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**MC Battle  
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**Data Zone  
Page 4**

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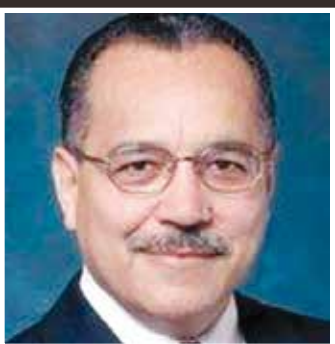
Data Investigates

# New Orleans

**A City United or Divided in the Fight Against Crime?**

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

Page 2



**State & Local**

Michael Darnell,  
Judge pro-tempore  
of OP Traffic Court

Page 7

**Home Style**

**Hail the  
Yard Bird**



Page 5



## Cover Story

Data Investigates

# New Orleans

## A City United or Divided in the Fight Against Crime?

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series



Nadra "Captain Black" Nezi, Al "Brother" Mims of "Brothers Against Crime with "National Action Now" Rev. Raymond Brown at press conference in Marigny to encourage public safety and personal responsibility and a united front to combat crime in New Orleans.

Story & Photos by Edwin Buggage

### America's Conversation about Race, Justice and Public Safety Hits New Orleans in Shooting of Unarmed Teen

While the nation is still reeling, divided and debating many issues since George Zimmerman

has been acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. This case has again brought the issue of race and the justice system into the forefront, but what has gained the most attention is the controversial "Stand Your Ground Laws" first introduced in 2005 in the State of Florida with over two dozen states across the country adopting some

form of the law including Louisiana.

Following the Zimmerman verdict protests all over the country took place surrounding the law as Civil Rights groups as well as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder criticized the controversial "Stand Your Ground Law" at the 2013 NAACP Annual Conference. And on the heels of this debate another case that is gain-

Cover Story, Continued  
on next page.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . . 2

Data Zone . . . . . 4

Commentary. . . . . 6

State & Local News . . 7

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

ing the public's attention has happened in New Orleans in the Marigny neighborhood. A once mixed income neighborhood pre-Katrina that is now becoming gentrified and is only a stone throw away from a neighborhood rife with crime, violence and poverty. Where people scrape by to survive, it is truly a tale of two cities where hopefulness and hopelessness intersect. This is

while others are saying is it simply the case of a man trying to protect his family and thought his life was in danger and did what he felt was necessary?

### Crime Does Not Discriminate

People on both sides of the issue would like to simplify this as a simple case of Black and White, but in life and sometimes things

the City. Today some 6 years later Hill's murder is still unsolved with no one arrested in this case.

Jonathan Harris is a business owner who lives in the Marigny who says that crime is getting out of control. "I have placed security cameras outside of my property because things have gotten far worse since Katrina with the crime in our neighborhood. After 9 O'clock we get people not from

Landry to George Zimmerman. Captain Black feels that while racism is very real, that these cases are very different, "There are no similarities in these cases, Zimmerman stalked an unarmed teen who was minding his own business, in this case the young man was on his property at 2 A.M., and Landry was more than likely scared for himself and his family and a Black man might have

done the same thing under those circumstances. Should Landry have done something different in this situation I cannot say, but the fact surrounding the case will be played out in the judicial process."

### End of Part 1.

Part 2 Stand Your Ground Is It a License to Kill? And Searching for Solutions.



Pictured above is 14 year old Marshall Coulter who was shot and killed after he allegedly climbed a locked fence and entered the yard of Merritt Landry.



Merritt Landry (pictured above), was at home with his family when he encountered the 14 year old Marshall Coulter and killed him with a single shot to the head.



Home of Merritt Landry where shooting of 14 year old Marshall Coulter took place.

the setting of this tragedy that has beset the City and has citizens of the City asking the question that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of in 1967, will we find a way to be a cohesive community working together to fix the ills of our nation and our City, or will it spiral out of control into further chaos and misunderstanding?

On the 700 block of Mandeville Street two people's lives changed forever on a late Saturday night. Merritt Landry, who works for the City of New Orleans was at home with his young family which includes his pregnant wife and small child. Upon hearing a noise in his backyard he went out and spotted 14 year old Marshall Coulter and struck him with a single shot to the head. According to Landry as he yelled out to the young man he thought he saw an object that was a weapon, so he pulled the trigger believing he was in a life threatening situation. But, according to the warrant, an unidentified witness gave a statement that conflicted with Landry's, although the detective did not say how it differed.

