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DANIEL CAMERON
ORDERED
TO RELEASE
BREONNA TAYLOR
GRAND JURY RECORDS

A grand jury member filed a motion bashing the Kentucky AG and demanding that he release the full grand jury file, claiming that he misled them during the two-day proceeding, p3

BREAKING NEWS: AG MOVES TO DELAY RELEASE OF RECORDS



Breonna Taylor's Black neighbor breaks his silence: 'My apartment was hit too'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Breonna Taylor's former neighbor whose apartment was also hit by the same police gunfire that resulted in a weak indictment of a fired cop is wondering why the shots that ripped through his home weren't factored into last week's charges.

Former Louisville police officer Brett Hankison, the lone person being held accountable in the shooting, was charged with three counts of wanton endangerment for the bullets that hit a separate apartment that had white people living in it.

But Stanley David, who is Black, was sleeping in his bedroom alongside his young daughter when three Louisville police officers opened fire while botching the execution of a suspiciously obtained no-knock warrant, sending bullets flying through his apartment, which is directly above where Taylor lived. David's elderly mother, a child she was baby-sitting and that child's father were also in the apartment at the time of the shooting on March 13.

The walls of #BreonnaTaylors white neighbors apartment were more valuable than Breonna's black body. That's what we're dealing with.

— Give Us Free (@monetxchange) September 25, 2020

Their lives were also wantonly — and recklessly — endangered, facts that theoretically should have been considered by the Kentucky Attorney General's office when Daniel Cameron presented their case to a grand jury earlier this month.

"My apartment was hit too," David told the Louisville Courier-Journal in an exclusive interview. "The bullet that came through my floor right in front of my bedroom door, if that bullet went through my bed, maybe I would have been dead too. I'm a human being too."

One bullet went through the hallway floor and another hit outside David's bedroom door.

The indictment itself challenges logic. It is based on the premise that Hankinson, along with Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and detective Myles Cosgrove, all fired their guns a total of at least 30 times after Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, suspected burglars when he heard someone at the apartment door. When it was forced in off the hinges, Walker got his gun he's legally permitted to own and fired a shot toward the door that hit Mattingly. Therefore, Cameron said, "Mattingly and Cosgrove were justified in their use of force after having been fired upon by Kenneth Walker," in effect blaming Taylor's boyfriend for her own death.

One of the attorneys representing Taylor's family, brought attention to how there were "3 counts for the shots into the apartment of the white neighbors, but no counts for the of shots into the apartment of the black neighbors upstairs above Breonna's." <https://t.co/nvMCh1JHoB>

— NewsOne (@newsone) September 24, 2020

David, a 47-year-old who is originally from the West African country of Liberia, recalled the experience he lived through as being "terrible."

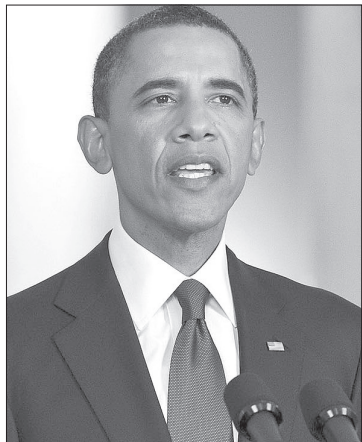
Obama calls on Americans to text him and share 'How you're planning on voting'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Barack Obama gave out his 'phone number' to the American people so they can text him and share "how you're planning on voting this year."

"All right, let's try something new. If you're in the United States, send me a text at 773-365-9687," he tweeted and posted to Instagram Wednesday.

As reported by the Daily Mail, Obama is using a service called Community that allows subscribers to receive text messages from him and write back. "Leaders are able to directly text all their members at once, reach members in a specific city, or chat with a single



member one-on-one," a press release announcing Obama's involvement said.



NYC to extend popular outdoor dining program permanently: de Blasio

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The city's COVID-era outdoor dining initiative, which allows restaurants to use sidewalk and street space to serve customers, will become permanent, Mayor de Blasio announced Friday.

"We will make the Open Restaurants initiative, permanent — and year-round," de Blasio said on the Brian Lehrer show. "This has been, I think, an extraordinarily positive experiment, and it's worked."

The Open Restaurants program allows restaurants to use sidewalks and street space, primarily parking spots, to serve

diners eating outdoors. Despite its popularity — more than 10,000 restaurants are now participating in the program — its long-term fate had become uncertain in recent weeks as temperatures began to dip and with winter on the horizon.

"We hope — I believe — this is going to make it a lot easier for restaurants to survive," de Blasio said, estimating that the program has saved nearly 100,000 jobs.

His announcement comes as the city braces for indoor dining to resume next week. That plan will allow restaurants to operate at 25% capacity, a number that prompted many restaurant owners to point out that it will not be

enough for them to survive and to call for outdoor dining in the colder months.

De Blasio said he wants restaurants to provide heating for outdoor diners in the winter and that restaurants would also be able to enclose outdoor spaces, but such enclosures would be subject to the 25% limit on customers.

"This is something we're going to get to work on right away," he said. "We're going to work with the City Council. Some of this will be, will require legislation. Other pieces are administrative, but this is a go. We want this to be something the restaurant industry can depend on."

Officers in Breonna Taylor case escape indictment

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

After 194 days, months of protests, and a \$12 million civil settlement, the family of Breonna Taylor did not receive the justice they have desperately sought.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, a Grand Jury failed to indict the officers for killing Taylor, while one officer was charged with shooting into an apartment — not Taylor's.

"They didn't want to charge anyone with the murder of Breonna Taylor," said Steve Romines, the attorney for Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker.

Officer Brett Hankinson was indicted on three counts of wanton endangerment for his actions on the night of Taylor's death.

