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Data Zone Page 6


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Bayou Classic Black Tie Gala Raises Millions for Historic HBCU

Page 2



Newsmaker

How Trump Tax Cuts Will Hurt Blacks

Page 5

National News

Rep. John Conyers Faces Allegations



Page 10

Southern University System Foundation (SUSF) and Its Dedication to Education

Bayou Classic Black Tie Gala Raises Millions for Historic HBCU



The 2017 Gala was an appreciation event paying tribute to donors whose contributions fund the Southern University System Foundation. Pictured above from left to right are SU System President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton, Demoine D. Rutledge, S.U. System Foundation Board Chairman and Alfred E. Harrell, III, SUSF CEO. All photos by Sailor Jackson

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Rich History of HBCU's

When many think of the Bayou Classic, they think of the Battle of the Bands and the football game between Grambling and Southern University on the gridiron. But behind the glitz, glamour and fun of the game is the rich and grand history of HBCU's and their amazing legacy of educating African-Americans and others who want to get a quality education.

Gala Raises Money for Southern University System

During this weekend in the Crescent City to a standing room only crowd, the Southern University Foundation System held their Annual Appreciation Event for significant donors at the Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom. This True-Blue Gala featured entertainment from none other than the legendary Frankie Beverly and Maze.

This is an annual event put on by the Southern University System Foundation. This is our appreciation event for significant donors who pledge and give big

monies to scholarships and endowed chairs throughout the year. Current revenues exceed 36 million dollars. Raised from 2014-2017.

"This is an expressed appreciation event which is our way of letting our corporate and philanthropic donors know just how much we truly appreciate all of their many wonderful contributions. Being my last public function as Board President what a way to go out; Al Harrell and his team never cease to amaze me," says Attorney and SUSF Board President Demoine Rutledge, who was also honored at the event.

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary.	8
Newsmaker	5	National News	10
Data Zone	6	State & Local News .	11
Fashion	7		

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Southern University and the Continuance of a Great Legacy

The Southern University System continues to educate generations of people of all ages throughout its five campuses across the state. Its graduates have accomplishments that run the gamut and are making great contributions across all fields of endeavor. Southern University is also poised to continue leading the way as an institution that stresses excellence and a commitment to being a beacon of light for the African-American community.

"The success of our efforts has been people-driven. The people are keenly aware of certain expectations of fiscal management. We have passed the test. The people feel much better about giving to Southern University today simply because they know that we will take care of the business at hand. Part of that testament is this outpouring of support and vote of confidence that you are witnessing here tonight," states Alfred "Al" Harrell, CEO of the Southern University System Foundation Board.

Continuing this rich legacy and the Southern University System dedication to education and funding and fueling the future is the goal of



Rev. Donald Ray Henry, Vice-Chairman of the SU, Board and his wife Marguerite.



Two of the evening's award honorees were Hall Davis, Jr. (left) and Cecil Davis (right).

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Mr. Leon Valdry, President & CEO, Holly Park Plaza Beverly Hills, CA known for his philanthropic giving to Southern University.

the gala. This year as in past years, it was a monumental success.

"This has been a truly phenomenal evening. I must commend SU Foundation Board President Attorney Demoine Rutledge and CEO Al Harrell, the other board members and the staff for executing an out-

standing presentation," says, Dr. Ray L Belton, President- Chancellor of the Southern University System.

To get more information or contribute to the Southern University System Foundation (SUSF) go to the website <https://foundation.sus.edu/> or call 225.771.3911

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How Republican Tax-Reform Plan Will Hit Blacks the Hardest

By Charles D. Ellison
Data News Weekly Guest Contributor

Right now, at this very moment, the single biggest threat to the group of people already in a compromised position because of their race is the congressional Republicans' tax-reform plan. Not the sound of the police. Not lead in your water and not a jail cell.

The tax-reform plan that both Congress and the White House are pushing seems obscure. It's that thing only geeky Washington, D.C., insiders pass crush notes over, so you glance away from the television screen because it sounds irrelevant. It's so innocuous, you ask, "What's a tax cut got to do with me?" especially when shit is already tight. So long as you get that refund check for a down payment on that next car, you could care less.

As the latest YouGov poll (pdf) shows, you are among the vast majority of Americans who hate Congress, yet you're probably in that 46 percent who don't follow what congressional lawmakers do, including the nearly 70 percent of whom are black.