After the shooting a mountain of questions are coming to the forefront that are both legal and racial. Depending on your vantage point views are mixed. Some are perceiving this incident as an overzealous paranoid White who upon seeing a young Black man shot first and thought second,

are not that simple. It seems that there are shades of gray that may explain what happened and how a community can move from the chaos of misunderstanding to one of reconciliation. Mama Dee is a lively 70 year old White from Alabama who owns two properties on the same block where the shooting took place and says that race is less the issue as it is a crime wave invading their neighborhood leaving them feeling powerless. "I have had several bikes stolen from my yard and people running through my yard at all hours of night, and I know of several of my neighbors who have been mugged recently, and people's houses and cars are getting broken into." Continuing in a sympathetic tone she says, "I really feel sorry for what happened to the young man who was shot, but I don't know what I would do if I were in his situation with his young family and somebody's is in my yard at 2:00 A.M."

This is a neighborhood that is still feeling the 2007 death of Helen Hill, a filmmaker who was killed during a home invasion by an intruder who shot and killed Hill and shooting her husband three times and he survived and their young child uninjured. This along with a spate of other shooting including Dinerral Shavers of the Hot 8 Brass Band caused citizens to march on City Hall about the escalating crime problems in

the neighborhood casing out houses and targeting our people walking through down the street to rob them." Continuing he says with a bit of exasperation in his voice, "I have been mugged before and am sometimes afraid, but I love New Orleans and many of my friends do as well, but some of them who have also been victims of crime are considering leaving because they feel it is becoming too dangerous."

### Crime and Punishment Who's the Judge?

After the shooting Brothers Against Crime an organization led by Nadra "Captain Black" Nezi, Al "Brother" Mims and Tim Washington called a press conference to talk about solutions, "What we are stressing is unity in our community, what we want to focus on is personal responsibility, public safety and parental involvement in their children's lives. We are sick of seeing our young men without a direction in their lives either becoming killers or being killed, this has got to stop and it is all our responsibility."

During the press conference an exchange took place between Rev. Raymond Brown of National Action Now who is not affiliated with Brothers Against Violence and White citizens of the community when he made a statement about race and the similarities in this case and comparing Merritt



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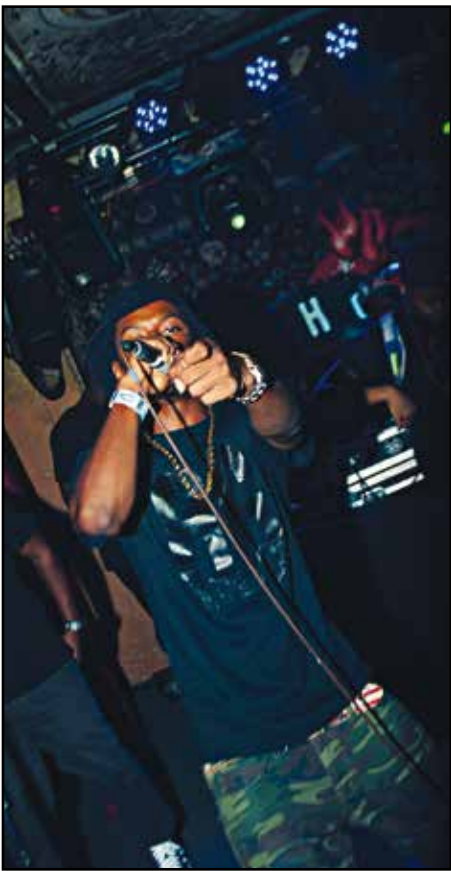


# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Emcees Battle at The House of Blues

Photos by Dealia Pooler

The battle on the mic still reigns supreme, and the Emcees who stepped up last week at the Parish Room in The House of Blues left nothing on the stage. The performing artist pictured is Juice from AG (Air Gang) who got the crowd going with his rhymes and beats. Of course, Data was there!



