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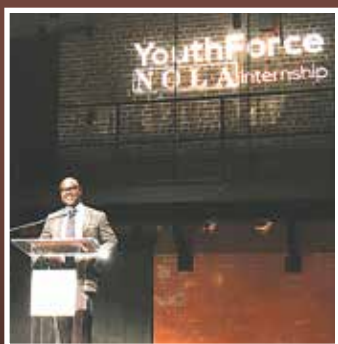
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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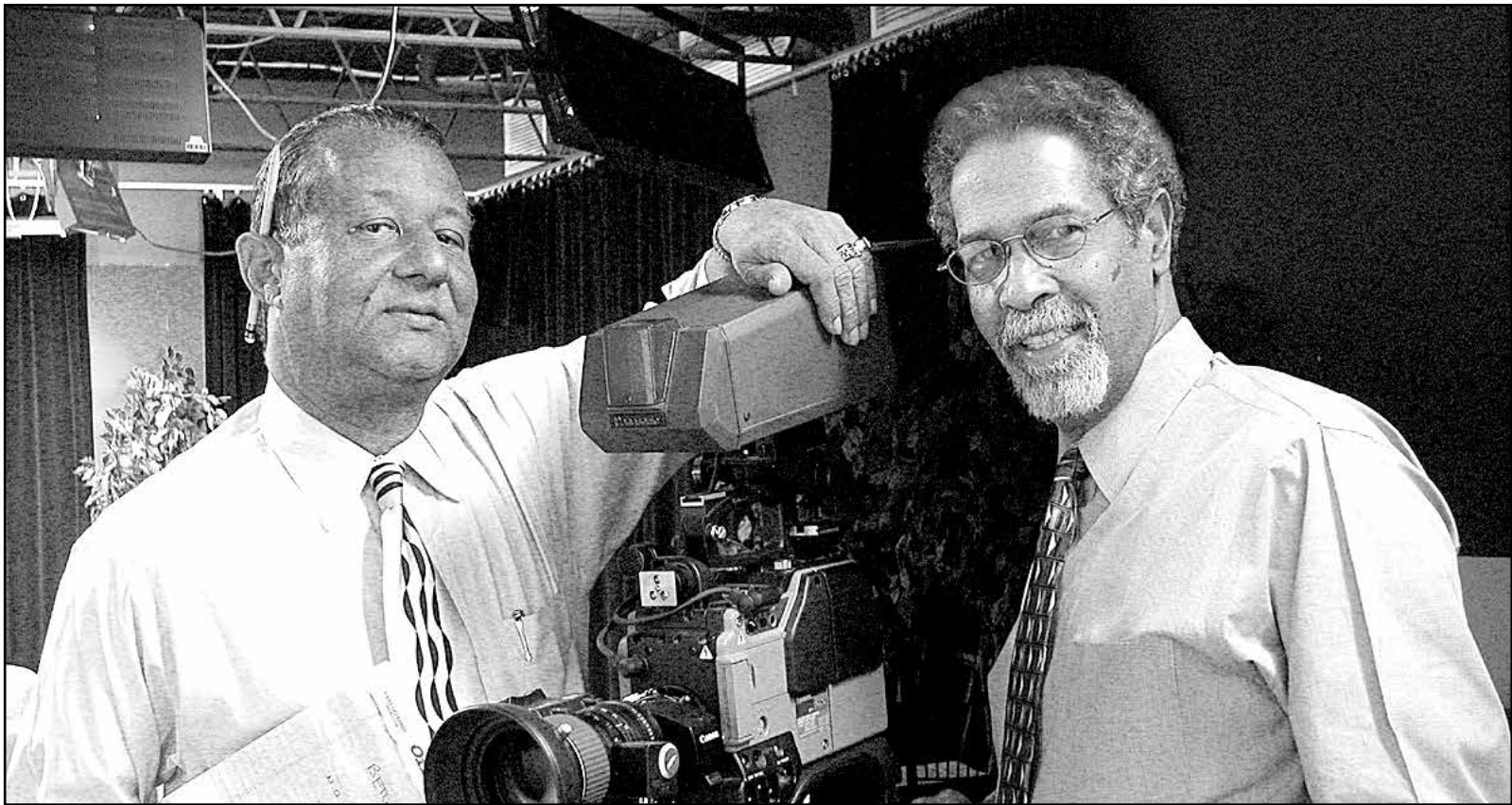
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# A Love Supreme

## The Life and Legacy of Paul Beaulieu

*Samantha and Lyndsey Beaulieu Reflect on the Life of Their Father Paul Beaulieu*



Between the Lines was a popular show hosted by Paul Beaulieu and Lloyd Dennis.