But black folks should be paying the most attention because we'll feel the most hurt as congressional Republicans, along with an oligarchic Trump White House, try to make the plan into law (House Republicans passed their version of the bill on Thursday). Not only is black America the least likely to see a tax cut, but it's also the most likely to see future tax increases, shredded safety nets, and a flurry of fines and fees to make up the difference.

If there ever was an issue to march against, it's the ominous specter of a trickle-down tax-reform scam that's about to decimate an already fragile black quality of life—not the imprisonment of a probation-violating rapper who'll end up riffing an album off your tweets. Priorities, fam, priorities.

As Congress attempts to ram its tax-reform plan through to presidential signature, here are the five big ways this will screw everyone, but black folks the most:

1. Starving the Beast so It Can't Protect You Anymore

It's the resurgence of a decades-old hat trick by conservative Republicans to use fiscal policy as a weapon for diabolical political aim.



House Speaker Paul Ryan (second from left) and U.S. House members gather after passing a tax reform bill Nov. 16, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

The "beast" is the federal government. This term of snarky elegance appeared during the Reagan years as neocons mandated less government spending through a reduced federal budget, thereby setting up the last big tax overhaul in 1986.

As economist William Cunningham of Creative Investment Research said during an episode of WURD's Reality Check, "This has always been about limiting the federal government's ability to protect the most marginalized communities. The fewer resources the federal government has, the less responsive it is to the needs of the vulnerable."

This is chilling for black folks considering the historic role of federal intervention on our behalf—even, ironically, when the feds sued Donald Trump himself back in 1973 for housing discrimination.

A tax-code overhaul, which complements Trump's budget cuts (by the way), completes the erosion of everything from Medicare to Pell Grants to regular federal enforcement of civil, voting and labor rights.

Much of that has accelerated in less than a year under the new sheriff. Have a problem with hate crimes or a local plant spewing toxic fumes or racist management at your workplace or the school district underfunding your kids' school because it's majority black and brown?

Good luck with getting the feds to investigate or enforce rules because budgets will be slim.

2. Making Us Pay for Wealthy White People's Tax Cuts

Straight, no chaser: This tax-code overhaul is a sophisticated, modern plantation play. But instead of working the fields, society will permit you to sharecrop your way to the appearance of middle-class normalcy through smartphones and selfie-induced materialism while the increase on your taxes pays for the boss's tax cut.

As the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities points out, "Households with annual incomes over \$1 million would see their after-tax incomes increase by 3.2 percent, 16 times the percentage increase for any income group in the bottom half of the income distribution" by 2027. Those with incomes between

Newsmaker, Continued on page 10.

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2017 Treme Creole Gumbo Fest

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The 10th Annual Treme' Creole Gumbo Festival is New Orleans' Premier Brass Band Showcase, and the best place on earth to sample a dozen different styles of gumbo. On Saturday and Sunday, November 18th & 19th in Louis Armstrong Park, thousands showed up to sample the gumbo and the sounds. As festivals go, this is always one of the best, and of course, Data was there!!!



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



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As part of our commitment to improving professional service and operational efficiencies, we are excited to announce continued enhancements to our E-Filing system!

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E-FILING INFORMATION

- Prior to E-Filing activation, new users (either attorneys or their designee) are **REQUIRED** to attend the Clerk of Court's Remote Access with E-Filing Training, as **FILING FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**.
- The E-Filing Training course qualifies for 2.00 CLE hours for attorneys and paralegals. Contact Lisa Griffin at (504) 407-0042 or lgriffin@orleanscdc.com to schedule for December 2017 or January 2018.

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- Users now have the ability to upload cover sheets separately from pleadings and attachments.
- Now, users will receive an email with a link to download and print the filed-stamped copy upon completion of the Clerk's Office review.

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'Tis the Season to be Stylish



Delaney George
Columnist

Give your loved ones the gift of fashion this holiday with the season's the hottest trends. Designers and brands have released some of the most desired ensembles and clothing all year long, and now is the chance to grab them to give the best holiday gift. Here are some stylish items and brands you might want to stuff the stocking with:

Off-White:

Designer Virgil Abloh never disappoints when it comes to his high demand high fashion line Off-White. The brand has been in the shows during New York Fashion Week, featured in multiple rap songs, and is a social media sensation. Recently Abloh released a line of belts with a similar look to caution tape. Shortly after the belts Off-White, in collaboration with Jordan brand's Air Jordan, released a customized sneaker. Both items are in high demand but definitely worth the price and wait. These items would also make the perfect gift for not only a woman but for your favorite man as well.



Off-White's new caution tape inspired belts.



