

# The Milwaukee COMMUNITY



# JOURNAL



WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## Still No Justice for Hamiltons!

U.S. Justice Department won't seek criminal civil rights charges against officer who fatally shot Dontre Hamilton, his family vows to continue fight for justice

By Thomas E. Mitchell, Jr.

Almost a year after the Milwaukee County District Attorney's decision not to criminally charge fired Milwaukee Police Officer Christopher Manney in the shooting death of Dontre Hamilton, his family decried Tuesday's decision by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) not to seek criminal civil rights charges against the former officer.

In explaining their decision, the DOJ reportedly claimed there was insufficient evidence to charge Manney with violating Dontre's civil rights when the former officer shot and killed him in Red Arrow Park

on April 30, 2014.

Again standing on the steps of the Federal Courthouse on Wisconsin Avenue, Hamilton's brother, Nate—just as he did after District Attorney John Chisholm's decision—called on Black and Brown people of the city to realize and enact their power to challenge a political and judicial system that needed, he said, to be "torn down."

"I'm so fed up," a visibly tense, angry and disgusted Hamilton said before the gathered media, as his family stood behind him with their attorneys. "The community is fed up. It's time to stop playing around."

"The U.S. Attorney's office blows smoke up people's behinds, saying it's hard to prove Manney did anything wrong. They failed the

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Nate Hamilton addresses the media outside of the Federal Courthouse downtown after the U.S. Department of Justice declined to charge fired MPD Officer Christopher Manney in the death of his brother, Dontre. (Photo by Thomas Mitchell, Jr.)



Rev. Charles E. Thornhill of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (pictured above) was given the honor of having a street named after him at the corner of 4th and Christine Lane, just outside the church he has pastored for some 20 years. Mt. Moriah members and clergy were on hand to witness the momentous occasion for a man who has served his faith, church, and community with distinction and integrity. The street is now "West Christine Lane/Rev. C.E.Thornhill Lane. The event was held Saturday. (All photos by Yvonne Kemp)

## Mt. Moriah Pastor honored with street name unveiling



## Salvation Army and FOX 6 Helps make winter a little warmer for community's children

The Salvation Army again teamed up with WITI-FOX6 to give-away cleaned and gently used coats to community families that are in need of winter coats. The coat give-away was held at the Salvation Army Distribution Center, 5880 N. 60th St. Among the families and individuals you received coats was Angela Yance, pictured at left with her grandchildren, nine-year-old Tarrell Dukes and Shontell Dukes-Jones, age two. (Pictured above, left to right): Lazerrick Britton, Michael Hutchins and Sherri Williams found warm coats for their children. The coat give-away was part of Condella's Coats for Kids, sponsored yearly by FOX6 News Meteorologist Vince Condella. (Photos by Yvonne Kemp)

## FIRST PERSON

By Jasmine M. Johnson



## "Homegrown Talent Fatigue"

Milwaukee native and professional laments city's "Black Brain-drain," calls for the retention and progression of individuals born and raised in the

"Brew City" (Article first posted on Facebook)

As I did my 3 hour and 42 minute commute today I had some time to reflect. There has been several articles recently published naming Wisconsin and Milwaukee the worst in the world for the incarceration of men of color, and one as of yesterday naming Milwaukee as the worst city for Black Americans.

I will start with expressing that some of my closest confidants within the last decade are implants (professionals who are transplants from other cities), and I think within the last year my personal daily/weekly network has shifted from 90/10 to 8/92 of those born & raised (in Milwaukee) to implants respectively.

Now that I shared my disclaimer, I will offer my \$0.81. I was raised at 2750 N. 46th Street. I remember waiting on the bus stop with my play mama, Elia; sitting in Mrs. Little's class at Golda Meir for the Gifted and Talented in a room that included a boy that I would one day marry, where Scott Knox rapped about "Hanging Tough," and my life would be filled with the introduction of people with me for a lifetime: Tahirah, Una, Timisha, Tee, Melody, Tasha, Tawnya, and sooooo many others.

I have discussed my frustration of the Brain Drain for the last four years, but today I have self-diagnosed myself with Home Grown Talent Fatigue. (It's a real thing! Trust me, it really is, and I coined it here today). I believe Milwaukee is a "Great City on a Great Lake," but I struggle with many things that I have yet to find a solution for. For a city with so much potential we (collectively) are contributing to stagnation. Many of us are ok with the status quo, while others who are trying to seek ways to contribute towards breaking barriers, and countless people in my generation have left. For us to reach a true critical mass I will offer one solution to correcting Milwaukee not being attractive for certain demographics.

I know for a fact that local D&I (Diversity and Inclusion) professionals are scratching their heads daily on how to "sell" this. How can one "spin" these negative stats to recruit top talent of cultural background to Milwaukee? The answer is simple. They should shift their investment to balance and include focusing on the retention and progression of home grown talent. I believe that even a slight investment in this direction will have exponential returns. Think about it. For those who grew up in this city their vested interest is at an advantage and on a different level than someone who was recruited here. Don't get me wrong implants are more than capable of falling in love with Milwaukee, and jumping in to make this place home. I have proven examples of those near and dear to me who have executed this flawlessly.

But, my question is why aren't corporations taking the advancement of those with a little more skin in the game as serious as those they are courting

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## PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

Question and Photos by Yvonne Kemp

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

"President Obama can issue an executive order to make the 2016 election day a ONE-TIME federal holiday, giving millions of Americans a paid day off and giving permission to all states and businesses to follow his lead. It's totally doable, and could impact next year's election more than any other single reform. Do you think this is a good idea? Yes or No; why or why not?"

LOUIS COLEMAN, JR.: "This is a great idea for people who work. This election is going to be very important for the Democrats. We need everyone to come out and vote. Having the paid day off will help people vote early and the lines-hopefully-won't be so long."



LEXUS BURRILL:

"Yes. I think this would encourage more people to vote. It's difficult for some people to take time off from work and vote around their schedules. A paid day off would help people with children get out and vote early."



ROMIE L. BOLDEN:

"President Obama has come up with a great idea. He is still thinking about how he can help the Democratic Party, even though this is his last year. Early voting will help. I.D.'s are mandatory so we need to get our free state I.D.'s early and vote, vote, vote."



CLAUDIA BREWER: "I believe that this move would definitely encourage participation because it would give those of us who vote more time during election day to help get others out to vote!"



# THE PULSE

The WHO·WHAT·WHERE· WHEN of YOUR Community!

Formerly the 4W Community Happenings



## Total Woman organization holds "Chat & Chew"

The annual Chat and Chew of the Total Woman End-Time Harvest was held recently at the Radisson Hotel on Port Washington Rd. Total woman, founded by Juanita Frison, is an organization that empowers women in the community. Pastor Charles Fair was the guest speaker at the event. Mary Brown and the Youth Praise Team of Milwaukee provided the entertainment.

