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**Data Behind
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with Actor
Columbus Short**

December 26, - January 8, 2009 44th Year Volume 16 www.ladatanews.com

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Data News Weekly Presents: A Decade in Review



Shaniece B. Bickham, Ph.D. Managing Editor

December 31, 1999 was a New Year's Eve to remember. Prince's song "1999" had been revived, and people anxiously waited for the clock to strike Midnight so that they could find out if all of the world's computers would crash, or if the world as we know it would come to an end.

Needless to say, neither of the two happened. The new millennium would bring with it a host of monumental events that would change the face of America. These events, whether good or bad, have forever etched their places in America's history. Several events took place in New Orleans during the past ten years that have shaped the city historically as well. For better or worse, Data News Weekly was there and covered it all.

The Bush Era

To kick off the 21st Century, the Presidential election in 2000 was controversial to say the least. Former Vice-President Al Gore had been declared the next

President of the United States by several news stations that had to recant their statements almost as quickly as they made them. Never before had a presidential election been so contested. President George W. Bush would eventually go on to serve two terms, while former Vice-President Gore would go on to become instrumental in the fight against global warming, writing books and producing documentaries. His works have earned him a Nobel Peace Prize, in addition to an Academy Award, a Grammy, an Emmy, and several other awards and recognitions. During the Bush Administration, the first African-American U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was appointed, followed by the appointment of the first African-American female U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

Sept. 11 and the Wars Against Terrorism

In 2001, America was devastated on Sept. 11 when terrorists attacked the nation by hijacking four planes; crashing two into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, and one into the Pentagon in Virginia. A fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

Approximately 3,000 people, including hijackers, died as a result of the attacks, leaving a hole in the hearts of Americans and people all around the world. The Sept. 11 attacks triggered an increased War against terrorism, leading to troops being sent into Iraq and the eventual capture and death of Saddam Hussein. The War in Iraq is still ongoing, in addition to the War in Afghanistan to thwart attacks from Al Qaeda.

Hurricane Katrina

Nothing had an impact on the city of New Orleans as much as the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees, which left the city flooded and in ruins. New Orleans residents packed their belongings in late August of 2005 expecting to be away for a few days, only to realize that it would be a few months before they could return to what used to be home. The waters from the levee breaches and the storm left most of the New Orleans area under water, leaving only memories of what used to be.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin began receiving national attention after Hurricane Katrina as well. Most

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Please call (504) 284-3840 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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notable were his remarks on the Martin Luther King holiday in 2006 about his dream of New Orleans returning to a 'Chocolate City.'

Over four years later, the city is still in the rebuilding mode. Though strides have been made, much work still remains. There are still some people who are not in their homes, and some who are still living in other states longing for the day when they can return home. Hurricane Katrina exposed many of the city's problems to America including the high poverty level and challenged education system. As a result, many of the housing developments that existed pre-Katrina have been demolished and replaced with mixed-income residences, and most of the public schools are now charter institutions.

Local Political Events

The U.S. Attorney's office and FBI have been busy fighting corruption in Louisiana's political system. In 2001, former Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards was sentenced to 10 years on racketeering charges. Edwards' case was prosecuted by then

U.S. Attorney Eddie Jordan, who would go on to become New Orleans' first African-American District Attorney. Jordan would eventually resign from the position.

Several cronies of former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial were investigated and charged with committing crimes. Most



notable was Stan "Pampy" Barre, who received a stiff sentence for his role in kickbacks from city contracts in spite of the fact that he became a key government witness to bring down several others for their illegal acts. Former New Orleans Councilmember Oliver Thomas is also serving a sentence in a separate matter

for accepting a bribe. Others to fall victim to corruption include former judges Alan Green and Ronald Bodenheimer, former insurance commissioner Jim Brown, former elections commissioner Jerry Fowler, Orleans Parish School Board President Ellenese Brooks-Simms, former state senator Derrick Shepherd,



and businessman Mose Jefferson to name a few.

Most recently, former Congressman Bill Jefferson was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in prison on racketeering and bribery charges, the toughest sentence ever handed down to a member of Congress. Jefferson has been allowed to remain

free during his appeals process.

History in the Making: President Barack Obama

The decade has come to an end, with a new President, Barack Obama. History was made when the first African-American was elected as United States President. President Obama



was sworn into office in January of 2009. A record number of first-time voters came out to support him during the election, and again, a record number of supporters traveled to Washington DC to witness history in the making as he was inaugurated as the 44th U.S. President. He has already been busy working

to rebuild the nation's economy, bring the two wars to an end, and reform America's health care industry. President Obama made history again when he was chosen as a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize although he has only been in office for a short while. He was chosen because of his work in the areas of diplomacy and his efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Gone too Soon: Michael Jackson

During the decade, several lives were lost, many tragically, leaving the African-American community and the world in mourning. To the shock and disbelief of most, the world lost the greatest entertainer of all time, Michael Jackson. His talent and skills were showcased in the documentary This is It. Since his death, many have expressed discontent with the way he was sabotaged through the media throughout his life.

