

**Celebrating 125 years
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Patricia Little Williams is now left to care for her deceased daughter's two children, 2-year-old LaNay and 1-year-old Marlena. (File photo/J. Hurst)

Archive: A mother and her family await justice in slaying of her daughter

By **ANNETTE L. ANDERSON**
Recorder Correspondent

"I just feel like he has stripped something from my heart," said Patricia Little Williams about the man accused of killing her daughter LaTonya Williams. Feb. 6, 2003, will be a date that will remain in the minds and thoughts of the Williams family for a long, long time to come. The 33-year-old Black woman was slain on that date, and charged with the crime is Brian Johnson, a 43-year-old white man. "After I came home from the hospital the night she died, I just fell out in the middle of the floor, crying and screaming for my daughter, who would never come home again," Williams said. "I decided to come home alone, because I thought I could bear it, but I was so wrong."

According to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Johnson is charged with one count of murder and one count of attempted murder. "If found guilty of both charges, Brian Johnson could face from 65 to 115 years," pointed out Roger Rayl, the media spokesperson for the office.

Rayl said, "We are not pursuing the death penalty, because 'in order to file for the death penalty, there has to be specific aggravating circumstances set out in state law. However, (in the case of years sentenced) the judge can add or subtract 10 years, due to aggravating circumstances.'"

The attempted murder charge involves a third person, who Indianapolis police say was with LaTonya and Johnson earlier in the evening of the murder. "We suspect that a Black male was also inside the vehicle that Johnson was driving throughout the day, and may have been in it at the time the victim was killed," said homicide Detective Lesia Moore. "And although the two remaining players (Johnson and the unidentified Black man) will probably never reveal what the motive was, the other detectives and I believe it is related to a drug interaction or transaction, or another situation involving money."

Moore, who is a 23-year police veteran, is

See **JUSTICE, A5** ▶

Reed family gets autopsy report

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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The family of Dreasjon Reed now has the autopsy report nearly three months after he was killed by Indianapolis police.

The Marion County Coroner's Office released the report to the family at 11 a.m. Aug. 5 after the Marion County Superior Court authorized its release. That's the same time the family and their attorneys scheduled a press conference outside of the coroner's office.

Demetree Wynn, Reed's mother, walked into the office and viewed the report before stepping outside. She had to be consoled before addressing media.

"I can't breathe," she said. "My heart hurts."

Everything coming from Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the city is a "complete fabrication," Wynn said. Her comments were brief, and she directed questions to the family's attorneys, Fatima Johnson and Swaray Conteh.

Johnson reiterated they don't believe Reed pointed a gun or shot at Dejour Mercer, the officer who killed Reed. Police have said Reed shot at Mercer during a foot chase and that Mercer returned fire.

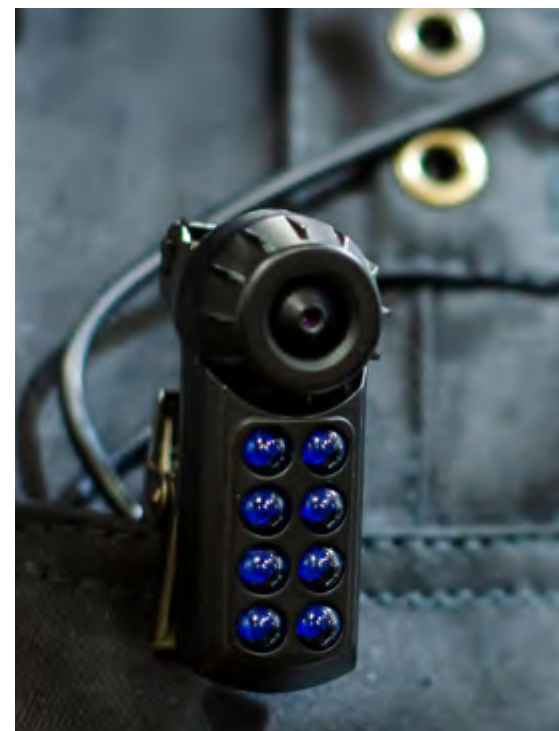
Johnson said they will review the autopsy report with their own experts and consult Rosemary Khoury, the special prosecutor appointed to the case, before deciding whether to release it to the public.

"I don't think there's gonna be anything in here that we did not already know," she said.

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Swaray Conteh, an attorney for the family of Dreasjon Reed, addresses media at a press conference Aug. 5 outside of the Marion County Coroner's Office. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)



IMPD officers equipped with body cameras

By **BREANNA COOPER**
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More than 1,000 Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers will be equipped with body cameras. In a press conference Aug. 3, IMPD Chief Randal Taylor announced a partnership with Utility Inc. to get cameras installed in the uniforms of 1,100 IMPD officers.

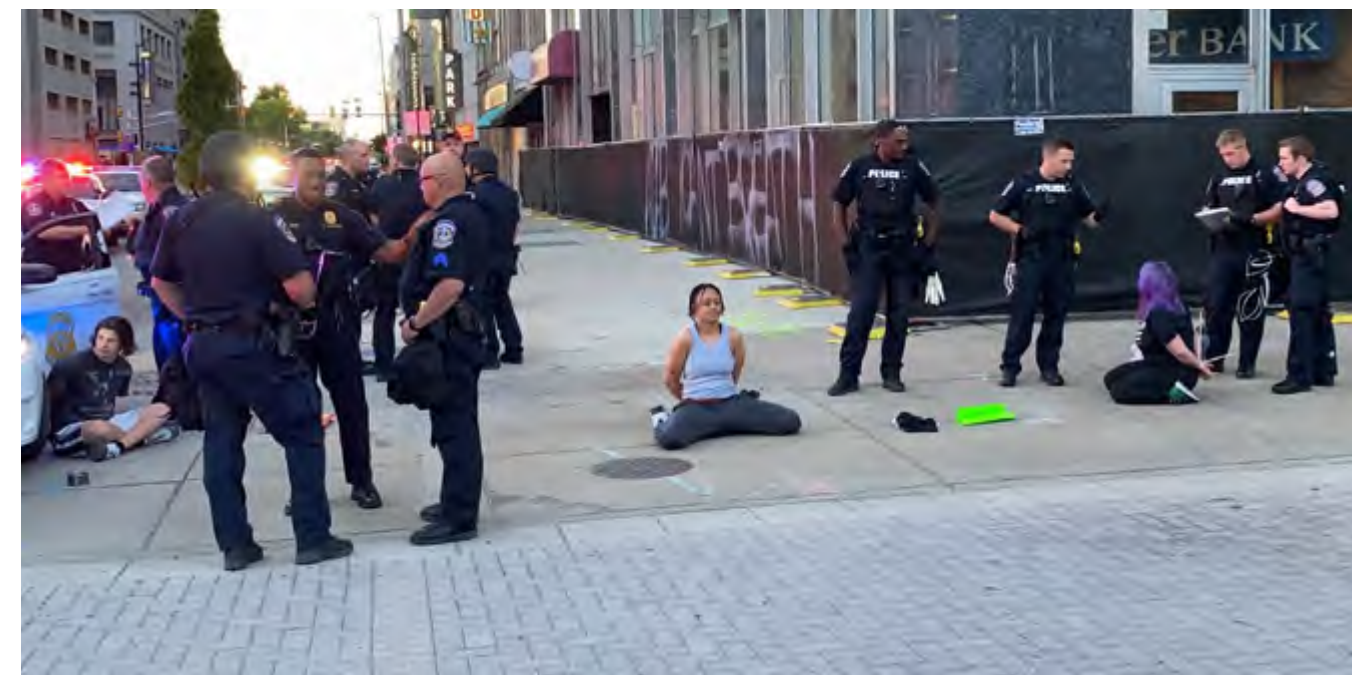
"This represents a significant improvement," Taylor said.

"While officers will announce they are recording ... residents should assume any interaction they have is being recorded."

Jason Dombkowski, director of law enforcement relations at Utility Inc., said the cameras will be automatically triggered when it senses an officer is in a foot pursuit, when their weapon is drawn and when an officer approaches the location they

See **CAMERAS, A5** ▶

IMPD gets credit for policy updates, but activists still concerned about oversight



Police stand around at the corner of East Washington and South Pennsylvania streets after arresting at least three people May 31, the first night of curfew in Indianapolis. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Under previous guidelines from Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, officers weren't forbidden from shooting at and from moving vehicles, nor were they forbidden from using chokeholds.

