 5 + 5** method makes it easy to grow in your faith. **Try it for a week and see how it helps you!**

Over the next few months, we will break down each section: how to pray, read, and memorize the Bible, and lastly, how to journal your growth.

### What Is the 5 x 5 x 5 + 5?

**This practice has four simple steps:**

- 5 minutes of **prayer** – Talk to God. Thank Him, ask for help, and share what's on your heart.
- 5 minutes of **reading** or thinking about the Bible, Read a short passage and think about what it means.
- 5 minutes of **memorizing** a verse – Learn a small part of the Bible so you can remember it later.
- 5 minutes of **writing in a journal** Write down your thoughts, prayers, or what you've learned.

### Why It Works

This method helps you build a strong habit of spending time with God every day.

By Lisa O'Brien

Welcome to the Resource Round-Up, a corner of The Cleveland Observer that focuses on compiling lists of resources available to our readers. This issue's round-up is centered on free food resources in the Cleveland area. Take a look at some of the organization links below to find out more information.

- **Greater Cleveland Food Bank:** Greater Cleveland Food Bank Food Finder
- **The Hunger Network Food Finder:** Hunger Network Food Finder
- **Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland:** Catholic Charities Food Banks

Their site lists their partner food banks with locations and hours of operation. They also have resources for residents of Lorraine County in addition to Cuyahoga County.

- **Society of St. Vincent De Paul Hunger Centers:** Hunger Centers Cleveland

Users can find general information on the seven different hunger centers SVDP sponsors in the Cleveland area.

- **Cuyahoga County Public Library Mobile Food Pantry:** CCPL Mobile Food Pantry
- **Notable Food Markets/Community Centers:**

This Community Resource Center is a one-stop resource center that provides a variety of resources to help combat food insecurity. They also have a healthy choice food market several times a

month that residents can shop at by appointment. In addition to food assistance, they also have resources for employment and housing in the city.

- **Produce Perks Midwest:** Produce Perks

Produce Perks is a food assistance program that does dollar-for-dollar matching on produce for SNAP/EBT recipients in Ohio. They have pop-ups at West Side Market and local farmer's markets in the warmer months. See the website for more details on eligibility and upcoming locations.

- **North Union Farmers Market at Shaker Square Saturdays:** 8 a.m. - noon (April 6 - Dec. 21) in the middle of Shaker Square 13111 Shaker Square, Cleveland 44120 [www.northunionfarmersmarket.org](http://www.northunionfarmersmarket.org)
- **The Hunger Network's MidTown Market:** Midtown Market

### General Information

These are just a few quick links to the many resources available to residents of Cleveland in need of food assistance. In addition, check local CDCs, recreation centers, churches, libraries, and neighborhood-specific community centers for up-to-date postings on food giveaway events. Apps like Nextdoor can also be a great way to see smaller community food events and spread the word about food resource centers. To see any frequently asked questions on eligibility, required documents, or the general process of how food banks work, visit [greaterclevelandfoodbank.org](http://greaterclevelandfoodbank.org) for some baseline information.

## The Resource Round-Up: Food Banks and Giveaways



## To Think or Not To Think: A Guide to Metacognition



By Jennifer Bailey, LCSW; RDT

As parents, we worry about our children's ability to make smart and productive decisions. We know making decisions for them is not a lifelong solution. However, when we help our children develop their metacognitive skills, we teach them to think for themselves.

### Molding our Children into capable adults

Raise your hand if you have ever said any of the following:

- Think before you speak or act.
- What were you thinking?
- Did you think about the consequences?

My hand is also raised.

As parents, we want to guide and help our children grow into capable adults. But what makes a capable adult? There are many responses to this question, but I focus on only one: thinking.

A capable adult does not have all the answers, nor do they know how to do all the things. Capable adults know how to think through a situation. Capable adults know when to ask for help. A capable adult thinks about the problem at hand and makes a plan to obtain a solution. Capable adults can analyze an inefficiently solved problem and consider how they might have approached it differently.

### What is Metacognition?

Metacognition is developing awareness and understanding everything to consider at any given time. I know that sounds very overwhelming.