As we enter into the next ten years, Data News Weekly will continue to serve the community and provide the news that needs to be told.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 11, 2009

On or about December 21, 2009 the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development will submit to HUD on behalf of Catholic Charities Operation Helping Hands for the release of CDBG funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as Home Renovation Program, for the purpose of assisting elderly and disabled homeowners to rebuild their homes. The goal is to assist in the repair of 48 homes, located within the developed areas of Orleans Parish. Grant number B-08-MC-22-0006 for \$1,500,000.00.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 9th Floor, Environmental Compliance Unit, New Orleans, LA 70112 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 9th Floor, Environmental Compliance Unit, New Orleans, LA 70112. All comments received by December 18, 2009 will be considered by the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that C. Ray Nagin in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Associated Neighborhood Development to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans certification received by January 5, 2010 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 501 Magazine Street, 9th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70130. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

WWW.CITYOFNO.COM

Kenya J. Smith
Director, Office of Community Development

Anthony Faciane
Certifying Officer -Deputy Director for Neighborhood Stabilization

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor, City of New Orleans

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C. Ray Nagin, Mayor



Mayor Nagin and City Council at Odds Over City's 2010 Budget

The New Orleans City Council and Mayor Ray Nagin have different perspectives on how much money the city needs to effectively run in 2010. Their mismatched budgets lead to the council reducing spending, but resulted in the Mayor reducing services.

"The Council adopted the 2010 budget with targeted areas in which the Mayor could make reductions which would least harm citizens and city employees. The balanced budget adopted by the Council reflects the priorities of the citizenry, as articulated during community meetings and four weeks of Council budget hearings," according to the City Council's official statement on the matter.

In Nagin's official statement, he asserts that the Council showed a "clear avoidance of responsibility."

"Some council members continue to mislead the public into believing there is 'fat' in the budget that can be cut. This is utterly and completely untrue," said Nagin in his official statement.



"At the beginning of the budget process, I met with every Council member and made myself and staffers available for follow-up conversations. I presented a balanced budget that minimized the negative impact to citizens and employees. Yet the Council, without consulting the Administration, made major changes in approving the City's 2010 budget. While the Administration's revenue projections were developed

by internal and external economic experts, the Council refused to explain how they arrived at their guesses about what revenues the City will receive. They were unified and dismissive when warned their cuts would have major negative impacts on city services," he added.

The Council also stated that perhaps some form of agreement could have been reached if the Mayor would have discussed his



budget items. It is regrettable that the Mayor did not attempt to engage the Council on these items before making his final decision," the statement said.

The Mayor ended his statement by saying that the Council has the authority to approve the budget, and the administration has the duty of implementing it, which is what his office is doing,

said the Mayor. The Council vowed that it is willing to work with the administration to "move dollars around" because the budget is a living document and can be altered throughout the year as needed.

"Had the Mayor reached out to Councilmembers before making his decision and publically announcing his intentions, we believe an accord could have been reached on many of the

intentions with the Council prior to his budget decisions.

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Unclaimed Property Could Provide Extra Cash this Christmas

The holiday season is upon us, and Louisiana residents who need a little extra jingle in their pockets this Christmas may have an unexpected surprise waiting for them in the State Treasury, according to State Treasurer John Kennedy.

"The holidays can be rough for Louisiana families who are struggling to make ends meet in today's economy," said Treasurer Kennedy. "Every little bit helps, and it's a free service to check to see if the state is holding unclaimed money for you or someone you know."

The State Treasury currently has more than \$437 million in unclaimed funds including payroll checks, old bank accounts, royalties, utility deposits, interest payments, stock certificates and life insurance proceeds. Around one in six Louisiana residents has unclaimed money listed with the state, and the average refund is \$300 to \$400.

Louisiana residents can search for unclaimed money and file a claim for it online at www.latreasury.com. Residents can also search for missing

money by calling toll-free (nationwide) 1-888-925-4127.

"Our staff will be working very hard to process claims quickly this holiday season and will put a rush on anything filed over the next few weeks," said Treasurer Kennedy. "We can't guarantee an exact date when your check will arrive in the mail, but we pledge to do everything possible to provide a quick turnaround on your claim."

Over the unclaimed property program's history, the Treasury has collected more than \$645 million and returned \$208 million to Louisiana residents. The largest amount of unclaimed property ever returned to one individual was a \$1 million refund for a New Orleans area resident.

In order for the Treasury to return unclaimed money quickly during the holidays, an individual's claim must be complete and accurate. Ownership of claimed property must be verified, and an individual needs a Social Security Card, driver's license or other form of identification to claim his or her money.

City of New Orleans and the Hornets Collect Toys for the Season

Last week, the New Orleans Hornets stepped up to host Mayor Nagin's Toys for Tots Drop Off Center at two home games in the Arena. Fans dropped off toys before the game to help the City collect toys for the Mayor's Annual Toys for Tots Giveaway, sponsored by the US Marine Corps., taking place this Saturday at Dryades YMCA at 11 am. For every \$10 toy donated, the Hornets gave fans a voucher for two Hornets tickets to a future home game.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin and the City of New Orleans would like to thank the Hornets organization for their contribution to the community this holiday Season.