Hankinson was charged with shooting blindly inside an apartment and a warrant was immediately placed for his arrest. Judge Annie O'Connell set bail for Hankinson at just \$15,000.

None of the six officers involved were charged with a crime.

On March 13, Taylor, 26, was fatally shot by Louisville Metro Police officers after a late-night no-knock warrant led to gunfire inside of her apartment.

Taylor and Walker had watched a movie in bed and, not long after she drifted off to sleep, cops



pounded on her door. Walker, according to police reports, yelled, "who is it?"

Licensed to carry a firearm and armed with Kentucky legislation that allowed him to

stand his ground and fire his weapon in self-defense, Walker responded to the late-night break-in by shooting at the officers. He called 9-11 because he didn't know that the men were law enforcement officers, only that they appeared as intruders who knocked the door off of its hinges.

Officers unleashed a flurry of bullets from several angles — one officer fired blindly from a window outside of the house — ultimately, striking Taylor five times and killing her.

Walker's shot struck Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly in the thigh. Initially, Walker was charged with

attempted murder, but those allegations were later dropped in part because he didn't know the invaders were police officers and Kentucky's statute essentially allows for a shoot-first-ask-questions-later when there's an imminent threat.

Judge Mary Shaw had signed off on five warrants based on flimsy statements provided by cops who claimed Taylor's ex-boyfriend was a drug dealer and that they somehow suspected she was involved.

The Grand Jury decision came as little surprise giving the response this week by Louisville officials, who declared a state of emergency ahead of the reading of the decision.

Also, all off-duty police personnel was called to work while workers boarded up stores and buildings in downtown Louisville in preparation for the reading of the Grand Jury decision.

"We live in a racist society, to the extent that we don't even acknowledge that we fail in our ability to correct that," said Sadiqa Reynolds, the president of the Louisville Urban League.

"To believe that there would be charges against white police officers against this Black woman in this city, this country, is wrong. We don't have justice in America. We don't have justice in Louisville," a tearful Reynolds stated.

Health insurers aim to pass medical costs to providers, patients as COVID-related disparities devastate Black, Latino communities

By Hazel Trice Edney

Black and Latino communities throughout the United States have disproportionately suffered the most devastating impacts of the coronavirus, including a higher rate in deaths, underscoring inequities in the nation's health care system and the broader society.

In New York state, for example, African-Americans make up 14 percent of the population, but have experienced 26 percent of all deaths. In Virginia, 49 percent of coronavirus cases come from the Hispanic and Latino community, which makes up 10 percent of the population.

The disparities reflect a number of factors. But experts point to one factor in particular: the relatively high costs of medical care for COVID-19 at a time when Blacks and Hispanics are less likely to have health insurance than Whites are.

Indeed, as pointed out by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the persistent gap in insurance coverage in minority communities is at the start of a chain of events that produces worse health outcomes. Some 36 percent of nonelderly Latinos and 22 percent of African Americans are uninsured.

Uninsured adults are twice as likely to forego doctor visits, which often means that developing or worsening health conditions go undetected and untreated. In fact, Gallup released a poll earlier this year that found that 14 percent of American adults said they would avoid seeking healthcare for early symptoms of coronavirus infection for themselves or a family member because they could not afford to pay for the care.

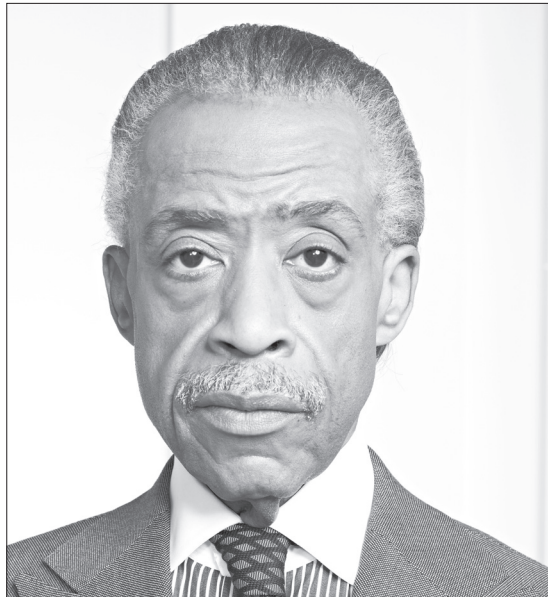
How lower rates of insurance coverage among Black and Latino Americans contributed to disparities seen during the pandemic should be atop the list of questions posed to major insurance companies by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which recently launched an investigation into insurance companies' policies and practices amid COVID-19.

Demanding clear plans to remediate these critically important coverage issues must be a non-negotiable first step in holding health insurers accountable.

In recent years, health insurers have been shrinking physician networks – the number of in-network doctors available to patients in a given geographical area – in an apparent attempt to cut costs and pad their bottom line. A number of states have seen drastic reductions in coverage networks, including Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Georgia.

For communities of color, shrinking coverage networks compound the problem of medical indigency, which continues to be a systemic failing. Even in the wake of Obamacare, 30 million people remain uninsured, with half of them being people of color.

The concern of Black leaders over the harmful practices and policies of health insurers surfaced earlier this year. They spoke out forcefully against an attempt by industry lobbyists to press Congress to ap-



Rev. Al Sharpton is among Black leaders who've long called for Congress to craft legislation to protect people instead of the insurance industry.

prove legislation that would have enabled companies to pass on costs to medical providers and patients instead of requiring insurers to pay their fair share.

During a primary campaign stop in South Carolina, Reverend Al Sharpton issued a clarion call for Congress to reject those industry efforts, and craft legislation that protects the underinsured and those without insurance. And in a follow-up piece explaining the reason for his visit to the state, Sharpton wrote, "African American access to high-quality health care in particular is a pressing issue this election – if not a full-blown crisis." That was before the pandemic struck.