That changed recently when the department announced updates to its policies that outline when and

how officers can use lethal and "less-lethal" force.

Some of those who have been most critical of IMPD said the changes are welcome updates to a section of the department's General Orders that hasn't changed since 2016 — the department usually updates its use-of-force policies every four years — but they also made clear this can't be the conclusion.

"It's a critical step," said Katie Blair, director of advo-

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We know we must do more to address the very real consequences of systemic racism that exist in society today. The impact on communities across the country is clear, including where our teammates live and serve our clients.

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- increasing medical response capacity and access to health care
- powering minority-owned small businesses through access to capital
- helping people find a place to call home they can both love and afford

We know there's a lot of work to be done, but we promise to keep listening as we work together on this shared mission.



Andy Crask
Indianapolis Market President





By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Shani Warren and her husband made the decision to have their son — a soon-to-be seventh grader in the Metropolitan School District (MSD) of Lawrence Township — continue e-learning for the time being. Warren, a business owner, can work from home, and her husband’s job has been flexible with his schedule, as well, she said.

For many parents in Indianapolis, however, as the city reopens and parents return to work, e-learning may be difficult to do successfully — especially if they have younger students. In addition, some districts are continuing an all-virtual school model, leaving some parents to figure out how best to balance e-learning and work.

“I’ve been really blessed, to be honest,” Warren said. “... I do feel very sorry for those who don’t have the same level of flexibility. I know it’s very difficult.”

Warren speaks from experience. Last semester, she and her husband watched over her nephew during the e-learning period while her sister worked.

Indianapolis is currently in stage 4.5 of reopening, meaning restaurants, bars, gyms, entertainment venues and shopping malls are all open, some at limited capacity. Many businesses and offices are open again, leaving many parents having to choose between sending their child back to school — and risk catching COVID-19 — or staying home with their child to continue e-learning.

Erin Macey, senior policy analyst at Indiana Institute for Working Families, said parents — or anyone, for that matter — should be aware of their rights and company policies before having conversations with their employer about possible paid leave.

“Go into that conversation knowing whether or not you’re covered under the CARES [Coronavirus

Aid, Relief and Economic Security] Act,” Macey said. “Paid sick leave and caregiver leave is available to some workers in Indiana, and you can get up to 12 weeks if your child’s school is closed.”

According to the Department of Labor, workers may qualify for funds for paid sick leave — possibly up to 80 hours of paid sick leave to employees — if the worker or someone the employer is caring for is subject to quarantine, they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, if their child is out of school or they are unable to access child care due to the pandemic.

Macey noted, however, businesses with less than 50 employees may not have to provide paid leave.

Many community members fear the ongoing pandemic, along with more parents returning to work, will lead to a child care crisis if enough facilities aren’t open. For the safety of children and families, many child care facilities closed down temporarily. Rep. André Carson co-sponsored the Child Care is Essential Act which will allocate \$50 billion to award grants to child care providers to reopen safely and keep their daycares open.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic worsens, children in Indiana and across America are at risk of falling behind as child care centers struggle to stay open,” Carson said in a statement. “We are experiencing a child care crisis, where more and more parents are unable to provide children with the care and enrichment they need, and child care workers suffer loss of wages and unsafe working conditions. Nowhere is this crisis felt more than in Black and Brown communities, which are experiencing a disproportionate economic turmoil.”

Beyond child care needs, many parents and schools are grappling with what re-opening will look like — specifically, testing students and staff and assisting children who may need extra help with school work.

Some schools are already experiencing a likely scenario many will face with in-person learning. A middle school in Greenfield and a school in Avon had positive COVID-19 cases in the first days of reopening.

For Marion County school districts that return to in-person learning, Marion County Public Health Department Director Dr. Virginia Caine said testing will be available for all schools with students and staff returning to classrooms. Caine also said the wait time for results will be shorter and the tests will be free of charge.

To assist parents who need extra help for their students while Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) does e-learning until at least October, learning hubs will be available for students.

“Please know the decision to recommend full remote learning for all students for the beginning of the school year was incredibly difficult to make, given what we know is at stake for our students,” IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said in a statement. “Ultimately, we believe this decision is in the best interest of our students, staff and families.”

For parents who will need time off to care for their families, Macey recommends getting everything in writing and knowing your rights as a worker.

“It’s very helpful to get everything in writing, or to follow up through email or written form document that you’ve made a request,” Macey said. “There are some really great hotlines, like Better Balance, which is a legal aid hotline focused on this kind of paid and unpaid leave. ... Contacting employment labor attorneys may be another option.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



National
Urban League



Indianapolis
Urban League



AFRICAN
AMERICAN
COALITION OF
INDIANAPOLIS

Dear:

The Indianapolis Urban League and the African American Coalition of Indianapolis are pleased to announce we will partner with the National Urban League to administer the newly formed Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Renewal Initiative. The Initiative is made possible by a \$100 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to the National Urban League. This extraordinary place-based initiative will provide a unique funding opportunity to address challenges facing Indianapolis’ African American community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our nation’s health and economic systems and disproportionately harmed African Americans, it has illuminated decades of disparities and unequal access to multiple life-essential resources.

“The pandemic has laid bare how the quality of life for African Americans has been diminished by generations of systemic racism, which has limited their access to educational and economic opportunities that others often take for granted,” said N. Clay Robbins, Lilly Endowment’s Chairman, President and CEO. “The Endowment invited this grant request from the National Urban League because of the Endowment’s positive experiences with past grants to it and the Indianapolis Urban League and because of the strong commitment of both organizations to equality, education, economic empowerment, and health and wellness in the African American community. We hope that the efforts funded through this initiative, which will supplement the Endowment’s ongoing support of the efforts of several Indianapolis organizations that strive to improve the quality of life of African Americans, will materially enhance the future prosperity of significant numbers of African Americans in our community.”

Lilly Endowment made the grant to the National Urban League because of the financial and administrative capacity it will bring to the effort and because of its national connections to efforts around the country to address similar challenges. The Initiative will encourage collaboration and resource maximization between the National Urban League, the Indianapolis Urban League and the African American Coalition of Indianapolis and its member organizations, community groups, faith-based organizations, corporations, foundations, local and state public agencies and individuals already engaged in addressing challenging conditions facing African Americans in Indianapolis. The National Urban League and the African American Coalition of Indianapolis expect the collaboration could become a national model for the engagement between philanthropies, community-based organizations, and national entities.

“This initiative represents an historic opportunity to build a model for other communities to emulate,” National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said. “The economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought unprecedented destruction on Black urban communities, many of which never recovered from the Great Recession, and it will take an unprecedented approach to rebuild and revitalize them. This initiative will seek to combine the resources, infrastructure, expertise and passion of the Indianapolis public, private and civic institutions in a way that could have a profound effect not only on Indianapolis’ economic future, but the national recovery.”

The Indianapolis Urban League and African American Coalition of Indianapolis will lead the Initiative locally, working with a broad cross section of Indianapolis’ African American community to establish objectives and priorities, and advise the National Urban League about which Indianapolis organizations will receive funding. Throughout the grant process they will seek additional input from the African American community about desired priority grant focuses and will collaborate on planning and developing methods that maximize resident input and ensure optimal use of the funds. Funding through the Initiative may last up to five years.

“Lilly Endowment has maintained a special commitment to its hometown of Indianapolis for more than 80 years. We believe that our city cannot flourish if it does not address the systemic injustices that have affected — and continue to

affect — African Americans,” said Ronni Kloth, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for community development. “We hope that this grant will provide leverage for the Indianapolis Urban League, the African American Coalition of Indianapolis, and others in the African American community to lead comprehensive efforts that advance our shared goal of improving quality of life for African American residents.”

The first months of the Initiative will be devoted to seeking input from a broad cross section of the Indianapolis’ African American community to refine definitions of community needs and priorities; exploring local and national results-based models and best practices to address the priorities; and establishing a quality team that will guide the initiative. Thus, there will be limited grant making in 2020.

Based on community input, the Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Renewal Initiative may focus on efforts to help African Americans:

- Gain access to quality lifelong learning opportunities – from early childhood education to post-secondary education, advanced job training and career development;
- Build family stability and financial assets and have access to affordable housing;
- Improve physical and mental health;
- Achieve greater economic and business parity;
- Participate in advocacy, civic engagement and leadership to promote equality and racial justice.