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State-Funded Housing Development Holds Grand Opening for Nine27 Apartments in New Orleans

Representatives from the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Louisiana Office of Community Development recently joined with local officials and developer HRI Properties in a grand opening ceremony held at Nine27 Apartments in New Orleans.

Nine27 is the first new-construction apartment complex ever built in the Warehouse District, offering 76 rental units of mixed-income housing - 60 of which are market-rate units and 16 of which are affordable units.

To help finance the \$24.8 million project, the developer used \$12.7 million in Community Development Block Grant money from a pool of federal disaster recovery

funds administered by the LRA/OCD and earmarked for low-to-moderate income households. The money was "piggybacked" onto equity generated through the sale of \$3.2 million in GO Zone Low Income Housing Tax Credits administered through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency.

Paul Rainwater, LRA executive director, said, "Louisiana's recovery continues to move forward, as evidenced by the new construction of this affordable and market-rate rental housing development in one of the city's most desirable and historic districts. Mixed-income communities like Nine27 Apartments offer residents the option of quality workforce hous-

ing in a neighborhood that is conveniently located to transportation lines, businesses and services."

Josh Collen, vice president of development at HRI Properties, said, "We are very excited that this beautiful building can provide the opportunity for a mix of diverse groups to live together in the Warehouse District. From professional office workers, to those engaged in our tourism, restaurant and hotel industry, and those who otherwise would not have the means to live in the neighborhood, this complex offers modern, energy-efficient rental housing to help support the growth of our city's population."

Nine27 Apartments is a five-

story building that offers parking and management offices on the first floor. The remaining floors are devoted to four studio apartments, 52 one-bedroom units and 20 two-bedroom units. Amenities for residents include a business center, second floor common terrace, and landscaped gated area.

New Orleans-based HRI Properties pioneered the trend of Warehouse District living more than 25 years ago when it restored the old Federal Fiber Mills, which are now condominiums, into apartments after the New Orleans World's Fair. As the neighborhood has matured, nearly all suitable historic buildings have been converted from their origi-

nal commercial use into residential living.

Nine27 joins HRI's Woodward Apartments as the second of only two rental complexes in the district and is the first to be newly constructed.

Louisiana has awarded a total of 57 Piggyback projects in areas of the state most impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, amounting to more than \$580 million. In total, the Piggyback program will create more than 8,100 rental units to help replace housing stock lost in the storms.

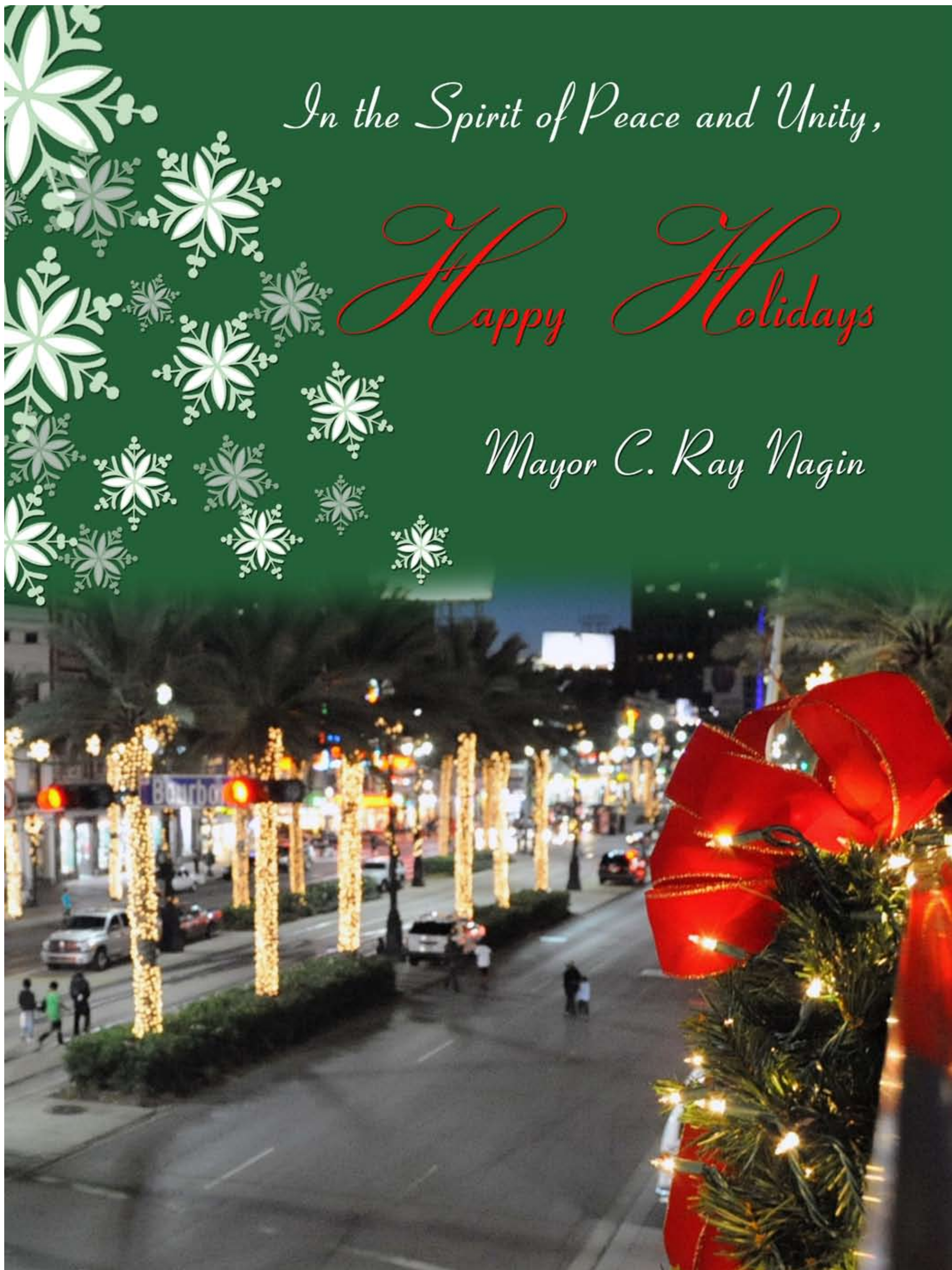
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Data News Weekly