In the months since, insurers have engaged in other tactics to sure up profits at the expense of doctors and patients, from strong-arming doctors to accept lower reimbursement rates to restricting the types of COVID-related procedures that would be covered.

Those aggressive measures have paid off: one of the nation's largest health insurers, United Healthcare, recently posted its most profitable quarter in the company's history.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are rightfully trying to respond. In fact, those historic profits at a time when so many other industries are struggling to stay afloat are what prompted lawmakers to open an investigation.

It is unclear how Congress will press the insurance companies to address the persistent racial disparities in coverage that preceded the crisis and appeared to play a role in making the pandemic particularly deadly for Black and Latino Americans. But at a time when there's an urgent national conversation on social and racial justice sweeping the country, lawmakers have a responsibility to hold their feet to the fire.



Virginia school district apologizes for historical racism

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Addressed to the "Black Community of Loudoun County," which is located 25 miles west of Washington, D.C., the letter's introduction states:

We, the Loudoun County School Board, the Administration of Loudoun County Public Schools, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors sincerely apologize for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and for the negative impact, damage and disadvantages to Black students and families that were caused by decisions made by the Loudoun County School Board, LCPS Administration, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

More specifically, the additional effort required and resources provided by the Black community to obtain an equal education created hardships to which other community members were not subjected. Black people were denied rights and equal treatment.

To take ownership for how the county disenfranchised Black students for decades, the letter shared a timeline to show why this apology is long overdue.

Beginning with the county's active avoidance of 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision—which made segregation in public schools unconstitutional—to 1967, when the county established "geographic attendance zones" that reinforced "systemic racism, inequitable treatment, and dispro-

portionality," the timeline makes clear how the county conspired against Black education.

But a report from WTOP News noted that the educational discrimination went back much further. The Black community had to raise \$4,000 to buy land for a high school in 1939, only to be forced to sell it to the county for \$1 later. The outlet further reported that in January 1956, the school board said improvements at the district's Black schools should not be funded unless "Black parents agreed that segregation was better for their children's education."

As for what's next, the school board's letter says it hopes publicly acknowledging its racist past is a step in the right direction and that it will work on increasing equity, as outlined in its June Action Plan to Combat Systemic Racism and 2019's Comprehensive Equity Plan. As an example, Loudoun County Public Schools will skip Columbus Day on October 12 and instead celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Loudoun Times-Mirror recently published.

"I think it's clear that we have a very European-centric view of Columbus Day, and I think that our schools are doing a very good job of clarifying that and defining the issues that came with Columbus—the disease, the attack on the indigenous people," said Loudoun County School Board member Jeff Morse in the Loudoun Times-Mirror.



Daniel Cameron ordered to release Breonna Taylor grand jury recording after juror calls foul

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced he will release all grand jury records in the Breonna Taylor case on Wednesday after a member of the grand jury filed a motion bashing him for misleading them during the two-day proceeding, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"The grand jury is meant to be a secretive body. It's apparent that the public interest in this case isn't going to allow that to happen,"

he said in a statement late on Monday.

BREAKING: KY Attorney General Daniel Cameron says he "will" release grand jury recording in #BreonnaTaylor case on Wednesday.

Here's his full statement: pic.twitter.com/T2XiClvbYY

— Blayne Alexander (@ReporterBlayne) September 29, 2020

Since Cameron revealed that no charges would be filed against either of the officers who shot Taylor last week, a flurry of information, and bodycam videos, have been released that threw

much of what he told the public into question.

In an extremely rare situation on Monday, a member of the grand jury filed a motion demanding Cameron release the full grand jury file, writing through a lawyer that Cameron not only misled the public but also left out critical information during his presentation to the grand jury last week. A judge ordered Cameron release the transcripts per CNN.

During a press conference last Wednesday, Cameron largely shifted blame for the lack of charges

against Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and Detective Myles Cosgrove on to the grand jury, telling reporters that he presented all the facts and members of the grand jury decided against any charges.

But an unnamed member of that jury is now saying that is not true, writing in the motion that Cameron was using them "as a shield to deflect accountability and responsibility for those decisions."

The motion asks for a transcript and recording of the grand jury proceeding to be released, and



for all jurors to be given the right to speak openly about the case.

One of the key sections of the groundbreaking motion demands a judge allow members of the grand jury to also discuss "any potential charges and defendants presented or not presented."

New California law prompted by crash that killed Kobe Bryant

The legislation makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorized photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime

Philadelphiaobserver.com

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday approved legislation prompted by the helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant and eight other people that makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorized photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime.

Reports surfaced after the

Jan. 26 crash that killed Bryant, his daughter Gianna and the others that graphic photos of the victims were being shared.

Eight deputies were accused of taking or sharing graphic photos of the scene, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva said then, adding that he had ordered the images deleted. He said the department has a policy against taking and sharing crime scene photos, but it did not apply to accident scenes.

The measure that will take effect Jan. 1 makes it a misdemeanor with fines up to \$1,000 per offense to take such photos for anything other than an official law enforcement purpose.



14-year-old Black Muslim athlete left in tears after being pulled from volleyball match for wearing Hijab without prior approval

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Tennessee school is backing a Muslim student who was removed from a volleyball game because she wore a hijab without prior approval.

The incident occurred during a Sept. 15 away match played by a junior varsity team from Valor Collegiate Academies, a charter school based in Nashville. Right before the game started, a referee informed freshman player Najah Aqeel and her assistant coach she could not play because her hijab had not been approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and its state-level organization Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), The Tennessean reported

Najah Aqeel (above) was

pulled from a volleyball match on Sept. 15 because her hijab had not been approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) or its state-level organization Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA). (Photo: The Tennessean screenshot)

According to NHHS rules, players can only wear "hair devices made of soft material and no more than three inches wide may be worn in the hair or on the head."