The Hermès Birken Bag with a few personal touch trimmings: blue Cupid heart, and a gold "M" with fur sides.

Hermès:

This well-known brand is most recently popular for their high-end bags that last a lifetime. Many would agree that among other purses, the Hermès Birken bag is the most durable and holds their value for years. This would be a stylish and sensible gift for any woman. The Birken bag comes in multiple shapes, styles, and sizes, making it the perfect gift for any woman.



New Jordan/Off-White shoe collaboration. The shoes are a custom collection, and this shoe (middle) is white, black, and red.



Model poses next to Rihanna's new foundation from her makeup line Fenty Beauty.

Fenty Beauty:

Musical mega-star Rihanna, recently released her own beauty product line, Fenty Beauty. Most of her products sold out within days upon their release and people have been dying to get their hands on them since. The products are only sold online or at Ulta Beauty, but due to high demand, there were many online retailers who bought the products in

bulk to be resold. Any person who gets their hands on a Fenty product as a Christmas gift, is clearly trying to bring joy into someone's life. Making the impossible possible.

For more information on these great gifts and where to buy email Delaney@yaho.com or dm @Delannii via Instagram.

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

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Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"You are where you are today because you stand on somebody's shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal

responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It's the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give." – Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

When I began my career in public service 25 years ago, I was fortunate to have outstanding mentors and role models, most notably my own parents. Ernest "Dutch" Morial and Sybil Morial were – and my mother continues to be – tireless activists and advocates for civil rights and social justice. I grew up in the movement, and was inspired

by heroes such as Whitney M. Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Height. I first sought elected office in the era of Douglas Wilder, the first Black governor of Virginia, and Carol Mosely Braun, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. The management guru Peter Drucker said "there is no success without a successor," and while I humbly pray that I may represent the success of my mentors and role models, I recognize that all of us are part of a continuum.

We launched Urban League 25 to recognize and encourage the best and brightest leaders under 40 – the next generation of Dr. Mae Jemisons and Colin Powells and Barack Obamas.

When I was appointed President of the National Urban League, I remember well that one of my concerns when I joined was whether we would be able to replace the giants of the movement, the disciples of Whitney M. Young, with people who are not only qualified and committed, but who also recognized the needs and the potential of a rapidly-changing political, technological and social landscape.

We have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. Young people are joining the movement at an unprecedented rate, and several of our affiliate CEOs have risen from the ranks of our Young Professionals.

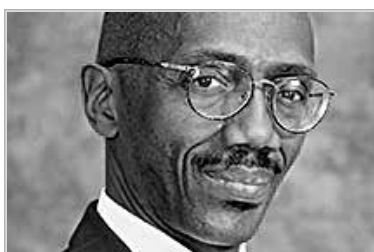
It is these young men and women, and their counterparts in business, science, government and the

arts, that we will to recognize with Urban League 25.

From corporate to government to media and technology, Urban League 25 honorees are those who are unwilling to accept the status quo. They are change agents who have reinvented business models for a new era. They believe unreachable summits do not exist. Their objective is simple yet ambitious: To redefine and power the digital revolution.

In the coming weeks, we will begin soliciting nominations for our first Urban League 25 honorees. It's a project that is close to my heart, and I look forward to celebrating the excellence that fuels not only our movement but our national institutions and culture.

Proposed Tax Reform Plan Will Destroy Black America



Phillip Jackson
Founder and Chairman
Black Star Project

Think about the worst racial policies of America. Chattel slavery. Jim Crow segregation. Apartheid. Share-cropping. Mass incarceration. Ethnic cleansing. Education, housing and economic discrimination. Wealth gaps and health gaps. Now think of a way to re-institute the best elements of all these putrid ideas and you have the 2017-2018 proposed Tax Reform Plan!

The proposed Tax Reform Plan 2017-2018 is actually a re-fighting of the U.S. Civil War that was previously fought between 1861 and 1865. The major issues of that war were the South continuing to hold Black people as slaves and whether slavery would be allowed to spread to new territories.

Today, we have the Civil War 2.0 with many of the same southern states that lost the first Civil War initiating a Tax Reform Plan that would effectively, long term, disenfranchise most Black people in America. This time, the South plans to win! The negative impact of this proposed Tax Reform Plan, as it is being proffered by the Republican-controlled House, Senate and White House, will be that of 100 Hurricane Katrina's on Black communities across America.