In the Spirit of Peace and Unity,

Happy Holidays

Mayor C. Ray Nagin



A Night On The Town

Live Music In New Orleans



Dionne Character, Author
Data News Weekly Columnist

Friday, December 11 was the start to a busy weekend of music in the City of New Orleans. The rain was pouring like the devil was beating his wife, as I tried to no avail not to get my shoes wet.

I attended Sen. Ed Murray's Campaign Party at Austin's Creole Kitchen

on Broad Street. The spot was very cozy. Along with the ambiance, the rain made this party perfect.

I ran into Trumpeter, Kermit Rufins, who was getting ready for his B-Day Bash at The House of Blues. Matt Dillion of Matt Dillion & Throwback was in the house with Dewayne Wiggins of Tony, Toni, Tone, who was featuring at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club on Saturday.

In the midst of the weather, the umbrellas, the balloon streamers, which seemed to tickle everyone's neck, the picture taking and people just happy to be out on a rainy Friday night, one could not help but to hear vocalist, Naydja Cojoe and the Jazz Experience perform on stage. She belted out a few Ole' School Tunes and of course had the crowd on their feet with her rendition of Mr. Magic.

Later in the night, I stopped off at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club to enjoy



the lovely, Raion Ramsey as she "Sparkled through the Night" in her red dress, singing Jazz and Neo-Soul along side her father, Bassist, Donald Ramsey. The show was "fierce."

As my night ended, the rain contin-

ued to pour and the music got better and better. My Night Out On The Town was worth every note, every smiling face and every rain drop that sprinkled my shoes.

Our RECOVERY IN PROGRESS

City of New Orleans Bid Release for Parks and Parkways Greenhouse

The City of New Orleans released an Invitation to Bid for Parks and Parkways Greenhouse located at 2829 Gentilly Boulevard on Friday, December 11, 2009. This project shall include some of the following improvements:

- Removal and replacement of roof panes and aluminum frames
- Providing temporary power for lighting and fans in facility
- Installation of new electrical outlets throughout site

The current site, built in the 1930's, allows for area to grow plant material used for public greenspace throughout the city of New Orleans. It is operated by Parks and Parkways personnel year-round and is one of the main sites used to grow plant material servicing the city.

To compete successfully for this Open Market bid, respondents should ensure that they are registered as a Vendor with the City of New Orleans and that all registration information is up to date - particularly email addresses - interested entities should check weekly for open bids, proposals, purchase orders, change orders and other communications online. New bids and proposals are sent automatically to registered Vendors via email through BuySpeed.

When a bid is submitted, carefully read all instructions and provide only the information requested. Failure to submit all information requested in an Invitation to Bid and/or adding information not requested on a Bid Form may render a bid rejected and non-responsive.

To be considered for this project, interested contractors must submit a bid for the Parks and Parkways Greenhouse by Tuesday January, 19, 2009 at 10:00am (CST).

For more information on how to bid competitively or general information contact the City of New Orleans Purchasing Bureau at (504) 658-1550 or purchasing@cityofno.com. Downloaded bid documents may be printed by any local blueprint shop at bidder's expense.