Aqeel and her coaches insist they did not know anything about the rule. The 14-year-old wore the garment during past matches.

"As an athletic department, we are extremely disappointed that we were not aware of this rule or previously informed of this rule in our 3 years as a TSSAA

[Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association] member school," Valor athletics director Cameron Hill said in a statement. "We are also frustrated that this rule has been selectively enforced as evidenced by the fact that student-athletes have previously competed while wearing hijabs."

Hill's statement also referred to the rule as "antiquated" and "oppressive."

He revealed a new rule stating members of Valor's athletic teams will not attend games "if any individual player is disallowed to play for any discriminatory reason."

"Valor is also working to take any measure necessary to make it known that we oppose the unconscionable rule and advocate for it to be changed," Hill's statement continued.



#DadJokesRule

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Editorial - Opinion



By Marc Morial

Grand Jury decision in Breonna Taylor case is a glaring example of America's two-tiered justice system

"The rallying cries that have been echoing throughout the nation have been once again ignored by a justice system that claims to serve the people. But when a justice system only acts in the best interest of the most privileged and whitest among us, it has failed. For the sake of Breonna Taylor, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of all Americans, law enforcement agencies and their representatives throughout the country need to take a long, hard look in the mirror. Is this who you are? Is this the example you want to set for the rest of the world and for future generations?" – Benjamin Crump, attorney representing Breonna Taylor's family

Perversion of justice is too feeble a term to describe the decision of a grand jury in Louisville not to file even a single criminal charge related to Breonna Taylor's death.

The barrage of gunfire that

endangered Breonna's neighbors is the very same gunfire that took Breonna's life. The grand jury's decision that the risk of injuring neighbors is a crime but the actual killing of an innocent young woman is not defies comprehension.

Grand juries respond to the evidence presented to them by prosecutors; because the proceedings are secret, we don't know what the jurors were told and what was withheld from them. Witnesses are questioned only by the prosecutor, and there is no one to challenge inconsistencies in their statements or cross-examine them.

The tragedy of Breonna Taylor's death is likely to go down in history as one of the most glaring examples of the two-tiered system of justice we have in the United States in 2020 – one for white Americans and another for Black people.

Kentucky is a Castle Doctrine state and has a "stand your ground" law. But when Breonna's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker – a licensed gun owner with no criminal record – exercised his right under Kentucky law to

defend himself and Breonna, he was charged immediately with attempted murder. There is no earthly reason to doubt that he believed a home invasion was in progress and their lives were at stake. He immediately telephoned 911, crying and pleading for help.

The white officers who smashed their way into the home and returned Kenneth's single shot with a flurry of deadly and reckless gunfire, are absolved. That's the justice system for white America. If not for the sustained pressure of activists and protesters, Kenneth would still be in jail. That's the justice system for Black America.

Endangering neighbors with gunfire is a crime. That's the justice system for white America. Fatally shooting an innocent woman is not a crime. That's the justice system for Black America.

When white shooters who live in a "stand your ground" state claim self-defense in the death of a Black person, 36 percent are ruled justifiable homicides. That's the justice system for white America. When Black shooters claim self-defense in cases involving the deaths of white people in these same states, just 3 percent are ruled justifiable

homicides. That's the justice system for Black America.

In February in Georgia, father and son Gregory and Travis McMichael, who are white, fatally shot 25-year-old jogger Ahmaud Arbery, who is Black, after running him down in their truck. The prosecutor in charge of the case immediately determined the gunmen were justified under Georgia's citizen arrest and self-defense laws. It wasn't until May, after the New York Times shone light on the case and video of the killing emerged, that the pair were criminally charged.

Attorney Robert Patillo, executive director of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's Peachtree Street Project in Georgia, told NBC News, "Let's say Arbery was a 19-year-old cheerleader named Lily White, running down the street. Two or three black men hopped in a pickup truck and the chase ended when they shot Lilly White down on tape. I ask you, who among us believes seriously we would be having a conversation, any kind of debate, about whether they should be charged, will be tried or convicted?"

Would police have filed at-

tempted murder charges against a white man who fired on intruders who burst into his home, smashing the door off its hinges? Would police even have sought, or been granted a "no knock" warrant for Breonna's apartment had Breonna been white? Such warrants, which allow police to enter without declaring themselves, are reserved for targets who are a known danger. Neither Breonna nor Walker had criminal records.

The grand jury's decision was all the more disheartening for the six months Breonna's family has waited for justice. It is hard not to give in to despair.

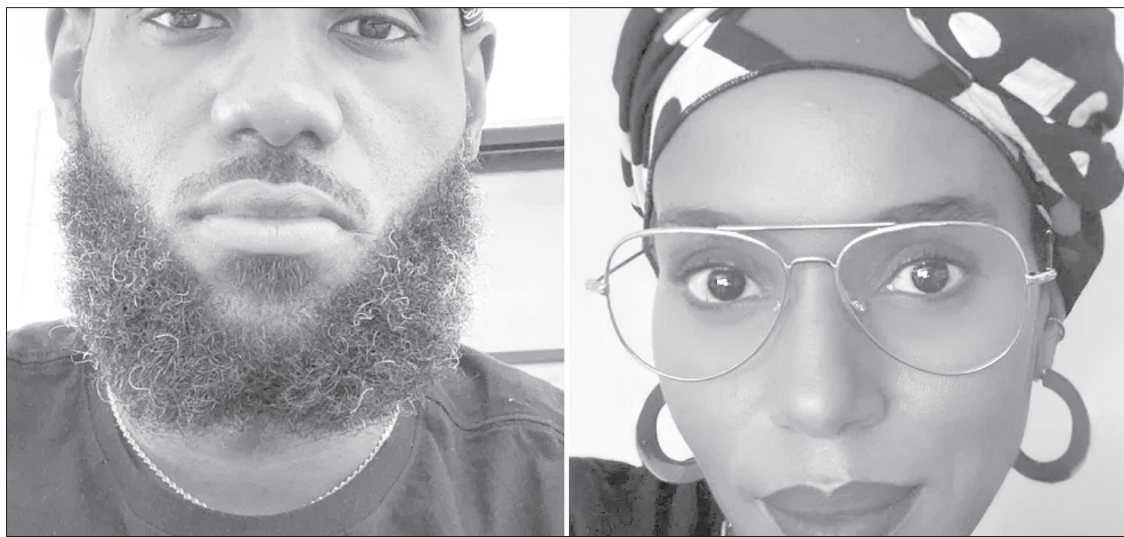
In his most famous speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., called despair both a valley and a mountain. He encouraged us not to wallow in that valley, and to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. Our protests and our advocacy have not been in vain. They have shone a light on injustice. They pressured prosecutors to drop the unjust charges against Kenneth Walker. The criminal justice system may continue to discriminate against men and women of color, but it no longer does so in the shadows.

