

Lighting The Road To The Future

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Liberty Bank and USBC Partnership



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Liberty Bank, USBC Partner to Empower Community



Ron Busby is the President and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.



Ann Duplessis is the Senior Vice-President of Retail Banking at Liberty Bank

Eric Craig Multimedia Editor

Two organizations have partnered together for the benefit of the African-American Community. Liberty Bank and the U.S. Black Chambers of Commerce announced their partnership in sponsoring a credit card

that will assist minorities in the community with large scale purchases.

Liberty Bank and USBC have developed the Affinity Credit Card that offers a 9.6 percent interest rate, and is available for business owners and individuals. The card is designed to make capital more available to minority business owners and individuals, and to encour-

age the growth of African-American businesses in the nation. Everyone is invited to apply for the credit card.

Why Credit is Important

Ron Busby, President and CEO of USBC, says that building relationships with Black-owned banks is important. Services such as the Affinity Credit Card help

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

cultivate relationships with Black-owned banks, and helps people build and rebuild credit scores, he added.

"If you just look at statistics, less than half of African-Americans have a traditional banking relations—savings or checking accounts—with a financial institution," Busby said.

"Seventy-six percent of African-Americans are refused credit or given credit at a much higher rate than their White counterparts," Busby said.

Ann Duplessis, Senior Vice-President of Retail Banking at Liberty Bank, says credit use is widespread in the community.

"African-American are spending millions, billions annually on credit card purchases. All of those credit cards are not with African-American providers," Duplessis said.

Despite the wide-scale use of credit with non-Black providers, Duplessis states that the use of Black-owned banks can help communities grow.

The partnership between the USBC and Liberty Bank is designed to help minority business owners develop access to capital to start, grow or purchase a business. Busby says the card is capital, which is necessary to build a business.

"The number one concern is African-American employment," Busby said.

"There are 2 million unemployed African-Americans and 2 million Black-owned businesses in the U.S. If you do the math, if these businesses grow, they can employ more African-Americans," he added.

Understanding the dynamics behind capital, Duplessis says the Affinity Card is the first step in developing African-American Communities.

"What we're doing is giving better and greater access to credit to communities that need it. There's not a double digit interest rate. It's 9.6 percent, which is a phenomenal rate. We are spending thousands with White-owned companies, why not spend that money with Black-owned companies," Duplessis said.

"The typical African-American person has a 5-10 percent increase in an interest rate versus their same White peer. A good rate is necessary to start and sustain organizations," Busby added.

The card is available for members and affiliates with the U.S. Black Chamber. While the card is not strictly for USBC members, according to Duplessis, Liberty Bank may officially expand its coverage to more consumers.

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the USBC/Liberty Bank Affinity card is designed to spur capital growth in minority communities.

The Partnership

The partnership originally began between Alden J. McDonald, Jr., President of Liberty Bank and Ron Busby, President of USBC.

"They talked about ways to create synergy for the USBC Members. We've heard here from the USBC that minority small businesses have a tough time receiving credit or access to the cash they need to operate and grow their business," Duplessis said.

"So the discussion was how to do we create a product for their business members to have better access to credit."

The USBC is undergoing a Black initiative to increase African-American participation in homeownership, Black businesses, and Black-owned banks. The organization is leading the cause to have substantial growth in Black businesses and communities by the year 2020.

"This call to action is the first of many. This is an economic movement," Busby said.

"We have seen and been involved with marches, protests and boycotts. But we feel in order to get the United States' attention you have to go where it feels and reacts, which is the economy. We're not asking anyone to boycott anyone, but let's move our money to where it's going to be appreciated.

"We launched this relationship with them to have a universal impact on the community," Duplessis said.

Busby believes support of African-American Communities and business is essential to the development and growth of African-Americans in the nation.

"In order for there to be a strong America, there has to be a strong Black America. And in order for Black America to be strong, there has to be Black businesses. In order to have strong Black businesses, you need a Black Chambers of Commerce and Black banks," Busby said.

For more information about the USBC initiative, visit www.usbackchambers.org.

For information about the new Affinity Card, visit www.libertybank.net/affinity. Interested customers should apply using the promotional code USBC.