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Hail to the Yard Birds

By MG Calla Victoria  
Data News Weekly Columnist

Urban farming is one of the fastest growing trends in America. More and more people are opting to become urban chicken farmers by keeping chickens in their backyard. The benefits of raising chickens are numerous. Of course, there is the endless supply of protein-packed eggs, poultry if you chose to thin out your flock, they eat insects that would otherwise be munching on your plants, they will mow grass that is taller than two inches, they prepare garden beds by scratching the ground which aerates it, and chicken droppings that make the best fertilizer for plants. If you are considering getting into the urban chicken farming craze there are a few things that you should know:

Before buying chickens you are going to have to get a chicken coop, something sturdy that predators can-



not dig under. The coop has to have roosts for the chickens at night, and nesting areas for laying. You can find coops online and they can be from the simplest to the most elaborate.

Because chicken manure is excellent for gardens, some people build their coops on wheels with just a chicken wire floor so that the chicken dropping goes right through to the ground.

They move the coop from place to place around their yard to keep their entire garden fertilized. You can also find "How to build a chicken coop" instructions online and do like my neighbor Charles who built his own coop.

You will also need a chicken run so that the chickens can get out and scratch and exercise. The run should have a roof, it has to be secure so that predators can't get in, and keep lots of water and food in there. Or you can free-range your chickens like my neighbor does. He just lets them out to run around in his yard, just make sure the area is secure and predator-free.

You don't need a rooster if you just want chickens for their eggs, hens will lay eggs without a rooster. They lay unfertilized eggs that will not form chicks and will not hatch. Now if you are planning on raising chick-

**Chickens/Continued on page 7**

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## To Be Equal

# The State of Black Men, Part Two

## Justice for Trayvon is About Justice for All



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

**“Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago.”**  
-President Barack Obama

In the weeks since the not-guilty verdict in the second-degree murder trial of George Zimmerman, widespread outrage and legitimate questions about

the treatment and perception of young black men in America have reverberated throughout the nation. Last Friday, in an unscripted appearance in the White House Press Room, President Obama spoke personally about the historical racial context and the negative pre-conceptions that may have led to the death of Trayvon Martin. He also talked about

the racial indignities and systemic disparities that millions of black men face every day and the questionable Stand Your Ground laws that may be causing more violence than they are supposedly meant to prevent. And the President suggested he would use his “convening power” to engage a cross-section of citizens in doing more to give African American

boys “the sense that their country cares about them and values them and is willing to invest in them.” We applaud the President for his insightful comments. We hope they touch the nation’s conscience and advance the kind of dialogue and action that is needed to heal America’s festering racial divisions and prevent the deaths of more Trayvon Martins.

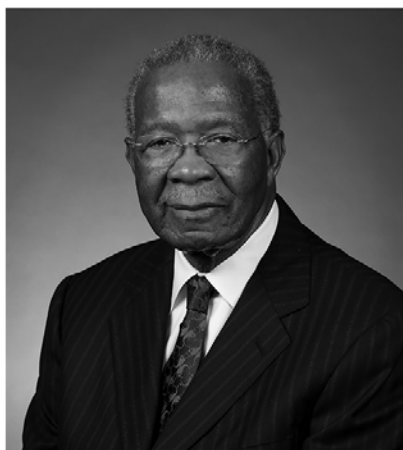
The death of Trayvon Martin has re-energized the civil rights community and inspired an outpouring of citizen action not seen since the height of the movement 50 years ago. Last Saturday, in dozens of cities across the nation, thousands of people, appalled at the Zimmerman verdict, attended peaceful rallies in support of justice for Trayvon Martin and a civil rights investigation into his killing. The National Urban League stands in solidarity with them. And as we convene our annual convention in Philadelphia this week, we will be intensifying our quest for a thorough civil rights investigation, along with efforts to end to racial profiling and abolish of Stand Your Ground laws across the country. Many of those “shoot first” laws are contributing to needless bloodshed and are ripe for unequal application based on race.

A recent study by Texas A & M University found that Stand Your Ground type laws increase homicides by 17-50 percent, “which translates into as many as 50 additional justifiable homicides a year.” And as the case of Marissa Alexander shows, the Florida law is not even being applied consistently. Alexander, who is black, is serving 20 years in prison for firing a single shot at the ceiling to scare off her abusive husband who was charging towards her with murderous intent. Unlike the Zimmerman case, a Stand Your Ground self-defense claim did not prevent Alexander’s conviction. Clearly, something is wrong when the man who killed Trayvon Martin is acquitted, while a black woman who fired a warning shot gets 20 years. As President Obama noted, “there is a history of racial disparities in the application of our criminal laws, every-

Morial, Continued on page 7.

