Oakland Post

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

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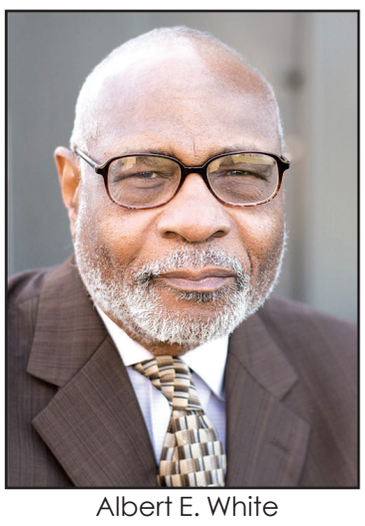
Message of Hope

A Plan Biden/Harris Administration Needs to Consider for The Revitalization of African American Business Community

Part 4
By Albert E.White,
Author of
"Race for the Net"



Albert E. White

Specific areas below to support the revitalization of the African American business community during the Biden and Harris era.

1) The Biden administration must place a significant emphasis on capital and loan creation for the African American Community. Institute at least a $50 billion program to aid African American businesses harmed by the Pandemic and unable to participate in the PPP program. This can be done by extending the existing program and establishing a funding program for African American Businesses.

2) More significant support for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) division of the U.S. Department of Commerce was established to aid minority businesses across the country. They have one of the smallest budgets of any agency, currently $50 million. MBDA's budget should be doubled to $100 million so that grants and increased technical assistance can be provided. Also, MBDA should assist in identifying capital for Minority-Owned banks. Provide technical support to HBCU institutions to promote contract opportunities in Federal, State/Local, and Commercial areas. Assist the Minority Business community in developing greater access for their products and services in international markets, a

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Oakland's Black Chamber of Commerce Celebrates With Recipient of the Resiliency Relief Program

By Sandra Varner

When the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) failed to support many Black businesses, the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce (OAACC) got busy.

Under the leadership of their president and CEO Cathy Adams, OAACC succeeded in raising $1 million for small, local, Black-owned businesses to help them reopen and sustain operations.

On Wednesday, OAACC celebrated their success with Chef Leilani Baugh, who not only moved her eatery, but changed her business model and bought new equipment.

Chef Leilani Baugh. Photo provided by Jazmyne Woffard-Jones.

At her Magnolia Street Wine Lounge and Kitchen over at 3443 San Pablo Ave., near the California Hotel at 35th and San Pablo Avenue, Baugh and her employees prepared 300 meals for local residents in need.

Operating in a new, re-formatted restaurant to accommo-

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California Appeals Court Rejects Golden State Warriors' Attempt to Avoid Their Debt to City and County

By Zoe M. Savitsky

In a decision on Tuesday, the California First Appellate District Court of Appeal has upheld both an initial arbitration decision and the lower court's decision that the Golden State Warriors cannot escape the debt they owe the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for renovations to the Oakland-Alameda County Arena, debt the Warriors agreed to pay over 20 years ago.

Oakland-Alameda County Arena

As is typical to finance large projects, the County and the City issued bonds worth over $140 million to pay for the new sports arena. They did so in reliance on and assuming the good faith of the Warriors, who agreed to help repay that debt over decades.

When the Warriors chose to leave Oakland several years ago, they also attempted to leave their unpaid debt behind. The Court of Appeal flatly rejected the Warriors' narrow and unconvincing interpretation of their commitment to Oakland and Alameda County and ordered them to fulfill the terms of the agreement.

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Kaplan Denounced Pence for Trying to Link White Supremacist Murderer to Peaceful Protests

By Post Staff

Rebecca Kaplan

Oakland City Council President Rebecca Kaplan denounced Vice President Mike Pence's speech during the Republican National Convention by saying his attempt to link the murder of a black officer by a white supremacist to the peaceful protesters, "contained deeply misleading statements regarding the horrific murder of Dave Patrick Underwood in Oakland."

According to the investigation, Mr. Underwood was killed by Steven Carrillo, a follower of the Boogaloo Boys— a right-wing extremist movement connected with white supremacists. Pence wrongly attempted to tie this killing to the Black Lives Matter movement, which, in fact, had no involvement in the killing.

Kaplan said, "There was a white supremacist murder in Oakland - and it is disgusting and wrong for anyone, especially the Vice President, to try to blame the Black Lives Matter movement. Mr. Underwood's tragic murder was not part of any demonstration, but an act of a violent, armed white supremacist."

