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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

## Enthroned and Sitting Pretty



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May 30 - June 5, 2020 55th Year Volume 5 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

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# Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Sigma Lambda Chapter Feeds First Responders & Hospital Staff in New Orleans East During COVID-19



New Orleans Alpha Phi Alpha Brothers deliver appreciation meals to N.O. East Hospital CEO Dr. Takeisha Davis & Hospital Staff.

## New Orleans Alphas Support Over 100 Local Heroes During Pandemic

Data News Staff Edited Report

### Alpha Phi Alpha Giving Thanks to Those on the Frontlines

In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic many have stepped in to help others. This crisis continues to bring out the best people across the City of New Orleans.

The Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. (New Orleans Alphas), announced the success of their COVID-19 Service Project. Thursday,

May 21st, the organization fed first responders and hospital staff in New Orleans who are on the front lines protecting and serving the community in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-Letter Fraternity established for African American Men, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a

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# NEW ORLEANS ALPHAS

## SALUTE FIRST RESPONDERS & HOSPITAL STAFF DURING COVID-19



Alpha Phi Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter Vice President Percy Manson and Bro. Master Woodfork share appreciation lunch to NOPD Officer for NOPD 7th District with NOFD Firefighters nearby.



Alpha Brothers, anchored by Bro. Vance Vaucresson of Vaucresson's Sausage and Bro. Duane Cruse of Elton's Bar-B-Krewe, provide close to 200 meals to first responders and hospital staff in New Orleans East.



New Orleans Alphas with members of New Orleans East Firefighters.

way,” said Brother Jonathan Stewart, Sigma Lambda Chapter President. “I would like to thank our Vice President, Brother Manson, and Gulf Coast Bank for the leadership and resources to make this service event possible.”

“I am extremely grateful for the outpouring of support for our New Orleans East Hospital providers and staff shown by community organizations, like Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, as we continue to battle COVID 19,” said Dr. Takeisha Davis, President and CEO of New Orleans East Hospital.

### Alpha Phi Alpha: Continuing a Great Legacy

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world.

The fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. The Jewel Founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity.

Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters were established at other colleges and universities, many of them Historically Black Institutions, soon after the founding at Cornell. The first alumni chapter was established in 1911. While continuing to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the edu-

cational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans. Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, and many others who have made their mark nationally and internationally

Some local members of Alpha Phi Alpha includes: the late Ernest “Dutch” Morial, the City's First Black Mayor, his son former Mayor and National Urban League President Marc Morial, Federal Judge Ivan Lemelle, Civil District Court Judge Kern Reese, Banker and Civic Leader Charles Teamer, Longtime Xavier University President, Norman C. Francis, Founding Chancellor of SUNO, Emmett W. Bashful, WDSU Medical Editor, Dr. Corey Hebert, Pastor and former N.O. School Board Member, Torin Sanders are among just a few of those who have been or presently are a part of the rich legacy of Alpha Phi Alpha.

New Orleans Alphas have a strong record of service and advocacy in New Orleans. The local Chapter has led a mobilized advocacy around the Unanimous Jury Ballot Measure, removal of Confederate Monuments, voting, and senior citizens. The local Chapter also raises thousands of dollars each year to fund scholarships to high school males headed to college.

They continue their over a century existence of being leaders in the community and serving others.

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Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah

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# Enthroned and Sitting Pretty

*A look at the work of Photographer Deorin Payne*



**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

New Orleans Fashion Photographer Deorin Payne developed an appreciation for photography at a young age. His creative eye and artistic genius ignited in his 20's when he was able to purchase camera equipment allowing him to capture the many wonders of the world as he traveled abroad. That is when his passion evolved into a new-found career. "My passion for fine-art, fashion and editorial work became my focus, and my style and interest found me in many ways," said Payne.

Payne makes it no secret that nothing inspires him more than the distinctive beauty of the African American Woman. This desire stemmed from his deep appreciation and love for the aesthetic of the Black feminine. As noted by the indefatigable and infamous Malcolm X:

"The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black woman."