For more information, visit www.cityofno.com

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Coors Light has supported higher education and the mission of Historically Black Colleges and Universities since 1986. "Part of our ongoing commitment to the HBCU community is to help students realize their full potential," said Sheldon Boyea, (left) brand manager, African American Marketing for Coors Light. He is, shown here presenting \$10,000 checks following the 2009 Bayou Classic football game in New Orleans to (from second left) Dr. Frank G. Pogue, interim president of Grambling State University, Dr. Kassie Freeman, interim president of Southern University, and Dr. Kofi Lomotey, chancellor of Southern University. Joining Boyea for the check presentation are (right) Quintin Thomas, marketing manager, StreetSource, and (far right) Moses Brewer, director of Multicultural Relations, African American Markets, MillerCoors. The game and presentation took place on Saturday, November 28, 2009.

Data Behind the Scenes with Michael Duncan Clarke

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Michael Clarke Duncan came to the public attention for his gripping performance in

The Green Mile opposite Tom Hanks. Since then he has starred in several blockbuster films including Planet of the Apes, The Whole Nine Yards, and Scorpion King. His newest film, Slammin Salmon is a slapstick comedy that stars Duncan as a former heavyweight champion owning a restaurant which borrows from his nickname. In the film Duncan plays a likeable oaf that oversees his staff of equally likeable misfits. The film also features the sultry Vivica Fox in a small role. "I wanted to show another side of myself, a more playful side," says Duncan.

He says having his acting breakthrough later in life was a blessing, "I see a lot of artist self-destruct and fall prey to a lot of the traps of fame when they are young and immature," says Duncan. "I



know if my big break would have come early in life I would have made some of the same mistakes."

Before breaking into acting he was a

bodyguard for A-list actors including Will Smith and Jamie Foxx. He says it was a hectic job, but it gave him proximity to the business. But tragedy struck one night that would change his life and career path, "I was supposed to be with the Notorious B.I.G. the night he was killed, but I traded with one of the other guys to work with someone else." "And where Biggie was sitting is where I usually like to sit, the next day I heard he had been killed at that point I decided I would be more serious about pursuing an acting career," says Duncan.

Since then he has become a recognizable figure garnering praise as well as criticism for roles some say demean and degrade black people. Something he shrugs off, "I don't get caught up in all the negative vs. positive image issue," says Duncan. "This is entertainment and with the Green Mile particularly this was a period piece." "I feel we are in a great place right now where black people are visible in ways never seen before there is

even a black President in Barack Obama and we shouldn't look be concerned so much solely how people are displayed in films as the only representation of African-Americans."

On a lighter note Duncan is an avid football fan, and asked about the Saints. We engaged in light hearted banter about football, "I am glad for you guys, but you know I'm a Chicago Bears fan he says with a laugh." Then quickly he adds on a more serious note saying, "I am glad they are winning it is an inspiration to the people of the city and put New Orleans back on the radar screen for people who are not from there."

As Duncan star continues to rise he says, "I would like to do a romantic comedy with someone like Halle Berry." As the interview ends, Duncan sums up his career saying, "I am glad I have gotten a chance to do something I love, and that because I started later on in life I am an example of it is never too late to follow your dream."



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Data Behind the Scenes with Columbus Short

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Photos by Corey Anderson

He has been seen in movies such as Stomp the Yard, Save the Last Dance and Cadillac Records where he gave standout performances. Now Short who is long on

talent is in his first starring role in the film Armored. He plays Ty Hackett Hackett an employee at the Eagle Shield armored car company who has had a less than stellar life after a stint in the Iraq war and a life as a petty criminal. Finding himself in fi-

nancial difficulties as the bank threatens to foreclose on his home Hackett finds himself in need of additional money to help make ends meet. He tries in vain to find the money legally and is approached by one of the men who he works with at the armored car company, who has devised a plan to steal money being transferred from the Federal Reserve to the local banks in advance of a bank inspection.

In the film Short is on the big screen alongside heavyweights Laurence Fishburne and Matt Dillon. "I was humbled to be among such great actors in my first starring role, watching them and how they work their craft I learned a lot while we were shooting," says Short. He is a young actor with a vision to be more than just in front of the camera, but to be behind the scenes as a force to be reckoned with in the industry. "I appreciate that

people of the city. "I visited some of the sections of the city and met some of the people and it was a really moving experience." He further talked about his time in the Crescent City, "The people of New Orleans are really resilient and are an example of how



my talent is being recognized and I have been given opportunities to work my craft, but my goal is to write and direct as well." Continuing he says, "Because I feel the state of blacks in Hollywood there is a need for more of us behind the scenes to help shape the images of how we are portrayed in film."

Columbus recently came to New Orleans to discover what was going on in the city and to lend a hand to help inspire the

people can bounce back from a tragedy and still enjoy and find meaning for their lives it is something I admire about the people of this amazing city."

Short is filming a sequel to Stomp the Yard and scripts are beginning to pour in to this talented young man. He says he does not want to simply just take any roles that come his way. He says he wants to build his career around a body of quality work. "In this business they're a lot of people who get hot for a second then they disappear, I don't want that to happen to me, so I want to take my time and choose work that can help me grow as an actor, and a force to be reckoned with in all aspects of the business."