This proposed tax plan for Black America is like the frog put in a pot of cold water under a low-burning flame so that it doesn't jump out of the pot, but as the heat is turned up, the frog is slowly cooked. The early years of the proposed Tax Reform Plan would give most Blacks in America some tax relief. The later years of the proposed Tax plan would "cook" Black people in America!

Charles D. Ellison, a Washington correspondent for The Philadelphia Tribune, says, "Not only is Black America the least likely to see a tax cut, but it's the most likely to

see future tax increases, shredded safety nets and a flurry of fines and fees to make up the difference." He continues, "Right now, at this very moment, the single biggest threat to the group of people already in a compromised position because of their race is the Congressional Republicans' tax-reform plan. Not the sound of the police. Not lead in your water and not a jail cell."

How will the proposed Tax Reform Plan impact Black America?

- Greatly reduce Medicaid by \$5.3 trillion over ten years
- Trigger \$400 billion in Medicare cuts over ten years, including \$25 billion in the first year
- Greatly reduce food stamps by 30 percent
- Eliminate the ability to write off student loan interest
- Dramatically reduce college Pell Grants
- Significantly reduce the number of Head Start slots by 200,000
- Cut K-12 Education funding by 30 percent
- Eliminate rental assistance to nearly 1 million households
- Cut job training by 40 percent

- Exacerbate the wealth disparity between white and nonwhite Americans
- Put median Black household wealth on a path to hit zero by 2053
- Create an additional \$1.5 trillion deficit that would force the gutting of social service programs for decades to come

This proposed tax plan is as close to the return of slavery that Black people have been faced with since the first Civil War. Most Black leadership and progressive leadership are asleep on this aspect of the proposed Tax Reform Plan. Many government operatives, foundations, universities and corporate-sector leaders have aligned and seemingly conspired to destroy the progress made by Black people over the past 152 years under the guise of Tax Reform.

The proposed Tax Reform Plan will destroy Black America. At best, this Plan is the reincarnation of trickle-down economics, which never worked. At worst, it is a kind of neo-slavery and works as an ethnic cleansing of Black people in Amer-

ica. Either way, it is something that Black people in America cannot afford.

What must you do?

1. Call and write your Congressional representatives and tell them that you are against the currently proposed Tax Reform Plan.
2. Call and write Congressional representatives from other states and districts, and tell them that you are against the currently proposed Tax Reform Plan.
3. Share this information with everyone you know, ask them to share this information, and ask them to call and write Congressional representatives.
4. Comment on blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In and other digital media about this plan.
5. Send contributions/investments to organizations working to fight this proposed Tax Reform Plan.
6. Vote your interest in every election and encourage everyone you know to do the same.

Phillip Jackson is Founder and Chairman of the Board, The Black Star Project, Chicago IL



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Rep. Conyers Steps Down from House Judiciary Committee

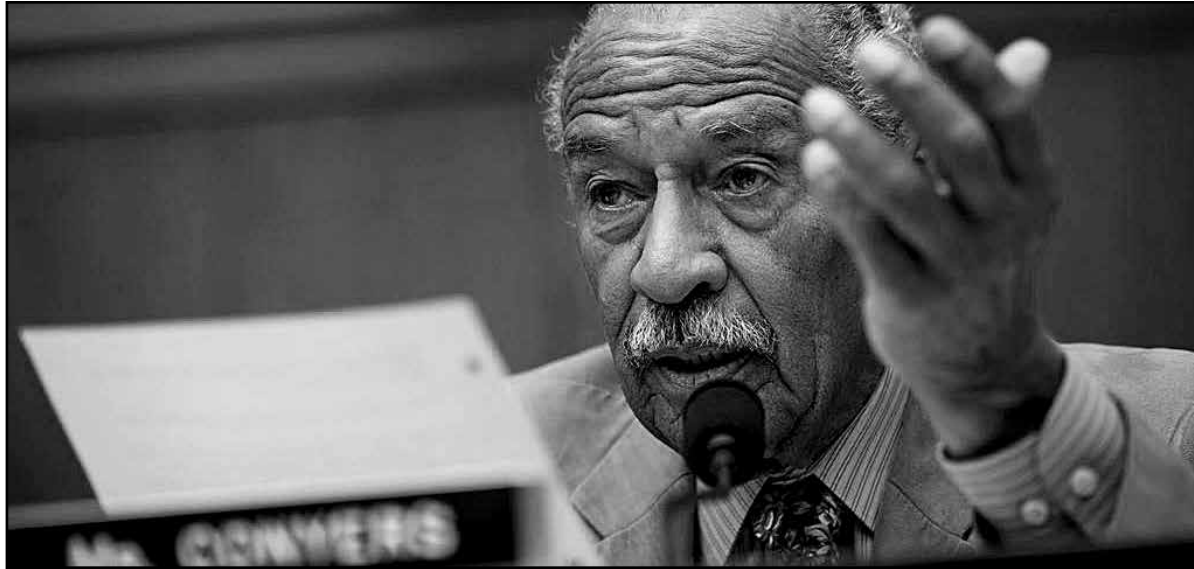
Data Staff Report

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., stepped down as the ranking Democratic member of the House Judiciary Committee on Sunday, following sexual harassment accusations.