(Photo by Yvonne Kemp)



District six residents recently attended a mural unveiling ceremony for two murals created by Milwaukee-based artists Nicolas Lampert and Paul Kjelland at the corner of King Drive and Ring Street. The work illustrates the historic struggle for civil rights in the city. It was commissioned by the Martin Luther King Peace Place. (Photos by Yvonne Kemp)

## Greater Milwaukee Foundation presents free day at Holiday Folk Fair International

The closing day of Holiday Folk Fair International will be free to the public for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's November Gift to the Community. Free admission on Sunday, Nov. 22, provides access to a unique and compelling celebration of cultures, including traditional music and dance

performances; food and shopping vendors with global wares; arts, crafts and demonstrations. Holiday Folk Fair International is a program of the International Institute of Wisconsin, a nonprofit social service organization dedicated to racial, cultural and ethnic understanding. The annual event, now in its 72nd year, honors the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin.

"Embracing diversity and celebrating the unique contributions of all people are key characteristics of a thriving, inclusive community," said Ellen Gilligan, president and CEO of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. "Holiday Folk Fair International provides a special opportunity to immerse yourself in ideas and expressions that represent our region's history as well as its future."

As its theme, the 2015 Folk Fair will "Celebrate the Culture of Light," allowing guests to learn how light is incorporated into the music, food, dance and art of the Fair's participants. Event hours on Nov. 22 will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Nov. 22, the Folk Fair will feature:

- Coffee House: enjoy a beverage and baked goods while listening to talented musicians
- Heritage Lane: traditional customs from diverse cultures brought to life
- International Bazaar: cultural artifacts create a unique shopping experience
- Chef's Stage: local chefs preparing traditional cuisine
- Wisconsin Woodturners
- Old World Wisconsin display
- Bonsai exhibit
- Closing Ceremonies

tory and culture through food, music, dance and crafts. This gift will enable more individuals from throughout our area to experience Folk Fair, expanding the community we share with one another."

Holiday Folk Fair International is held at State Fair Park Exposition Center, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., in West Allis. Call (414) 225-6225 with questions or visit [greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/gifts](http://greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/gifts) for additional information.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation has been celebrating its 100th year of service throughout 2015 by presenting monthly Gifts to the Community, offering everyone an opportunity to access special places and resources throughout the region. The Foundation's most recent Gift to the Community resulted in record-setting attendance at Discovery World, as 28,000 people visited the science and technology center Oct. 3-4. More than 233,000 people have participated in these experiences so far this year. The Foundation's final centennial Gift to the Community will be revealed next month on FOX 6 Milwaukee.

## Still No Justice for Hamiltons!

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Hamilton blasted city leaders—Black and White—including Mayor Tom Barrett and Black aldermen, D.A. Chisholm, Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn, and revelations of a recent decision by the city's Annuity and Pension Board to pay Manney duty-disability retirement pay.

He was also critical of Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke (calling him an "Uncle Tom" and an expletive) for his recent negative comments equating the "Black Lives Matter" movement to terrorism, and stating there hasn't been any police brutality in America since the 1960s. Hamilton also took the criminal justice system to task, claiming it contains crooked judges who "refuse to see the truth."

"I say destroy the (U.S.) Constitution," Hamilton said, "because it never was supposed to work for Black people anyway."

Hamilton said he and his family had prepared themselves for the DOJ's decision going the way it did. "We were prepared for this, knowing the history of this nation. (But) we're prepared not give up or give in."

Dontre's brother said he and his family will continue fighting injustice and go after those entities that withhold justice from his family and from all families fighting against evil.

"If one more unarmed Black man dies in this community, than every Black and Brown man and woman must come out of their houses and take to the streets to continue the fight; press on until the system falls."

Hamilton urged the community to exercise the one right they do have that can affect change: The vote!

Asked what he and his family will do now that the federal justice system declined to bring charges against Manney, Hamilton said the city will see "all sorts of things from the community," and will continue to move the Coalition For Justice, the organization formed in response to Dontre's killing, forward.

"We've been nice and patient as a family," Hamilton said. "There is no need for violence. Who will I be violent towards?"

"I would have to be violent against the whole system. Is that reasonable? But we will make every person (in this city) uncomfortable. We will let the police know there is no statute of limitations on murder."

The Hamilton attorney's announced during the news conference that the family will know pursue a civil suit against Manney.

The Jonathan Safran, one of the attorneys for the Hamilton family reportedly noted the family's dismay

with the length of time it took for the federal government to make its decision.

In a statement, Safran said despite repeated requests by the family and him for a timeline and decision date, and despite a joint letter by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch asking the DOJ to expedite the review and decision, the Hamiltons were forced to wait until November 10, 2015 for a decision, more than eighteen months since Dontre's death. --Source used for this story: fox6now.com

## Congresswoman Moore responds to DOJ decision not to file criminal civil rights charges against Manney

In response to the Department of Justice's decision not to bring criminal civil rights charges against Milwaukee Police Officer Christopher Manney, the officer who shot and killed Dontre Hamilton, Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-04) released the following statement:

"As a mother to two young Black men, I am especially saddened by the Department of Justice's decision not to bring criminal civil rights charges against Officer Christopher Manney. More than eighteen months have passed since Officer Manney fatally shot Dontre Hamilton — an unarmed Black man struggling with mental illness — and many unanswered questions still remain. Although this decision is certainly a setback, it is by no means the end of our collective efforts to pursue justice for the Hamilton family. I continue to hold them in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time, as I know the wounds from such a devastating loss will take time to heal."

"As we saw in the case of Mr. Hamilton, men and women battling mental illness are all too often confronted by our criminal justice system with disastrous results. As we move forward, we must work to prevent further tragedies by providing law enforcement officials with the tools they need to safely interact with mentally ill individuals and holding officers accountable for their actions."

"With violence in Milwaukee on the rise, we must strive to mend the relationship between the police and the people they serve, especially for those with disabilities and in communities of color."



Rep. Moore

## "Homegrown Talent Fatigue"

(continued from page 1)

at National H/B MBA conferences? What kept me up last night and what I have had hours to ponder is will my generation be able to produce the next Thelma A. Sias, Cecilia Gore, Vincent Lyles, Attorney John Daniels, Jr., or a Dr. Joan Prince?

Will we be fortunate to have people in Sr., Executive, and C-Suite leadership positions that can say they grew up on Villard? Brewers Hill? Went to Custer HS before Harvard? I don't know, but if we don't take the little homegrown talent that remains and cultivate it I am afraid those stats will become infinite.

In the interim I realize that I am maturing, and if I truly believe and live by Jeremiah 29:11, I have to submit to His plan and TRUST that plan even if it takes my away from my city, my home, myMKE! I now find myself as the implant, and I am pouring my talent into this new city

the same way as implants have done here. So far they have been just as welcoming there as I have been to implants here, and the exposure I have received from the company I work for by now being in a major market keeps me in awe daily. I just challenge those in leadership positions, those in positions of influence to raise a brow and to continue to seek AND make ways to place homegrown talent on the same playing field as recruiting out of state talent. The ROI will be unbelievable and would truly shift the dynamics and current state.

P.S.: I am sure I will get in trouble for this virtual Op-Ed, but please chalk it up to the 454 miles over 7.5 hours I've driven, and the fact that I completed a reference for a job opportunity that will take a close friend away from MKE to another coast all within the last 24 hours. Give me the weekend, and your regularly scheduled Jasmine will be back.

