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New Orleans

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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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Dorian Francis Love Label Spreading Positive Messages and Giving Back

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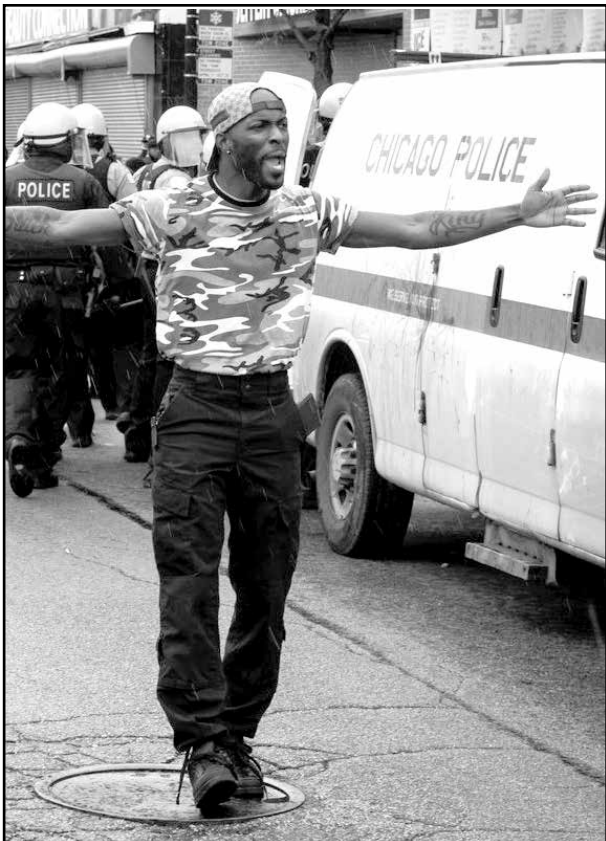


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In Search of Justice



The country is again at a racial boiling point, as the recent killing of George Floyd at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers have set off a firestorm of protests across the nation including New Orleans and the World where people are demanding justice.



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

What's Going On

As the World is dealing with the global pandemic that is COVID-19, America is again at a crossroads in respect to one of the original sins of a nation where its fallen short on the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all its citizens.

The country is again at a racial boiling point, as the recent killing of George Floyd at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers have set off a firestorm of protests across the nation including New Orleans and the World where people are crying for justice. This is a watershed moment for a nation that continues to struggle with recognizing the full humanity of African Americans.

Justice or Just Us

Whether it is George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo, Rodney King, Tamir Rice; these are just a few of the names in our recent history that's become part of a sad racial narrative that often times find Blacks losing their lives and their cries for justice and respect for their humanity being unheard.

Today those who are in the street protesting and others who sympathize are letting their voices be heard and are asking not simply for justice in the George Floyd case, but for systemic change in policing and a Criminal Justice System that's often

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times been unfair to African Americans.

Nevertheless, one must note that these are things that are being worked on by many police departments across the country and that most police officers do not commit the kind of heinous acts that was committed by Derek Chauvin.

What we have seen in many of these demonstrations that some police have taken a knee and, in some cases, even marched with the protesters. We must not be distracted by some of the looting that is taken place and see that most people, the protesters, and the police are decent people who want to work towards solutions.

A Tale of Two America's

To many Whites in America, the plight of Blacks has fallen on deaf ears many times by Whites regard-



Black People in America have a rich legacy of protesting injustice. The Civil Rights Movement paved the way for expanding opportunities for African-Americans. Over 50 years after the height of the movement people are again protesting against racism.



At the end of his life Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posed the question that rings true today "Community or Chaos?" Will we build bridges of understanding or will the flames of misunderstanding burn down our centuries old house that will stop us from reaching the goal of being the great nation we can become?

less of their political affiliations. As we see in the streets there are many people who are non-Black who are out protesting what they see as injustice of their fellow human beings. And while some may question some of their tactics it is important to note that this energy can be harnessed into something that can create a sea change in racial relations in the American that they will inherit and lead.