Our RECOVERY IN PROGRESS

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS TO RELEASE BID FOR MUNICIPAL YACHT HARBOR

The City of New Orleans released an Invitation to Bid for Municipal Yacht Harbor located at 401 North Roadway Street. This project shall include some of the following improvements:

- Partial demolition of the first floor of east wing
- Removal of existing interior finishes
- Installation of new AAC walls with new ceiling and grid
- Installation of new plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems
- Replacement of doors and frames
- Removal of old and installation of new carpet, base, and vinyl flooring
- Installation of new A/C compressors

To compete successfully for this Open Market bid, respondents should ensure that they are registered as a Vendor with the City of New Orleans and that all registration information is up to date - particularly email addresses - interested entities should check weekly for open bids, proposals, purchase orders, change orders and other communications online. New bids and proposals are sent automatically to registered Vendors via email through BuySpeed.

When a bid is submitted, carefully read all instructions and provide only the information requested. Failure to submit all information requested in an Invitation to Bid and/or adding information not requested on a Bid Form may render a bid rejected and non-responsive.

To be considered for this project, interested contractors must submit a bid for Municipal Yacht Harbor by Tuesday, January 5, 2009 at 2:00pm (CST).

For more information on how to bid competitively or general information contact the City of New Orleans Purchasing Bureau at (504) 658-1550 or purchasing@cityofno.com. Downloaded bid documents may be printed by any local blueprint shop at bidder's expense.

For more information on
Municipal Yacht Harbor or other
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trailblazer

Terry Scott

In the Spirit of Giving

Edited by: Edwin Buggage

In the spirit of the holiday season this month's Trailblazer is a man who has dedicated his life to be an example of success and giving back. Terry Scott is a native of Woodville, MS, but has made his mark on the city of New Orleans in the civic and business community.

He grew up in a large and loving family that gave him the foundation to make a difference in the community. Being the oldest of 7 children, his parents required that he take a leadership role in the development of his siblings. A role he gladly accepted which would help him later in life.

In school he was involved in sports which helped developed his ability to work in an environment that stresses teamwork and a competitive attitude.

After high school he attended Jackson State University where he received a BA in Political Science and minors in Legal Studies and Education. During his College life, he joined and was very active in several organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Pre-Law Club, Political Science Club, and Karate Club, just to name a few. He has always been a person who has felt it was important to serve those in need.

After college he accepted a job as a Juvenile Correctional Counselor with the State of Mississippi. Thus, setting the stage for his work with children; Terry then left his native Jackson, MS 1981 to accept a job in the Credit and Collection Arena in New Orleans, LA.

In this respect he was a true trailblazer. During his tenure in there, he rose among the ranks to become the 1st and longest serving Africa/American branch manager. Winning many awards; after retiring he still has many collection records that have not been broken.

Currently, Terry is the President/CEO of Scott Management Team, Inc. which owns and operates 2 McDonald's Restaurants in New Orleans and Metairie, LA.

along with Lorraine, his wife and business partner since their marriage in 1987. They are a power couple who have empowered themselves and others. She owned and retired from Lorraine Brandon Scott Allstate Insurance Agency. Their efforts toward philanthropy and community service have always been a

part of their lives. But five years ago they started Yes We Can! Human Services, which specialize in free tutorial services for children in low performing schools.

Terry says it is important to be an example for the next generation of entrepreneurs and business persons. He is Co-Owner of Scott & Smith Investments, LLC. Specializing in but not limited too real estate investments; he and his wife also owns and operate Scott Management Team, Inc, Business & Training Center. This is the location of their corporate office. That is also used as a multi-purpose facility.

Scott believes in the spirit of giving his time to worth causes and sitting on several boards both locally and nationally. He is very active with the Ronald McDonald House Charities, the City of New Orleans, serving on The Mayor's Workforce Investment Board, United Negro College Fund Advisory Board, The Mayor's Youth Council, and Board of Director for The Children Bureau, just to name a few.

He has spent his life giving back and inspiring young people. That yes with hard work, perseverance and sacrifice they can succeed. He serves as a motivational speaker, talking to youth. In his philanthropic endeavors he donates over \$100,000 year in money, products and his time to worthy causes. Two of his major contributions are to two HBCU's, Jackson State University (\$10,000 per year) and Xavier University (\$10,000 per year)

Terry Scott is dedicated to the city of New Orleans and has taken on and completed many projects di-

rected at the improvement of the city before and after Hurricane Katrina. And for all his success in the business and civic community he says his passion is and always will be the development of our youth.



JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



at&t

United States Census 2010: It's In Our Hand

We are pleased to announce that the Urban League of Greater New Orleans is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help achieve a complete and accurate count of our nation's growing population in 2010. By supporting the 2010 Census, we will help raise awareness of this important initiative and work to increase the overall response rate in the community and beyond. "New Orleans' response to the 2010 Census will be a critical road map for future funding of essential services such as infrastructure, education, recreation, and medical assistance. This is a time in our history like never before, when we must all unite to inspire change in our communities. Participating in the 2010 Census and encouraging others to do the same is one simple way you can make a difference in your life and the lives of others.



in March of 2010. Please be the first to complete and return your census form and encourage others to do the same. Attached are pictures from the Grand Opening of the Local Census Headquarters on December 14, 2009. The Grand Opening of the Local Census Office is only one of several major steps taken to meet the challenges of counting the populations of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and Orleans Parishes post Hurricane Katrina. As part of the massive 2010 Census awareness campaign, the region office will serve as the central location for processing on-the-ground field reports and surveys vital to the goal of achieving the most complete and accurate count. To learn more, visit 2010census.gov and www.urbanleagueneworleans.org.