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'Devastated': Kerry Washington, LeBron James, others react to lack of charges brought in Breonna Taylor case



Philadelphiaobserver.com

Kerry Washington, LeBron James, Yara Shahidi and other celebrities are reacting to a grand jury's decision to not charge any of the three officers as being responsible in the shooting that led to the death of Breonna Taylor of Louisville, Kentucky.

Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 23, Kentucky's Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced during a press conference that the Jefferson County grand jury had voted not to charge the three Louisville Metro Police Department officers for Taylor's death. Instead, the jury charged Brett Hankison, a now former officer, with three counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree

for shooting into the apartment of Taylor's neighbors during the raid. The other two officers, Sgt. John Mattingly and Det. Myles Cosgrove, were not charged. Mattingly and Cosgrove remain on the force, while Hankinson was fired back in June. Cameron also said that the use of force by two other officers in the case was "justified" to protect themselves.

On March 13, the 26-year-old emergency management technician reportedly was shot five times by police while asleep in her bed. Police claimed they identified themselves before entering her home on a no-knock warrant, but this has been disputed by Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, who was with her at the time, and reportedly by 11 other witnesses.

Taylor's death sparked protests around the nation and among high-profile celebrities who called for charges to be brought against the officers responsible. Officers were at Taylor's home on a drug raid relating to her ex-boyfriend, who didn't live at the property.

Following the grand jury's decision, stars took to social media to express their disappointment and outrage and urged people to vote this coming November. That includes "Scandal" star Kerry Washington, who tweeted Wednesday, "Daniel Cameron is on Donald Trump's short list as replacement of #RGB on the Supreme Court." She added, "The same man who decided to not charge the officers responsible for killing #BreonnaTaylor. Vote."



Chris Rock hosting 'Saturday Night Live' season premier

Newyorkbeacon.com

Saturday Night Live is starting its new season out with a bang. NBC announced that Chris Rock will host the premiere episode while the musical guess will be rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

Season 46 of the renowned sketch comedy show will kick off on October 3 and it will be Rock's third time hosting. The

former SNL cast member is an Emmy and Grammy Award winner who currently stars in FX's drama Fargo. And, he helped Busta Rhymes announce his new album.

Megan thanks to her legion of hotties and fans of her bars have become a Hip-Hop star and recently landed in the pages of Time magazine as one of its 100 most influential people. This will be the "Savage" rapper's SNL debut.

Lizzo looks spectacular on Vogue cover

Of all the bad habits that traditional fashion magazines still can't seem to shake, the most egregious is zooming in on a plus-size cover star's body to show just her face.

That's what makes the October issue of Vogue so thrilling. It features Lizzo's entire body, head-to-toe, wearing Valentino and Manolos, and she's looking (sorry, we have to say it) good as hell.

Shot by Hype Williams (his first cover for American Vogue), she modeled a slew of designer duds by Moschino, Gucci and LaQuan Smith in the feature. In the interview, written by Claudia Rankine, Lizzo waxed poetic about the appropriation of the body-positive movement, something we see all too often these days in media and, yes, fashion magazines. But she is quick to point out that we all have a place in the movement so long as we're truly holding space for everyone.

"It's commercialized," she said. "Now, you look at the hashtag 'body positive,' and you see smaller-framed girls, curvier girls. Lotta white girls. And I feel no ways about that, because inclusivity is what my message is always about. I'm glad that this conversation is being included in the mainstream narrative. What I don't like is how the people that this term was created for are not benefiting from it. Girls with back fat, girls with bellies that hang, girls with thighs that aren't separated, that overlap. Girls



with stretch marks. You know, girls who are in the 18-plus club. They need to be benefiting from ... the mainstream effect of body positiv-

ity now. But with everything that goes mainstream, it gets changed. It gets—you know, it gets made acceptable."

La La Anthony: 'Proud to be Black; proud to be Puerto Rican'

Newyorkbeacon.com

For actor La La Anthony, there is no separating her Blackness from her identity. After all, the Black and Puerto Rican actor knew from the outset that she was just that—Black and Puerto Rican.

In her career, the Power star worked toward ensuring that audiences see diverse representations of Latinx people—and Anthony has a message for those anti-Black

forces within Latinidad: Educate yourselves.

"There's so much misinformation and so many Spanish people that don't want to identify with African culture or don't want to identify with being Black, and don't understand that we're all Black."

Anthony describes her culture as rich and vast, one that she holds dear. "It makes me proud to be Afro-Latina. Proud to be Black. Proud to be Puerto Rican," she stressed.