"Pence's lies attempt to discredit important movements for social justice, and to move blame away from violent white supremacist murder. Communities are put in greater danger when white supremacist murder is excused or blamed on others -- while the President and Vice President continue to encourage violent killings by

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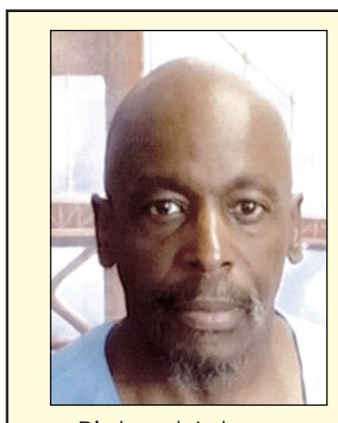

Richard Johnson

Opinion

Call to Reopen Schools Puts Parents in Tough Position

By Richard Johnson

I can't speak for others with regards for sending their children back to school, especially at a time when the entire world is under the cloud of this deathly pandemic. I can speak as a grandfather, uncle and a very concerned individual whose relatives unfortunately may

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Residents of Lakeshore High-Rise, Take City to Task Over Noise, Threats, Dangerous Activities by Lake Merritt

By Post Staff

Sideshows, blaring music, all-night parties and garbage accumulation have become a daily occurrence at Lake Merritt just outside 1200 Lakeshore Ave., the large lakefront high-rise.

More than 60 residents of the embattled building met with City Councilmember, Nikki Fortunato-Bas and key staff members from the city to voice their frustrations with these pervasive issues that have been plaguing residents for years and have only increased with COVID-19.

Residents recount stories of frequent dangerous sideshows in the cul-de-sac in front of their building, late night loud music, trash from all night parties and drug use and prostitution. Residents reported being physically threatened when they asked people to curtail their disruptive activities.

Residents said that they have been meeting with Bas and her predecessor for years about these festering issues, but nothing is ever done.

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A jogger exercises amidst refuge from last night's party. Photo: © Photo Frederic Neema/ Octamedia.

August 2020 Report on March 2020 Shooting of Joshua Pawlik by Oakland Police Officers

By Kiki

Before George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others were killed by police this year, on March 11, 2018, Joshua Pawlik who was killed by the Oakland Police Department (OPD).

Pawlik lost his life that night under circumstances that would eventually lead to the Oakland City Council agreeing to pay Pawlik's family $1.4 million in April of this year.

More than two years after Pawlik's death, a 54-page report on the shooting was released on August 17, 2020. A summary of the report and a timeline of follow-up events is below.

A passerby who was walking his dog on 40th Street in Oakland called 911 at 6:15 p.m. and reported that Pawlik was unresponsive, lying between two homes and possibly may have had a weapon.

Pawlik a 31-year-old white homeless man from San Francisco, was initially described as a "light-skinned male" by police dispatchers.

Officer Josef Phillips, first at the scene, arrived at 6:19

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Kamala Harris Wins Backing of 'Divine Nine' Sorority and Fraternities

By Cynthia Yeldell Anderson, Zenger News

In her historic speech accepting the vice presidential nomination for the Democratic Party on, Sen. Kamala Harris introduced her family — among them her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority, "The Divine Nine" and others from historically Black colleges and universities.

The California Democrat's shout-out echoed worldwide.

As the first graduate of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and the first member of a historically Black Greek letter organization named to a major party ticket, Harris' nomination has created a groundswell of enthusiasm among Black Greek member organizations whose combined membership exceeds 2 million globally.

Kamala Harris official U.S. Senate portrait. (U.S. Senate).

Carla Mannings, chief business development officer at Partners for the Common Good, joined a group of sorority sisters to watch Harris' speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 19. "There is a level of excitement that I've never seen," she said.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which represents eight other predominately Black Greek letter organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Affectionately known as "The Divine Nine," each has graduate and undergraduate chapters in the U.S. and abroad.

Since Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden announced Harris as his running mate on August 11, social media has been filled with support.

"Kappa Alpha Psi is definitely behind her, she has our vote," said member Randall C. Pippen Jr., who attended Howard University with Harris and served with her on student government there. "I've talked to Omegas and Deltas who support her, and Deltas have shared the social-media post of 'Deltas for Kamala.'

The support is across the board."