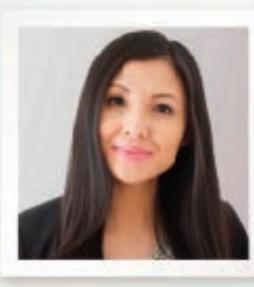
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# PERSPECTIVES

# Quote of the Week:

## This has not been a good week if you were young, gifted and/or Black in Chicago!

By Phillip Jackson-Founder/Exec. Director of the Black Star Project



Left, TyShawn Lee, 9 years old, lured into alley and executed on November 2, 2015. Center, Kaylyn Pryor, 20, winner of modeling contest last month and shot and killed waiting for a bus at her grandparents house on November 2, 2015. Right, J-Quantae Riles, 14, ambushed and murdered while coming from the barber shop on November 7, 2015. Additionally, at least 10 other youth 19 and under were shot and wounded this week in Chicago.

Last week, I challenged Black men to step up in our neighborhoods to mentor Black boys away from violence and death.

Numerous people wrote to me and told me that I was out of order for doing this.

They told me that what other people do is not "my business!" They told me to quietly just do the "good work" that I am doing and let my work speak for me instead of my sometimes harsh words.

As you have probably figured out, I sometimes don't take advice well.

I am a 65 year-old Black man still afraid for my life in America, and afraid not to be afraid in America.

My courage and confidence to do the things to save our people are low. I have been taught, by American schools and American society, to be afraid of speaking up for and saving Black people.

I have no right to be afraid with death looming so near!!! But I am. I have been taught well!

I am watching the blood of thousands of Black children run through the streets of America, and especially here in Chicago.

Many Black adults can't get jobs because of institutional racism and structural unemployment issues. They cannot support their families or their communities.

Structural, institutional racism is invisible, but omnipresent in America. It is like the air we breathe. It is everywhere. It impacts us profoundly.

Most Black communities are war zones. I was just on the corner of 87th and Cottage Grove last Saturday night when 6 shots rang out 1/2 block from me.

It is by the grace of God that one of those bullets did not have my name on it. Worst of all, too many Black children were shot and killed in Chicago over the past few days while the tongues of Black people are mostly silent. My tongue will no longer be one of those.

Our children's minds are being destroyed in the schools they attend and have been for maybe the past 70

years.

Several people told me that my words make Black people "look bad." I do not care how Black people look, I care that Black people are well! Unfortunately, most of us are not well.

Please help get Black men to mentor Black boys away from violence and death.

Please encourage those who have the knowledge to teach Black people excellent parenting skills to do so, and help us build up and strengthen our families and communities.

Please help get Black people to invest our \$1 trillion in spending to improve our lives and the lives of our children.

Please help move our children off the bottom of the American education system.

Please help empty American prisons of Black men.

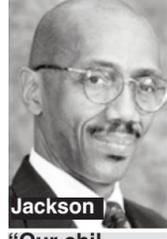
I know those who criticize me mean well, but, in whatever few years I have left on this earth, my tongue is going to lash out at those, Black and White, that cause and allow Black children to be shot down in the streets of America. I am certain that this will make some people uncomfortable. Maybe they should be!

My "love" for my people is in my actions, not my words.

My question to all Black people, with no malice, "What are you doing

to change any of this of which I have spoken and when will you speak out?"

May we all participate in the creation of our own blessings.



**Jackson**  
"Our children's minds are being destroyed in the schools they attend and have been for maybe the past 70 years. Several people told me that my words make Black people 'look bad.' I do not care how Black people look, I care that Black people are well! Unfortunately, most of us are not well."

## What's In A (Black)Name?



Photo by iStock

Have you ever made a joke or raised a concern about a "new generation" Black child's name?

You know what I'm talking about. Not a "Betty" or "Jean," or a "Joseph" or "William," but one of those undefinable names like "Le Queenshia," "Sha'NaeNae" or "Hennesy" (the latter being the offspring

of a mother who loved Cognac. No kidding! I also know children named "Courvoisier" and "Remy." I know a girl named "Mercedes," and read about a kid named "LeBron Car'Mello").

Black people of my generation were generally given Biblical, Hebrew or English names, the result of our parent's indoctrination in or acceptance of the Eurocentric culture and Christianity.

# SIGNIFYIN'

Mikel Kwaku Osi Holt

My generation, those of us with a Africentric mindset or otherwise proud of our African culture, gave our children African names--like my daughter "Radiah" and grandsons "Ahmari" and "Ahmeer"—or we named them after Black heroes and sheroes--my late son was named after Malcolm X and Franz Fanon (look that one up).

But today's new generation (particularly young and undereducated) are creating names (often liberally using punctuation marks), or naming them after material products and food.

Studies have shown corporate America frequently discriminates against job applicants with names they consider "ghetto." Teachers have problems pronouncing names, sometimes because they are void of standard grammatical principles.

Even many Black folks laugh at, or ridicule young folks with those "strange" names.

I have to admit, I too have frequently fallen prey to confusion or let slip an occasional joke about some of

the names. Or, I did, until I read the following letter by Steven Singer, a White teacher, working in an urban school:

"As a public school teacher, few things give me as much anxiety as getting my student rosters for the first time.

I look over the list of names for my incoming children and cringe.

How do I pronounce that? Every year it never fails -- there's always at least four or five names I've never seen before -- or at least never spelled quite like that.

As a White teacher in a district with a majority of Black students, but very few Black teachers, there are not really many people to turn to for guidance.

And if I don't figure it out soon, I'll be making a pretty terrible first impression. No one likes to have their name butchered, especially children, especially if an adult is doing it, especially if that adult is white.

The only solution I've found is to soldier on with the first day's atten-

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## "Message in the Music": Kenny Gamble – Part 2

"You can't change the color of your skin or the parents that you are born to. Poverty, ignorance, and the quality of life -- we can change those things": Kenny Gamble.

When we examine the devastation of life, the inhumanity, struggles and oppression of people globally some feel despair more than others. Even when we want to help, life gets in the way and we end up spending the majority of our lives running away from the problem. Some individuals drown out the painful feelings by self-medicating and they, ultimately, become one of the casualties. Then there are some people like Kenny Gamble who were born to serve people and when they see the struggles and carnage of life, the pain in their heart drives them to spend their entire life doing something to improve these outcomes.

I can't tell you how many positive responses I received from the first part of this article, "Message in the music," regarding my mentor Kenny Gamble. Some asserted that I may be getting soft (less angry) and others were intrigued by my reverence for Gamble. For the record, I'm not getting soft nor do I believe that I'm angry. What might appear as anger is in reality, a call to action and consciousness to our leaders (Black and White) that the Black community is in a real "dilemma." Importantly, we can't wish, pray, or dream our way out of this dilemma. The current reality of the Black Community, demands a new strategy that addresses the residual issues from the legacy of slavery coupled with a serious and sustained effort undertaken by real people and real leaders like Kenny Gamble.