The funds may be used for programs and direct services and also for planning, programmatic and policy research and development, capacity building, leadership development, evaluation, encouraging collaborations, promoting best practices, developing needed organizational infrastructure, various community projects and so forth. Both secular and faith-based organizations will be eligible to receive grant funds to support initiatives that are collaborative, align with the priorities jointly established by the Indianapolis Urban League and African American Coalition of Indianapolis, and other community participants.

“The African American Coalition of Indianapolis (AACI), a collaboration of more than 20 African American civic, religious, social, professional and human service organizations, appreciates this unique opportunity to deepen our partnership with the Indianapolis Urban League and the National Urban League to mobilize against persistent conditions that destroy hope and promise for individuals of all ages and their families within the African American community,” said Willis K. Bright, Jr., chairman of the African American Coalition of Indianapolis.

The Initiative will also seek additional corporate, government, educational and philanthropic partnerships to best achieve short-term and long-term goals in creating permanent improvement in the quality of life within the Indianapolis African American community.

“We are excited to work alongside the African American Coalition in administering this generous place-based grant, provided by Lilly Endowment to the National Urban League. This grant will ignite, strengthen, and build upon numerous established collaborations while affording newly discovered opportunities within our community – all grounded in a common goal of improving the quality of life of African American residents in our community; from strengthening education (early childhood to life-long learning), individual growth and family stability, public health and healthy lifestyles, workforce development and employment to Black business development and entrepreneurship, and renewed civic engagement – as big as we can collectively dream,” Indianapolis Urban League President and CEO Tony Mason said.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO,
National Urban League

Anthony R. Mason
President and CEO,
Indianapolis Urban League

Willis K. Bright, Jr.
Chairman,
African American
Coalition of Indianapolis

Local artists join together for ‘Black Lives Matter’ mural

By BREANNA COOPER
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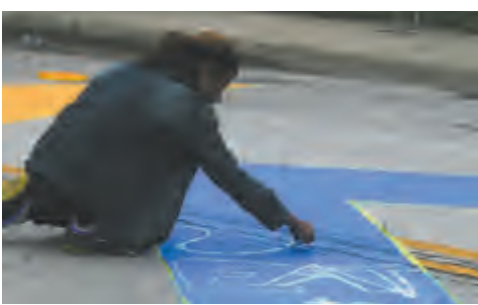
For decades, Indiana Avenue was the epicenter of Black life in Indianapolis. Today, few reminders of the avenue's significance to the Black community exist. However, thanks to 18 local Black artists, a resolution from the city-county council and the Indianapolis Urban League, a Black Lives Matter mural — which are popping up in cities around the country — now exists as a tribute to what Indiana Avenue used to be and the ongoing struggle for justice.

Harriet Watson, 25, was tasked with creating the letter “A” in Matters. With paint supplied from the Indianapolis Urban League and inspired by Faith Ringgold's protest art “The Flag is Bleeding,” Watson said she pulled from other Black artists and her own experience as a Black woman to create her part of the mural.

“Because I'm a Black person, I just feel greatly about the brutality that's going on,” Watson said. “I felt the need to participate. I'm not usually an artist who does Black identity-based work, so I definitely looked for inspiration from Black artists who were involved in revolutionary projects.”

Unlike some Black Lives Matter murals created in other cities, the mural downtown is reflective of each artists' individual style and voice.

“I think that it's just really cool to go up close and see the 18 artists differ-



Local artists painted a Black Lives Matter mural on Indiana Avenue on Aug. 1. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)

ent perspectives on celebrating being Black and protecting Black people,” Watson said. “Literally every letter is an individual mural, is an individual expression of what the artist is feeling — it's more unique.”

The creation of the mural was made possible by a resolution from the city-county council, co-sponsored by President Vop Osili. The resolution said the creation of the mural was a way to “convey a message condemning racism and inequality.”

Throughout the course of the day — which included a brief rain delay — community members could come and watch the artists create. This provided

some the chance to protest the creation of the mural. Watson, however, believes focusing on the art and its message is more productive.

“We weren't there to focus on them, we were there to spread positivity,” Watson said. “I mean, it's not shocking that people are angry about it. It just reflects the need for more education and more experience of bringing people together. ... It's nothing to be too angry about, it's just art.”

With Black Lives Matter activists out and about in Indianapolis on almost a daily basis, the movement shows no signs of slowing down. For Watson, a student at Indiana University, the op-

Follow local art!
To see more of Harriet Watson's work, check out her Instagram page, @harrietwatson.art

portunity to be part of a historic movement is one she said she won't forget.

“It's a huge honor, and I'm really proud to be a part of it,” she said. “It's a really great message, and I hope it sticks. I just feel so grateful to be a part of spreading that message.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

Un-conference seeks to help leaders impact city

By MIKAILI AZZIZ

Five years ago on the corner of 30th and Martin Luther King Jr. streets, pastor John Girton, locally known as “Pastor G.,” set up the tent he'd be sleeping in for a month to raise awareness about crime in Indianapolis.

Today, what he calls the tent campaign has blossomed into an annual call-to-action for activists, grassroots organizers, urban educators and other individuals with the desire to make a difference.

“The Urban Servant Leadership Un-conference was the vehicle that we put together a year later, in 2016,” said Girton, founder of Unite for Change. “It was designed to say, ‘Look, these people have dreams, passions, ideas, creativity. They have a voice. They have all the things necessary to lift up these communities, but what they're not getting are the opportunities.’”

Girton says the Un-conference gets its name from the unique structure of the event. Many conferences are organized in a way that attendees learn from



Attend the Un-Conference
What: The sixth annual virtual Urban Servant Leadership Un-conference
When: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 15
Where: Online. Register at www.uniteforchange.org/un-conference
For more information, visit www.uniteforchange.org.

a subject matter expert, but at the Un-conference, many attendees are equally experienced and contribute to the conversation.

Though the focus of the event has always been to address community issues, Girton believes leaders are needed this year more than ever, with racial uprisings and the COVID-19 pandemic as added concerns.

“If we don't strategize about the demands, agendas and things we want to see happen in our community, once the energy runs out, things that are important don't get done,” he added. “This would simply be because we weren't strategic in our communication with one another.”

Set for Aug. 15, the theme of Unite for Change's sixth annual Urban Servant Leadership Un-conference is “Navigating The New Normal: What Now?” The event will be virtual and offer networking opportunities, speakers and a variety of breakout sessions for attendees to learn from and enjoy.

Memphis activist Theryn Bond will lead the breakout session, “The Protest and the Process.”

“Pastor G. has been my mentor since my freshman or sophomore year of college,” Bond said, laughing. “That's been, gosh, over 15 years. He was a professor at my university.”

Similar to Girton, Bond's career has shown a life-long commitment to community activism. Aside from being at the front lines during protests, Bond also ran for city council in Memphis in 2019, losing in the general election.

“Since I've worked in all of these different spaces, I understand how they all work together and can effectively explain to others, ‘I understand why you may not think voting matters, but it does, and let me tell you why,’” she said.

The way Bond sees it, the Black community has made some detrimental mistakes in the past, in relation to upholding a unified agenda. From her perspective, people need to get past petty differences to effectively achieve a common goal.

Girton also stresses the importance of a collective, forward-thinking attitude.

“This is not just about bringing together the strong organizations,” he noted. “It's also about empowering the weaker, underfunded or undercapitalized organizations so that we can fill in those blanks and address all of the issues.”



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JUSTICE

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more than pleased about the charges against Johnson. “Because I was able to obtain an arrest and get charges filed, this is a big step in a positive direction,” she continued. Moore also said that Johnson claims the incident was accidental, and that he does not really recall hitting LaTonya with the car, a car that belongs to his girlfriend. “But if that were true, he would not be in custody, or charged as he is,” Moore said.

Johnson’s initial hearing was held on Feb. 26, and his pre-trial is scheduled for April 29.

Williams said, “I keep going over and over in my head what the police told me — that LaTonya was run over with a car, and that a man deliberately ran over her. This has torn me into pieces, bit by bit. And I know I would not have made it through if it had not been for the love and support of my entire family.”

Williams has three other children, Stanley Williams, and Dwayne and John Holloway, who have been by her side, as well as a niece, sister, and brother and sister-in-law, Douglas and Ore-

tha Shields, who cared for LaTonya’s two young daughters during this ordeal. LaTonya’s daughters are LaNay, 2, and 1-year-old Marlena.

“I’m coming around now, but for a long time I could not accept that this happened,” stated Shields. “I loved my niece LaTonya, and I love those girls. Every time I look into their eyes, I see her. The way she died was just so brutal, and is just too devastating to take – a big car running over such a small-framed lady.”