This opened Payne's eyes to look deeper at the Black female in a different light. One of power, influence and deserving to be placed on a throne as the queen she is. "Therefore, in the spirit of giving and uplifting, it is the most disenfranchised of us that those who wish to do some good should focus on doing so. I strive to create wider and more inspirational narratives that expand and repair the narrative of Black women in this current socio-political landscape of the 'western ideology' when it comes to issues of race, worth and the Black woman." says Payne.

As reflective in Payne's Enthroned Series, his artistic style is to tell a story. He combines his appreciation and style for deep subjects and bright colors with a strong focus on cultural and melanite subjects that expresses feeling; whether pain or inspiration; love or desperation; enthroned or sitting pretty.

To see complete Enthroned Collection visit @enthxned



Love & light



Stopping traffic



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Mint julip



Data Zone, Continued from page 5.



Empowered



Standout in color

Photography by Deorin Payne | @de\_orleans



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# Councilmember Helena Moreno Announces \$22M of Direct Entergy Bill Assistance for New Orleanians Facing Job Loss

## City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS- On (May 21, 2020) Council Utilities Chair Helena Moreno announced she and her colleagues will be directing Entergy New Orleans to provide \$22M of Direct Bill Assistance to residential customers. The City Council Cares (CCC) Program would provide New Orleanians rendered unemployed by the COVID-19 Pandemic eligible to receive a total of \$400 of direct Entergy bill credits, at a maximum of \$100 per month for four months. Even more, all current late fees would be waived in concert with the application of the bill credits.

"The economic consequences of this pandemic have created an unprecedented crisis for our community. That is why I believe we must have an unprecedented response to give a lifeline for our most impacted people," said Utilities Chair Moreno. "The CCC's \$22M in Di-

rect Bill Assistance will cushion the economic damage our community is suffering and comes at no additional cost to ratepayers."

Councilmember Moreno continued, "I will continue to do whatever it takes to deliver help to our people during this time. In addition to advocating for increased assistance from the Federal LIHEAP Program - from which more than \$30m of additional funding arrived in Louisiana last week - I am also proud of the Council's support for suspending Entergy shut-offs through July 1 or longer. These steps are significant, but hardly the end of our efforts to help our community through these difficult times."

The \$22M in the CCC, identified by the Council's Utilities Team, comes from Federal legal settlements and excess disaster preparedness reserves. Entergy New Orleans maintains two storm reserve accounts, one with over



New Orleans City Councilmember-at-Large Helena Moreno.

\$67M and another with \$15.5M. All parties agree that the \$15.5M is not necessary to maintain a sufficient buffer to secure Entergy against further disasters. The balance of the \$22M comes from a FERC legal settlement reached in 2018, the proceeds of which have been held in abeyance.

Eligible individuals would only need to provide proof of unemployment benefits gained consistent with the Federal CARES Act retroactive date of March 29th. Those benefits include salaried workers, and for the first time, "gig" and 1099 workers that are often ineligible for benefits. The CCC is expected to provide \$100 per month for four months as well as automatically waiving any current late fees due on the applicant's account.

The Council expects the CCC to go live in late June, with the first bill credits delivered in time for the July billing cycle.

## Commentary

# Investigate not just Ahmaud's Death, But the System that Let his Killers Escape



Marc Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

## The pattern is nauseatingly familiar.

An unarmed person of color is killed by police or by self-appointed vigilantes. Authorities accept, without question, an explanation of self-defense.

It is only after the disinfecting sunlight of public attention arouses outrage that the wheels of justice begin to turn.

And so it has been for Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Georgia man shot to death while jogging in February.

The 64-year-old former police investigator and his 34-year-old

son who are charged in his death told police he thought Mr. Arbery looked like a man suspected in several break-ins in the area.

No break-ins had been reported in the area for seven weeks before the shooting.

The father and son, Gregory and Travis McMichael, armed themselves and chased Ahmaud in a pickup truck before the younger man fired the fatal shots from his shotgun.