Importance of Black Banks

In the United States there are 21 Black-owned banks. Liberty Bank has 18 branches in over six states, including Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, Alabama and Illinois.

According to Busby, Black-owned banks tend to serve small

communities, and many times have a smaller reach to African-Americans throughout the nation.

Busby and Duplessis agree that Black-owned banks are important to communities across the United States. Many times the organizations can be wrongfully overlooked, Busby says.

"I have always talked about the importance of Black banks for African-Americans around the country. I always felt like the community needed financing option with our own bank," Busby said.

Duplessis sees Black-owned

banks as backbones to many communities throughout the nation.

"We have been such a pillar to the community as it related to engagement, resources, and how some things happen," Duplessis said.

Duplessis said that Black banks tend to have technology and services to compete with White-owned banks, but Black-owned banks have the advantage of being more intimate.

"We know the community, which reduces the risk when people come to us and borrow money. We have been able to help small businesses grow and helped them employ people, which is how this economic cycle should be," she added.

Many times Black banks use their intimate advantage to evaluate risk decisions, such as distributing loans to individuals and businesses in a community, according to Duplessis.

"A small minority bank in the community helps. It helps us understand and justify based on face-to-face interactions instead of working inside of a box like in bigger establishment," said Duplessis.

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Blighted House Turned Museum Exhibit

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

A Gentilly neighborhood devastated in Hurricane Katrina is getting its own monument in remembrance of the hurricane and the breached London Canal.

On Monday, August 8, 2016, Sandy Rosenthal, Founder and Executive Director of Levees.org, announced her organization's plan to turn a flooded house at 4918 Warrington Avenue into a museum exhibit.

"The Breaching of the levees in New Orleans at the turn of the century was not exactly a shining moment for American Civil Engineering. However, it was a pivotal moment in American history," Rosenthal said.

Rosenthal discussed the changes of levee laws that made cities like community safer and more prepared for malfunctions of the levees.

According to FEMA, 55% of the

American population lives in counties protected by levees.

"It is appropriate and necessary that we recognize that moment in some significant way," Rosenthal said.

"We are standing at the site of a lynchpin moment in history. This house may be the last in the City that is just a stone throw from an actual, obvious levee breach site. We cannot squander this opportunity to preserve this relic, this insightful monument," Rosenthal said.

The exterior of the house will be designed to resemble the state of the house during and immediately after the flood of Hurricane Katrina. The interior of the house will feature work of artists and craftsman that will replicate a flooded living room.

"The possibilities are infinite but certainly [the exhibit] will include mud covered, toppled furniture and mold going up the wall. It will be visible through



(L-R) : H. J. Bosworth, Jr. Lead Researcher at Levees.org; Nick Harris, Vice-President at Dillard University; Sandy Rosenthal, Founder and Executive Director of Levees.org; and City Councilman Jared Brossett stand in front the upcoming flood museum exhibit.

the front windows," Rosenthal added.

The house was bought in April of 2016 from a second owner. The original owner of the house was unable to move back. The house was bought by Sandy at an estimated price of \$60,000. The expected cost of the renovations for the replica is \$50,000.

Once opened, the exhibit will be gifted to a sister organization of Levees.org that will manage and take grants for the projects.

Currently the house is under review for permit and licensing pertaining to tourism and exhibits. Levees.org plans to meet with the City Council to finalize licensing.

Carmen Owens, one of the first people to move back to the Warrington Street neighborhood, spoke highly of the upcoming exhibit.

"It means a lot to us. It gives people an opportunity to visit and see what happened. Sandy has worked very hard to help this neighborhood come back," Owens said.

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trailblazer

Juan LaFonta

Manchild in the Promised Land

by: Edwin Buggage

This month's Trailblazer is a man whose face is emblazoned on billboards, featured in television commercials and known as an Attorney and Public Servant. Juan LaFonta, is a life-long and die-hard advocate for the City of New Orleans. Describing himself he says, "I am a community oriented guy with a huge heart. I've spent much of my life in the 7th Ward going to school on Elysian Fields Avenue at St. Raphael, Brother Martin and the University of New Orleans (UNO) and now my law office is located there. Speaking of his community and its impact on his life he says, "Throughout my life I've honored all those people who have helped shape me into the person I am today; and long ago I made a promise to myself to remain in my community and influence the lives of the people around me."