Culture

#WorldAfroDay: Celebrating all the famous kinks, coils and curls that hit the timeline

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Michelle De Leon decided she wanted to create World Afro Day after her daughter made her realize she wanted

every child of African descent to love their natural hair. On Sept. 15, 2016, Alabama passed a law allowing for companies to discriminate against people with dreadlocks. In retaliation, De Leon held the first World Afro

Day on that day the following year. Since then, it has become a global phenomenon celebrating black hair. We love any excuse to highlight the beauty of these natural hair queens!



Gabrielle Union rocks some beautiful curls for a photo shoot.



Sanaa Lathan celebrates the holiday with a picture of her short cut.



Jennifer Hudson rocks her natural curls next to her Aretha Franklin tribute wall.



Kerry Washington gave us this stunning photo for World Afro Day with hers on full display.



Viola Davis gives all thanks to her hairstylist Jamika Wilson for always taking care of her natural hair flawlessly.



Tracee Ellis Ross says happy birthday to her hair care line Pattern Beauty.



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Rihanna calls out Kentucky AG for telling the public not to listen to celebrities

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Rihanna is taking shots at Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron after he closed the books this week on bringing substantial indictments against the three Louisville Metro Police officers who killed Breonna Taylor in a hail of gunfire during a botched drug raid on her apartment on March 13. Cameron announced on Wednesday, Sept. 23, that a grand jury returned just one indictment in the case, three counts of wanton endangerment against former LMPD Detective Brett Hankison.

In a Sept. 24 Instagram post, the “Rude Boy” singer took to Instagram to respond to Cameron with a photo showing a hand-lettered sign that reads “A cop shot a black woman and was only charged for the shots missed.” The words “shot” and “charged” were underlined on the sign.

The photo looks to have been shot during a protest. Under the sign there are other people standing in a crowd with more signs

expressing support for justice for Taylor.

She followed up her post with the caption, “I’m just gon’ let this sink in to your hollow skull @ danieljaycameron.”

Although there were many comments that were against Rihanna’s message, many Instagram users wrote comments in support of her statement.

One person wrote, “Black Women deserve better. Black Lives deserve better.”

Others shared how the case made them feel by writing comments like, “this makes me SO ANGRY” and “This sh-t is frustrating forreal.”

Emmy nominated music maestro Michael Bearden also responded to the post saying, “This system! These laws! The lack of humanity! Racism has been this country’s true virus! Since it’s inception!”

Another follower wrote, “Her family got paid out 12 million for wrongdoing. F—g wrongdoings? Means someone f—d up and should be charged personally with A LOT more.”



Black Lives Matter T-shirts and masks—who profits?



By Julianne Malveaux

I always smile when I see Black Lives Matter T-Shirts until I saw one gracing the grubby back of a white man who had on both a BLM T-Shirt and a MAGA (Make America Great Again) hat. I started to either take a photo or start a conversation because I knew somebody would accuse me of making the combination up. Instead, I wondered where the man got the shirt/hat combo. Was he homeless and got the combo at a shelter? Was he visually impaired and didn’t understand the contradiction? Without starting a conversation, I was left to my imagination. It had me thinking about the production and distribution of BLM wearables and the profit stream they may be creating.

You can find custom-designed screened T-shirts online for as little as \$5 apiece, and anybody can make T-shirts and a profit. If Black lives, Black dollars, and Black profits matter, it makes sense to look behind the t-shirt to consider the sellers and their motives. You might be funding your oppression by purchasing the right message from the wrong seller.

I think the best place to buy BLM clothing and accessories (I’ve seen hats, bags, signs, and more) is from the BLM website, www.blacklivesmatter.org. Things will cost more there than they might cost from a street vendor or another source, but the BLM site profits will fund the movement. From the BLM site, you can also sign up to get email updates. The second best source is a BLACK street vendor, who will at least be able to pocket the difference between what she purchased the shirts for and what she sold them for. Increasingly, COVID-imposed economic hardship has motivated people to take their entre-

preneurial ability to the streets. The next best source might be BLM-friendly activist organizations that are selling BLM stuff. It doesn’t hurt them, though, to ask where they got the shirts and where the profits go.

The worst place to get BLM material is from a capitalist retail establishment like Walmart, which sells the shirts and (until June) All Lives Matter shirts, Irish Lives Matter shirts, and Homeless Lives Matter shirt. While taking nothing from the homeless or the Irish, in some ways, these shirts attempt to undermine and minimize the purpose and focus of the Black Lives Matter movement. We say Black Lives Matter emphatically because our lives didn’t matter when our country was founded. They didn’t matter when we were lynched, and no one was ever prosecuted. Our lives have little value when we are treated inhumanely, with our little girls being dragged by their braids by rabid police officers, shot in the back, subjected to chokeholds to the point where we can’t breathe, endured a knee to the neck to the point of death and more. Taking the Black Lives Matter slogan and spoofing it (Drunk Wives Matter) attempts to minimize the racism that riddles our country.

Walmart took stopped selling the All Lives Matter shirts after getting criticism from the BLM movement, but it still sells Blue Lives Matter shirts and paraphernalia. It sells shirts that say Bartender Lives Matter and Cat Lives Matter shirts as well. While no one has a trademark on the term “Lives Matter,” satirizing Black Lives Matter is, at the very least, disrespectful. It is antiblack hostility.

In June, Walmart said it would spend \$100 million over five years creating a “center for racial equity.” Though its CEO, Doug McMillon, explicitly said “Black Lives Matter” at a June virtual company-wide meeting, the commitment was vague. Walmart, one of the largest employers of African Americans, put their money where their rhetoric is and pay people fairly, provide good benefits (including health care and paid sick leave), and establish a center for racial equity. With 2019 profits exceeding \$123 billion in profit, they can certainly afford to spend a fraction of one percent of those profits on racial equity.