Many prominent Black political figures and civil-rights leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., (AKA), Rev. Jessie Jackson (Omega Psi Phi) and Shirley Chisholm (Delta Sigma Theta), were or are members of the Divine Nine.

"As a proud member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which is the fraternity of John Lewis, James Weldon Johnson, Rev. Al Sharpton and many others, we are grateful for all the members of the Divine Nine Black Fraternities and Sororities who are overjoyed by the nomination of Kamala Harris

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City Announces Partial Clearance in Unhoused North Oakland Community

By Zack Haber

On Aug. 21, the City of Oakland posted notices announcing plans to remove some unhoused residents who live just north of Mosswood Park Thursday, Aug. 27.

The clearance is set to affect about 15 unhoused residents who live along Manila Avenue between 38th and 40th Streets near the Temescal neighborhood of North Oakland.

Current plans would force some residents to move but will still allow them to live on Manila Avenue, forcing all unhoused residents in the area to live closer to each other.

Tents and self-made structures that sit along Manila Avenue between 38th and 40th Streets. Behind them, sits an abandoned glove factory the City is planning to demolish. Photo taken on Aug 25 by Zack Haber.

People started living on the street in the location in February after the City of Oakland evicted them from Mosswood Park. Although Kaiser Permanente donated funds to the city to offer shelter to evicted residents, many felt that the shelter offered was not allocated fairly. They claim that some people were offered hotel rooms, others were offered space in the city's Tuff Shed Program, and others were ignored.

Kat Wadsworth,* who initially moved to Mosswood Park to flee abuse from a partner and then moved to Manila Avenue after the eviction, said Operation Dignity, the non-profit that arranged shelter allocation for the city, was hesitant to reach out to "the ones of us that had been there for a long time and were kind of rougher around the edges."

Wadsworth said the people who got first pick at shelter were people that appeared cleaner and were "really new to being on the street," while those who were "not embarrassed to be a little dirty" got last pick or were ignored.

Wadsworth said she wanted a hotel. She was offered space in the Tuff Shed Program but did not feel safe being in a small space with a roommate she did not know, which the program would have required her to do.

Call to Reopen Schools Puts Parents in Tough Position

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be subjected to an in-person school arrangement, possibly being exposed to COVID-19 while at school.

To be clear, our kids need to get an education that hopefully will help them in life. This is a necessity, yet at the same time every possible precaution must be utilized to further protect them from exposure to the virus, but as of now, I don't see this being considered in the scheme of things.

What is noticeable is that it seems that the Dept. of Education is trying to intimidate the school districts into restarting in-person classes, dismissing distance-learning models, the pods and other available avenues that could assist in protecting the children who are the future of the world.

The threat of withholding funds deprives parents of their obligation to protect their offspring by choosing educational methods that give them, as parents, some peace of mind.

Where does it end? In terms of making sure that they're provided with the best safeguards and assurances that you can give them, your child is your responsibility, not the Administration's.

If, under duress, you are pressured to send your child to school and the worst possible situation comes to fruition, do you think the government will take responsibility? It is critical that parents do what they think is right under these unusual and very challenging times when it comes to sending their loved ones back to school.

Ask yourself why the administration is going to such extremes to reopen our schools during a pandemic. There's only one conclusion, politics.

The call for the reopening is just a manifestation of the broader picture of trying to revive the economy to return the norm. But COVID-19 has created a new normal where almost everything has changed. Therefore, we must rethink everything to adjust to this new normality.

COVID-19 has brought a devastating sea change and until everyone acknowledges this new reality, we will be in a holding pattern of uncertainty and confusion. The world has transformed and as citizens of the world we must equally adapt to change in our thinking as well.

Richard Johnson, K-53293.
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California Appeals Court Rejects Golden State Warriors' Attempt to Avoid Their Debt to City and County

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"The residents of Oakland and Alameda County have been unwavering fans of the Golden State Warriors for over 50 years," said Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority Executive Director Henry Gardner.

"Not only did we have a legally binding agreement, we were partners, working together on producing and keeping a first class exciting basketball team in our community," Gardner said. "The community did so with passion and commitment and at great public expense. To simply wave goodbye and leave outstanding debt in excess of $48 million is egregious. The City, County, and Joint Powers Authority said you are obligated to pay. The Court of Appeal agreed."

The Warriors' effort to withdraw from their agreement without fulfilling it required the City and County, as the principal members of the JPA, to engage in years of arbitration and litigation, costing over $1 million over time.