His work of serving others extends in many areas, but is centered on the youth. Something he feels is important is expanding their horizons and encouraging them to dream big and know that with hard work it can become a reality. "I do a lot of things with the kids in my neighborhood and around the City," says LaFonta. "I

sometimes rent a suite for the New Orleans Pelicans basketball games and take kids from the neighborhood. I've done back to school events giving away school supplies and many other things for the youth of our City. My goal is giving them experiences that can enrich their lives."

LaFonta once served as an elected official as a Louisiana State Representative in District 96, while he still has a love for politics he is involved with it in a different way. Today as opposed to voting on bills in Baton Rouge, he's merged his political and business skills into empowering citizens in addition to small businesses in New Orleans. "I enjoyed my time in politics serving my community, but I think I grew up from politics to a full-time law practice and in my role now as a private citizen I can help more people out. I feel in this way I can impact more people lives positively without constraints."

As he looks ahead, he envisions himself growing in his capacity to give back. "I want to continue working to impact the community and redevelop the neighborhood I grew up in as well as other neighborhoods around the City restoring homes and getting them back in the market



and get families in them. I also want to help connect people to resources. And it helps to have been in politics to have the ear of people on a local, state and national level and those who care about rebuilding New Orleans."

This spirit of serving comes from witnessing a family dedicated to service and hard work. His mother is part of the Bagneris family, one who's contributed to the City in government and the arts and his father's

family instilled in him the value of hard work. "I grew up around people who are making a difference and always stressed the importance of God, family and community."

In post-Katrina New Or-

leans, the City continues to change. This is in some ways a troubling trend to LaFonta, who harkens back to what he refers to as the good old days of New Orleans of the 1980's and 90's. This is something he is reminded of when he travels to several countries in Latin America and also France where he has relatives. "In my travels it is always striking to me when I see countries surpass us in quality of life that reminds me of the life we use to have in New Orleans. I see them enjoying what is important in life and that is family, relationship with God and the value of work. Here in New Orleans, it has gotten to some feeling that they are entitled, but what I try to continue to stress is the value of hard work and an enlarged vision for the unlimited potential of our City and its citizens."

LaFonta is a young man who in his little over four decades of life has accomplished many great things. But LaFonta's road

to success is one that is an example of hard work, perseverance and overcoming adversity. When speaking of what his life represents he says, "Many times people may see the glory, but they do not see the story. I liken my life to Claude Brown's story in the book "Manchild in the Promised Land," when I was young I had some problems, I also lived on my own in high school, I was bullied and experienced a whole lot of stuff. But I worked through those things and they made me stronger." Continuing he speaks with appreciation to those who invested in him as a young man and saw future greatness in him, "In spite of the adversity and obstacles I still became a successful person, one that was educated by the community I grew up in and hopefully today I embody the ideas and ideals of the best of my community. And when they see someone like me I hope it inspires them to know that if I can make it they can too."

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Satchmo SummerFest 2016

Hot Jazz in the City

By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

Satchmo SummerFest 2016 was a three-day local music showcase located within one block of the Historic French Quarter featuring three stages, food booths and a children's area. Satchmo SummerFest featured local music with a focus on contemporary and traditional jazz and brass bands. The community festival also featured the 'Red Bean Alley,' Festival Food Booths operated by some of New Orleans finest restaurants. Did you make it down to Satchmo SummerFest 2016? If not, you missed a great time. Don't worry though, Data was there to show you all the highlights.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Kurt Pellerin's Birthday

Food, Fun, 58

By Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Who says you're old at 58? The party is just getting started. On Friday, August 5, 2016, Kurt Pellerin celebrated his 58th Birthday in downtown New Orleans. The vibrant night was filled with live music, food, fun and dance. Friends, old and new, from all over New Orleans had the opportunity to participate in the entertainment and celebrate with Kurt.