According to family members, LaTonya wore a size 8 in clothing, and was less than 5 feet tall.

“I have lost a dear niece, one that always had a smile on her face every time I saw her,” said Mrs. Shields. “She would always hug and kiss me, and ask me how I was doing. I am going to really miss her being around.”

One of the saddest aspects of this story is that the young woman’s cousin, Kenneth Shields, was one of the last people to see her alive. “That night I was going into one of the neighborhood stores, and she (LaTonya) was coming out of it,” he remembered.

“We embraced, as we always did, and I told her that I loved her and to be careful. She said she was on her way home, which was not far from where we were. She was in very good spirits.

“Later that night, I woke up out of a deep sleep, with an eerie feeling that something was wrong. I was in a daze, when about 30 minutes later the phone rang with the disturbing news that she had been hurt. He (Johnson) did not have to kill her, especially the way he did it. She was just a little woman with a big heart.”

Williams said her granddaughters are adjusting to the loss of their mother, but that they are wondering where she is. “I tell them that she is sleeping in heaven with God,” the grandmother said.

Williams, who is eagerly awaiting the outcome of the trial, has some ideas about punishment. “I want the state to give him the death penalty, because I am never going to see my daughter again,” she noted. “Then and only then will justice be served.”

CAMERA

► Continued from A1

were dispatched to. Furthermore, cameras will be activated if an officer is lying flat on the ground for 10 seconds or more.

Dombkowski said officers can turn the cameras on and off, but there is a 30-second buffer.

According to Taylor, video footage will be held for 180 days — abiding by a state mandate — and will be held longer if an investigation into an incident is necessary. Taylor said all of the 1,100 officers being equipped with a body camera will have one installed by November at the latest. There are 1,700 IMPD officers in total.

Samantha Douglas, a member of the Far East Side Community Council, said she’s “encouraged by what we have so far,” and called this a big step toward transparency she said is long overdue.

“This happened because of community engagement,” Douglas said. “This is not the time to stop holding leaders and institutions accountable, this is just the beginning. This is a small step in a very big journey.”

Vop Osili, president of the city-county council, echoed Douglas’ claim that this program was led by the community.

“We heard citizens’ perspectives on what needed to happen to improve relations,” Osili said, referencing calls for bias training for officers and body cameras. “The council appropriated funding for both, and now, two years later, fair and impartial police training and body cameras are a reality for IMPD.”

The first body camera trial in Indianapolis began five years ago. Mayor Joe Hogsett said a decrease in cost and conversations with community members led to the installation of cameras taking place today.

“Today is a win for a better police-community relationship on both sides,” Hogsett said. “This is not a cure-all, and with last week’s release of IMPD’s use of force policy update, body cameras are only one part of a larger effort to improve trust between our community and law enforcement personnel.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

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ESKENAZI HEALTH

EDITORIAL

Great first steps for IMPD,
but we’ve got a long journey ahead

By OSEYE BOYD



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department is making much-needed and long-sought after change to the way it operates. After years of efforts, the voices of those in the community are finally being heard. IMPD officers will now have body cameras on their persons and the use-of-force policy is being updated. The updates include specific language on de-escalation and less-lethal force. IMPD should be applauded for these steps toward more transparency and public accountability. However, these are just steps. We haven’t arrived at our destination — true systemic change in policing in Indianapolis. I recognize that’s a lofty goal, but since when has that stopped Americans? Those who arrived on these shores in search of religious freedom had a lofty goal. The Founding Fathers had a lofty goal. There are countless examples of people in this country forging ahead when all signs point to the impossible. So, I find it quite ironic that in matters of parity for Black Americans, efforts often are stalled because of the level of difficulty in achieving the goal. I certainly hope IMPD doesn’t become a victim of such stagnant thinking. I know there are those who feel this is enough and Black people should be satisfied. I know there are

those who are frustrated that we aren’t satisfied after making such concessions and think we never will be satisfied because we always want more. I know there are those in IMPD who feel picked on and believe these requests come from an anti-police mentality. I can’t speak for all Black residents of Indianapolis, but I am not satisfied and won’t be until we achieve the goal stated previously — true systemic change in policing. I know police officers serve an important function in our society, so I don’t think abolishing police is the answer — unless someone can tell me what we replace them with. I am, however, against the current system because I’m anti-police brutality. I’m against the lack of police accountability. I’m against the lack of police transparency. It’s unfortunate that some would choose to interpret improving a system so it works well for everyone as a negative. We’re already on the right path. To continue down that road, we need more civilian oversight — from civilians who aren’t connected to police. Civilians on boards that review the actions of IMPD often are appointed and have current or previous ties to the department. Having people who don’t have connections to IMPD would go a long way toward improving community-police relations. It would help civilians understand the challenges police officers face and those civilians could serve as liaisons to their respective communities. For its part, IMPD could benefit from hearing points of view that differ and challenge the department to hold itself to a standard of excellence.

In addition, it would serve those who work for IMPD well to remember they are paid by public dollars. I continue to drive this point home because it’s often forgotten when discussing police accountability — especially when it comes to Black Americans. The issue of homicides and crimes perpetrated by Black people against Black people often come up in the discussion about police brutality. That deflection may have worked in the ‘80s, but we recognize that red herring today. Regular, everyday folk aren’t held to the same standard as police officers. They don’t have a duty to serve and protect. They also don’t have the training that is supposed to make police officers better equipped to handle intense situations. And, they aren’t paid by tax dollars to uphold the law. So, it’s a moot point. Let’s continue to push for change, and IMPD continue to listen and make changes. It can only help make our city better.

By the way, today
would be a good day
to arrest those re-
sponsible for killing
Breonna Taylor.

OPINIONS

Payroll Protection Program failed to protect Black-owned businesses

By MARSHAWN WOLLEY



For too many of our Black businesses the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) was a hoax. We heard that this was an issue. In fact, just like the impact of COVID-19, we should’ve known this was coming. The first round of PPP was a disaster with large companies gobbling up much needed funds for small businesses — we need not revisit that dishonor roll. But what happened in Indianapolis on the first round? On one level it is hard to say because some of the large banks apparently didn’t bother to include race in their data collection. I tend to think this was on purpose either because they truly believe in some ridiculous colorblind ideology, and it was their way to stick it to us by messing up the data. In either case, it was wrong to not include the data we needed to ensure that the program acted properly. It does not lead to trust and diminishes the propensity for accountability — the reward for their incompleteness. Anyway, even with bad data the first round of PPP was not great for Black businesses. Nationally, we saw a 41% decline in Black businesses due to COVID-19 — PPP didn’t save them.

According to the data the SBA provided, 97 Black firms received loans under \$150,00. The SBA data shows that loans to Black businesses ranged from as low as \$522 to \$141,237. In the Latinx community only 60 businesses received loans with the lowest at \$1,250 up to \$148,600. Twenty-seven Black businesses got \$150,000 or more but less than \$1 million. Seven Black businesses got over \$1 million in PPP loans. The SBA showed that there were 873 white businesses that received loans up to \$150,000, while 406 white businesses received PPP loans greater than \$150,000. Thirty-seven white businesses received loans between \$1 million and \$10 million. But the real problem is 2,039 loans over \$150,000 did not include race and over 8,512 loans did not have race data for loans under \$150,000. So, we don’t know how many Black businesses benefited from the first round of PPP, only that it looks like we lost nearly half of them due to COVID-19. For an industry that is predicated on paperwork, it is shocking that seemingly so few bankers chose to identify the race of the person receiving these precious federal dollars meant to keep all business open. The local banking community failed to support the idea that Black businesses mattered by keeping track of who got what – even to make sure they were doing right by our community.

Corporate Black Lives Matter statements be damned — this isn’t how corporations show Black lives matter. The conversation about a Black Community Development Financing Institution is picking up, but we should also be talking about Black banks. While there is one Black credit union in Martindale-Brightwood, and a concerted effort to start another one on the far east side, the Black community clearly can’t stay in this current position — where banks can either knowingly or unwittingly skew key data and hide their loan activities. The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) reports only 12% of Black businesses got what they asked for when seeking COVID-19 funds. They also shared data that suggested congressional districts with higher numbers of Black people got less funding and fewer loans than districts with the lowest percentage of white people. The Indy Chamber and city did important work in making sure Black businesses had access to the second round of PPP funding, and I include the Indy Black Chamber of Commerce as part of their success. However, the Indy Black Chamber of Commerce, as it continues to progress, should receive similar consideration in the future on receiving city funding mostly so we can know for sure Black businesses are getting due consideration. Advocating for Black businesses is what the Indy Black Chamber of Commerce does, and clearly, we need it now.