The 27-term congressman said he denied the allegations, but was stepping down because of the ongoing House Ethics Committee investigation.

"I deny these allegations, many of which were raised by documents reportedly paid for by a partisan alt-right blogger. I very much look forward to vindicating myself and my family before the House Committee on Ethics," Conyers said in a statement.

"To be clear, I would like very much to remain as Ranking Member," he added. "There is still much work to be done on core concerns like securing civil rights, enacting meaningful criminal justice reform, and protecting



Rep. John Conyers (D- MI) steps down from committee leadership position amid harassment accusations. Conyers has served 27 terms as member of Congress, and the Ranking Democratic member on the House Judiciary Committee.

access to the ballot box."

On Sunday, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said on Meet The Press, "John Conyers is an icon in our country. He has done a great

deal to protect women - Violence Against Women Act, which the left — right-wing — is now quoting me as praising him for his work on that, and he did great work on that,"

she added. "But the fact is, as John reviews his case, which he knows, which I don't, I believe he will do the right thing."

Conyers' office recently con-

firmed issuing a settlement of \$27,000 to a former staffer who says she was fired for resisting the congressman's sexual advances. Conyers has acknowledged the payout, which he said amounted to a severance package, but he denied the allegations about what it was for.

The payout from Conyers' office first became public in a report published by BuzzFeed on Monday, and came after a number of men in powerful positions in politics, entertainment and media have faced public accusations of sexual harassment. The accusations have opened up a national conversation about how women are treated in the workplace by men in positions of power.

Conyers has held the powerful position on Capitol Hill as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee for a decade, but after Pelosi's interview on Sunday, he announced that he would step down from the position while the Ethics Committee investigates.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 5.

\$20,000 and \$40,000 would see an actual 2 percent tax increase by 2023, and "filers with incomes between \$20,000 and \$30,000" would see increases in 2027.

Why does that matter to black folks? Our median income in 2016, according to the U.S. census, was \$39,490—a drop of 4 percent since 2000 while whites, Latinos and Asians saw modest income gains.

3. The Confederacy Strikes Back: Red States Get Paid, Blue States Get Mugged

The funny thing about this tax-reform bill is that it's clearly a bloodless Confederate coup with less-populated red conservative Republican states (formerly in the Confederacy) engaging in a clever 150-years-later payback by drying up blue liberal Democratic states

(formerly in the Union).

Political scientists Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson put this on blast in their recent New York Times piece, arguing it's a "Republican two-step: redistribute upward, then sideways." The last time this happened, the authors note, was after the Civil War, when Northern Republicans (anti-slavery at the time) imposed punishing tariffs on Southern Democratic states to pay for Union veteran pensions.

Today Republicans—most of whom are from those formerly Confederate, now red states—run the union, which is why it pays to know the history. And the congressional Republicans in charge are proposing the elimination of popular state and local tax deductions, a \$1.3 trillion cost over 10 years that hurts blue states while the benefits

get transferred to the red states.

It's comical because red states already get the most federal dollars, since they're the poorest—and play-it-safe President Barack Obama made sure the Affordable Care Act took care of red Republican states, even while Republicans spit in his face the whole time.

But that's just because red states would rather keep their poor and black population largely disenfranchised so new plantation owners (aka "bosses") can still enjoy their spoils. And these are the states that are, as The Atlantic's Alana Semuels notes, "the stingiest" toward their black populations.

4. Demolishing the Social Safety Net

Black people represent about 13 percent of the population, yet we collectively suffer from a 22 percent poverty rate—almost double the national rate—and the highest among all racial groups. As a result, we rely heavily on crucial social-safety-net programs: Nearly 30 percent of African Americans rely on Medicaid and/or food stamps, while 63 percent of black college students rely on Pell Grants, and 30 percent of all Head Start children and 46 percent of all rental-assistance recipients are black.