Here's an example: you walk into a room full of people and assess what the group is doing. You notice music and a table filled with snacks and drinks. So you would conclude you are at a party. If you see people looking bored,

you may conclude it's a boring party. If you see people dancing, talking, and enjoying themselves, you may be likelier to stay and join the fun.

At that moment, you are thinking about the components of the situation, the group as a whole, the individual people, and how you plan to respond.

You could head over to the snack table or hit the dance floor. Or, if the party is boring, you may sneak out to head back home and watch reruns of *The Office*.

*If we break it down, metacognition is thinking about our own thinking. It helps us navigate social situations, solve problems, and build our sense of self.*

If you have a solid understanding of your thoughts, you know how you may respond in certain situations or, even better, choose how you would want to respond in a given situation.

If we can engage in metacognition, we are setting ourselves up to make positive and productive choices.

### Teaching Through Questions

So, how do I help my child practice metacognition? The answer is metacognitive questions, to be exact. These questions help your child build skills in thinking about their thinking.

When your child practices metacognition, they build skills to think through problems, identify possible solutions, and choose one that best fits the given situation.

Metacognitive questions take time to learn and use effectively. A wonderful way to practice metacognitive questions is when there is a task to complete, a problem to solve, or if an unexpected event happens.

### Here are examples of metacognitive questions:

Before starting a task:

- Do I know the steps to complete this task?
- What might distract me from



finishing?

During the task:

- How am I progressing?
- Am I following the steps correctly?
- Who can I ask for help if needed?

After completing the task:

- What went well, and what can I improve next time?
- How do I feel now that it's done?
- Did I put in my best effort?

You want to use metacognitive questions often, mainly because you have to practice if you want to get good at something. Just like thinking takes practice, it also takes time.

So, if you want to practice building metacognition skills with your child, start when you are not in a rush to be somewhere or get something done. The more you practice, the easier it will become, and soon, you may notice your child starting to engage in metacognition with less guidance from you!

For example, if you're about to clean their room together, you might ask:

- What does a clean room look like?
- Does your room match that image?
- What steps do we need to take

to achieve that?

- What's the first thing we should do?
- How will we know when we're done?

### Patience Is Key

Now, the hard part of using metacognitive questions is allowing your child to answer them independently. As a parent, you will need to be patient. Remember your child's brain is still developing, especially the logical part of their brain known as the frontal lobe.

In fact, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, the frontal lobe isn't fully developed until one is in their mid to late twenties.

So when your seven-year-old, 12-year-old, or even your 16-year-old has difficulty knowing where to start or how to complete a task, remember that thinking (or logic) is an emerging skill at these ages. This skill needs consistent practice over a long period. We are talking years, folks!

### Takeaways:

I know you just read through this whole article. Your brain may be throbbing right now. So here are the main takeaways to carry with you and incorporate when

*Continued on page 10*



## Political Fatigue Is Real: How to Stop Doomscrolling and Start Healing From page 7

Sleep aids in clearing out waste products and toxins that accumulate in your brain during the day, and adequate sleep helps improve focus, attention, and problem-solving skills, according to the John Hopkins School of

Medicine.

Suppose there is one skill that would help navigate the many changes happening in our governmental structure. In that case, it is the ability to digest information and determine what

is accurate and helpful with a fresh and rested brain.

No matter your political party affiliation, the tips provided can serve as a guide if you struggle with how to move forward during a time that feels overwhelming and

is filled with difficult-to-process messaging.

Resting, resetting, reading, and relaxing are activities that can be beneficial no matter the season.

## Chris Hedges Says America's Democracy Is in Danger—And It's Not Just Trump's Fault From page 7

Hedges warned that freedom of speech, civil rights, and public protests could all come under attack during Trump's second term. He also says that the problems go far beyond Trump himself.

"This isn't just about Trump," he said. "The system itself is broke." As the country moves forward, the real question is: Is Trump's presidency a major shift, or just a continuation of a system that's been failing Americans for

years? Get engaged!

## To Think or Not To Think: A Guide to Metacognition From page 9

with your child:

Metacognition is thinking about your thinking. It develops awareness and understanding of everything to consider at any given time.

Teaching our children to think will help them develop into capable adults.

Use metacognitive questions to help teach your child how to think.