By Edwin Buggage  
Data News Weekly Editor

### A Life Dedicated to Serving Others

On July 24 the city loss a great New Orleanian and selfless servant and humanitarian who dedicated his life to helping others. Paul Beaulieu, who was a trail-blazer using his positions as a broadcaster and educa-

tor passed away at the age of 75. For those who crossed paths with this native of New Orleans, hailing from the 7th Ward experienced a man who represented the best of what the City has to offer pouring from his cup into others and inspiring them to greatness. After graduating from Xavier University in 1965 he worked tirelessly as an English Teacher at his alma mater St. Augustine where he led the alumni association before founding the Cornerstone Club,

where graduates over the years would maintain their ties to the purple and gold contributing resources to continue its mission teaching young men; and giving them the tools to become leaders in many fields of endeavor not just in New Orleans but across the nation. Paul Beaulieu was also one of the pioneers in the field of journalism, breaking barriers and giving African-Americans a larger voice in media. Writing an opinion column for one of the daily newspapers, "The

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Daughter Lyndsey Beaulieu, Cynthia Beaulieu, daughter Samantha Beaulieu and Paul as Paul and Cynthia celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Paul and his radio co-host John Slade after his last interview with Mayor LaToya Cantrell on Friday, July 20th.



Pictured from left to right are: Erica Durosseau - Emcee, Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly, Paul Beaulieu, Data's Trailblazer for the Month of February 2013, and Glenn Jones - Emcee.

States-Item." In addition, he started his own newspaper, "The Spectator News Journal" he also was the host a Public Affairs Program called "Dimensions." Later in his career he would serve as the co-host of the popular TV Program "Between the Lines" with fellow St. Aug alum and

community advocate Lloyd Dennis. Then he lent his voice to WBOK AM-1230 where he would have a top-rated show and later serve as the Station's General Manager before retiring in 2015 with one of his last interviews being the present New Orleans Mayor LaToya

Cantrell.

Survivors include his wife of over five decades Cynthia King Beaulieu; two daughters Samantha Beaulieu and Lyndsey Beaulieu. Two brothers Lovell and Marvin Beaulieu, both of New Orleans; and two sisters, Victoria Beaulieu Saul-

ny and Karen Beaulieu Major, both of New Orleans.

His life is one that was filled with the spirit of giving. Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Beaulieu's daughters, Samantha, an actress, writer and director that's worked in television and film and Lyndsey, who is a writer for television who currently resides in Los Angeles.

### Fighting the Righteous Fight and Giving Voice to the Voiceless

Over five decades Beaulieu was on the frontlines fighting the righteous fight leading the way giving voice to those who did not have a voice. Inspiring a community with his courage, compassion and commitment to helping those aspire to reach higher. Because of a life lived as one who was blessed, so he became a blessing to others; the outpouring of love, admiration and respect was on full display as the community was informed of the passing of an icon.

"We are very proud of our dad. We knew he was great, but we did not know the extent that he was doing this for other people. We are hearing stories about what he did for other people. He was a person who did not talk about all he was doing because he did not do it for recognition that was just who he was, and he was very humble about it," says daughter Samantha Beaulieu of his selfless spirit.

Adding to her sister's comments Lyndsey says, "He gave a lot more to people than us, it is surprising and overwhelming of his influence and how he touched so many lives and not in a small way, and if he would have seen the turnout at his service and heard all the wonderful things people were saying about him it would have warmed his heart knowing that all his work was not in vain."

### A Gentleman for all Seasons

In his public life many knew Paul Beaulieu as an unfiltered abashedly frank voice for fairness, empowerment and equality. But his private self was 180-degree difference according to his daughters. "As blunt as he could be, and, in your face, he could be as equally sensitive. He watched the movie Casablanca a lot, he loved romance and old black and white movies. He was a romantic and he was very sensitive. Our dad had an great appreciation for art and literature. He was a published poet and he'd written a lot of romantic poetry. His handle on Twitter Casablanca Beau, A Gentleman for all Seasons. That's how he described himself," says Samantha

with a laugh as she and Lyndsey reminisce about their father.

### Art from the Heart: Carrying on the Tradition

Paul Beaulieu was a renaissance man who passed on his love of the arts to both of his daughters. Samantha, who is an actress, writer and director who's worked in theatre, television and film and Lyndsey, who is presently a writer for television. Speaking of his impact on their chosen career paths Lyndsey says, "He was so literary and that's the reason I write. From very little I used to write poetry going back to the 6th grade. I remember he had an anthology of poetry. I discovered poetry through him. We talked about it all the time. My dad was a great influence on me in so many ways. Presently, I write for television but that was not originally the plan. I was going to go to Law School and that decision was heavily influenced by his life in politics, but once I got focused on writing for entertainment I decided this was a better fit for me, but that is still a part of him."

Samantha adds speaking of her father's impact, "In acting the big influence he had is when he was doing the show "Dimensions" it was at WVUE-FOX 8 and was a news, journalism and public affairs show. I vividly remember him interviewing Chaka Khan and Harry Connick Jr. when he was a 13-year-old boy playing the piano. I would sit and watch my dad with the all the lights and it was exciting to watch him engage with those people. It was very electrifying, and I was drawn to it. I think that's where I get the love and desire to connect with people through acting."