No one was arrested. Shortly afterward, the prosecutor with jurisdiction over the case recused herself, because the elder McMichael had worked in her office. The second prosecutor, whose son worked in the same office also recused himself. But before he did, he made it clear to the police that he accepted the McMichael's claim of self-defense.

By the time the New York Times published its first account of the killing, two months had passed with no arrests. It was only two weeks later, after a video of the armed chase



Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Georgia man shot to death while jogging in February.

emerged that the third prosecutor assigned to the case said he would present it to a grand jury. That same day, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case from local police. Two days later, Ahmaud's attackers were arrested.

Appallingly, the defense attorney who leaked the video said he

thought it would exonerate the attackers because

Ahmaud didn't freeze when the attackers told him to stop.

It boggles the mind that in the year 2020 there are still people in positions of authority who accept, unquestioningly, the notion that a Black man who fails to heed the

orders of a white man on the street deserves instant death.

**It seems clear that without the national attention focused on the case, there would have been no justice for Ahmaud.**

And that, as much as Ahmaud's death itself, is what must be investigated.

This week the Washington Post revealed that the elder McMichael was stripped of his law enforcement certification and power to arrest a year more than a year before the shooting because he repeatedly failed to complete required training. He also was he was stripped of his powers to arrest people in January 2006 because of an undisclosed infraction.

Furthermore, the Glynn County Police Department, which led the investigation before the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case, has a history of corrup-

**Commentary, Continued on page 7.**

# New Orleans being Recognized as Example of Flattening the Curve

Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

**In April New Orleans was known as a place with one of the highest amounts of new cases in the world.**

Today the City is being lauded as an example of flattening the curve. In a recent report on local NBC Affiliate WDSU TV-6, Dr. Joseph Kanter, with the Louisiana Department of Health, said while any number of deaths is too many, there are several positive trends happening in the New Orleans-area that show progress is being made. He also stated in this report, "We were seeing about 100 new cases of COVID-19 admitted to the hospital every day," he added, "That num-



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell is receiving recognition for her leadership during the COVID-19 Crisis and have been chosen as only one of two mayors from the U.S. to serve on the Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force.

ber yesterday was nine." Much of the success in reducing the number of COVID-19 cases according to leaders in the medi-

cal and public health field is being attributed to the leadership of the New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Governor John Bel Edwards, who both have received recognition on both the national and international level. With Governor Edwards going to the White House to meet with President Trump for the positive results in reducing the number of cases in the state. Also, Mayor Cantrell is receiving recognition for her leadership during the COVID-19 Crisis and have been chosen as only one of two mayors from the U.S. to serve on the Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force. Presently, the City and State is in Phase 1 of re-opening with Phase 2 potentially beginning in early June if the numbers of new COVID-19 cases continue to decrease.

**Commentary, Continued from page 6.**

tion and scandals. Glynn County Police Chief John Powell was indicted for perjury and witness tampering four days after the Arbery shooting. He remains on administrative leave. The police department lost its state certification in 2018 because it did not meet basic policing standards. Only 12% of the police force was African American, even though African Americans make up 26% of the county's population.

Last year, the county's drug task force was disbanded after a state-led investigation found extensive misconduct by Glynn County officers. A lieutenant with a long history of violent behavior shot and killed his estranged wife in 2018 before taking his own life. The wife's family is suing the department for failing to intervene. Without the persistence of Ahmaud's family to seek justice, the corruption would have been allowed to fester.

Meanwhile, another tragic killing, the death of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, has risen to national attention. The EMT shot to death by Louisville police executing a no-knock search warrant. The police were not wearing body cameras. **Her family have sued the police and the case is under review.** The National Urban League stands in solidarity with the other civil rights and social justice advocates and activists who have called

on U.S. Attorney William Barr to investigate these killings and the work of the police and prosecutors involved. An unsigned note left at the spot where Ahmaud was killed reads: "Ahmaud - I am so sorry. I should have stopped them. I am so sorry." We, as a nation, should have stopped them, and must stop it from happening again.

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