Kenny Gamble's musical accomplishments are legendary and he is widely known for having written, produced, recorded, and published more than 3,000 songs performed by artists such as The Jackson Five, Teddy Pendergrass, Jerry Butler, The O'Jay's, Spinners, Delfonics, Jones Girls, Billy Paul, Lou Rawls, Phyllis Hyman, Spinners, Dionne Warwick, and numerous others (nearly 60 artists in total represented the Philly label). His accomplishments are memorialized in every musical "hall of fame" including the prestigious Rock and Roll, Grammy, and Songwriters Hall of Fame. Gamble and Huff's music was at the forefront of institutionalizing not only Rhythm and Blues, but also the pioneering of dance and disco music.

Writing songs is a gift and a personal genius but Kenny Gamble is more than a songwriter. He parlayed his "in your face" creativity to build one of the most successful Black-owned businesses in America with Philadelphia International Records. Kenny launched the careers of a significant number of talented artists. I think he's most proud of the number of talented artists he helped to cultivate within the industry (i.e. writers, producers, promoters, musicians, etc.).

Philadelphia International Records was a musical mecca and interested talent from all of the world would seek out Gamble and Huff to get a piece of the magic that they were creating -- the Sound of Philadelphia.

Recognizing the disparities in the music industries, in 1979, Kenny Gamble began organizing the different segments of the industry (i.e. disc jockeys, publishers, artists, songwriters, producers, musicians, etc.) to form the Black Music Association (BMA). Prior to the term Rhythm and Blues becoming the dominant term to define music



developed by Black people, our music was called "Black," "soul," or sometimes "race" music. Without the proper marketing and promotions (investment) or access to airwaves that had wider reach. These stations were primarily for White or what is termed as "crossover" music Black music that was played on White stations. Notably, Black music held its own and, in many cases, exceeded White music in sales in spite of the lack of investment.

One thing became clear and was captured by a slogan the Kenny coined "Black music is Green." This could not have been truer when in the late 70s the music industry was in decline, but Black music remained strong. Unfortunately, Black music wasn't valued nor leveraged to the optimal level it needed to be by the White music industry. The financial success of Black music, despite the lack of investment on par with White music, coupled with the efforts of BMA, in late 70's, White labels began to really focus on the development of Black music.

Kenny Gamble and the BMA forced a new reckoning of Black music on predominantly White labels. As a result, entire Black divisions were created that were headed by Blacks. The birth of the Black Record Executive catapulted. Using the Gamble and Huff model with CBS Records, thus began the emergence of "private" labelling -- people like LA Reid, Russell Simmons, and Puffy Combs owe much of their success to Kenny Gamble and the BMA because of this knowledge and the battles fought and won before they were born.

The BMA held annual music conferences that sought to educate Black participants about all aspects of the music industry and organize the Black community. The goal was to not only optimize our participation economically but also to use the industry to help advance the Black community. This mindset was the foundation of Kenny Gamble's real purpose.

Under Kenny's leadership, BMA became a force to be reckoned with. The group began to use their new political capital to assist Black artists in regaining their publishing and their songwriting credits. Oftentimes, unscrupulous record labels preyed on and stole from uninformed. Many times they undercapitalized Black writers. White record executives tricked many Black artists, such as Little Richard into giving up their rights to publishing mainly because they didn't understand the business. Throughout this entire process, Kenny Gamble dominated the music charts. While he was leading this music revolution, he was growing Philadelphia International Records into a powerhouse. In 1979, he created Black Music Month, which is celebrated today.

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# RELIGION

## Calvary Baptist Church holds Pre-Men's Day Musical



Calvary Men's Choir



Greater Galilee Baptist Church Men's Choir



Mt. Carmel MBC Men's Choir



Philadelphia MBC Men's Choir

The Men's Choir of Calvary Baptist Church celebrated its anniversary with a pre-Men's Day, Learned Male Choir Festival at the church, located on Teutonia Avenue. The theme of the event was, "Men Activating Our Authority, Through Discipleship." The men's choirs of Greater Galilee Baptist, Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, and Philadelphia MBC helped Calvary's men celebrate the power of God's music. (Photo by Yvonne Kemp)

## Religious Leaders Urge United Nations to Stand by Their Call for Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession

*Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Interdenominational Network of African American Congregations and Clergy to Mobilize in Support of Decriminalization Leading up to 2016 UN Meeting*

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC) is urging the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to stand by their call for decriminalization of drug use and possession in the United States and around the world.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) appeared set to call on governments to end the criminalization of drug use and possession, according to DPA Honorary Board Member Richard Branson -- but in a dramatic turn of events withdrew its briefing paper under pressure from at least one country, according to the BBC.

"Locking up people for non-violent drug use is inhumane, immoral and ineffective," said Dr. Iva Carruthers, general secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. "At the center of SDPC's thrust is our belief that there needs to be greater emphasis on policies that focus on Harm Reduction over criminalization."

SDPC, an interdenominational network of African American congregations, clergy and lay leaders is actively engaged in organizing multifaceted activities for the upcoming 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session on global drug policy.

In a recent meeting with a multifaceted group of leaders in early October, SDPC outlined a working paper to be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in April, 2016. That paper argues for a shift in the ideology and practice in the United States concerning drug use and possession.

The "War on Drugs," begun in the 1980s, has made the United States the leading modern nation in the world in incarceration rates, owed largely to vast numbers of persons in jail and prison for drug use and possession. The majority of those incarcerated on these drug charges, according to statistics, are non-violent offenders.

Practices of incarcerating low-level non violent drug offenders in the U.S. has only resulted in mass incarceration and violations of human rights, impinging upon family structure, public health and general community health. While it is a fact that people of all races suffer from the current policies of criminalization of drug use and possession, it is also a fact that the majority of people so affected are poor people of color.

SDPC is advocating for "drug policies that are grounded in science, compassion, and health and human rights," as outlined by the Drug Policy Alliance. (DPA).

Instead of increasing incarceration rates for persons who are addicted to drugs, SDPC and others are advocating for a shift in investment from public and private prison systems to investment in restoring community supports and health systems.

Such a shift would dramatically decrease the numbers of people basically thrown into a cycle of incarceration with few rehabilitative options. We want the United Nations to proceed with the call.



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**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**

**Cordially invites you to attend the 2nd year Anniversary service to appreciate Reverend Joseph H. Jackson, Jr. and First Lady Brenda Jackson. November 22, 2015 at 3:00pm.**

**To be held at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, located at**

**905 West North Avenue**

## Over 1,000 Catholics Support Justice for Church Workers in Milwaukee

This past Sunday, over a 1,000 Catholics stood in support of Catholic Church Workers as they face unparalleled scrutiny into their personal lives. In the past several years, over 50 individuals have been fired from Catholic institutions based on who they are, whom they love, and what they believe.

The declaration, aimed at cultivating a more just and humane work environment for those on the margins of Church teaching, decries these tactics of fear and coercion and asks Catholics and other faith-based individuals to take a stand for inclusion and justice.

"The Church is indebted to workers who have dedicated their lives to service in Catholic schools, dioceses, parishes, hospitals, and other Catholic organizations.