*Jennifer Bailey is a wife, mother of three, and a therapist. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Registered Drama Therapist (RDT).*

## City Council Legislation From page 6

**Ord. No. 180-2025** – Donut Worry Run Happy 5K Permit Approval  
**Sponsors:** Spencer

**Summary:** Approves a permit for the Donut Worry Run Happy 5K on October 18, 2025, managed by Hermes Sports & Events. Establishes the race route and authorizes necessary street closures.

**Funding Amount:** Not specified  
Vote: Passed (14-0); Absent: Gray, Santana, Spencer

**Ord. No. 181-2025** – University Settlement Hunger Center  
**Sponsors:** Starr, Maurer

**Summary:** Approves an agreement with University Settlement, Inc. to fund the Hunger Center, providing

food distribution to local residents using Wards 5 and 12 Casino Revenue Funds.

**Funding Amount:** **\$44,200** (\$22,100 from Ward 5, \$22,100 from Ward 12)  
Vote: Passed (14-0); Absent: Gray, Santana, Spencer

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## GCABJ Honors Cleveland Media Icons



The Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists (GCABJ) honored journalists at an event attended by more than 300 people. Credit: Vince Robinson



Ernest "Pete" Cary (Fox 8/WJW), Lynn Tolliver (93FM WZAK), and Mansfield Frazier (WTAM 1100AM) inducted into the Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists (GCABJ). Credit: Vince Robinson



**Left:** Honoree and 3News broadcaster Leon Bibb inducted. Bibb began his career at WKYC in 1979 and became Cleveland's first African American prime-time news anchor in 1986. He later served as an anchor and reporter at WEWS before retiring in 2017. Now back at WKYC, Bibb provides community reporting. Credit: Vince Robinson



**Right:** Peter Lawson Jones, Cedric and Dargan III Burns, along with Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists President Rhonda Crowder. Credit: Vince Robinson



19 News anchor Harry Boomer stands with an attendee at the ceremony. Harry Boomer was awarded the GCBJA Broadcast Journalist of the Year. A broadcast journalist and radio personality, Boomer (b. 1953) has been an anchor at CBS affiliate WOIO in Cleveland, Ohio. He has also served as president of the Cleveland chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. Credit: Vince Robinson



The Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists honors Mansfield Frazier. Accepting the award is Brenda Frazier (center), with Master of Ceremonies Peter Lawson Jones (left) and Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists President Rhonda Crowder. Credit: Vince Robinson

## Black History Began With the Black Press



By Mansfield Frazier  
*Pulled from the Ward 7 Archives  
March 2020 edition*

In colonial America, newspapers circulated through authorized subscription agents. One of the first Black agents was **David Walker**, a free Black man born in Wilmington, North Carolina, in the late 18th century. Walker, who owned a successful clothing store in Boston, was an agent for Freedom’s Journal, the first Black-owned newspaper in the United States.

His courage and

North Carolina and other Southern states enacted sedition laws to criminalize publications like the Appeal—a tactic repeatedly used against Black media for promoting messages of truth and resistance. [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)

Between 1827 and 1855, 100 Black newspapers were published in the United States. These publications, read by Black and progressive white audiences, shared news of local milestones and celebrated the achievements of Black individuals who attained success through perseverance and hard work.

More importantly, they countered racist narratives that sought to justify slavery by portraying Black people as incapable of anything beyond forced labor.

This crucial role of Black



David Walker

determination paved the way for the advancement of Black publishing.

After Freedom’s Journal ceased publication, Walker advanced Black publishing by releasing Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World in 1829. This book was one of the first to encourage Black people to stand up against those who kept them enslaved. David Walker told them to fight back if needed, which made many white Southerners very upset.

Walker knew that sharing ideas through writing was a powerful way to help Black people gain freedom.