We have seen our revolution televised in the age of cell phone technology, the World in the 21st Century have been able to see what many Blacks have had to live with being in America. Others can now see the injustice and man's inhumanity against their fellow human beings.

It is something that's been the catalyst causing those who are decent to be outraged by what they are seeing and in the case of George Floyd, something that was a murder/lynching taking place on video causing the collective outcry that "Black Lives Matter" too in America.



People from across all walks of life including the world of entertainment are taking part in the protests including entertainer Nick Cannon.

Community or Chaos

During the period of uprisings in America during the 1960's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a book called *Where Do We Go From Here: Community or Chaos* that speaks to the question of will we come together to fix the ills of society or will we tear apart at the seams. In the book he states the racial problem is not a Black or White problem but one that infects and affects the entire nation and its progress to become a nation reaching its full potential.

Today we are faced with this choice; "Community or Chaos?" Will we build bridges of understanding or will the flames of misunderstanding burn down our centuries old house that will stop us from reaching the goal of being the great nation we can become?

Finding Solutions and Healing a Nation: Mobilize, Organize, and Strategize

We are at a time in our nation that the leadership that is coming from the White House harkens

back to some of the worst times in our history in relation to matters of race. But in truth, the solutions to these matters go beyond who occupies the Oval Office. For it is us who set the tone for what our communities are and can become.

It is important as we are seeing people protesting to ask the question, while people are out there let us get people registered to vote. Let us get people information on how to get involved in organizations on the local, state, and national level that are committed to issues around justice. Let us build networks of people dedicated to issues surrounding justice and equality for all people.

This fight is a relay race, where others have traveled down this road before, the challenge of who is included in the "We the People" have been going on since the inception of America, a country that's amended itself in an attempt to become a more just nation?

We are the Change, We Desire in the World

Admittedly, the U.S. has expanded the lanes of freedom to more people today than at any other time in its history. Some cities are being led by Black women that include Atlanta and New Orleans that were once part of the Confederacy.

We see a country changing where collective voices are demanding change. These voices come in many faces, ages, and races; and are a true testament to the decency of the majority of the American people.

Today in the 21st Century, it is essential to note that we are living in historic times fighting a recent pandemic that is COVID-19 in addition to the historic illness of racism that has been infecting our nation since its beginning. The question becomes, can we find a cure, or are we staring it right in the face?