Participation in the 2010 Census is easy, important and safe. The form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Census forms will be mailed or delivered to households



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Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos

COMBINED NOTICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 14, 2009

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 30, 2009, the City of New Orleans will submit a request to Louisiana State Office of Community Development (LOCD) for the release of funds under the FY 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, in accordance with the "Notice of Funding Availability" published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2006, for the purpose of conducting roadway and sidewalk improvements in the Napoleon/Freret and Gentilly neighborhoods within New Orleans. The total amount requested for these activities is \$1,395,300.00 to eliminate an urgent need, as a result of effects from Hurricane Katrina.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Mayor's Office at the City of New Orleans, Office of Recovery and Development Administration, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1000, New Orleans, LA 70112, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you need to contact the mayor's office by phone, please call 504-658-8420.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination, or wishing to comment on the program may submit written comments to this office. All comments received by December 29, 2009, will be considered by this office prior to the authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

This Office certifies to LOCD that Anthony Faciane, in his capacity as Deputy Director for Neighborhood Stabilization, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. LOCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

LOCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the LOCD's certification received by January 14, 2010 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of New Orleans approved by LOCD; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by LOCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to:

Thomas Brennan
Deputy Executive Director
Louisiana Division of Administration
Office of Community Development ("LOCD")
150 Third Street, 6th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Potential objectors should contact LOCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

WWW.CITYOFNO.COM

Kenya J. Smith
Director, Office of Community Development

Anthony Faciane
Deputy Director, Neighborhood Stabilization

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor, City of New Orleans

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C. Ray Nagin, Mayor



Lack of Unity Among Americans Seen as Worsening Over Last Decade

In conjunction with the first-ever Characters Unite National Town Hall, USA Network today released the results from a new, nationally representative opinion poll – “United or Divided” – conducted by Hart Research Associates (D) and Public Opinion Strategies (R). The poll shows a deeply divided America, with a majority believing that the country’s divisions and lack of unity are getting worse rather than better.

The election of President Obama is a signal to some that the United States is beginning to move past the old divisions along racial and ethnic lines, but while those schisms may be narrowing, political and economic rifts are becoming a greater concern.

With the country on the verge of becoming a minority majority population by 2050, the survey shows Americans have mixed feelings about the population’s increasing diversity. Only 25% see America’s diversity as a clear-cut strength and advantage. Merely five percent say that race relations are no longer a problem in the USA. Overall, Americans, across party lines, think that gays and lesbians and Muslims experience prejudice most frequently; followed by immigrants.

According to the poll, there is plenty of blame to go around for the lack of unity in the country. Americans blame both Republicans and Democrats in Congress for doing more to divide the country than unite it, and four in ten people say that elected officials spend too little time addressing prejudice and intolerance. A majority of Americans (55%) see President Obama as a figure of unity rather than divisiveness. Parents are clearly viewed at the people best able to reduce prejudice, discrimination and intolerance, but they are also seen as falling down on the job.

“If a majority of Americans have mixed or negative feelings about diversity, it’s clear that something’s wrong,” said Bonnie Hammer, president, NBC Universal Cable Entertainment and Universal Cable Productions. “Until we respect and embrace what makes each of us different, we’re squandering one of our country’s greatest assets.”

The poll was commissioned as part of USA Network’s Characters Unite community affairs campaign dedicated to overcoming social injustices and bridging cultural divides. The results come on the heels of the first-ever Characters Unite National Town Hall, which will be moderated by NBC News Special Correspondent Tom Brokaw on Wednesday, December 2nd, at the Newseum, in Washington, DC, and bring together a panel of distinguished leaders to discuss how to heal America’s divisions and find common ground on today’s complex social issues.

Summary of the key findings:

Majority of Americans Believe That Lack of Unity, Prejudice, Discrimination and Intolerance Are Serious Problems; Very Few Say that Race Relations Are No Longer an Issue

- Fifty-one percent believe that the amount of prejudice, discrimination and intolerance in the country is a very or somewhat serious problem.
- A majority (55%) say that the amount of division and lack of unity among Americans has gotten worse over the past 10 years.
- Only 5% of Americans believe that race relations are no longer a problem in the United States. Two-thirds (65%) believe that race relations are still a problem in the USA, but that we have come a long way, while half (30%) that many say that race relations are still a problem and we have a long way to go. African Americans see things quite differently than Whites and Hispanics do on this question. African Americans are divided evenly as to whether we have come a long way (46%) or still have a long way to go (47%), while two-thirds of Whites (69%) and Hispanics (64%) focus on the progress that has been made.