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Rev. Barber's Speech at the DNC was Everything



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The North Carolina NAACP President, Rev. William Barber, tore it up and then threw down in a powerful speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 28th. He called on those assembled to be a "moral defibrillator of our time," to shock our nation with the power of love and morality. Rev. Barber did not use the word "endorse," but

urged delegates to "embrace" Clinton, and his rousing rhetoric was challenging and inspirational.

Rev. Barber is a committed and tenacious activist. He founded the "Forward Together Moral Movement", and has organized "Moral Mondays" in North Carolina. For the past three years, Moral Monday activists have gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and used protest and civil disobedience to shine light on the many ways North Carolina has attempted to erode voting rights, and move the state backwards on economic justice issues.

"When I hear Hillary's voice and positions," Barber said, "I hear and I know she is working to embrace our deepest moral values, and we should embrace her," he said. "She nor any person can

do it alone. The watchword of this democracy is 'we.'"

What are we, the people going to do in the aftermath of the political conventions? Some have said they will stay home, but watching the difference between the gathering of Democrats and that of Republicans should remind us that staying home should not be an option. Stay home, and leave our choice of leadership to others? Stay home and co-sign the hateful comments Mr. Trump made during his convention? Rev. Barber has called the democratic watchword "we," and Hillary Clinton talked about Democratic inclusiveness, which contrasts with that we observed with Republicans. What are "we" going to do?

President Barack Obama set Secretary Clinton up nicely with his

Wednesday evening speech, singing her praises and passing the baton. She caught the baton handily, offering a speech that exceeded my every expectation. The speech was full of grit and grace, humor and humility, respect and reaching out to the Bernie folks. Not only could I hear the glass ceiling shattering, but also I hoped that the world could see this woman as Commander-in-Chief.

Rev. Barber reminds us, though, that we are all part of the "we the people." He reminds us that we are only committed to democracy when we are actively involved in it. It's not just about a convention, or a vote. It is about an imperative to transform a system that is flawed. Rev. Barber talked about the "Fight for Fifteen," the Black Lives Matter movement,

and the missing morality in our nation now. Even as he urged us to embrace Hillary, he also urged us to embrace justice.

President Obama reminds us that democracy can be frustrating and messy. Rev. Barber reminded us that it can also be moral and loving, if we make the collective decision to rally around key principles and to engage in the process of compromise. We also have to remember that democracy is practiced with more frequency than every four years.

Voting is not the most we can do. It is the least we can do. Real democracy exists when people like Rev. William Barber gather people weekly to fight for voting rights,

Malveaux Commentary,
Continued on page 10.

This is Why Black-Owned Newspapers Matter



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

In 2017, we will celebrate 190th anniversary of the Black Press in America. Since the first publication of Freedom's Journal on March 16, 1827 in New York City, Black-owned newspapers have led the way when it comes to raising a voice of consciousness for Black America. Today, in 2016, Black-owned newspapers still matter.

Black Lives Matter. Black Votes Matter. Black Press Matters. In order to overcome racial inequality and injustice, we have to emphasize the importance of nurturing and mentoring the rise of a new generation of freedom-fighting journalists,

publishers and African American owners of newspapers and media companies.

There is a huge, qualitative difference between media that is Black-owned and non-Black-owned media that is targeted to Black consumers. Numerous national studies have documented that Black-owned newspapers remain the "trusted and respected" source of news, empowering success stories, and cultural aspirations for more than 45 million Black Americans.

The inaugural Discover the Unexpected (DTU) NNPA Journalism Fellowship Program this summer at the Howard University School of Communications supported by Chevrolet has done remarkably well in identifying and encouraging the next generation of gifted, talented and committed young journalism scholars. The National Newspaper Publishers Association is pleased with the positive and transformative results of the DTU fellowships.

The NNPA fellows scored front-page news features in NNPA mem-

ber newspapers across the nation. In addition to attending both the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio and the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pa., the NNPA fellows completed assignments that covered a wide range of subjects from Muhammad Ali's legacy and Black arts and culture to contemporary Black family life, the 2016 Olympics in Rio, mass incarceration, new data on police and prosecutorial misconduct and abuse, and the struggle to preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

This summer, Brandi Montgomery and Brelaun Douglas worked at the "Atlanta Voice," Briahna Brown and McKenzie Marshall at the "Chicago Defender," Victoria Jones and Rushawn Walters at "The Washington Informer," and Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King worked at the "Michigan Chronicle."