Kudos to the banks that did the right thing, and the Indy Chamber for their efforts in supporting Black businesses. Kudos to the Indy Black Chamber of Commerce for continuing to advocate for the interest of Black businesses — their work is more important than ever. What I am hearing ... As someone who is engaged in trying to do things to improve the community, I get my fair share of criticism. Some of it is helpful — some of it less so. The folks that led the effort to paint Black Lives Matter on Indiana Avenue received their fair share of critique, and maybe folks will still have something to say about how it was done and even the look of the final product. But you know what? Indianapolis has a Black Lives Matter mural on Indiana Avenue. Organizers including Malina Jeffers, Stacia Murphy and Leah Derray led this effort. They said the mural is in part a reclamation of a storied area of the city that many believe we have already all but lost. We reclaimed our time in 2019. Now we are reclaiming Indiana Avenue. Somehow, we should protect this statement of reclamation — perhaps a BLM park near the site? Marshawn Wolley is a lecturer, commentator, business owner and civic entrepreneur. Contact him at marshawnwolley@gmail.com.

Protecting Indiana’s water resources during COVID-19

By JILL HOFFMAN



It has never been more important to improve and protect Indiana’s water resources, and the COVID-19 pandemic has helped elevate the urgency. There is an increased need for guaranteed clean water for drinking and sanitation to keep people and businesses safe. Pharmaceutical and biotech companies are using large amounts of water for research and development as they race to find solutions. Meanwhile, the natural resources in our own backyards, our rivers and lakes, have become a

major source of respite as vacations, summer camps and concerts have been canceled. The White River Alliance, a leading voice for water resource protection in Indiana, recognizes Indiana’s ongoing need for comprehensive water planning which has been thrown into stark relief during the pandemic. In response, the Alliance is bringing together dynamic speakers and national experts for the third annual, first virtual, Indiana Water Summit. This apolitical, inclusive forum examines the complex interests and issues that face our state’s diverse water supply. The Summit will be held virtually on Aug. 12-13, broadcast from the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. Event topics are meant to inform water policy in Indiana, including some that have important ties to the pandemic, such as protecting source water supplies in cooperation with agriculture and understanding usage trends in our food and beverage industry. Water is integral to the supply chains for food, medicine, manufacturing, energy production and more. The pandemic has shown us how quickly those chains can be disrupted. As our industries look toward their future resiliency, they are making sweeping commitments to water conservation, climate change mitigation and even pollution credit trading. This includes Coca-Cola, which has implemented a Water Neutrality Commitment, a strategy they will describe at the Water Summit. These sustainability goals and guidelines are being passed down to their material suppliers as mandates to lessen their own water and climate footprint. Despite these corporate sustainability efforts, demand for water is growing. An ongoing study, sponsored by the Indiana Finance Authority, that

is looking at water supply and demand in Central Indiana will be featured at the summit, as will a session on what’s polluting our waters. It’s essential to understand the many sources of water pollution and what best practices can be employed to secure a safe and successful future. This includes taking a hard look at how we manage water in our local communities and particularly what we are doing to protect important functional landscapes like wetlands and floodplains. This “rethinking” of water management also requires the widespread integration of stormwater green infrastructure and agricultural soil health practices. Many of the strategies featured at the summit will help ensure that we capture, keep and treat our water supply in a way that allows us to meet our future demand. The summit’s agenda and activities continue to be the outcome of many diverse stakeholders collaborating around the idea that water is an interconnected resource that we all share and need. For the past two years, summit participants helped identify priority strategies across all water sectors. This year, sessions will blend out-of-state successes with panels of local leaders and explore methods to incentivize and facilitate solutions to complex water problems and best position Indiana to be resilient in the face of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, future droughts and floods or the economic vulnerabilities within our industries.

You can learn more about the Summit at thewhite-riveralliance.org. Jill Hoffmann is executive director for the White River Alliance.

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IMPD
► Continued from A1

cacy and public policy at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana, “but we know that a few trainings and updates to IMPD’s policies are not gonna cut it.”

The new policy went into effect when it was announced July 29, and the department said officers could begin training as soon as this month.

Dave Rozzell, pastor at The Way of Yeshua Fellowship and Ministries, called the updates a “somewhat encouraging” sign that IMPD is willing to meet some demands. Rozzell is also public relations director for the local chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans but spoke only for himself as a community activist.

The updated policy includes an emphasis on de-escalation, which didn’t get a mention in the previous policy from 2016. Now, the first section of the policy says officers must “never knowingly or intentionally escalate a situation in violation of this section.”

The updated policy also says officers should use force that is proportionate to the circumstances and that officers have to stop and report any use of force that violates laws or department policies. Both of those directives are new.

In a section dedicated to “less-lethal” force, officers are directed to only use a chemical spray — tear gas, for example — when someone is in “passive resistance only.”

But talking about tear gas and other chemical agents is a non-starter for some because it has been banned in war since shortly after World War I. “If they’re banned in international warfare, they ought to be banned in American streets,” said Jane Henegar, executive director of the ACLU of Indiana, which recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of Indy10 Black Lives Matter against IMPD for using chemical weapons against protesters.

IMPD has defended its use of tear gas as a means of “riot control.”

The most common criticism from those interviewed for this article is that there isn’t enough civilian participation on the various boards that implement these guidelines and hold officers accountable.

“It’s not enough for us to simply have policy,” said Jessica Louise of Indy10. “We need to know what happens when inevitably officers violate these policies.”

A new Use of Force Review Board will examine use-of-force incidents, but it’s not yet clear how many civilians will be on that board. And an imperfect process for choosing civilians leaves the possibility that civilian seats — which are supposed to represent the community in holding IMPD accountable — are filled by what Louise called “police sympathizers.”

City-county councilors Keith Potts and Crista Carlino recently called for a new General Orders Board to replace the current General Orders Committee, which has final say when it comes to department policy.

The new board would include civilians, whereas the current committee includes two appointments from the chief and one appointment from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

As it stands now, activists can give credit to IMPD for the updates to its use-of-force policy while remaining worried the department’s bureaucratic functions will limit the effectiveness of any reform.

“So all of this basically says IMPD is judging itself,” Rozzell said. “You don’t get any civilian oversight until after all of the decisions have been made.”

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



Congressman John Lewis

It Seems to Me:
Congressman John Lewis is
celebrating freedom now!

By THOMAS L. BROWN

While many are giving their highest regards for John Lewis and his contributions to the freedom movement there is that emotional presence of sorrow. While our media emphasizes “we are mourning” our loss, my personal friendship and working relationship with Congressman John Lewis is more of a celebration for John Lewis. I realize this statement is difficult to imagine. Certainly, his departure from mortality to immortality gives many grief. However, John Lewis’ works gives all of us the moral playbook and advocacy to bring justice and equality to America.

For me, the beginning of the friendship with John Lewis begins in 1962 when I started as a field secretary with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee known as SNCC. We met in Atlanta. This beginning, along with other freedom fighters, I not only witnessed John Lewis’ leadership, but I experienced what he had been experiencing prior to my joining SNCC. John Lewis was a strong advocate of nonviolence. His basic principle was that of love as often spoke and taught by Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Often, I had conversation with John Lewis concerning Dr. King Jr. since my father (Dr. Andrew J. Brown) had often had Dr. King at our home in 1956 and 1957 and other times prior to the ‘60s. When I began in SNCC, I was assigned to Selma, Alabama. It was in 1963 that I came often in contact with John Lewis and the total SNCC team of organizers.

The media and the many who knew John Lewis since his passing, in my opinion, have done an excellent series of presentations on Congressman John Lewis. It is interesting to note that Congressman John Lewis was here in Indianapolis two years ago for the Kennedy/King event. We talked briefly and he was really in a hurry to get out of Indy that day because it was an unbelievably cold day.

And, his remark to me was, “Tom, the next time, please pick a warm day for me to come.” John was no great lover of cold weather.

My relationship and knowledge of John Lewis is vast. We of the SNCC movement of the ‘60s were fortunate to work together in unity and harmony. John’s leadership was impressionable and compassionate. Of course, when he became “Congressman,” he “sowed seeds” of love.