Dorian Francis

Love Label spreading Positive Messages and Giving Back

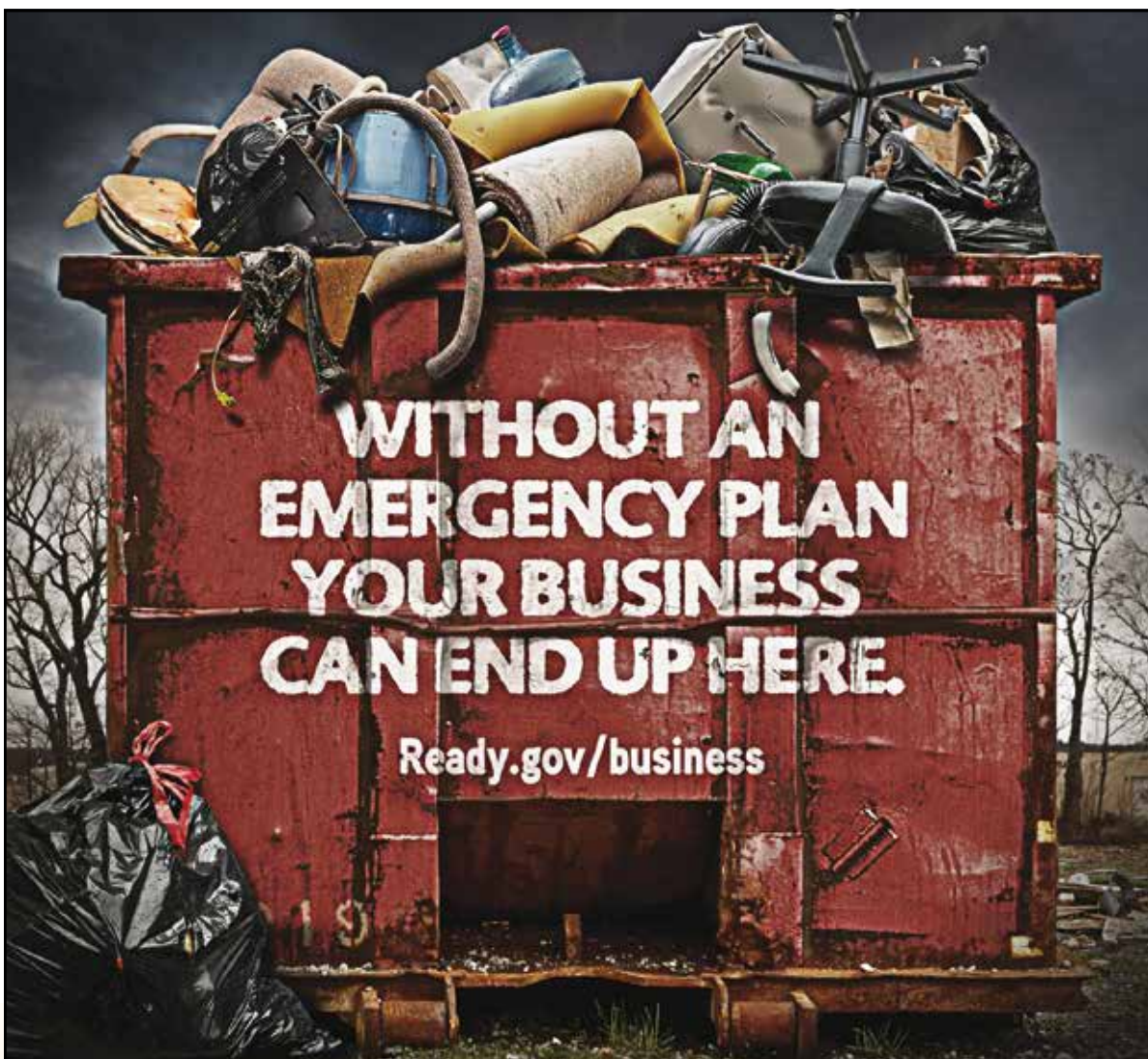
Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

Dorian Francis, the CEO of the Love Label By Dorian Francis. Dorian created the Love Label to be a conduit to assist with helping him accomplish his community outreach and service efforts. Those efforts consist of scholarships, school supplies, uniforms and book giveaways. Dorian funded these initiatives out of pocket and wanted to do more. So he created the Love Label and uses a portion of the revenue to fund his community efforts. He has his popular signature Dorian Francis shirt and his upcoming Heart of New Orleans shirts, where the proceeds of every shirt sold will go toward purchasing books for kids in the community and a shirt will be given to someone in the community each day in the month of June!

To support go to Instagram @no-laexperience and DM your size and color



The Love Label by Dorian Francis will be hosting its Annual Community Give Back Program. For every shirt that's purchased in the month of June, a portion of the proceeds will go towards being able to give away 1 shirt per day to someone in the community for the next 30 days!!!



FEMA



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If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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Cash Money Records Co-Founders to Provide 225k for Rental Assistance for Public Housing Residents during COVID-19

Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report

Many have done acts of goodwill during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Recently, \$225,000 donation by Cash Money Co-Founders Bryan "Birdman" Williams and Ronald "Slim" Williams have provided for New Orleans residents with rental assistance for the month of June.