Black-owned newspapers are businesses and employers that continue to serve the economic development interests of Black communities. As the economy in the

United States continues to rebound from economic stagnation and recession under the leadership of the first African American President, it should also be a national priority to ensure the advancement of the economic well-being of Black families, businesses, and communities.

In the face of historic, political opposition led by the Republican-controlled Congress, President Barack H. Obama, has achieved leadership success in restoring and revitalizing the U.S. economy. In particular, the automotive industry has set new records this year in automobile sales. Thus, we note, with appreciation, those companies in the automotive sector that have been supportive of the NNPA during these difficult and challenging times.

General Motors brands continue advertise with the NNPA and as a consequence contributes to the sustainability of the Black Press in America. In particular, Chevrolet has been outstanding in its support of Discover the Unexpected scholarships as part of the current

NNPA fellows program. Chevrolet also increased its advertising with many NNPA newspapers this year. It is our hope that this successful pilot program will be continued and even expanded in the upcoming academic year.

Long live Black-owned newspapers and the struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Yes, Black-owned newspapers surely do matter.

Learn more about the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) program at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter. Follow us on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress and like our Facebook page at NNPA Black Press.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

Non-Prescription Meds

A Forgotten Solution to Rising Healthcare Costs

Devon Herrick
Senior Fellow, National
Center for Policy Analysis

One of America's largest doctor groups recently issued a stunning recommendation.

The American College of Physicians is urging its 140,000 members to prescribe generic medications whenever possible, even if newer medicines are available. The ACP explains that people are far more likely to fill an inexpensive generic prescription, since skyrocketing drug prices and insurance fees have made brand-name medicines increasingly unaffordable.

That recommendation, though a step in the right direction, doesn't go far enough. Often, the cheapest, safest, and most effective treatments don't require a prescription at all.

It's time for doctors and insurers to steer patients to these non-prescription remedies. Doing so would save patients billions while improving their health.

Prescription drug prices keep rising. List prices for brand-name drugs jumped almost 15 percent in 2015. Even generic prices rose 3 percent.

Insurers increasingly pass these costs on to patients. Patients' average out-of-pocket spending jumped 77 percent from 2004 to 2014. Spending on insurance deductibles rose eight times as fast as wages. And expenditures on co-insurance – an arrangement that forces patients to pay a large percentage of each prescription's cost – more than doubled.

Many patients can't afford these costs. So they respond by skipping doses to make their prescriptions last longer. Or they don't fill the prescriptions at all – and become sicker as a result.

Doctors could prevent much of this non-adherence – which costs the nation up to \$300 billion a year – by encouraging patients to use



affordable non-prescription alternatives first.

Most Americans are familiar with non-prescription remedies such as Tylenol, Allegra, and Imodium. Consumers can obtain these products at local pharmacies, retail stores, and even online without a doctor's prescription.

Many people assume that if a product doesn't require a prescription, it's less effective. Not true. More than 700 over-the-counter products were once available only by prescription.

Consider the range of treatments for irritable bowel syndrome, a combination of diarrhea and constipation that plagues up to 55 million Americans. Most physicians initially advise IBS sufferers to make dietary modifications, such as eating smaller meals throughout the day or avoiding fatty foods.

If that doesn't work, doctors typically default to "drug 'em up" mode – saddling patients with high costs in the process. New prescription options for irritable bowel syndrome can cost as much as \$19 per tablet.

Patients may fare better if doctors recommended non-prescription remedies before reaching for their prescription pads. One such IBS remedy, IBgard, sells for 63

cents per capsule, and according to recent clinical studies, it decreases IBS symptoms by 40 percent after four weeks. Other testing shows

that another non-prescription remedy, Miralax – which costs less than a dollar per dose – relieves IBS-related constipation in the over-

whelming majority of patients.