### Each One Teach One

Beaulieu's life was dedicated to uplifting his fellow humans, whether it was in the classroom or through his work in media. "I think his life represented each one teach one each one, lift one bring one. I was also told by him if I become a millionaire it was our duty to reach back and make another. He really believed that. He was always looking back bringing people up. Making phone calls, whether it is to get someone's kid back in school at St. Aug, helping somebody get on the right track or helping them find a job that would change the course of their lives. He always saw a great responsibility for helping others," says Samantha.

### Representing the Best of New Orleans

New Orleans is a place filled with a spirit of can do in the face of in-

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.





Paul Beaulieu when he worked at the New Orleans Urban League in the early 1970's.

#### Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

surmountable odds. Paul Beaulieu was the embodiment of this spirit throughout his life. "His life represented the best of New Orleans, he loved New Orleans and when I

worked on Treme', my dad always said New Orleans will come back because of the people's perseverance of never giving up in all aspects," says Lyndsey.

Continuing she says, "He left a legacy in everything he did whether



it was the TV Show, the newspaper in education, in politics. He was an innovator and ahead of his time. I think to when he wrote a column for the States-Item as the first Black. One of the reports he shared with me was on the happenings at City Hall, but he wrote it from the perspective of the janitor. He was one who always thought of all people and felt their voices should be heard."

Samantha then chimes in proudly saying, "My dad was larger than life. His heart was bigger than big this is what I think of when I think of my dad, Paul Beaulieu. Recently, I was talking to one of his good friends and he said you don't just meet Paul you experience him. I couldn't agree more. His caring



Paul and Cynthia Beaulieu

spirit and the love he exuded for all people it was an experience like that with everyone he encountered from City Hall, to his journalism days." Continuing she says her voice slightly trembling as if she was fighting back tears of joy then she laughs, "I remember not long before he drove me under the Claiborne Overpass near Esplanade a few months ago to show me a homeless man that could sing. He heard him at a light and found him and gave him 20 dollars and made him sing for me. The guy's face lit



Paul on the air on WBOK 1230 am

up as he is having a conversation with my daddy. This was just someone he saw leaving from Lil Dizzy's and saw the gift he had and wanted to encourage him and show me that greatness can be found every and anywhere. This is what my dad saw in everybody and that was his life's mission and purpose. He was a real humanitarian who loved his people and his city, and his legacy will live on in us and all the people's lives he touched.



Paul Beaulieu was honored by the New Orleans City Council on his retirement from WBOK Radio



Paul Beaulieu (c) Last show on WBOK surrounded by many who have been affected by his impact in the community. L-R John Slade, Timolynn Sams, Lambert Boissiere, Oliver Thomas, Ro Brown and Wendell Pierce



# Students Celebrate Completion of YouthForce NOLA Summer Internships

*Real Work Experience Primes High Schoolers for Career Success*

## Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

Nearly 200 New Orleans public high school students celebrated the completion of their participation in the 2018 Summer YouthForce NOLA Internship program (YFI) at a ceremony Tuesday evening.

"We are so proud of the students who completed internships this summer, and we're grateful to the employers and sponsors who helped make it possible," said Cate Swinburn, the president of YouthForce NOLA. "The students are entering their senior year of high school with professional work experience and soft skills that many people do not acquire until they join the workforce full time. This real-world experience places them a step ahead and positions them to achieve even greater success after high school."

A capstone of the YouthForce NOLA student experience, YFI is a comprehensive, 150-hour program that trains rising seniors from open enrollment Orleans Parish schools in essential soft skills, business etiquette, financial and digital literacies, and workplace rights and responsibilities, and then places them in a 90 hour work-based internship.

"The YouthForce Internship program is and will continue to be a major resource for addressing racial and economic disparity in this city," said New Orleans City Council President Jason Williams, an avid champion for YFI who provided the evening's keynote address. "Our future depends on opportunity for young people, and this initiative doing just that."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. also spoke at the ceremony, telling students "I am so proud to see so many young people who represent Orleans Public Schools so well...I look forward to May 2019 when each of you walks across the stage and I can shake your hand on a job well done."

In addition to valuable soft skills and work experience, each YouthForce intern receives a stipend made possible by the City of New Orleans, which has committed \$1.1 million to place 925 students into



paid internships through 2020.

"Employment is crucial for everyone, and it starts as early as your teens," said Emily Wolff, Director of the City's newly-created Office of Children and Families. "Mayor Cantrell firmly believes that career education and technical skill building are important for all of our young people. We are so grateful for the work that YouthForce NOLA does to make this a reality."

This summer, the student interns were hosted by 88 local businesses in our region's high-wage, high-demand career pathways: Digital Media/IT, Health Sciences, and Skilled Crafts.