Despite evidence of a shared agreement and shared understanding starting as far back as 1996, the Warriors nonetheless required the local governments to spend significant time and money over many years to keep the terms of the agreement in place.

This decision should bring tens of millions of dollars to the City, County, and JPA, including the unpaid debt and legal costs and fees.

"This victory provides justice for the people of Oakland," said City Attorney Barbara J. Parker. "The Warriors got the benefit of the bargain they made more than 20 years ago, and yet pursued specious claims to avoid their obligations.

"We are pleased that every court that reviewed this case agreed that the Warriors must honor their debt, stop stiffing their fans, and pay costs and fees that we incurred."

The Court of Appeal decision can be found here.

Zoe M. Savitsky is on the staff of the Oakland City Attorney's Office.

Kamala Harris Wins Backing of 'Divine Nine'

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for the office of Vice President of United States of America," said Ben Chavis, CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

But Harris is the first to be a vice president nominee for a major party ticket.

"It's clearly a historic moment," said Everett B. Ward, president of AKA Fraternity Inc., on behalf of the nine NPHC presidents. Harris represents the high standards of public service and leadership that define members of the National Pan Hellenic Council, he said.

"All of our organizations, prior to Sen. Harris' nomination, historically have been involved in voter registration, voter education and advancing public policy that involves African Americans," Ward said. "The nomination underscores the importance for our organizations to continue promoting voter engagement and voter education."

Divine Nine member organizations, along with graduates and students across the country, also take pride in the fact that Harris is a graduate of a HBCU.

"Her selection is a nod to the excellence that comes out of HBCUs," said Inez Brown, who attended Howard University and pledged AKA with Harris. "Often, people think HBCUs are not up to the same standards as predominantly white institutions and it's absolutely not true. Statistics will tell you the most successful people in business, in finance and in different areas are products of HBCUs."

August 2020 Report on March 2020 Shooting of Joshua Pawlik

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p.m. and reported to the OPD Communications Division that Pawlik had a semiautomatic handgun in his right hand and was " . . . either sleeping or unconscious, or possibly intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics."

Other officers and supervisors arrived at the scene and blocked traffic and a BearCat (specialized armored police vehicle) also arrived.

A camera was placed on the BearCat and captured Sgt. Francisco Negrete, officers William Berger, Brandon Hraiz and Craig Tanaka firing their AR-15 patrol rifles -- 22 shots in 2.23 seconds -- as Pawlik began to awaken and move.

Phillips fired a "less than lethal shot".

Pawlik was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:13 and had been handcuffed.

The five police officers were not disciplined immediately at the time because Oakland Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick, the first woman to head the OPD, said they did not act improperly. They were eventually fired in 2019 but reinstated because the Oakland Police Commission violated the open meeting laws.

As reported by Zack Haber in a story published in The Post on March 15, 2019, the Coalition for Police Accountability (CPA) called for the firing of Kirkpatrick.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf , who hired Kirkpatrick in January 2017, joined the seven-person OPD commission in voting unanimously to fire Kirkpatrick without cause on Feb. 20, 2020,

In May, Kirkpatrick filed a federal whistleblower suit against the City of Oakland, claiming her firing was retaliation for exposing the Oakland Police Commission's corruption and abuse of power.

"The March 11, 2018, Shooting of Joshua Pawlik by Oakland Police Officers: A Report of the Monitor/Compliance Director," was released. Retired Chief Robert S. Warshaw is listed as the author and monitor/compliance director.

The report recounted the killing of Pawlik by ". . . 22 bullets fired by four officers as he gained consciousness, with a handgun by his side, in a residential neighborhood of Oakland. One officer fired seven times; another six times; another five times; and another four times . . ."

"Deaths of the disenfranchised—be they people of color, those affected by mental illness, or those experiencing homelessness—at the hands of the police are a stain on our national character."

(The Washington Post has created a national log of fatal shootings by on-duty police officers since 2015. To date, more than 5,000 shootings have been logged.)

The report concluded that Pawlik's right hand was on the ground when the shooting began and concurs with OPD, which acknowledged " . . . that the on-scene Commander was not sequestered at the scene, nor was he interviewed on the night of the incident."

The report also found that former Chief Kirkpatrick "… failed to question and correct the numerous deficiencies and omissions in the investigation prior to finalizing and forwarding the report to the District Attorney's Office."

Based on that report, on March 6, 2020, the D.A. declined to prosecute the case against OPD.