Non-prescription remedies effectively treat a host of other common ailments too. Prilosec, for instance, controls acid reflux disease just as well as prescription medications, according to recent studies. Non-prescription anti-inflammatory treatments, such as Aleve, reduce joint pain about as much as prescription Celebrex.

These equally-effective treatments can help to protect patients' bank accounts as well as bodies. While the average brand-name prescription costs about \$268 and the typical generic prescription costs \$33, the average non-prescription remedy sets consumers back less than \$10.

All told, non-prescription drugs save Americans \$102 billion a year. That's a third of the nation's total pharmaceutical spending.

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Protesters Demand Arrest of Police Who Shot and Killed Alton Sterling

By Candace J. Semien
Louisiana Black Publishers
Contributor

BATON ROUGE — Whether it was a gathering of 300 in front of the Triple S convenience store, small groups of 50 meeting at area churches, nearly 400 at city hall, dozens painting signs at LSU, or a thousand marching through downtown, Baton Rouge residents and visitors are protesting the death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling, who was shot by Baton Rouge police officers on July 5.

The shooting immediately drew public attention and protesters began taking their cries for justice to the streets, starting on North Foster. Demonstrations for Alton Sterling followed in major cities across the nation.

Protests have been largely peaceful, however local, city, and state officers' use of force when arresting protesters have resulted in injuries. Reports have serviced of police attacking, beating, and illegally arresting protesters.

This treatment has been publicized in national media. Following closed meetings between Black elected officials and the U.S. Department of Justice, East Baton Rouge metro councilman Lamont Cole said the group has "some serious concerns" about how protest-



Protesters march in the street following the shooting death of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La. (photo courtesy of The Drum)

ers have been handled by police.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana agrees. On July 13, the group filed a lawsuit against the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD), the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, EBRP Sheriff's Department, and state police for using excessive force and "violating the First Amendment rights of demonstrators who were protesting peacefully against the killing of Alton Sterling." The ACLU has requested a restraining order that would put

restrictions on how protesters can be scattered and detained during future demonstrations. Under the order, officers would not be able to use chemical agents—such as tear gas—without clear warning and authorization from the governor. Officers that worked protests would also be required to clearly display their names, agency and identifying number.

"These protests are and will continue to be one of the strategies our citizens use to bring attention

to the issue of police brutality and demand justice in the death of Alton Sterling," said Michael McClanahan, president of the NAACP Baton Rouge Chapter.

On July 5, BRPD officers Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II were responding to a 911 call about a "man with a gun" at the Triple S on North Foster Drive at Fairfields Avenue. There they met Sterling who was selling CDs outside the store with the owner's permission. Two videos of the shooting surfaced

online via Facebook within hours, raising doubts about whether the police officers were justified in the shooting. Defenders of the police say other video exists that will exonerate the officers.

At the request of Gov. John Bel Edwards, the U.S. Department of Justice took over the investigation and the officers were placed on paid, administrative leave. District Attorney Hillar Moore III recused himself due to personal ties to Salamoni's parents, who are also police officers. The State's Attorney General will be in charge of prosecuting any state charges.

Groups from across the nation have traveled to Baton Rouge to join protesters, train observers, and organize activists for the long-term work of demanding justice. Organizers of rallies have said the work for justice will continue. Across nearly every part of the city, citizens—Black and white, elected officials, and police—are working to find solutions in closed meetings, criminal hearings, at policy meetings, during city council and legislative sessions, at mass, on the stage of poetry slams, and in safety briefings. "But the work began in the streets," said McClanahan.

Candace J. Semien is editor of The Drum Newspaper. The Drum is a member of the Louisiana Black Publishers Association and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Malveaux Commentary, continued from pg 8

when he speaks up with regularity on the need for political and economic transformation. We exhibit our commitment to democracy when we hold our leaders accountable, when we pressure them to do the right thing, when we remind them of their campaign promises.

Those Bernie Sanders supporters who choose to remain engaged in the political process have the responsibility to continue to push their progressive agenda at the national, state, and local levels. Indeed, they honor their movement and their struggle by continuing to feel a burning desire for social and economic justice. If Sanders' supporters decide to pick up their marbles and go home, because their candidate did not win, it suggests that they are committed to personality, not democracy.