"Supporting students from diverse backgrounds and offering them real work experience, helping them achieve their full potential, benefits both employers and students", said CIO GE New Orleans, Kevin Dawson. "Helping develop the talent pipeline in New Orleans is critical, and we are proud to partner with YouthForce NOLA, ensuring their students are workforce ready."

YouthForce NOLA is on pace to meet its goal of having 10% of the class of 2020 complete internships. The program was founded in 2015, and has grown from 17 completers in the inaugural summer to nearly 200 in this fourth summer.

Internships are but one strategy YouthForce NOLA is deploying to meet its goal of preparing New Orleans public school students

for the tens of thousands of high-wage, high-demand jobs that will come available in the greater New Orleans region in the next ten years. The nonprofit also offers expanded coursework offerings,

soft skills training, and employer-validated credentials.

The following Funding Partners made the Summer 2018 YouthForce Internships possible: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Chevron Gulf

of Mexico, City of New Orleans, JP Morgan Chase & Co., and United Way of Southeast Louisiana. In kind donations were provided by Acrew, Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, and Palace Cafe.



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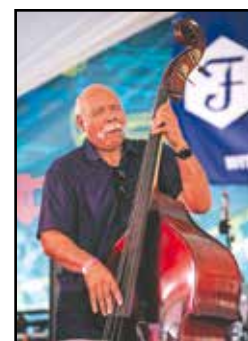
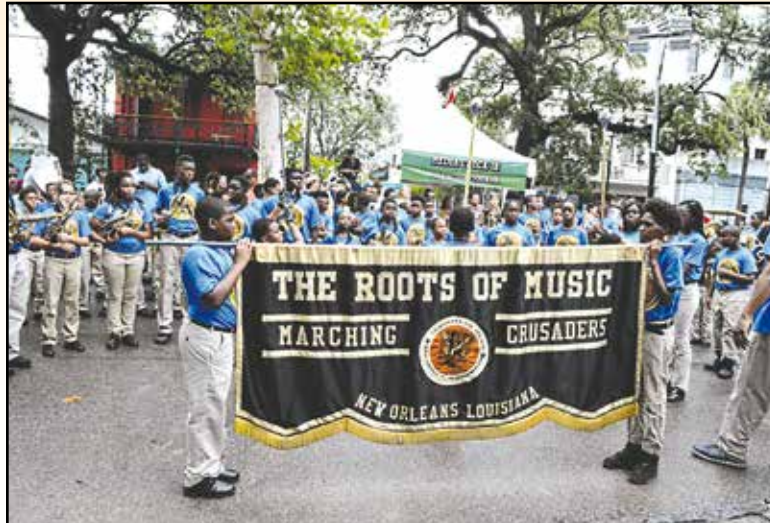
# 2018 Satchmo SummerFest Was Better than Ever

*Photos by Kichea S. Burt & Ellen Rosenberg*

## Data News Weekly Contributors

Last weekend, the Vieux Carre' played host to the 18th Annual Satchmo SummerFest, offering the best in food and music New Orleans has to offer. This unique festival pays homage to the life, legacy and music of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong one of the City's greatest ambassadors.

With musical artists like Irma Thomas, The Nayo Jones Experience, Bonerama, Doyle Cooper Jazz Band, James Williams and Aurora Nealand. The fest had something for everyone, with two stages of great music throughout the three-day event. In addition to those making their debut, returning festival favorites took the stage. The lineup includes legendary Artists Big Chief Donald Harrison, Bill Summers and Jazalsa, Preservation Brass Band, Charmaine Neville, Ellis Marsalis, Corey Henry's Treme' Funktet and many others rounded out an entertainment packed weekend. Anytime there is great music, great food, and great festival attendees, Data will be there.



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



# Kurte Pellerin Turns 60

**June Hazeur**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

On Sunday, August 5, 2018, Kurte Pellerin celebrated his 60th Birthday at his Restaurant and Bar in the Wyndham Hotel in New Orleans East to a standing room only crowd. Lisa Amos and Val performed for the occasion. There was good entertainment and good food and Data News Weekly was there!!!



Kurte pictured here with his two sons, friends and his brother. (Left to right) Avada Trosclair, Bailey Chapman, Kurte Pellerin, Latoya Berry, Blake Woods, and Jerome Pellerin



Kurte Pellerin and Bertha Bradley from Bertha's Lounge.



Lisa Amos singing to a customer at the party.

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

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# Amazon Prime and Prejudice

*It's Time for Closer Scrutiny of the Online Retailer's Practice Of Selling Hate*



**Barbara Arnwine**  
Founder/President, Transformative Justice Coalition

Amazon claims to be a company that values inclusion and diversity, but a recent report reveals that this façade masks a darker side, as the company profits from selling White supremacist and other hateful products. Progressive lawmakers

in Georgia, where earlier this year conservative lawmakers punished Delta for cutting ties with the N.R.A., should take a stand of their own by punishing Amazon for promoting hatred and bigotry.