Rental assistance will be provided to meet the June rent obligations of hundreds of public housing tenants at Harmony Oaks (Magnolia), Marrero Commons (Calliope), and Guste (Melpomene). Tenants will receive individual notification if they have qualified for the funds, which will be provided to the landlords. A move that's been praised by New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

"The legacy of Cash Money be-



Cash Money Records Co-Founders Ronald "Slim" Williams and Bryan "Birdman" Williams have provided for New Orleans residents with rental assistance for the month of June.

longs to the City of New Orleans. There is nothing more important to us than giving back to the brothers and sisters who live on those same streets we grew up on — from musicians to service workers to everyday working families. That is what

this label was always about," said Bryan "Birdman" Williams.

"New Orleans made us and is part of who we are. We are devastated that this pandemic is hitting our community so hard, and we are committed to doing what we can to



"There is nothing more important to us than giving back to the brothers and sisters who live on those same streets we grew up on — from musicians to service workers to everyday working families. That is what this label was always about," said Bryan "Birdman" Williams.

help now and in the long term," said Ronald "Slim" Williams.

The donation is being processed through Forward Together New Orleans (FTNO), the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that currently is supporting the City's ef-

forts in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes such recent projects as the facilitation of a \$30,000 donation to the Office of Youth and Families to provide infant and feminine hygiene products to families in need.

State & Local News

New Orleans Holds Protests Demanding Justice

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

All over the world people are outraged and are crying out for justice in the face of the latest death of an African American by the police.

George Floyd, 46 died during an encounter with four police officers in Minneapolis where one officer Derek Chauvin, placed his knee on the neck of Floyd for almost 9 minutes as he pleaded for his life as on-lookers recorded the incident. With the video spawning protest across the nation.

New Orleans was one of many cities across the nation where citizens held protests against police brutality.

Unlike in some cities that experienced violence and looting New Orleans Protests were peaceful something that was recognized by NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson, who spoke about the need for accountability from police departments.

In New Orleans, several protests took place with marchers



Protestors in New Orleans draws thousands of people to protest and demand justice in the police killing of George Floyd and to protest racism and police brutality. Photo Michael DeMocker.

demanding justice for George Floyd and the larger problem of police brutality aimed at African Americans.

During these demonstrations people from all races and faiths came together to condemn the actions of Chauvin and demanded systemic changes in how Blacks

are dealt with policing and law enforcement.

In Jackson Square on Sunday afternoon, several New Orleans pastors and people of faith came together to pray as they kneeled for half an hour.

"We want to show unity and fall on our knees at 3 o'clock, and



pray and call out to God for half an hour, asking him for his spirit of unity, spirit of love, the opposite of the spirit that's infecting the rest of our nation," said Pastor Dean Sunseri with Voice of the Kingdom in a story reported by local CBS affiliate WWL-TV.

They said it is about showing

love over hate while taking a stand against prejudice, violence, and abuse of power.

"This is what needs to be seen. This is what needs to be seen — not hate — a positive demonstration of the body coming together in one accord," said Pastor Ander Pelle-rano with One Accord Ministries.

Minnesota's Black Newspapers Speak Out Amidst Uprising in Wake of Police Murder of George Floyd

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior
Correspondent

NNPA NEWSWIRE — “The National Guard has been called out, and you see those vehicles that you saw when they raided Iraq and Afghanistan. People are upset and outraged, and folks are still protesting, and some folks take advantage of the protest,” stated Mel Reeves, editor of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder.

“I can't breathe...”

The senseless killing of unarmed Black men, Black women, Black boys, and Black girls has become so routine that the entire nation now knows the meaning of those three words – and no matter what the color of your skin is, the significance of that fact should take your breath away.

Two editors from Black Press of America newspapers on the frontlines of the uprising in Minneapolis in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd by four police officers, joined a National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) livestream broadcast on Saturday, May 30, to discuss up-to-the-minute breaking news from the Twin Cities.