Eskenazi Health Offers
Advice on how to Socialize
During a Pandemic

By Dr. Broderick Rhyant,
Chief Physician Executive, Eskenazi Health Center Forest Manor



Back in early March, the COVID-19 pandemic caused millions of people around the world to begin social distancing and living under quarantine, and the hope was that things would become better in short order. We are now in August and it remains clear that COVID-19 remains a dangerous threat to our health and still must be taken seriously. However, for many, finding ways to remain socially connected has been challenging. So how can we make proper decisions about socializing at this time?

We must first understand how COVID-19 is believed to spread. The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can also get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Secondly, there are proven strategies you can utilize that mitigate and lessen the risk of contracting this infection. Here are the key actions:

1. Washing your hands frequently
2. Social Distancing: Staying at least six feet from each other
3. Wearing a mask/face covering over the mouth and nose (in

public)

Lastly, avoiding situations that create the highest risk for transmission such as those with pro-longed close contact and interactions with individuals in enclosed environments (sitting indoors a few feet away from a friend(s) and having a long talk) and instead taking advantage of situations which are lower risk (going for a walk or chatting briefly with friends and socially distance while outdoors).

Limiting your physical interactions with others - as hard as it is - remains one of the best ways to protect yourself and help reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Staying informed with public health recommendations (ISDH or CDC) and implementing key strategies to lower risk of transmission of COVID-19 to self and others can help us safely stay connected.

People who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their health care provider immediately. If you are ill with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, please call your health center or clinic before coming to your appointment. At Eskenazi Health, please call 317.880.7666 before coming to your appointment. Health care professionals are available 24/7 to answer questions on symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate care. It is important to first call before arriving at Eskenazi Health. You can also connect with your primary care provider’s office through your Eskenazi Health MyChart account online at Es-kenaziHealth.edu.



Keep your
family protected
Remember your immunizations!

Immunizations, or shots, can help protect you and your family from getting sick. They can also help stop the spread of a disease. As you prepare for the season change, add a visit to your doctor to make sure your shots are up-to-date.

You can get most recommended shots at your doctor’s office. Find out where to go — visit **www.vaccines.gov** and enter your ZIP code.

For more immunization facts, visit **www.vaccines.gov**.
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THE BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING: Tips and information for new and expecting mothers

By DR. CAMEUAL WRIGHT

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from Aug. 1 to 7 to help raise awareness around the benefits of breastfeeding and encourage mothers to consider the option. Despite the extensive list of benefits breastfeeding has for both mothers and babies, many still question whether or not they should breastfeed. This year, mothers may have additional questions about breastfeeding due to COVID-19. Dr. Cameual Wright, the medical director at CareSource, a nonprofit health plan, has tips and information about breastfeeding to help answer the questions and concerns that mothers may have.

Breastfeeding Benefits for Mother and Baby

The World Health Organization (WHO) actively promotes breastfeeding as the best source of nourishment for infants and young children. Breast milk is specifically formulated for optimal nutrition for your newborn. The composition of breast milk changes to match your baby's needs as it grows and its nutritional requirements change. Babies also receive immune support from the antibodies provided in breast milk. Breast milk offers immunity in the early stages of life before a baby can receive vaccinations. In addition to the ample amount of health benefits, breast milk is economically favorable. Especially during COVID-19 when people are paying attention to finances, breast milk offers the best nutrition for free.

Breastfeeding offers benefits to mothers as well. It creates a special bond between mother and baby. Breastfeeding reduces health risks like breast cancer and ovarian cancer. It even burns extra calories and helps many mothers return to their pre-pregnancy weight.

COVID-19's Impact on Breastfeeding

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has raised many questions for mothers and expecting mothers. Many wonder if it's safe to breastfeed and risk the spread of COVID-19. If the baby is positive for COVID-19, the mother can breastfeed as she normally would. If a baby is negative for COVID-19 but the mother is positive, the mother should consult her health care provider. Those who are considering breastfeeding their child but worry about the risk should know that there are rare exceptions to when breastfeeding is not recommended, as the benefits almost always outweigh the risks.

Cultural Barriers to Breastfeeding

There are cultural considerations that need to be made when it comes to breastfeeding. Women generally emulate what those in their community do. If breastfeeding is common within their community, they are more likely to breastfeed as well. Black women are not as likely to breastfeed due to these cultural barriers. Cultural barriers in terms of



breastfeeding can include less generational knowledge, implicit biases, women from specific cultures receiving less education and encouragement to breastfeed when in the hospital and lack of representation in educational materials. We should strive for culturally appropriate education and representation in the health care spaces and work to grow awareness of and remove implicit biases.

CareSource encourages mothers and expecting mothers to learn more about breastfeeding as it is a major health benefit to both mothers and babies. CareSource provides case management workers who can connect them to resources in their commu-

nity including lactation consultants. Mothers with questions can use CareSource24, our 24-hour nurse helpline, to ask questions and get advice on questions like these. Lactation consultants are covered by CareSource and can provide mothers with prenatal education and postnatal assistance with breastfeeding.

Visit www.caresource.com for more information about their services for mothers and expecting mothers.

Dr. Cameual Wright is CareSource Indiana medical director.

Staying Safe from COVID-19 While Visiting Pools and Beaches

The places we visit to swim, play, and relax in water include beaches, pools and hot tubs. While there is no evidence that COVID-19 can spread to people through water in these places, we can all take steps to reduce the risk of getting or spreading the virus – no matter where we go.

COVID-19 is thought to spread mostly person-to-person, by respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

The virus might also spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose, mouth, or possibly eyes. Infected people can spread the virus whether or not they have symptoms.

The best advice is to stay home if you have symptoms of COVID-19, have been diagnosed with the virus, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

When making plans to spend time in the water, please check to see if the public swim area, pool, water playground, or hot tub has steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Visitors should bring supplies that help you and others stay healthy; for example, a mask, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfectant wipes, tissues, and paper towels.

Those in our out of the water should practice social distancing, which means to stay at least 6 feet apart from people you don't live with. Also, avoid crowded areas where a distance of 6 feet away from others is not possible.

When outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering. While at a

pool or beach, everyone should wear the face covering when not in the water. For safety, do not place a mask on children younger than 2 years of age or on anyone who has trouble breathing or is otherwise unable to remove the cover without help.

Face coverings are important when physical distancing is hard.

Washing hands is still extremely important to staying healthy. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating or drinking and when you arrive and leave the swim area. If soap and water are not available, please use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and rub until your hands are dry.

Hand sanitizers are not as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy, so wipe sand or dirt off before applying it.

Other tips include:

- Avoid sharing items, such as food, equipment, toys, and supplies, with people who don't live with you.
- When not wearing a mask, make sure to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inside of your elbow, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash your hands immediately.

Check out more information on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, CDC.gov. Learn about the symptoms of COVID-19, and contact your health care provider if symptoms develop.

The latest COVID-19 data for Indianapolis and Marion County is available through the Marion County Public Health Department at MarionHealth.org/covid-19.

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Michigan pastor leaves corporate job to make a difference

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ
By Lansing State Journal

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Sean Holland has a memory of closing a multimillion-dollar business deal in Chicago.

“Everybody was doing a toast to this deal. And I blanked out,” he said. “I was at the top of this posh restaurant and I was overlooking Lake Shore Drive. I just said, ‘I’m not happy.’”

At the time, Holland was a successful businessman in the CSX Transportation company and was ministering to youth in his spare time.

“What I noticed in corporate America was I didn’t feel like I was touching the ground,” he said.

But the realization, in a skyscraper overlooking Lake Michigan, eventually led Holland to quit his corporate career and engage with the community full-time.

Now, the 47-year-old Holland works to mentor youth and has become an outspoken activist for the poor, through the Metro Lansing MI Poor People’s Campaign, refugees and for movements like Black Lives Matter.

He founded Lansing’s non-denominational Epicenter of Worship church, where he is a pastor alongside his wife of 25 years, Tayana Holland.

The pair, who have known each other since their days in middle school, have four children together.

“He has a strong desire to stand for the voiceless,” Tayana Holland said. “Even at a young age, he was always one to be a leader, whether it was intentional or unintentional.”

He’s passionate about making a difference. “It’s kind of hard for Sean to hide his heart,” she said, “He sometimes tries to, but it comes out when he talks about certain things.”



Sean Holland’s speaking ability is what has garnered him the respect of leaders like Brandon Betz, a Lansing City Council member for the 1st Ward.

“He is perfect for this moment,” Betz said.

Betz first encountered Holland during a Black Lives Matter event.