The report, jointly published by the Partnership for Working Families and Action Center on Race & the Economy, details the startlingly vast array of White supremacist products and goods available on the Amazon marketplace. This includes everything from costumes featuring lynching imagery to burning-cross onesies and Nazi swastika pendants. It begs the question: is Amazon failing miserably to police

its platform or is the tech giant willfully overlooking the sale of bigoted products?

Georgia communities in particular should be aware of the hate-mongering taking place on the Amazon marketplace. One of the prominent products cited in the report and still available for purchase on Amazon is an "old" Georgia state flag featuring Confederate imagery alongside the state of Georgia seal. Just a half-century removed from the struggle for equality, this is an affront on the hard-fought battles of Georgia civil rights leaders like Representative John Lewis.

But the marketplace is not the

only Amazon platform that has seen White supremacist offerings. Amazon Kindle, which controls nearly 83 percent of the online book market, was found to offer 226 books from publishers that the Southern Poverty Law Center identified as hate organizations. With such a dominant market share, Amazon is failing its responsibility to keep our communities safe from this type of bigotry and hate speech.

This is not the first time that Amazon has been found profiting from these appalling business practices. Earlier this year, the company was caught selling apparel and other items emblazoned with the phrase

"Slavery Gets Sh\*t Done," which included children's T-shirts and bibs. Only after human rights organizations such as Anti-Slavery International condemned the company did Amazon pull them from their online shelves.

Meanwhile, the tech giant's German marketplace was revealed to be offering modified Lego-style Nazi German soldiers for purchase. The toys were reportedly being marketed to children as young as seven years old, sparking an online petition and groundswell of opposition protesting their sale.

**Commentary, Continued on page 9.**

# Enough with the Racism in the Rooftop Solar Industry



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

Recently, news came out that the electronics retailer Best Buy decided to reconsider their partnership with a company called Vivint. The partnership allowed Vivint employees to work inside Best Buy stores and to sell Best Buy customers products capable of reducing their home's energy usage.

The potential decision by Best Buy is apparently just business, but it is a welcome piece of news, because Vivint seemingly has a problem with African Americans.

Vivint isn't alone when it comes to struggling with race. There has always been bigotry in this country. In 2018, thanks to the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, who risked their lives fighting for equality and justice, things are much improved. But these days, some racists in this country are feeling encouraged to express their ugly views in public or discriminate against people of color.

Recently, Vivint Solar—one of the largest sellers of solar panels in this country—was sued in California by a Black employee who alleges that his superiors likened him to a monkey; used a racial epithet against him; and that his coworkers used cardboard boxes to build a fort around their desks that was marked as "White only." The complainant's lawyer provided pictures of this absurd and abhorrent cardboard façade to the media and The Sacramento Bee published the photo.

David Bywater, the top executive at Vivint Solar, told the media that he was "deeply disturbed" by these allegations.

"I want to firmly state that Vivint Solar has a zero-tolerance policy for racial discrimination and harassment in the workplace," Bywater said. "Our company is built on the strength of diversity."

This is precisely what a CEO is supposed to say, but a person of conscience would back their words up with action.

A deeper dive into Vivint's practices makes me question Bywater's sincerity.

In March, Hector Balderas, the Attorney General of New Mexico filed a lawsuit against Vivint Solar, accusing them of fraud, racketeering, and unfair business practices.

Balderas says the company, which sells rooftop solar panels employed "high-pressure sales techniques and procedures designed to mislead consumers" and lock their customers into contracts lasting 20 years, with rates that increase "by over 72 percent," as the agreement matures.

Also, according to the Balderas' office: "The complaint also charges Vivint with filing improper notices in consumer real estate records that operate to cloud titles, in some cases, making it difficult for New Mexico consumers to sell their homes." There is also some evidence that consumers of color and low-income consumers are targeted for these pressure tactics.

Vivint Solar is connected to Vivint Home Security, a company that also has had its run-ins with the law. Last year, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxson reached a settlement with the company for allegations the company violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

This, combined with the action by the New Mexico Attorney General, paints a picture of a company that is not treating customers fairly.

I've been interested in the solar industry, because it is an

expanding industry that increasingly provides new opportunities. However, there also seems to be additional opportunities to exploit consumers, especially minority consumers. I've written about my concerns about the ways the industry targets less sophisticated consumers, echoing concerns raised by several members of Congress in a letter to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in early 2017. In response to my concerns, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) used a consultant to harass me and my staff. I received and accepted an apology from the CEO of SEIA. I hoped they were sincere in their stated concerns about consumer protection and also about diversity in their industry.