There are online T-shirt companies that sell Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter T-shirts, missing BLM’s whole point. They include Wild Bobby and Old Glory Merchandise, neither of which is Black-owned. They are just capitalists hedging their bets, just like the white-owned stores that offer discriminatory service but put BLM signs in their window. Instead, why not look for a Black-owned t-shirt company. All you have to do is google “Black-owned T-shirt company,” and dozens pop up.

Don’t let the BLM movement be a profit center for predatory capitalists. Ask questions before you buy. Buy Black.

For more information please visit www.julianne-malveaux.com or email booking@julianne-malveaux.com

Alicia Keys partners with e.l.f. beauty to launch Keys Soulcare

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Alicia Keys is on fire! Less than two weeks ago, the R&B artist performed at the NFL Kickoff event to help start the 2020 football season. She also launched a \$1 billion endowment fund, which the NFL has contributed to, aimed at supporting Black businesses and communities. Now, after releasing her new self-titled album last week, she is unveiling a new lifestyle brand, Keys Soulcare.

Keys Soulcare is a collaboration with e.l.f. Beauty. The collection aims to share the soul of

self-care and skincare through content, conversation, and community. The Keys Soulcare website is set to launch Tuesday, Sept. 29, which will entail a rich editorial site and a fresh weekly email newsletter.

With her recent book, *More Myself: A Journey*, and her new album, *ALICIA*, Keys Soulcare is just a part of Keys’ journey from self-censorship to full expression. The line brings forward many of the ways she has learned to nurture herself, live boldly, and connect more deeply with others.

“We’re so busy all the time that I don’t think we create

these small rituals for ourselves. Even the five minutes it takes to wash my face — when I’m able to create that space for myself I feel more beautiful, more powerful, more possible. That’s soulcare,” says Keys.

“We are so proud to partner with Alicia, as we share the same core values of inclusivity, empowerment, and a deeper view of beauty,” said Tarang Amin, chairman and CEO, e.l.f. Beauty. “We look forward to leveraging our capabilities and track record of success as we take this next step in our transformation to a multi-brand portfolio.”



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International

Female entrepreneur uses tech to source talent from Africa for job opportunities

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As the world moves to a more digital-based working environment, many companies are looking to expand their search areas to source talent. Inspired by her travels, an HBCU graduate created a virtual assistant and consulting company that connects talent across Africa with various job opportunities.

Chandell Stone created Stone Solutions in 2018 after running a travel experience company focused on cultural impact, which brought her to Kenya, where her operations are based. "Stone Solutions came out of the work I had already been doing on the continent with my first company, Destination Impact," said Stone in an email interview with BLACK ENTERPRISE.

"I recognized a need to go beyond 'feel good' projects that serve an immediate need but do not ultimately solve systemic issues. My goal shifted to create

jobs, empower African people through skills training, and show the continent for what it truly is, the past, and the future of economic opportunity."

The Bronx-born entrepreneur hopes to expand her operations to other African countries to help provide people with more job opportunities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many entrepreneurs and small businesses are looking for administrative support, but aren't able to afford local talent," says Stone.

"Especially [amid the COVID outbreak], people are getting a lot more comfortable with the idea of virtual services, while simultaneously being awakened to the need to invest in Black businesses. Africa has been overlooked as a place to source talent for professional services, and we are excited to fill that niche of people wanting to invest in quality, affordable services that align with their social interests."



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Michelle Obama's 'When We All Vote' campaign is fired up!

By Audrey J. Bernard

Former First Lady Michelle Obama continues to work hard to make sure that everyone uses their right to vote! Due to the climate we're in today her When We All Vote organization is more important than ever and she's fired up and ready to go! When We All Vote, the voting rights organization founded by Obama, is doing what it can to ensure every eligible voter has a say in what that future looks like. "We must use every ounce of energy we have into making sure everyone we know understands the importance of their voice and their vote."

"On #NationalVoterRegistrationDay, I'm going live on Instagram with some special guests and voting experts to make sure we're all ready to cast our ballots this fall," Obama tweeted Monday. "Join me tomorrow at 11 am ET for @WhenWeAllVote's Registered and Ready Instagram Takeover."

In honor of Voter Registration Day, the nonpartisan group organized a star-studded event to make sure that American citizens 18 and over are energized and activated for election day. Obama used her star power to ask for help from her friends capable of attracting the masses. Answering her call to help were **Jennifer Lopez, Zendaya, Tracee Ellis Ross**, activist **Brittany Packvetti** and executive director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law **Kristen Clarke** with live musical sets by **DJ Envy, Hannah Bronfman, DJ D-Nice** and others.

"[My supporters and fans] need to know that right now, we can march, we can loot, we can burn it to the ground, but when it's time to vote, we still got to get out there and vote," Jeezy said on the importance of this moment. "If we're going to fight, we got to fight it on all fronts, and we can't back down because we feel that we're not being heard.... If we show up in numbers like we've done a couple times before, you'll



Former First Lady Michelle Obama speaks during a "When We All Vote" rally (Getty Images)

see the outcome, and you're not going to get the outcome that you want by sitting at home and being emotional about it."

There is deep concern about this race which has turned ugly and divisive. When We All Vote's aim is to make certain every eligible voter has a say in what the future looks like "as the future of this nation is on the ballot in 2020."

"Families are struggling in the wake of unemployment and in-

come uncertainty, and in-person voter registration has plummeted across the country. When We All Vote works to meet people where they are, and through Fuel the Vote, we hope to do our part to get folks who could use some help, a free meal, and help get them the critical voting information they need," said **Kyle Lierman**, CEO of When We All Vote.

To date, When We All Vote has reached over 1 million eligiblers

and has registered more than 100,000 of them. They've also done their part in training individuals who provide volunteer support to encourage more people to make their voices heard on Election Day 2020. The voting group has focused on the youngest voters, high school students, and signed up more than 8,000 educators and high schoolers for My School Votes, an initiative aimed at taking a community approach

to voter registration. In addition, more than 250 organizations have signed on to help Obama tap into those eligible voters who the groups serve on a daily basis.