Pastor Sean Holland, of Epicenter of Worship church, holds up his fist with other speakers near the end of a statewide rally hosted by Black Lives Matter on June 29 at the Capitol in Lansing.

“The first time that I heard him speak, I was just like, ‘This person is impressive,’” Betz said. “They speak from the heart, they know what they’re talking and they understand themselves and the world around them.”

Betz describes Holland as a compassionate man who “understands that there are inequities in the world that need to be fixed. He is just onboard and 100% has committed his life to make things better for everybody.”

Tayana Holland said her husband “speaks from a place of authenticity, transparency and truth. It’s hard not to connect with that.”

For Holland, the desire and ability to advocate and work for others came from his family.

At 19, Holland’s father was left to provide for his three brothers after the deaths of their mother and father.

“Every last one of those boys went to

college,” Holland said.

“It was instilled in me that you are not here to live for yourself,” he said. “You are here to live for others. And if you’re not impacting others, you haven’t really tasted life.”

Holland has spent much of his time working with college students of color, many of them students at Michigan State University and many who are among the first in their families to attend college.

Epicenter of Worship began as an outgrowth of a student organization at MSU in the early 2000s.

“Our goal was to help students matriculate and provide some support to students that were coming from around the world, but particularly to Black and brown students,” he said.

“Out of that came the Epicenter of Worship,” he said. “It grew so large, we literally had to start an official religious organization; nondenominational because we wanted people from different faiths, while they were in college, to be able to feel comfortable.”

At the time of its beginnings, Holland was still working his corporate job. But the work he was doing with students, and the issues they were faced with, pulled him in a different direction.

“One of the things that really began to prick my heart was the stories of students and their parents and racism and white supremacy,” he said, “and

the economic struggle that people were going through.”

Eventually, he couldn’t ignore the need to act.

“It captured me so heavily that I retired in 2006,” he said. “I stepped out and said, ‘I’m going to do this. I’m going to engage full time.’”

Holland, like the Black and brown students he mentored, had been subjected to racism in his youth.

“I’ve been involved in this, hearing this and seeing this, all of my life,” he said.

When he was 8, Holland and his family moved to a new neighborhood in Florida. Holland said they were the first Black family on the block.

One night, a brick was thrown through their window.

“I’ll never forget my father picking that brick up and running outside to catch up. I could hear the screeching of the tires,” he said.

Holland’s work, in the more than 10 years since forfeiting a corporate job, also has taken him around the world, as a chaplain with the United Nations, and into some of the most intimate and difficult moments of people’s lives.

“We’ve had to call parents to say, ‘You need to come see about your daughter, she’s just been raped,’” he said.

Holland said he still thinks about what might have happened had he not chosen to quit his job.

Resignation calls grow after NAACP head’s anti-Semitic post

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pennsylvania’s governor and attorney general joined the growing number of calls recently for Philadelphia’s NAACP president to resign after he posted an anti-Semitic meme to social media last week.

Philadelphia’s Jewish leaders also expressed outrage over the post and called for Rodney Muhammad’s resignation throughout the weekend. Several city leaders urged him to apologize, while others said it called his leadership into question during a time when the organization’s mission is vital.

Muhammad said in a statement late July 27 that he removed the post when he was told the images had previously been distributed by white supremacists.

“I later learned that not only was the quote I used misattributed to the philosopher Francois Voltaire,

but in fact, the quote and image had been used previously by white supremacists,” he wrote. “I immediately removed both the quote and the offensive images. It was never my intention to offend anyone or cause any hurt.”

A voicemail for the national spokesman of the NAACP was full July 28 when The Associated Press tried to contact the organization for comment. A number for Muhammad was not answered the same day.

The image posted to Facebook on July 23 included photos of Ice Cube, DeSean Jackson and Nick Cannon, all of whom have been criticized recently for posting or making anti-Semitic comments. Below their photos is an image of a yarmulke-wearing man, using his hand to crush a group of people. It’s accompanied by the wrongly attributed quote.

The Jewish Federation of Philadelphia issued a statement calling for the NAACP to remove Muhammad. The group issued a second statement calling Muhammad’s reasoning unacceptable.

“Mr. Muhammad’s statement regarding his anti-Semitic Facebook post is utterly insufficient. Given the chance to apologize for his actions, he declined to do so,” the group wrote in the statement.

In messages on Twitter, both Gov. Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro called for Muhammad’s resignation. Shapiro said he had reached out to Muhammad before making his public statement.

“His response to me was offensive and we are all still waiting for that apology,” Shapiro posted to Twitter before calling for Muhammad to step down.

Free bookbags, school supplies for students and families



The Indianapolis Urban League and Radio One recently gave families free school supplies, produce and dairy products. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Neither permission nor forgiveness

By **RAE KARIM**

A few days ago, I recalled a thought-provoking statement a friend made years ago that resonates today. She simply said: “It’s better to ask forgiveness than permission.” My interpretation: Be bold enough to do what you need to do, yet humble enough to ask forgiveness, if necessary.

There’s a story in Matthew 15:21-28 that takes this statement and turns it downside up. Here we have a mother whose daughter has been tormented with a demon. We have no indication how long, but we don’t need it. A mere millisecond is too long, especially for a child. This unapologetically audacious woman received word somehow, somehow that Jesus was passing through.

Jesus had just walked 50 miles to Tyre and Sidon (Living Bible Translation). We can accurately assume he was tired




his capacity as healer; that her daughter deserved it just as much as anyone else’s.

This momma didn’t ask permission to come to the table nor did she seek forgiveness for having shown up. She took a stand for what she believed — that Jesus was able to heal her daughter. She took a stand for what she wanted — rest for herself and her daughter. As a result, Jesus had a mindset shift. His final words to her were empowering and encouraging as he declared her faith was large and her request was granted (verse 28).

Do you have such grit, wisdom and fortitude to go all in for what you believe and what you want? Yes, you do. Are you willing to be what you need to be, as you have been called and chosen with neither permission nor forgiveness from people (or support either for that matter)? That question is yours to answer. My hope is that you answer yes, knowing God’s power, Jesus’ purpose and the Holy Spirit’s presence stand for you as you stand for what you believe and what you want. I hope you answer yes, knowing generations to come will benefit from your courage, consistency and commitment.

Rae Karim, formerly chapel director at Christian Theological Seminary, is now pastor at First Christian Church of Honolulu. She can be reached at rae.karim@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

**Robert Carl Richardson** 8/30/40 - 7/22/20 was born in Indpls, IN to Parents, the late John Richardson and Lucille Pickney; was married to Harriett Harper Richardson for 55 years and together raised their son, Bryan Anthony Richardson (Wife, Tracy); Rob was also a surrogate father to Jennifer and Jeremy Robert Neal. An Army Vietnam vet, Rob retired from UPS after 25 years as the Senior VP of HR. Known as “PopR” to Grandchildren, Brandon, Briia, Bryan II, Bryce, and Brayden Richardson, and Great-grandfather to Mason Rivera. Rob was sibling to Arthur, Ethel Mae Bolden, Lester, Ed and Lucien “Corky”. Rob was preceded in death by parents and siblings, John Jr., Herman and Martha. A link to view the Virtual Service and full obituary will be available on Crown Hill Funeral Home Website and Facebook page after Sunday, August 9, 2020.

from the walk and the work through miracles and mindset shifts (see Matthew 14 and 15). We can also accurately assume this momma was just as tired of her daughter’s torment and her own exhaustion from a place of helplessness.

So she shows up. There was no permission to be granted.

She shows up to what I’d like to imagine as a sit-in.

She shows up with un-

movable determination that she was not going to budge until she was served.

She shows up with a certain kind of force that parents and caregivers have when it comes to children. The kind that lifts cars off babies.

The kind that fends off animals. The kind that acts on instinct to grab, stop, scream, run, etc. for the sake of a child’s safety and well-being.

She shows up, rightfully

asking with an undertone of demand mercy from Jesus. The son of the living God remains silent, until the meddling disciples begin murmuring. It is only then Jesus speaks. His words cut. His words were harsh and cold. His words moved this momma, but not from her seat at the table.