Schaaf told Warshaw that Pawlik's shooting was "awful but lawful".

In conclusion, the report stated that "Joshua Pawlik's death, as well as many others, mostly Black and Brown, who have died at the hands of the police, are to be counted among those

Biden/Harris Administration Needs to Consider for The Revitalization of the African American Business Community

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significant initiative in Internet commerce. MBDA should participate in the Small Business Innovate Research (SBIR) grant program to promote inventions and ideas of the African American community.

3) Increase the percentage of federal contracts available to African American businesses and end the bundling practice of Federal and State/local contracts. This activity over the years has limited contracts for African American businesses.

4) Eliminate the contract size standard cap for African American Businesses and increase the number of years of their participation in the SBA's 8(a) program from nine to twelve years.

5) Create and foster greater participation of African American businesses in the manufacturing sector. This should include programs that promote suppliers of healthcare products and services.

6) Establish a grant funding program to restore small businesses in local communities, i.e., barbershops, salons, restaurants, and small retail operations. These businesses have been the backbone of the economy in the African American Community.

7) Strengthen the tax benefit for investors that partner with African American businesses

8) Create a long-term capital investment program to support our HBCU community. Provide a matching program for monetary contributions to HBCUs by the federal government.

9) Appoint African Americans to head the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration

The African American Community requires a "Marshall Plan," today similar to the economic program established after WW ll, to rebuild Europe. Our community will need some major financial help at all levels. We need to reconstruct the African American community today and protect our children and future generations

Please VOTE as if your life depends on it because it does.
www.raceforthenet to order my book
alwhite@raceforthenet.com

Residents of Lakeshore High-Rise, Take City to Task Over Noise

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"Even on the 18th floor, the loud music is a stress. It happens day and night. I've been threatened and chased. I've almost been hit by a sideshow car. If you can't solve the problem you don't get my vote," said resident Darren Kitchen to Bas.

To make matters worse, the Oakland Police Dept.'s response has been stifled. "A call for disturbance, where no one is hurt gets pushed to the bottom and may or may not be handled by an officer," said Sgt. Kim, who is assigned to police the neighborhood surrounding the building.

"My quality of life has gone down significantly," said Andrew Zacks, a resident living at 1200 Lakeshore. "I'm a taxpayer. I don't think that it is unreasonable to ask the city to enforce existing laws. People have a right to access the lake, but they don't have a right to affect the quality of life (of others). I'm not sleeping well. My family is not sleeping well. These are reasonable concerns."

Fed up with the city's inaction, the building owners engaged consultant Greg McConnell to help them find solutions to their problems with the city.

Speaking about the sideshows and doughnuts, McConnell said "the city ought to deal with this as if it's a health and life-threatening emergency for residents of this building. What happens if an elderly person gets hit (by a car)? There would be injuries and lawsuits. Let's not talk about what we can't do, but what you can do to fix this problem now."

"We have discussed all of these issues before," said building resident June Fasion. "Nikki, you took detailed notes. This call has been going on for an hour and I have learned nothing new. I thought this meeting would be about where we are…. We are talking about the same thing over again."

"I know activities around the lake are challenging," said Bas. "There are challenges to strict enforcement. We are talking about changing people's behavior."

After residents re-iterated their concerns and pressed city officials for action for two hours, Joe DeVries of the city administrator's office promised to cut through the bureaucratic red-tape and fast-track the installation of speedbumps on the cul-de-sac to inhibit side-shows in front of the building.

"These issues are affecting us all," said building resident Elnora Tena Webb. "I just want you to get to the point. I don't want to know the process. Humbly speaking, I'm less impressed with the meetings but more impressed with action."

The high note of the meeting was that speed bumps will be installed, but most people felt the major issue of late- night noise, parties and disruption remain without clear steps toward resolution was not adequately addressed. Bas agree that further steps will be taken, but most residents remain skeptical.

Kaplan Denounced Pence

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their supporters. Our communities deserve better, and the lies of the Vice President should be denounced by all people of conscience," said Kaplan

As has been reported previously:

"Steven Carrillo, a California man who was charged with murder, scrawled phrases tied to an online far-right extremist movement in blood on a car shortly before he was detained…. Elements of The Boogaloo have evolved from a gathering of militia enthusiasts and Second Amendment advocates into a full-fledged violent extremist group, which inspires lone wolf actors and cell-like actors alike."