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## SPLC Responds to City's Appeal of Court Ruling on Orleans Parish Prison

Following a U.S. District Court ruling last month to approve a consent decree that would lead to significant reforms for the Orleans Parish Prison, the City of New Orleans today filed a motion appealing the decision. The following statement in response to the City's motion can be attributed to Katie Schwartzmann, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Louisiana office:

"We are deeply disappointed that the City has chosen to continue to obstruct and delay the desperately needed reforms at Orleans Parish Prison. Every day

of delay puts New Orleanians, who the City has a responsibility to house safely, at risk of significant harm and even death. The dangerous conditions at the jail harm thousands of people every year, as illustrated by the numerous letters of public support written to the Court. This administration is out of step with the expressed will of its constituents, and with the public interest. It's extremely unfortunate that the City continues to expend extraordinary amounts of taxpayer dollars to avoid compliance with the Constitution."

## Michael Darnell appointed Judge pro tempore of Orleans Parish Traffic Court



Judge Pro-Tempore, Michael C. Darnell  
OP Traffic Court

Attorney Michael C. Darnell has been appointed by order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, as judge pro tempore of Orleans Parish Traffic Court, Section "D," according to Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.

Darnell will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ronald J. Sholes. He will serve from August 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, or until the vacancy is filled, whichever comes sooner.

Darnell received his undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees from Yale University. He has been in the private practice of law since 1982. Formerly a partner with Adams and Reese Law Firm, since 1995 Darnell has been a partner in the law firm Murray, Darnell & Associates, LLC. While practicing law, he has served in numerous legal and government positions.

Darnell is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Louis Martinet Society in New Orleans. He is the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Service as President of the Southwest Louisiana Lawyer's Association.

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#### Morial, Continued from page 6.

thing from the death penalty to enforcement of our drug laws." And as I mentioned in my first column on the State of Black men several weeks ago, these disparities are more than demeaning, they are leading to the over-incarceration, under-employment and disenfranchisement of millions of African American men.

The death of Trayvon Martin has ignited a firestorm of protest. And it's not just about the shooting, but the many ways America continues to devalue young black men. Justice for Trayvon is about justice for all.



#### Chickens, Continued from page 5.

ens then you need a rooster so that he can fertilize the eggs. You can find chickens at some local feed stores, on Craigslist, or online. You can buy mature laying hens that are already doing their thing but they are a lot more expensive, or you can buy chicks. If you buy un-sexed chicks you are getting whatever they send you. If you don't want roosters it is best to pay extra and get sexed chicks. As the chicks are so small, sometimes only one-day when shipped it is hard to discern the sex, so even when you buy sexed chick, you might get a rooster; but the company will take the rooster back if you got one by mistake.

Take the time to do a little research on the different breeds of chickens before you make your purchase, some are very docile so you may want to consider that if you have small kids around. And know that roosters can become very territorial and combative. My neighbor

Charles had to get rid of his big rooster Samson because the rooster would try to attack him when he would try to enter the coop. I really miss that rooster, he would always crow at me whenever I came outside, and follow me along the fence if the chickens were out of the coop.

If you get a rooster, just know that some of your neighbors may take issue with the noise. My neighbor has roosters, but as I am a morning person and my eyes automatically open at 5:00 am, so I am not disturbed by the rooster. However, I was at lecture on Urban Chicken Farming last weekend and several participants mentioned they were feuding with their neighbors over the chickens. So just a little something for you to consider. You can order chickens from mypetchicken.com.

A good laying hen will produce 22 dozen of eggs a year, so if you have six good laying hens you will harvest about 132 dozen

eggs yearly. You are going to end up harvesting a lot more eggs than you can use, so you can give some away or sell them.

By all means be kind to your chickens and make sure their area is secure. So many times you see chickens on the street, which is so cruel because you know that chicken is going to try to cross the road and that's the end of it.

I am one of the lucky ones because while I was contemplating getting chickens my neighbor Charles beat me to it. So now I get all of those wonderful big brown eggs, all of the free chicken manure I can use for my garden, and none of the work. Life is good! Send your gardening questions to me at sowing@thegardeningdiva.com and check my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at www.thegardeningdiva.com.

Remember, never be too busy to stop and smell the beautiful flowers.





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*takes care of me?*



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