Unfortunately, in recent years many Catholic workers have been unjustly terminated or deprived of fair contract

renewals. "These firings have typically targeted those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT), those who are in relationships not recognized by the Church, those who support women's equality in Church and society, and those who have made decisions about family life in the sacredness of their conscience.

These unjust terminations are not only spiritually, emotionally, and financially devastating for the individual, but they also impact students, parishioners, family members, colleagues, and others, often diminishing their level of trust and respect for the Church."

Call To Action will continue to work with Church Workers, allies and friends in creating employment structures and climates that embrace all God's people and honor the sacredness of who they are, whom they love, and what they believe.

Call To Action is a national organization working for equality and justice in the Catholic Church today. Call To Action educates, inspires and activates Catholics to act for justice and build inclusive communities. For more information about Call To Action, visit [www.cta-usa.org](http://www.cta-usa.org)

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## Marketplace BID hosts reception for fashion designer Kelvin Haydon

The North Avenue Fond du Lac Marketplace Business Improvement District (BID)32 hosted a reception for Kelvin Haydon (pictured second from right), a local fashion designer and owner of KH Designs. He is the winner of Marketplace BID 32's Start-up Business Plan Competition. He was awarded a rehabilitated space, located at 2025-27 W. Fond du Lac Ave. and nearly \$10,000 in prizes after being a finalist in the competition. With Haydon are (from left to right): Kadejsa Harmon, Jacqueline Ward, Lazonnice Belton, Tammy Belton-Davis, Lolita Savage Pump, Haydon, and Sherrie Cheriell. Haydon gave a preview of his spring fashion collection at the reception, which included networking and remarks from invited elected representatives and partners of the BID. (Photo by Yvonne Kemp)

## African American Chamber of Commerce to Host Women in Business Luncheon Series on Education, Entrepreneurship and Business

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin will host Women in Business Luncheon Series: Connecting Education to Entrepreneurship and Business on Thurs., Nov. 12. This event, held at the Milwaukee Yacht Club will feature those at the helm of leading educational and social institutions locally. Panelist include: Dr. Darienne Driver, Milwaukee Public Schools; Dr. Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Paula Penebaker, YWCA Southeastern Wisconsin; and Dr. Joan Prince, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

ReDonna Rodgers with the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship is the featured entrepreneur. These powerful women leaders have a unique position in guiding conversations about education and its economic impact on the larger community. The panel discussion will explore a greater understanding of how business and education intersect through the lens of female executives who are charged with integrating programs and services intended to develop students' core academic, technical, and employable skills. "African Americans, especially those in Wisconsin are experiencing many challenges that impact our business community. It is our mission to raise the economic outcome of African American families and communities through success stories, best practices, and exemplary models that build hope and promise," said Dr. Eve Hall, president/CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce and event moderator. The AACCW is proud to have the support of corporate sponsors Milwaukee Business Journal and Johnson Controls, Inc.

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I know I am with the love of my life. How blessed I am to be in love with my best friend. As Jill Scott says..."This man went and put me back together!!!" His voice is like that of a bell or whistle that only my ears can tune into. He is like my grounding wire that keeps me lit up with the light that shines from my eyes. Even though I know, when he is on his way, I still run to the window to watch him walk up to the door. He used to box golden gloves...But you would never know because his hands are truly beautiful for a man. When he laughs, there is a twinkle in his eye and a huge dimple in his cheek. His alter ego can be a challenge at times...But he would not be him without it...And I love him just as he is. There is a magic about him that is all his own...God truly broke the mold when he made my man.



Sonya M. Bowman  
"It Is What It Is"

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I am who I am, because of Him.  
I have an unlimited future, because of Him.  
I am more than enough, because of Him.  
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I am healed, because of Him.  
I can self-encourage, because of Him.  
I seek to inspire others, because of Him.  
I am thankful, because of Him.  
I am...I have...I can...I will, all because of Him!



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# Y&E YOUTH & EDUCATION

## MPS Board of Directors to move meetings to Neeskara School

The November and December 2015 meetings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and its committees will move to Milwaukee Public Schools' Neeskara School, a short distance from the MPS Central Services building where the meetings are typi-

cally held. Neeskara is located at 1601 N. Hawley Road, Milwaukee 53208. The move is occurring because the Central Services auditorium and the adjacent room 103 will be undergoing significant, necessary and long overdue renovations. The updates, which are designed to improve access and functionality of the space, will replace outdated, and increasingly incompatible, technologies that span 60 years - from the 1950s through the end of the 20th century - with modern, more efficient equipment.

Committee on Accountability, Finance, and Personal (AFP) - November 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 15, 2015, 6:30 p.m.  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting - November 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.  
Dates and times of meetings are subject to change.

As usual, the public will continue to have the opportunity at the committee meetings to comment on issues being considered by the Board of School Directors. Interpreters will be provided upon request. For up-to-date information regarding these meetings, including how to access them over-the-air, please visit <http://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/District/About-MPS/School-Board/Meetings-Agendas--Minutes/Meeting-Notices.htm>.

As of November 2, 2015, affected meetings include:  
Committee on Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) - November 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m.; December 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m.  
Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation (SASI) - November 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 10, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Meetings of the Board and its committees are scheduled to return to MPS Central Services in January 2016.



Family holds charity basketball game in honor of son



The parents (seated) of Dwayne Walker II (pictured above), were joined by relatives, friends, and supporter held a memorial basketball game in honor of Walker, who died suddenly of a heart attack September 8, and to carry on his mission to help at-risk youth through his Guided L.I.T.E. LLC organization.

Those who attended came with donations to help Walker's family continue their son's work helping at underprivileged youth. Walker was in the midst of putting together a project to give bookbags filled with school supplies. The family is determined to carry on the work he started while in Mississippi where he went to school and graduated, first from Tougaloo College and then Jackson State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. (Photo by Yvonne Kemp)

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### Card Tricks: How college kids can dodge credit card pitfalls

Article courtesy of CNBC via "The Rundown"

Despite waves of strict legislation, credit card companies still spend millions to attract new, young customers - and many financially inexperienced students are signing up, often to their own detriment.

Gone are the days of credit card booths on campuses and at college events luring students with free T-shirts and pizza.

The Credit CARD Act, which passed in 2009, reeled in much of those practices with laws that restricted card companies from issuing credit to students unless they can demonstrate the ability to make payments or have a co-signer and prohibited pre-approved offers and enticing freebies.

As a result, the number of college-age consumers opening a card fell off dramatically. Only 14.4% of consumers age 18 to 20 opened a credit card account in 2012, compared with 33.6% in 2007, according to a 2013 study on the CARD Act conducted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education also tightened regulations

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**MPS Legal Notice**

During November and December 2015, the auditorium and the adjoining room 103 in MPS Central Services building will be closed while they undergo significant, necessary, and long overdue renovations. These updates, which are designed to improve access and functionality of the space, will replace outdated, and increasingly incompatible, technologies that span 60 years - from the 1950s through the end of the 20th Century - with modern, more efficient equipment.