"Every American deserves to have their voice heard at the ballot box.... Every American deserves to have a say in the future of this country we all love," Obama asserts in a nearly two-minute clip posted to YouTube and social media. "So keep that foot on the gas!"

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Interview

Tongayi Chirisa chats about role in “Antebellum”



By Marie Moore
Contributing Scribe

Rising star **Tongayi Chirisa** has had quite a ride, with TV movies and series, including “Palm Springs,” and “The Jim Gaffigan Show.” Now adding to his impressive repertoire is the compelling alternate reality film, “Antebellum.” In an exclusive interview with Chirisa, he related just how relevant the movie is, and how little things have changed with respect to racism.

Marie Moore: Tongayi, explain your character’s motivation in “Antebellum.” **Tongayi Chirisa:** I can’t say too much without spoiling it for the rest of the people that will read this, but my character Eli has seen the brutality that happened

to him and others that he loves. It gets to a point where he feels like he now needs to try and figure out a way to get out of that hell hole.

MM: Needless to say, “Antebellum” is among the most relevant films released this year. How does that make you feel? **TC:** God, it’s a carbon copy. It is the mirror of what is happening today. It is no different to what was taking place in the 1960s with the civil rights movement, with the slaves, with underground railroads, with people trying to fight for freedom and liberty.

“The same theme is recurring 400 years later, which is, give us our freedom. Give us the equality that you so spoke about. Give us the privileges that you are so enjoying, and yet somehow you keep suppressing us from having those same benefits. Give us our equality!”

MM: What was your initial reaction when you received the script to this fantastic film? **TC:** As I read it, there was that moment when the world was turned upside down. I jumped up out of my chair, threw the script down, and hollered. I was like, ‘No way.’ I hadn’t seen something like this in a movie. So I had to be a part of this. And when they told me Janelle (Monáe) was going to be the lead in it, I was like, ‘Wow, this is writing itself.’

“Janelle is a pop icon and the



Actor Tongayi Chirisa says, “My character Eli has seen the brutality that happens to him and others that he loves”

center of everything that is cultural, everything that is about the movement, and the improvement of Black consciousness. I love who she is, what she stands for and what she advocates for. So to be a part of this film with this dynamic woman, this goes down in the history books for me.

MM: There are so many truths and great messages in “Antebel-

lum,”

but is there any one particular thought you want viewers to walk away with?

TC: That’s a very multilayered question because there’s so many things that one can walk away with. Are you for equal or are you not? And if you’re not, why? If we say that we’re created equally in the eyes of God, is that being

reflected and represented today? And if that’s not the case, what needs to be addressed to make sure that everyone gets the same treatment regardless of race or color?”

Directed by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz, “Antebellum” also stars Gabourey Sidibe, Eric Lange, Jena Malone, Jack Huston and Kiersey Clemons.



Actor Janelle Monáe portrays a woman “trapped in a horrifying reality that forces her to confront the past, present and future in “Antebellum”

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Sports



*Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor*

Gale Sayers Remembered

By Andrew Rosario

The NFL lost a true legend with the passing of Chicago Bears running back Gale Sayers. Known as the "Kansas City Comet" from his college days at Kansas, Sayers took the Bears and the league by storm. The all-purpose back ran through and around defenses setting records along the way. Sayers set the bar scoring 22 touchdowns in his very first season including 6 in one game resulting in Offensive Rookie of the Year. The icing on the cake was being the youngest player (age 34) to be inducted into the Football Hall of Fame. Said Commissioner Roger

Goodell, "Gale was one of the finest men in NFL history and one of the game's most exciting players. Gale was an electrifying and elusive runner who thrilled fans everytime he touched the ball. He earned his place as a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

What Gale Sayers accomplished off the field was just as impressive. In an era where players where players were segregated by race when they were given hotel rooms, Sayers was paired with Brian Piccolo a white teammate. Their bond was solidified when it was discovered that Piccolo was diagnosed with cancer. The 1971 movie "Brian's Song" starring Billy Dee Williams (Sayers) and James

Caan (Piccolo) first appeared as a made for tv movie before being released in theaters. Not only did Sayers donate blood, he was with Piccolo until he passed away at age 26. "I love Brian Piccolo and I'd like all of you to love him, too. Tonight, when you hit your knees, please ask God to love him," he would say.

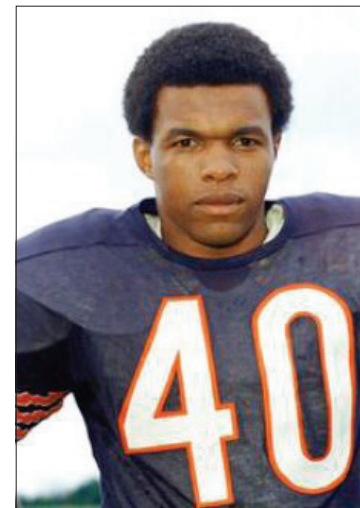
Like many athletes, Sayers career would be cut short due to injuries. It did not stop him from success in the next phase of his life. Working with Chicago youth. As a business man and philanthropist, Sayers also excelled as a stockbroker.

The city of Chicago boast

some of sports greatest athletes. Michael Jordan, Ernie Banks, Sammy Sosa, Dick Butkus to name a few. Gale Sayers is right up there with them. At the Bears 100th anniversary celebration in 2019, Butkus said, "he was amazing. I still attribute a lot of my success from trying to tackle him."

Bears Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singeltary said "it's amazing someone that was so beautiful and gifted and talented as a player and later in life to have that happen to you is really, I know, tough on everybody."

Gale Sayers passed away last week from dementia at the age of 77.



Sayers Great on and off the Field
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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