Al McFarlane, the editor of In-



George Floyd's death at the hands of Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin was discussed by members of Minnesota's Black press and NNPA leadership.

sight News and Mel Reeves, Editor of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, spoke of the outrage over the death of Floyd and the future of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin, who was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

The Spokesman-Recorder and Insight News represent 130 years of combined reporting on Black news and history in Minneapolis. Both McFarlane and Reeves remain on the ground and in the fight.

They provided insight into the minds of the many who continue to express outrage over Floyd's murder.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., also joined the broadcast.

“We are amidst a coronavirus pandemic, but we also have an epidemic of white supremacy, we have an epidemic of racially motivated police brutality, and right now all the eyes of the world are on Minneapolis,” Chavis noted.

Reeves said there's a cautious calm at the moment, but further protests were planned in Minneapolis.

“The National Guard has been called out, and you see those vehicles that you saw when they raided Iraq and Afghanistan. People are upset and outraged, and folks are still protesting, and some folks take advantage of the protest,” Reeves stated.

McFarlane focused on the appropriateness of the outrage.

“The murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department on the evening of Memorial Day — this man was apprehended by police accused of

forgery,” he voiced. “An alleged \$25 infraction and the consequence was his death. Now the burning of this city and the cities across the nation,” McFarlane observed.

Reeves has been in the middle of protests and has reported from the forefront.

“The system that has allowed the killing of George Floyd will continue unless we come forward with an organized effort to push back, reform and change the system that's brutalizing us,” Reeves pronounced.

He added that many believe undercover police officers and non-African Americans have instigated and ignited riots and fires, which have been blamed on Black people during the uprising.

“People need to be cautious in their criticism, and the truth is it wasn't them, the young people identified undercover police officers and people who were not Black initiated the burning and breaking of windows,” Reeves continued.

“The nation needs to know the power structure here needed to know that it is important to take the focus off the protest and put it back on us. They make it look like we are the violent ones, the animals, when they have treated us violently and like animals,” Reeves declared.

Publisher's Editorial

“I Can't Breathe”



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

This week's events bring back memories of the '60s when we marched for Civil Rights. Like today, we were outright victims of racism, abuse, and hatred, for no other reason but the color of our skin. As a child, I remember being confused why some White person that did not know me, would throw a can or bottle at me out of

a car and call me “nigger”. A term at that time, I did not know what it meant. “Hatred for hatred's sake” is a human defect that should be identified, isolated, and destroyed by any means necessary.

The murder of George Floyd was tragic and symbolic of an attitude that people of power and hatred feel free to express in today's environment. What do I mean by today's environment? As I said before, hatred is a human defect. Some people have it more than others, but it is mostly hidden because it is not socially acceptable, at least it was not before now. Of course, the President of the United States sets an atmosphere of separation, divisiveness, and anger; he has turned on the green light for it to be acted

upon in the open, without shame. We have witnessed it not only in the murders but in the new YouTube phenomena dubbed “Karens” who openly find offense in Black men, women, and children doing mundane and everyday things like birdwatching, golfing, selling water, cutting lawns, delivering a package, and the list goes on. Becoming a hashtag is an everyday thing now. They fear nothing when they call the police, with the full intention of weaponizing them to quell their “feelings of discomfort, even with the knowledge that they will be outed, and probably lose their jobs.

Today's hatred (racism) has a great place to grow. Between the

virus and racism, things were looking pretty grim to me until watching the TV I noticed something unique; something I saw and experienced in the '60s. Strong, compassionate, and devoted to making a change, young people of all races, creeds, and colors stood up. I saw them throughout America and around the world. At that time, a picture popped up in my head of the MLK March on Washington. Then, I thought of George Floyd, pressed to the ground in that well-known quote, “I Can't Breathe.”

And regretfully, that is the feelings of our country right now, none of us can breathe. But looking at our youth, I genuinely believe we will breathe again. Stay Home, Stay Safe, and Stay Healthy.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, “The People's Paper,” is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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