But Vivint Solar, with its "White only" fort, is a member of SEIA. The allegations of racial discrimination and harassment involving Vivint Solar seem inconsistent with SEIA's stated values. What must they do? I have some ideas:

First, SEIA should ask Vivint Solar to leave their trade association. If SEIA wants to represent rooftop solar makers that respect consumers and employees, then Vivint Solar needs to go. If SEIA doesn't take action against Vivint Solar, there is no accountability,

which only further erodes trust with minority communities.

Further, SEIA should back up their statement, that CEO Abby Hopper has established diversity of solar's workforce and customer base as among her top three priorities. SEIA should also work to increase awareness about their "Diversity Best Practices Guide" by funding and hosting consumer education seminars around the country to better inform consumers, especially minority consumers, about their rights when it comes to the rooftop solar industry.

I have always been excited about the ways solar energy can reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, as a power source. But the solar energy movement is crippled when companies like Vivint Solar both take advantage of customers and discriminate against minorities.

It's not enough to have a "Diversity Best Practices Guide." SEIA needs to let best practices be their guide in their dealings with Vivint Solar. Silence is complicity. It is time for good people to stand up against racism. Best Buy, SEIA: What say you? Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at Amazon.com and at [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com). Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.



# Howard University President Talks about Living with Sickle Cell Disease

By Lauren Poteat  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

It has been over 100 years since sickle cell disease (SCD), a hereditary blood disorder, was first discovered in the United States.

However, despite the many years of research and study, SCD still affects millions of people throughout the world, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and is particularly common among those with African ancestry, including individuals living within the United States, South America, Saudi Arabia, Italy, India and the Caribbean.

Every year, 1 in 365 Black babies are born with SCD and 1 in 13 are born with sickle cell trait (SCT). In comparison, SCD occurs in roughly 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births.

Trinidadian-born, U.S. physician and Howard University President, Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, who lives with SCD, recalled his own painful experiences with the disease and the inability of many loved ones and the community to properly embrace him.

"When I was three years old, I was diagnosed with sickle cell disease and would often find myself being hospitalized three to six times a year, because of the disorder," Dr. Frederick recounted. "In Trinidad, the life expectancy for someone with the disease is just eight years old. Growing up, I can't really recall ever meeting



Howard University President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick says that sickle cell disease is not a death sentence. People living with SCD can still play sports, go to school, have careers and live productive lives. (Howard University)

anyone with the same disease and so, oftentimes I would find myself feeling alone and left out...sometimes, I find that people don't fully understand the scheme of struggles that I go through myself."

For people living with SCD, those struggles come with a myriad of symptoms, including swelling in

the hands and feet; chronic pain; spikes of severe pain; anemia; yellowing of the eyes; frequent infections and vision problems.

Even though the crippling disease has proven to be fatal for many, Dr. Frederick said that he refuses to give in to the statistics of the disorder and chooses life over mortality.

"Sickle cell is a painful disease," Dr. Frederick said. "But people need to know that it is not a [death] sentence. Having the disease does not mean a person cannot live. I want people to know that there are no limits... that they can still play sports, go to school, have careers and live productive lives."

Despite his own personal struggles with SCD, Dr. Frederick said that things started to look up for him when he moved to the United States to go to college, earning his Bachelor of Science and his medical degree by the age of 22.

"Attending Howard University, as a student, gave me a huge boost," Dr. Frederick said. "At [Howard] I was able to meet people my age with the same disease, who understood a lot of my struggles."

Not surprised by Dr. Frederick's positive experiences on Howard's campus, Dr. James G. Taylor VI, the director of the Center for Sickle Cell Disease at Howard University Hospital, credited the institutions longstanding commitment to improving the lives of people living with SCD.

"The Center for Sickle Cell Disease is committed to further expanding Howard University's clinical and translational research programs with a focus on new treatments and opportunities for curative therapy," Dr. Taylor said. "We have a longstanding commitment to research advocacy and community outreach, particularly screening for the sickle cell trait."

The Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease offers free screenings in the lobby of Howard University Hospital on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Results are available within 4-6 weeks and testing, specifically "hemoglobin electrophoresis," can also be ordered by a health care provider.

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

## Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Since Amazon clearly has a long and alarming history of allowing hatred on its platforms, it is time that Georgia lawmakers take swift action to protect communities of color and other minorities. Beyond denouncing this clear violation of ethical conduct, lawmakers should consider whether it is time to introduce regulations that force Amazon to reject profiting from the sale of products that promote hate.

Civil rights leaders have bravely

fought for decades to keep burning crosses and other symbols of bigotry off the lawns of Georgia communities. Now they must prevent Amazon from allowing them to be delivered to the front door.

Civil rights leader Barbara Arnwine is the founder and president of the Transformative Justice Coalition and a lecturer at Columbia Law School. She served as the executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law from 1989 until 2015. Follow Barbara on Twitter @barbs73.