Our system is far from perfect, but it's the system we have. We can change it if we are committed to democracy. Or, we can accept imperfections, if we eschew activism.

Thank you, Hillary Clinton for reminding us of your service. Thank you, Rev. Barber for reminding us that Secretary Clinton won't be able to achieve much, unless we work with her. If you can listen to William Barber and fail to get fired up, you have truly embraced apathy. Barber is a role model, because of his fierce commitment to democracy.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for more information visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.

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Officials Announce Additional Funding for Loyola Interchange at N.O. Airport

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – On August 9, 2016 Gov. John Bel Edwards, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Secretary Shawn Wilson and local elected officials announced that a major transportation project has been accelerated to improve access to the Louis Armstrong International New Orleans Airport from I-10 and Loyola Avenue. The State of Louisiana is investing an additional \$10 million to advance pre-construction activities, including design, that must take place prior to construction. Once the planning phase is complete, designing the interchange will begin immediately. The state was able to reallocate financial resources to fund this phase of the project after being awarded a \$60 million FASTLANE Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT).

"I made a commitment to the people of Louisiana to bring our federal tax dollars' home to invest in our road, bridges and ports," said Gov. Edwards. "The federal grant frees up financial resources that will allow us to make critical investments across the state, in-



cluding New Orleans. Funding pre-construction and design is a critical step toward getting this project underway and keeping it moving forward. Once complete, the current interchange will be transformed to provide easier access for the millions of people who use the airport to travel. State, local and federal partners have worked tirelessly to get resources to Louisiana to improve our infrastructure, and I look forward to continuing that partnership to invest in our state."

"Improving access to the airport will ensure long-term growth and sustainability of the City, region and State of Louisiana," said Mayor Landrieu. "I want to thank Gov. Edwards and our congressional delegation for applying and working persistently to secure the FASTLANE funds for this project. We look forward to working with our federal, state and local partners to support critical infrastructure improvements in the future."

The reallocated FASTLANE dol-

lars will be used to fund the pre-construction phase of this project, as well as design and right of way acquisition. Because the Loyola Interchange Project failed to keep pace with new airport developments, the Edwards administration quickly moved the project forward by using state funds and developing the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) before receiving any FASTLANE funds. The IMR is a detailed study required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to justify any modifications to the interstate.

"The accelerated project delivery being used by DOTD is going to yield savings for this project and the public," said Secretary Wilson. "This will set this project up to be an excellent candidate for design-build or another innovative construction method once construction dollars are secured."

"Big Multimodal Projects such as this interchange and airport have historically relied on heavily eroded revenue streams like the gas tax and capital outlay dollars," said Sen. JP Morrell, Chair of Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee. "Efforts to bring additional federal dollars to the state will relieve pressure on the very limited capital outlay dollars available at this time."

City Announces that Residents Can Now Link NORDC Rec Center Cards With Library Cards



Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) and the New Orleans Public Library (Library) announced that the community now has the opportunity to use the services of both NORDC

and the Library by linking their accounts and using only one card – either their Library Card or NORDC Rec Card.

"Libraries and recreation centers continue to be one of the most accessible avenues for community engagement and personal enrichment at any age," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "We want to make it easier for our residents to take

advantage of the services and programming that we provide."

To link Library & NORDC accounts, patrons can visit either their local Library or Rec Center. This service is optional and not required.

Vic Richard, CEO of NORDC said, "We are proud to announce that our patrons can now use one card for twice the fun. The New Orleans Public Library has been a valuable partner to NORDC over the years, and I thank them for teaming up with us to provide this added convenience to our residents."

Charles Brown, Executive Director and City Librarian for the Library said, "Both the Library and NORDC provide important

services to our community and by working together we are able to make an even greater impact. We look forward to an ongoing and increasing level of collaboration with NORDC in the future."

The New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) now requires patrons who participate in activities at a NORDC Rec Center to sign up for and use a NORDC Rec Card. The card is free and anyone age six and up can register for their card at any NORDC Rec Center.

The New Orleans Public Library requires anyone who wants to borrow materials to sign up for and use a Library card. Library card requirements can be found at nolibrary.org.

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