While these rooms are unavailable, meetings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and its committees temporarily will be moved to the auditorium of MPS's Neeskara School, located at 1601 N. Hawley Road, less than a half mile from MPS Central Services. Affected meetings include (dates and times are subject to change):

- Board of School Directors Retreat to discuss enrollment trends, November 11, 2015, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Committee on Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) – November 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m.; December 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
- Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation (SASI) – November 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 10, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
- Committee on Accountability, Finance, and Personal (AFP) – November 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 15, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
- Regular Monthly Board Meeting – November 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.; December 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

As usual, the public will continue to have the opportunity at the committee meetings to comment on issues being considered by the Board of School Directors. Interpreters will be provided upon request. For up-to-date information regarding these meetings, including how to access them over-the-air, please visit <http://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/District/About-MPS/School-Board/Meetings-Agendas--Minutes/Meeting-Notices.htm>.

Meetings of the Board and its committees are scheduled to return to MPS Central Services in January 2016.

# WISCONSIN RECEIVES "B" ON MARCH OF DIMES PREMATURE BIRTH REPORT CARD

## Racial Disparities and Gaps Among Communities Continue

Wisconsin earned a "B" on the 2015 March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card, which for the first time graded the state's cities and revealed persistent disparities between communities and among racial and ethnic groups.

Wisconsin's preterm birth rate was 9.2 percent in 2014, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate was worse than the new March of Dimes 2020 goal of 8.1 percent. But there are communities within Wisconsin that are trailing behind the state's rate. The City of Milwaukee had preterm birth rates that were significantly worse than the statewide rate.

"This detailed information will show us where we have the greatest need and allow us to meet the unique needs of each community," said Damond Boatwright, Regional President & CEO of SSM Healthcare and March of Dimes Board Chair in Madison. "We're proud that our state does a better than average job of preventing premature births. Despite the progress, premature birth is the number one killer of babies and not all of our families are sharing in our success. There are large gaps in the preterm birth rate between communities in our state, and racial and ethnic disparities persist."

Wisconsin ranked 21 on the March of Dimes disparity index; indicating concerns about gaps between racial and ethnic groups in its preterm birth rate. African Americans throughout the state of Wisconsin have a 12.4% rate of prematurity, significantly higher than the state average of 9.2%.

In comparison, the U.S. earned a "C" on the 2015 Report Card. Idaho, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington earned "A's," 19 states, along with Wisconsin, received a "B," 18 states and the District of Columbia got a "C," six others a "D," and Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Puerto Rico received an "F."

"The U.S. preterm birth rate ranks among the worst of high-resource countries," said Jodi Legge, state director for March

of Dimes Wisconsin Chapter. "Worldwide, 15 million babies are born preterm, and nearly one million die due an early birth and its complications. Babies who survive an early birth face serious and lifelong health problems, including breathing problems, jaundice, vision loss, cerebral palsy and intellectual delays. We have to do better."

The 2015 Premature Birth Report Card provides rates and grades for major cities or counties in each state, and Puerto Rico. It also provides preterm birth rates by race and ethnicity for each state and applies a disparity index that ranks states.

Maine ranked first on the index with the smallest gaps between racial and ethnic groups in its preterm birth rate, while the District of Columbia had the largest gaps. Among the nation's top 100 cities with the most births, Portland, Oregon has the lowest preterm birth rate at 7.2 percent.

The March of Dimes Board of Trustees set a new goal to lower the national preterm birth rate to 8.1 percent by 2020 and to 5.5 percent by 2030. Reaching the March of Dimes 2020 goal of 8.1 will mean that 210,000 fewer babies will be born preterm and achieving the 2030 goal will mean 1.3 million fewer babies will be born preterm, saving nearly \$70 billion in health care costs.

### November is Prematurity Awareness Month

In addition to releasing the annual birth report card in November, various activities are planned throughout the month to raise awareness about prematurity. In Wisconsin:

Various state landmarks throughout the state will shine in purple light to symbolize hope for a healthy start for more babies.

Many hospitals around the state, particularly those with Neonatal Intensive Care Units that treat premature babies, will be conducting activities throughout the month to raise awareness for March of Dimes and the prevention of premature birth.

March of Dimes is asking state legislators to consider forming a bipartisan Legislative Council Study Committee on prevention of preterm births to address the issues surrounding premature birth in Wisconsin.

There is more work to do to prevent prematurity and save babies.

According to the March of Dimes, the years of improvement in the U.S. preterm birth rate came through bold leadership and the implementation of programs and policies by state and local health departments, hospitals and health care providers. Also, a more accurate method of measuring pregnancy length recently was adopted by the National Center for Health Statistics. The new measurement already is used by most other high-resource countries.

# Card Tricks

(continued from page 6)

on debit and prepaid cards, issuing regulations to eliminate "unreasonable fees" and stop "troubling practices" that have been associated with cards marketed to college students.

These days, in order to get a credit card, college students must either put down a deposit in exchange for a secured card or get a parent or other adult to be a co-signer, which means the co-signer is also on the hook should they fall into credit debt. But there are additional

steps students can take to be sure they pick the best card for their needs and start building a good credit history.

"The laws have changed, but students still need to make thoughtful decisions," noted Stuart Ritter, a certified financial planner and vice president of T. Rowe Price Investment Services.

"The seeds they plant today are going to have a big impact on their future."

Credit cards are still considered the best way to begin a credit history, which is important to young adults just starting out. Good credit paves the way to low interest rates on mortgages and auto loans, and can even make it easier to get an apartment rental.

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**Name of Project:**  
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM RE-BID FREIGHT ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION  
**Project No.:** M010-15419  
**Bid Due Date:** December 9, 2015  
**See Bid Documents for details**  
Pre-Bid Meeting: December 2, 2015  
**BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE ABOVE PROJECT ARE AVAILABLE AT:**  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
633 WEST WISCONSIN AVE., SUITE 1000  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
For Further Information contact 414-278-4861 or [www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)

**PROPOSED MILWAUKEE COUNTY DAS-FM Projects for Advertisement for Bids**  
**Name of Project:**  
2015 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AT MULTIPLE COUNTY LOCATIONS  
**Project No.:** V009-15804  
**Bid Due Date:** December 2, 2015  
**See Bid Documents for details**  
Pre-Bid Meeting: November 19, 2015  
**BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE ABOVE PROJECT ARE AVAILABLE AT:**  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
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Milwaukee, WI 53203  
For Further Information contact 414-278-4861 or [www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)

**PROPOSED MILWAUKEE COUNTY DAS-FM Projects for Advertisement for Bids**  
**Name of Project:**  
WARNIMONT PARK SITE REMEDIATION  
**Project No.:** V027-15805  
**Bid Due Date:** November 25, 2015  
**See Bid Documents for details**  
Pre-Bid Meeting: November 18, 2015  
**BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE ABOVE PROJECT ARE AVAILABLE AT:**  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
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For Further Information contact 414-278-4861 or [www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)

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**NOTICE**

Milwaukee Public Schools is requesting proposals for Project Engineering & Design Services for Heating Plant Replacement Project for Barack Obama School of Career and Technical Education (SCTE, Formerly Custer), 5075 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI. Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