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# Gov. Edwards to Meet with President Regarding Criminal Justice Reform

On Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018, Gov. John Bel Edwards will travel to Bedminster, New Jersey to meet with President Donald J. Trump regarding Louisiana's bipartisan criminal justice reform efforts. Gov. Edwards accepted the President's invitation to discuss how Louisiana implemented these reforms with the goals of lowering recidivism and improving public safety.

"For too long, Louisiana held the title as the state with the highest incarceration rate," said Gov. Edwards. "Today, that is no longer who we are. Following the lead of other Southern, conservative states, we came together with legislators from both parties, the business and religious community, and advocates to enact sweeping reforms in our state. The simple fact of the matter is that what we were doing just wasn't working. We were locking more people up in Louisiana than anywhere else in the country, and our communities weren't any safer for it. Our reforms are lowering the incarceration rate, improving public



safety, and reducing the recidivism rate. It's still early, but I'm looking forward to discussing how we made it happen with the President and others as we seek to tackle this problem on a national scale."

In June, Gov. Edwards released the first performance report of the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). The report is available here. In that report, Gov. Edwards announced that Louisiana no longer had the nation's highest imprisonment rate.

The Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) goals include the following:

- Focus prison beds on serious threats to public safety
- Strengthen community supervision
- Clear away barriers to successful re-entry
- Reinvest savings into recidivism reduction and crime victim support

Gov. Edwards will travel to New Jersey on Thursday morning and return to Louisiana on Thursday evening.

## City of New Orleans to Award \$10 Million in Affordable Housing Funds

On Monday, Mayor Cantrell announced the release of \$10 million dollars in funds to go toward affordable housing in New Orleans.

The City released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the awarding of approximately \$10,000,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF) funds for the development of affordable housing in the City of New Orleans. The maximum award for any project under this NOFA is \$1,500,000 and no more than \$150,000 per assisted unit. Eligible projects may involve the acquisition, rehabilitation and/or new construction of rental housing units to low income households. Priority will be given to the following projects:

Projects that target and provide supportive services to special needs households such as the homeless, veterans, disabled, formerly incarcerated and/or persons living with HIV/AIDS;

Preservation projects with public funding that are nearing or at the end of their affordability period;

Projects that are able to leverage City funding with other resources; and

Projects that are ready to proceed as evidenced by firm commitments, zoning approval, executed agreements and/or permits.

Release Date: Application packets are available in Microsoft Word

and Excel format, from the Office of Housing Policy and Community Development. A Registry of Community Organizations application packet will also be available to ensure all applicants applying for funding meet minimum eligibility requirements to receive federal and state funds through OCD. Contact the Office of Community Development at (504) 658-4200 to have the Registry and NOFA e-mailed to your organization. You may also download the application from our website at <https://www.nola.gov/community-development/>

Due Date: An original completed NOFA application plus three (3) copies, one (1) original Registry application and an electronic copy placed on a flash drive must be submitted to:

The Office of Housing Policy and Community Development (OCD) located at 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, by Monday, September 24, 2018 no later than 4:00 PM CDT.





# Black Pastors Praise Trump, Talk Prison Reform at White House Meeting

By Lauren Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

President Donald Trump recently met with a group of Black and Latino pastors about prison reform issues. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been meeting with journalists in off-the-record briefings on the issue of prison reform and is working with Congress to build support for the "Formerly Incarcerated Reenter Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Every Person Act" (FIRST STEP Act).

Jared Kushner's father, Charles Kushner, served time in federal prison in Alabama; Jared has taken a special interest in prison reform and pushed to pass the "FIRST STEP Act." The bill has passed the House and awaits consideration in the Senate.

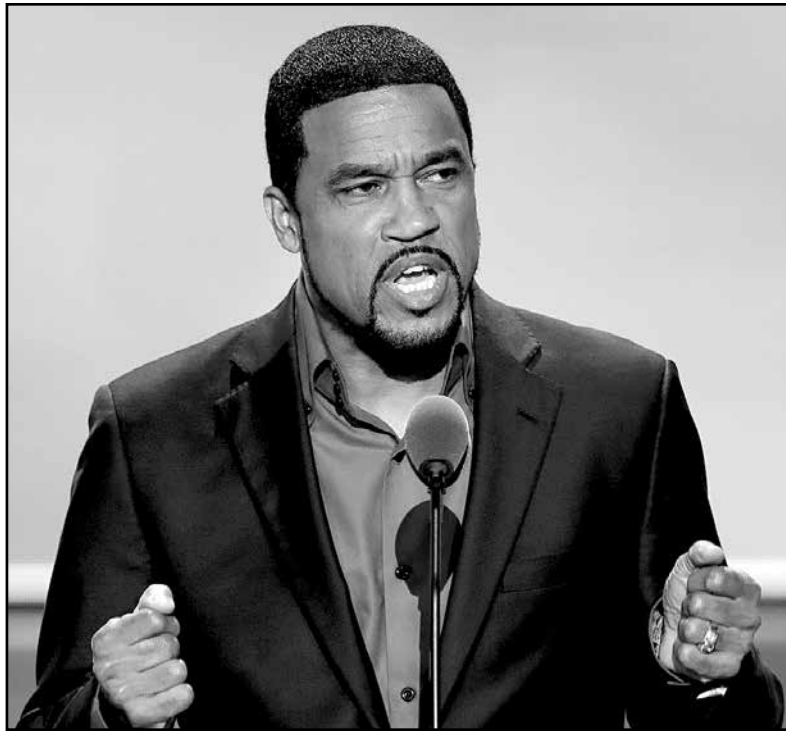
During the on-camera portion of the meeting, none of the pastors asked any substantive questions; some of them heaped praise on President Trump.