If the tax-code overhaul becomes law, the deficit spikes to \$1.5 trillion or more in 10 years and naturally forces cuts on every last one of those programs.

Medicaid gets cut by 47 percent. Food stamp cuts will be 30 percent. Pell Grants and student loans would be devastated. K-12 schools funding would be reduced by 30 percent. Head Start would lose nearly 200,000 kids. Job-training cuts would rise to 40 percent, and nearly 1 million households would lose rental assistance.

5. The Price of Everything Else Will Go Up

It won't just end with tax cuts. Republicans will starve the beast so bad that federal agencies will hike fees on us all to squeeze blood from turnips.

That could also mean a huge hit on the black middle class as the federal workforce hemorrhages. But the cost will be passed along to state and local governments, which will lose federal grants; we'll then see more public sector job losses and yet another direct hit on an already fledgling black middle class that relies heavily on once secure public sector jobs.

Then struggling black folks who rely on a vast array of state and lo-

cal public services will really feel the grip tighten as those programs disappear, not to mention the pinch from hiked fees on everything from parking tickets to fines to car registrations to sales and property taxes because governments will need to make up the difference.

"When we evaluate what the tax-reform plan will mean for black households, we also have to take into account the federal budget environment," Camille Busette, director of the Brookings Institution Race, Prosperity and Inclusion Initiative, told The Root. "President Trump's budget calls for cuts in a range of social programs from housing subsidies to programs that help support health and other social supports that are important to low-income and poor Americans. A miserly budget like that, in combination with the tax-reform plan, could mean the loss of some very important services."

You might want to overwhelm Capitol Hill's phone lines, folks. It's about to get rocky.

Charles D. Ellison is Contributing Editor for TheRoot & ExecProd/ Host of 'Reality Check' on WURD Radio (Philadelphia). + Washington Correspondent, The Philadelphia Tribune; Principal, B|E Strategy

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City of New Orleans Announces Opening of Real Time Crime Monitoring Center

Data News Staff Report

Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Mayor-elect LaToya Cantrell, local public safety leaders, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and City officials announced the opening of the Real Time Crime Monitoring Center (517 N. Rampart St.) and provided an update on the \$40 million Citywide Public Safety Improvement Plan. Announced in January, the plan includes several new citywide technology investments including cameras and license plate readers, which will be monitored in the new, state-of-the-art 24/7 crime monitoring center.

"Public safety continues to be our top priority," Mayor Landrieu said. "The best way to continue to fight crime is to improve manpower, crime deterrence and our apprehensions with investments in technology and visibility. Our Real Time Crime Center will help us to make better-informed decisions in real-time during an emergency. Our goal is to not only make New Orleans safe, but to also make New Orleans feel safe."

The over \$5 million Real Time Crime Center will act as a 24/7 command center for citywide cameras, license plate readers, and associated technology that can be leveraged by public safety at the local, state and federal levels. The Center will house video technicians who can provide real-time assistance to law enforcement and supply workspace and analytical tools necessary for law enforcement to quickly review video footage.

The center will also be equipped to provide instant intelligence information to the New Orleans Fire Department, New Orleans EMS, and New Orleans Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP) and their public safety partners. The Center will support the work of incident commanders in the field, providing more information to quickly assess emergency situations and make important decisions about keeping New Orleans safe in real-time.

The City is also expanding its partnership with the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation to allow residents and business to register security cameras on their properties. By voluntarily



Mayor Mitch Landrieu address the audience backed by Mayor-elect LaToya Cantrell and City and public safety leaders at the opening of the Real Time Crime Monitoring Center.



The Real Time Crime Center, located at 517 N. Rampart Street, will act as a 24/7 command center for citywide technology that can be used by public safety at the local, state and federal levels.

registering their contact information with NOPD through this site, detectives will know how to reach someone if a crime occurs in the vicinity of their property. Residents and businesses will also have the option to directly connect their exterior, public-facing cameras to the Real Time Crime Center. This partnership with the community will allow public safety officials to expand their reach so they can solve crimes faster. The public is encouraged to visit SafeCamNOLA.com to participate in this opportunity.

New Orleans Police Department Superintendent Chief Michael Harrison said, "The new Real Time Crime Center represents a great opportunity for our department and for the city to engage a range of new tools and technologies in the effort to keep people safe, and to bring criminals to justice. So much of our citywide security plan—including the crime cameras in hot spots and the license plate readers throughout the city—feeds into this central, coordinated effort. This is another step in making the people of New Orleans safer."

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