The HUB requirements for this contract is 0%  
The COIN requirements for this contract is 0%  
The Student Employment I Participation requirements for this contract is 0%  
A pre-proposal walkthrough for the site will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 11:00 AM. Meet at the school's main entrance. Attendance at the pre-proposal conference is strongly encouraged. A written response of the questions asked at this conference will be issued by way of an addendum to all firms registered as receiving a copy of this RFP. All questions should be submitted in writing to Mark Bethel of Milwaukee Public Schools' Facilities and Maintenance Services, fax number (414) 283-4682. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Only questions submitted in writing prior to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 will be answered. No questions will be answered after that date and time. These responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals to Mr. Mark Bethel, Project Specialist of Design and Construction, Facilities and Maintenance Services, 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, November 24, 2015.  
Darien B. Driver, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
10908786/11-5-12-19

**NOTICE**

Milwaukee Public Schools is requesting proposals for Project Engineering & Design Services for Electric Motor Servicing. Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

The HUB requirements for this contract is 0%  
The COIN requirements for this contract is 0%  
The Student Employment I Participation requirements for this contract is 0%  
A pre-proposal conference will be held at office of the Division of Facilities and Maintenance Services at 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Attendance at the pre-proposal conference is strongly encouraged. A written response of the questions asked at this conference will be issued by way of an addendum to all firms registered as receiving a copy of this RFP. All questions should be submitted in writing to Mark Bethel of Milwaukee Public Schools' Facilities and Maintenance Services, fax number (414) 283-4682. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Only questions submitted in writing prior to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 will be answered. No questions will be answered after that date and time. These responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals to Mr. Mark Bethel, Project Specialist of Design and Construction, Facilities and Maintenance Services, 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, December 01, 2015.  
Darien B. Driver, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
10908769/11-5-10-17-24

**NOTICE**

Milwaukee Public Schools is requesting quotations for a Fanwall System. Equipment specifications, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents. Documents may also be viewed online at A/E Graphics, Inc. @ [www.aegraphics.com](http://www.aegraphics.com).

The HUB requirements for this contract is 0%  
The COIN requirements for this contract is 0%  
The Student Employment / Participation requirements for this contract are 0%.

All questions should be submitted in writing to John Linn of Milwaukee Public Schools' Facilities and Maintenance Services, fax number (414) 283-4682. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the request for quotation. Only questions submitted in writing prior to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 will be answered. No questions will be answered after that date and time. These responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all quotations to Mr. John Linn, Manager of Design and Construction of Facilities and Maintenance Services, 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 no later than 1:30PM on Tuesday, November 24, 2015.  
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to waive informalities.  
Darien B. Driver, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
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**THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL TO PUBLISH LEGALS NOTICES IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) has expanded its services to the greater Milwaukee community with the publishing of legal notices in its Weekend Edition. As a qualified provider of the publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve city, county and state offices for publishing community notifications. Such notifications include:

- Public hearings
- Public meeting
- Election notices
- Divorce proceedings
- Name change notices
- Publication of summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants
- Notice of auction of unclaimed storage unit property
- Probate notices
- Foreclosure/sheriff's sale notice of creditor listing of property for sale
- Other general legal and public notices

About Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) Weekend Edition is a public newspaper of general circulation that complies with the laws of Wisconsin relating to the publication of legal notices. MCJ's Weekend Edition has been published regularly and continuously in the city of Milwaukee for over 10 years. We have a paid circulation of approximately 65% of our circulation. Furthermore, our actual subscribers are over 1,000 copies each week.

MCJ's Weekend Edition is published regularly weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend focuses on different subjects Health, Personal, Finance, Family, Men and Women. Our Weekend Edition now includes the publishing of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices; with added value in the Wednesday edition too.

About the Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ)

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal has advanced and reported the plight, struggles and victories of minorities in Wisconsin, with a passion for building community the MCJ accentuates the positive, analyzes the negatives and advocates to seed success!

(Milwaukee Community Journal, Inc. has two stockholders: Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo, primary stockholder with 95% of stock; and Mikel Holt with 5% of stock.)

# Kenney Gamble

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Kenny Gamble's relocation to his old neighborhood required not only a significant degree of vision, courage, and strength, but was a "game changer". It was the difference, and not only did Universal become the catalyst to rebuild the neighborhood, but now is working in nearly eight neighborhoods in Philadelphia to implement what we call the "Universal Plan"

The Universal Plan seeks to rebuild vibrant Black communities through a seemingly organic process, without the artificial and costly climate of one private or public entity funding an entire revitalization. It seeks to create mixed-income (not just poor Black people side-by-side with higher income White people), while connecting residents to the full benefits and services in neighborhoods that many would traditionally not be able to afford. The plan seeks to restore the connectivity (rebuild bridges that have been disrupted) between poor and prosperous neighborhoods that are right next to each other.

The plan seeks to grow Black neighborhoods without gentrification, knowing that private revitalization often leads to improved services, attraction of new businesses, and creates an active, "clean" environment. Under the demand side, the plan seeks to organize, educate and redirect Blacks, especially high income, to return to our neighborhoods as a matter of choice. After nearly 20 years of implementation, the Universal Plan involves the following Principles:

- Local Community Leadership – Black people must lead the effort to rebuild our communities and no one else can do for us what we must do for ourselves. Who better can interpret the deep-rooted psychological issues that are at the core of every major challenge, than those who live in these communities? If local leadership doesn't exist, it must be cultivated or successful business people must return to their community and assume a leadership position (i.e. Kenny Gamble story). Change requires hands-on management with personal and family commitment.

- Real Estate Development at Scale – The size of the plan must be planned and implemented as housing development at scale because the problems are so entrenched and magnified. The sooner we can get to a critical mass or tipping point, then we will have a better opportunity to be successful. Small projects just won't move the needle. This should also be done in conjunction with education reform.

- Control The Delivery of K-12 Education – Blacks must change the paradigm of education and lead the effort to educate our children. As Malcom X once said, "Anyone who take their children to the enemy to be educated is a fool." We must teach our children about who they are; how we got here; and what role they must play to fix our community (no one is going to do for us what we must do for ourselves).

- Long-Term Approach – The plan is better in-

formed about the issues and the consequences of the issues involving the Black community. Many of these conditions are grounded in the legacy of slavery and can't be resolved with a quick fix. Any plan must be able to continue over the long term (multiple generations). These problems have taken hundreds of years to develop and will take a long-term approach to resolve. In addition, each strategy must incorporate both prevention strategies along with intervention strategies (outcomes).

- Rebuild Black Businesses – The plan incorporates that rebuilding our communities must be to grow wealth and jobs in the community and this can't be done without a strong Black business community. Black businesses circulates money in the community before it exits and it becomes the catalyst for importing "new" money into the community. Blacks must own their communities so that we not only create wealth, but are able to transfer wealth to the next generation.

- Rebuild the Family – The plan rebuilds the Black family with a heavy focus on supporting Black men: the Black community is out of position because the Black family is out of position; the Black family is out of position because the Black man is out of position. Every effort must be made to help Black men to become providers and protectors of their families (i.e. education and jobs).

- Attract Private Black Investment – The plan will seek private investment especially with Black people. In the interim, we must innovate ways in which distressed communities are reconnected to existing strong economic markets utilizing private and public partnerships.