Dr. Van Moody of The Worship Center in Birmingham, Ala., thanked President Trump "for being compassionate and caring about all people."

Dr. Moody praised the president's compassion, despite the recent revelation that officials with the Department of Health and Human Services warned the Trump administration that separating families would be dangerous for children, The New York Times reported.

"Trump dropped the policy more than a month ago under fire from Democrats and Republicans alike," according to The New York Times. "But of more than 2,500 children who were initially separated from parents and guardians, hundreds remain in federal custody including more than 400 whose parents left the U.S. without them."

Senior Pastor John Gray of Relentless Church in Greenville, S.C., prayed over the meeting.



Pastor Darrell Scott said that President Trump was the "most pro-Black president...in our lifetime," during a recent White House meeting. In this photo, Scott speaks on the third-day of the 2016 Republican National Convention. (Wikimedia Commons)

"Dr. King said we cannot influence a table that we are not seated at," Gray prayed. "And so we pray that this conversation will be fruitful, and productive, and honoring of the best traditions of this nation."

The group of pastors included: Senior Pastor Dale Bronner of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Atlanta, Ga.; Senior Pastor "Choco" Wilfredo De Jesus of New Life Covenant in Chicago, Ill.; Pastor Michael E. Freeman of Spirit of Faith Christian Center in Prince George's County, Md.; Dr. Phillip Goudeaux of the Calvary Christian Center in Sacramento, Fla.; Senior Pastor John Gray of Relentless Church in Greenville, S.C.; Travis Hayes, the CFO of Our Relentless Church in Greenville, S.C.; Bishop Darrell Lynn Hines of Christian Faith Fellowship Church of God in Christ in Milwaukee, Wisc.; Senior Pastor Harry Jackson of Hope Christian Church in Beltsville, Md.; Dr. Alveda King of Alveda King Ministries in Atlanta, Ga.; Pastor Julian

Desmond Lowe of Oasis Church in Los Angeles, Calif.; and Dr. Van Moody of The Worship Center in Birmingham, Ala.

President Willie G. Owens of the Coalition of African American Pastors, Senior Pastor Benny Perez of Church LV in Las Vegas, Nev.; Pastor Jon Ponders of Las Vegas, Nev.; Pastor Darrell Scott of the New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Bishop Kyle Searcy of Fresh Anointing House of Worship in Montgomery, Ala.; Senior Pastor Paula White-Cain of the New Destiny Christian Center, Apopka, Fla.; and Marvin Winans Jr. from Detroit, Mich., also attended.

Trump asked the pastors to each speak on the issue and share their thoughts. Many of the pastors, who of course were hand-picked by the White House, offered compliments on Trump's leadership and his commitment to faith-based initiatives and the recent efforts on prison reform.

Dr. Goudeaux asked President

Trump not to "give up on California," a line that made everyone laugh, while Travis Hayes, the CFO of Our Relentless Church said, "I'm honored to be here among—in the presence of greatness."

Pastor Darrell Scott said that Trump was going to be the, "most pro-Black president that we've had in our lifetime."

"This president actually wants to prove something to our community—our faith-based community and our ethnic community," Scott said. "[President Obama] didn't feel like he had to...he got a pass."

Jared Kushner noted that President Trump asked him to lead efforts to try to reform America's prisons and to see what could be done at the federal government-level.

According to the Sentencing Project, 1 in every 10 Black men his thirties is in prison or jail on any given day. The United States is the world's leader in incarceration.

"We were running into a little problem of politics in Congress," Kushner said, adding that he reached out to the pastors to help get the word out about the need for prison reform and "to let people in Washington know that making progress on this issue was more important than whatever political differences people may have."

The session with the pastors at the White House lasted about an hour.

In addition to President Trump and the pastors, the White House attendees included Chief of Staff John Kelly; Brooke Rollins, assistant to the president on intergovernmental and technology initiatives; Andrew Bremberg, director of the Domestic Policy Council; Ja'Ron Smith, special assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Jennifer Korn, special assistant to the president and deputy director of the Office of Public Liaison.

This article was originally published on [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).

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