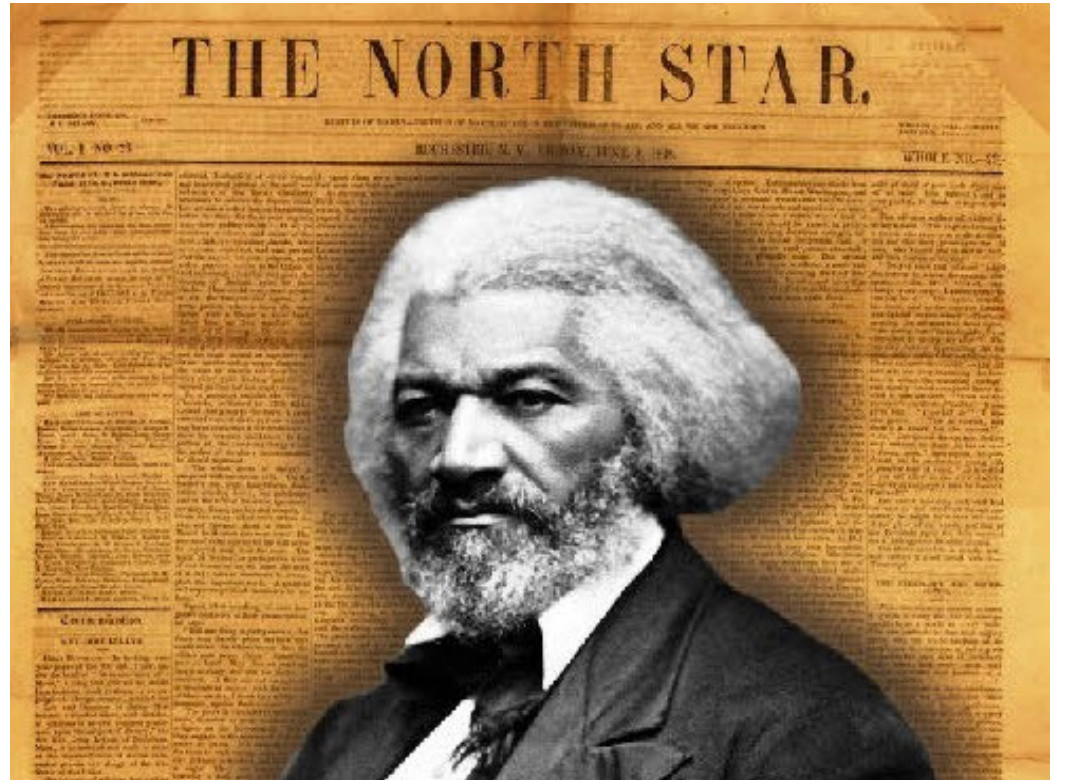
Despite efforts to suppress it, his publication spread widely across the South. In response,

newspapers in shaping public perception is often overlooked, but it is a testament to their power and influence.

In 1837, the third successful Black newspaper, **The Weekly Advocate**, was launched in New York City and edited by **Samuel Cornish**. Within two months, it was renamed The Colored American.

These publications—**The Mirror of Liberty, The Elevator, Freeman’s Advocate, The Palladium of Liberty, and The Herald of Freedom**, relentlessly focused on abolishing slavery and full equality for free Black citizens.

In 1847, **Frederick Douglass**, a prominent Black abolitionist and orator, founded **The North Star** in Rochester, New York.



Frederick Douglass founded The North Star in Rochester, New York.

The newspaper quickly gained a circulation of over 4,000 readers across the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean—a remarkable feat for its time.

The North Star’s motto—“Right is of no sex, truth is of no color, God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren”—underscored its commitment to equality and justice. The North Star became a forum for abolitionist thought, women’s rights, and other social justice movements.

Douglass continued publishing the paper until 1851, when it merged with the Liberty

Party Paper to form **Frederick Douglass’ Paper**. [britannica.com](http://britannica.com)

The legacy of the Black press is one of resilience, advocacy, and truth-telling. From Freedom’s Journal to The North Star, these publications laid the foundation for generations of Black journalism, shaping the fight for civil rights and justice in America.

For a deeper understanding of David Walker’s impact, you may find the Youtube video, David Walker’s “Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World” insightful:

## Correction For Photo of Sojourner Truth

Correction: In the February 2025 print edition of The Cleveland Observer, an image of Sojourner Truth was mistakenly used instead of a photo of Sara Lucy Bagby Johnson. The error occurred on page 10 with a story titled “Searching for Sara Lucy Bagby Johnson.” The online version of the story has been corrected. We sincerely regret the error.



Sara Lucy Bagby Johnson. Credit: Cuyahoga County Archives

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TCO Survey

**WARRIOR:**  
A NEW COMMUNITY MEN'S EVENT  
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025