Political and Economic Divisions Seen as More Profound Than Religious, Racial and Ethnic Divisions:

- More than seven in 10 Americans say that people in the USA are too divided along political lines (75%) or economic lines (73%), compared with smaller majorities who feel that we are too divided along racial and ethnic lines (53%) or religious lines (52%).
- Eighty-two percent of African Americans say that people are too divided along economic lines (versus 65% who believe that people are too divided along racial and ethnic lines).
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities No Longer Seen as Groups Who Experience Most Problems with Prejudice; Gays and Lesbians and Muslims Perceived to Be Most Frequent Victims
- Overall, Americans believe that gays and lesbians, and Muslims experience prejudice most frequently (note that the survey was conducted prior to the shootings at Fort Hood). Sixty-two percent said that gays and lesbians experience problems with prejudice because of their sexual orientation very or fairly often, followed by Muslims because of their religion (60%), and immigrants because they were not born in the U.S. (52%).
- In general, 74% say that they have heard someone they’ve known make a prejudice or discriminatory remark and 69% said that it happened several or a few times in the past few years.

Country’s Diversity Seen as Mixed Blessing; Controversy Over Expanded Use of Languages Other Than English and Decline of Christian Traditions in Public Places

- Overall, one in four (25%) Americans feels that our diversity is primarily a positive, a similar proportion (28%) believe it is more of a source of problems, while the plurality (46%) believe that diversity is equally a strength and a challenge for the USA.
- Language proves to be a real flashpoint; the increasing use of languages other than English bothers many Americans who otherwise are tolerant on issues of race and diversity. Most White Americans (54% unfavor-

able) express concern about the expanded use of languages other than English in daily life, while Hispanics (55% favorable) and African Americans (58% favorable) see this as a positive trend.

- The decline of Christian traditions in public places – such as public displays at Christmas – to prevent people of different faiths from feeling excluded is seen as an unwelcome change. Half (49%) of Americans feel that this is an unfavorable trend compared with just 27% who view it positively.

Both Sides of the Aisle in Congress Blamed for Divide; Political Divisions Considered Real and Serious Not Media Hype

- Americans believe that both Republicans in Congress (63%) and Democrats in Congress (52%) are doing more to divide the country than to unite it.
- In a reversal of the trend to blame the media, 65% say that Congressman Joe Wilson’s exclamation of “you lie,” Congressman Alan Grayson’s claim that Republican’s health care plan is for “seniors to die quickly,” and angry outbursts at town hall meetings are events that are part of a larger problem in our country today, rather than isolated examples that have been blown out of proportion by the news media (35%).
- People were divided on whether commentators on cable networks, talk radio and blogs who take strong conservative or liberal views promoting differing opinions is positive or negative trend, with 39% saying that it is very or somewhat favorable, 30% saying it is neutral and 40% saying it is somewhat or very unfavorable.

Most See President Obama as a Figure of Unity; Believe Race Affects Public Impressions of the President, Not Job Performance

- Fifty-five (55%) percent say Obama is doing more to unite the country, while 39% say he is doing more to divide it. There are predictable partisan differences on this question, with 85% of Democrats and 53% of in-

dependents describing Obama as helping to unite the country, while 77% of Republicans say he is doing more to divide it.

- Most voters do not believe that President Obama’s race has a significant effect on the way he handles his job as president. Thirty-nine percent of Whites, 40% of Hispanics, and 39% of African Americans say Obama’s race has a big or some effect.
- But they do believe that President Obama’s race has at least some effect on the way black people judge him as president (84% of Whites, 73% of Hispanics, and 80% of African Americans say big or some effect). African Americans (78%) and Hispanics (68%) tend to believe that President Obama’s race has an effect on how White people judge him, while fewer Whites agree (53%).

Parents Seen as the Problem and the Solution; Individual Responsibility a Key:

- Parents clearly are seen as the people who are best able to reduce the amount of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination in the USA (80% saying that have the power to help), but they also are seen as falling down on the job with 58% saying that they spend too little time addressing these issues.
- Coming in third behind unemployment and the cost of health care the top issue facing the United States, 74% say that individuals lacking a sense of personal responsibility for dealing with their own problems is a very or fairly serious problem. And nearly half (47%) feel that average citizens spend too little time trying to reduce prejudice and discrimination.

Methodology:

Interviewing was conducted from October 30 to November 4, 2009, among a nationally representative sample of 1,614 adults, including 607 interviews conducted by telephone and 1,007 interviews conducted online, including oversampling of African Americans and Hispanics. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.8%.

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The Senior Choice Gold Award® is based on independent comparisons of the approved 2010 MAPD benefits for the New Orleans area. For comparison details, visit www.MedicareNewsWatch.com. Medicare has neither reviewed, nor endorses, this information. This is an advertisement. Additional information should be requested before making a decision about your coverage. To join, you must be eligible to for Medicare Part A, continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium and live in the plan service area. Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract.

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