- Role of Community - The Black community must organize itself. We must come to understand that there are no "reserved" seats at the table of life. What people are able to obtain and hold on to reflects their organizational abilities. The basic premise of the Universal Plan is that no government program will work without a real community partner and the African American community must understand the challenges that it faces – specifically the lack of financial, intellectual, and organization capital that organizing can mitigate.

Needless to say, Kenny Gamble is a great man, great leader and extremely busy. At the young age of 72, when many men of his caliber "officially" retire – he holds court with those that are 40 and 50 years young with the chant "to the grave, to the grave." There is no such thing as retirement, and rest will come when we can no longer wake up. Kenny Gamble is a champion for our people and wakes up every day leading Universal, PCOL, and the expansion of PCOL in other cities. I can honestly say that he keeps me youthful with his tenacity, workload, and attention to detail. He sweats the small things and he leads us with his vision. The models that both Universal and PCOL use are paradigm shifts, and these models and strategies are the culmination of the work and experiences of all of our previous leaders (i.e. Malcom, Marcus, Muhammad, Martin, Sullivan, etc.).

# SIGNIFYIN'

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dance and just try my best:

Me: Shah-NEE-Qwa?

Child: Shah-NAY-Qwa.

Me: JAY-Marcus?

Child: JAH-Marcus.

It's uncomfortable, but I get through it and eventually learn.

However, one thing I've stopped doing is going to other White people for help. That's a recipe for disaster.

It almost always turns into an exercise in subtle racism and White supremacy. No matter who the person is, no matter how kind, caring or empathetic, the reaction to unique Black names is most often derision.

White people snicker and use the situation as the impetus for telling stories about other Black names that they thought were even more outrageous. It's not that we're trying to be hateful. I don't think we even recognize it as racist, but it is.

We use the situation as an opportunity for "bonding." "Those people who are not like you and me – they name their children things like this! Not like you and me who name our children more respectfully!"

Make no mistake. This is racist behavior. We are emphasizing the otherness of an entire group of people to put ourselves over and above them.

It's bigoted, discriminatory, prejudicial, and just plain not cool.

What's wrong with Black names anyway? What about them is so unacceptable?

We act as if only European and Anglicized names are reasonable. But I don't have to go far down my rosters to find White kids with names like "Braelyn," "Declyn," "Jaydon," "Jaxon," "Gunner," or "Hunter." I've never heard white folks "yucking it up" over those names.

I can't imagine why white people even expect people of color to have the same sorts of names as we do. When you pick the label by which your child will be known, you often resort to a shared cultural history. My great-great-grandfather was David, so I'll honor his memory by calling my firstborn son the same. Jennifer is a name that's been in my family for generations so I'll reconnect with that history by calling my daughter by the same name.

Few Black people in America share this same culture with White people. If a Black man's great-great-grandfather's name was David, that might not be the name he was born with – it may have been chosen for him, forced upon him – by his slave master. It should be obvious why African Americans may be uncomfortable reconnecting with that history.

Many modern Black names are, in fact, an attempt to reconnect with the history that was stolen from them.

Names like "Ashanti," "Imani," and "Kenya" have African origins. Others are religious. Names like "Aaliyah," "Tanisha," and "Aisha" are traditionally Muslim. Some come from other languages – such as "Monique," "Chantal," and "Andre," which come from French. I can't understand why any of that is seen as worthy of ridicule.

Still other names don't attempt to reconnect with a lost past – they try to forge ahead and create a new future. The creativity and invention of Black names is seldom recognized by White America. We pretend that creating names anew shows a lack of imagination when in reality, it shows just the opposite!

Creating something new can be as simple as taking an Anglicized

name and spelling it in inventive ways. Punctuation marks also can be utilized in unusual positions to add even more distinctiveness such as in the names "Mo'niq'ue" and "D'Andre."

At other times, they follow a cultural pattern to signify as uniquely African American using prefixes such as La/Le, Da/De, Ra/Re, or Ja/Je and suffixes such as -ique/iqua, -isha, and -aun/-awn.

And for the ultimate in creativity, try mixing and matching various influences and techniques. For instance, "LaKeisha" has elements from both French and African roots. Other names like "LaTanisha," "DeShawn," "JaMarcus," "DeAndre," and "Shaniqua" were created in the same way.

This is something all cultures do. They evolve to meet the needs of people in a given time and place. Yet when it comes to people of color we, White folks, whoop and guffaw at it. Heck! When we can't find Black names far enough out of our mainstream, we even make them up!

Don't believe me? Have you heard of La-a? The story goes that a Black girl was given that name and a White person asked how it was pronounced. The Black woman said her name was La-DASH-ah. This is often followed by a punch-line of Black vernacular.

Har! Har! Har!

But it's not even true! According to Snopes, this is a made up story. It's the American version of a Polish joke and demonstrates how far White people will go to laugh at Black culture.

The great comedy duo Key and Peel tried to call attention to this in their outstanding substitute teacher sketches. In a series of short routines, an almost exclusively White classroom gets a Black substitute teacher from the inner city schools. Mr. Garvey is expecting Black names, so he pronounces the students' middle class White names as if they were African American.

Almost everyone loves this sketch. It gets universal laughs, but wait until it's over. Too many White folks try to continue the giggles by then talking about "wild" Black names they've encountered. But that's not at all the point Key and Peel was trying to make!

They were trying to show how cultural context shapes our expectations of proper names.

Mr. Garvey is worthy of our laughter because his expectations are out-of-sync with his surroundings. When we expect all African Americans to have European or Anglicized names, we're just as out of touch as Mr. Garvey. But like Dave Chapelle's comedy, sometimes the person laughing the loudest is getting something the comedian didn't intend at all.

Maybe it wouldn't be so bad if Black names just generated snickers. However, White culture actually selects against people with Black sounding names.

Countless studies have shown how much more difficult it is for someone with a Black sounding name to get a job, a loan, or an apartment than it is for someone with a White sounding name.

It's one of the most obvious features of White supremacy. You may not like Black names, personally, but do these people deserve to suffer for embracing their own culture? Moreover, having a European or Anglicized name is no guarantee of fair treatment. It certainly didn't help "Michael Brown" or "Freddie Gray."

If we're really going to treat people equitably, an easy place to begin is with Black names. White people, stop the laughter and giggles. I used to do it, myself, until I thought about it. Yes, I'm guilty of the same thing. But I stopped. You can, too.

It's not the biggest thing in the world. It's not even the most pressing thing. It's not a matter of guilt. It's a matter of fairness.

Because when the final role is taken of all America's racists and bigots, do you really want your name to be on it?



## MONDAYS & FRIDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Win a 7-night Caribbean cruise or get FKC Reward Play to win even more! Earn entries by playing with your Club card from November 1–27. On Mondays and Fridays in November, 10 guests each hour will choose suitcases to reveal FKC Reward Play or the Grand Prize, a Cruise to the Caribbean for two, valued at over \$5,000!

### DRAWING DATES AND TIMES:

Mondays and Fridays in November at 6, 7 & 8 p.m.

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