They moved her to a place of greater resilience. She asked again with the same tone. Jesus

speaks again, harsh, cold words. This momma digs her heels in even further. She was too far in to let up now. Jesus spoke of dogs and bread. This momma spoke of puppies and crumbs (Living Bible Translation). Can you see the parallels? Can you see how this momma was ready, willing and able to go toe to toe with Jesus ... with JESUS! She quickly let Jesus know her ethnicity had nothing to do with

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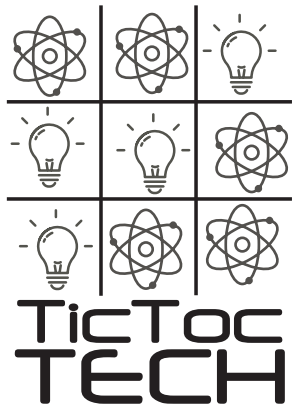
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Social entrepreneurship recognized by TechPoint at MIRA Awards 2021



By RUPAL THANAWALA

Two decades back, my tech fraternity only appreciated innovations and entrepreneurs who proved to have measurable commercial outcomes. They must solve business problem that can generate new revenue streams, have growth potential, have a quick and positive return on investment, gain and maintain customer satisfaction, able to scale up, easy to integrate and

implement, etc. Well, not anymore. In the past few years, social entrepreneurship is taking center stage at Indiana's most prominent tech event, MIRA Awards, organized by TechPoint. Companies and products that solve community issues are recognized and rewarded, and many are not generating any revenue but supported by philanthropists and grants. All the awardees demonstrated commitment to community service and diversity and inclusion. A couple of them have very compelling stories that are truly inspiring.

Here are a few examples:

The Last Mile — The U.S. has one of the largest prison systems, making up 25%, although we are only 5% of the world's population.

There has been a 700% increase in the prison population since 1970, and \$48 billion is spent annually on prisons. However, this is not the biggest issue. The challenge is for individuals to restart their life and careers when they are out of the prisons. On the other side, our tech sector is growing faster than we can meet workforce demand. Indiana adds 4,500 new tech jobs every year. The Last Mile has a solution for both the issues. They piloted the first program in Indiana Women's Prison that has now expanded to the men's prison and expanded the program in multiple facilities. The Last Mile creates classrooms inside prisons to teach doing courses in HTML, Javascript, PHP, web development, database administration and many more.

The program offered a total of over 7,000 hours of instruction time throughout the year. Students created full-stack web applications during this time using web technologies including React, Node.js, MongoDB and MySQL. Their projects ranged from health care applications to e-commerce websites and were presented by students at various events. Taleisa and Jennifer were part of the programs, and now they have successful tech careers. Jennifer said, "The Last Mile program gave me the initial tools again to feel valued at a time when I was at my lowest, and I want to pay it forward to others who are walking the same path with IDOC and The Last Mile program here in Indiana."

Nextech — We have discussed a lot about the importance of computer

science at grade level. Unfortunately, 40% of Indiana high schools did not offer computer science as late as the 2018-19 academic year due to a lack of training available to teachers. In 2019, Nextech facilitated 81 workshops, resulting in 10,326 hours of training for 1,114 K-12 teachers from 399 schools across Indiana. Around 40,400 students enrolled in classes taught by these teachers across the state. Nextech's Catapult program is a year-long immersive experience that helps students aspiring for a career in technology to develop technical and workplace skills, authentic peer relationships, a passion for community service, and deep roots for a lifelong personal and professional connection to Indianapolis. In 2019, Nextech facilitated 4,757 hours of

programming for 48 high school students. Hamilton Southeastern High School students created a mobile application to report student's attendance in case of active shooting whereby teachers could "check-in" students to a central database, allowing administrative personnel to find any potential concerns quickly. Are you a social entrepreneur or have a product that solves a community issue with the help of technology? You should apply for TechPoint MIRA Award in 2021.

Rupal Thanawala is managing director at Trident Systems leading business and technology consulting practice, and tech editor for Indianapolis Recorder. Contact her at rupalt@indyrecorder.com.

How to take a high-interest loan and skip the debt cycle

By ANNIE MILLERBERND
NerdWallet

For the millions of Americans who struggle to afford an unexpected expense, high-interest payday and online loans may seem like acceptable options despite the inherent risk.

But guidance issued by federal regulators in the spring could bring a competitor to small-dollar lending: banks. The guidance omits a previous suggestion from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. that loans from banks should have annual percentage rates of 36% or lower.

While some consumer advocates say a rate cap is a necessary consumer protection, researchers say banks can check a borrower's credit and offer affordable loans — something payday lenders whose APRs often reach above 300% typically don't do.

If your only option is a high-interest loan, no matter the source, take control by understanding the rate and monthly payments and choosing a lender that checks your ability to repay.

UNDERSTAND YOUR RATE

There is no federal interest rate cap on small loans of a couple thousand dollars or less, and bank regulators can't impose one. But 45 states cap APRs on \$500 loans, while 42 states have caps on \$2,000 loans. Check the National Consumer Law Center's fact sheet to see the APR cap in your state.

The NCLC advocates for a federal 36% rate cap. Associate Director Lauren Saunders says without one, high rates could permeate other credit products. Many lenders that offer APRs of 36% or lower tie your rate to how risky it is to lend to you, based on your credit history. If you've had trouble making loan or credit card payments in the past, the lender may see you as a high-risk borrower and assign a rate close to 36%.

APRs are useful for comparing loan prod-



ucts, but seeing dollar amounts can help consumers evaluate whether they can make the required payments on an installment loan, says Alex Horowitz, senior research officer with The Pew Charitable Trusts.

If the only loan you can qualify for has a rate above 36%, calculating the monthly payments can help you understand what you can afford.

A bank would have to charge \$50 to \$60 on a \$400 loan repaid over three months to make it profitable, Horowitz says. That's an APR of about 75% to 90%. A 2017 study from Pew found that many consumers think that's a fair rate.

Small-dollar lending is currently dominated by online lenders, says Leonard Chanin, deputy to the chairman at the FDIC.

But U.S. Bank's "Simple Loan" offers a rare example. The loan usually has an APR of about 71%. Borrowers with autopay pay a \$12 fee for every \$100 borrowed and repay the loan over three months.

Chicago-based online lender OppLoans provides loans to borrowers with bad credit and has

APRs as high as 160% in some states. CEO Jared Kaplan says it's costlier for his company to acquire and underwrite customers, which leads to higher rates.

"Whether (your APR is) at 79, 99 or 160, you're dealing with a risky customer base and the price should justify that risk," he says.

CHOOSE A LENDER THAT CHECKS YOUR FINANCIAL DATA

Lenders that don't determine your ability to repay using information like your income, existing debts and credit information tend to offer high-interest loans with short repayment periods, making them difficult to pay off and trapping you in a cycle of debt.

Banks and other lenders that can access your bank account information and payment history can determine whether you can afford the loan.

Applicants for the Simple Loan must have a checking account for six months and have direct deposits sent to the account for three months before they can apply, says Mike Shepard, U.S.

Bank's senior vice president in consumer lending.

That ability to underwrite an existing customer, rather than someone it doesn't already know, helps make a bank loan affordable for consumers, Horowitz says.

OTHER WAYS TO EVALUATE A SMALL LOAN

Aside from low APRs and a review of your ability to repay, here are some things to look for if you need a high-interest loan.

- Full amortization. Monthly payments should pay down both principal and interest on a loan. Interest-only payments don't reduce the loan's principal, so interest continues to accrue at the same rate. Check the loan's amortization schedule before you agree to borrow.
- Credit reporting. The lender should report your monthly payments to at least one — and ideally all three — of the major credit bureaus. If you make your payments on time, this reporting can improve your credit.
- No origination or prepayment fees. Origination fees, sometimes called administrative fees, and prepayment penalties help the lender make money, but they have little benefit for you.

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New Rates

As an historic publication that has served the Indianapolis community for nearly 124 years, it's with regret that the Recorder must raise its rates for legal notices.

Over the past few years there have been undeniable increases in the cost of the paper, yet our company has absorbed the costs without increasing rates. Unfortunately, that is no longer feasible as costs continue to skyrocket. While our rates will increase effective Jan. 1, 2019, the rates are still lower than other media outlets.

We want to thank you for all the support you have shown us and ask for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Rapheal Matthew at (317) 924-5143 or email legals@indyrecorder.com

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ADOPTION
STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MARION CO. SUPERIOR COURT--SS. PROBATE DIVISION CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO.: 49D08-2007-AD-022877 IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF: AGAPITA ARELY ARAKOZA A Minor Child, by JOSE LUIS RAZO GOMEZ Petitioner
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above-named and a hearing will take place in Marion Co. Superior Court. The nature of the suit against you is a Petition for Adoption. This summons by publication is specifically directed to Jorge Burcio, residence unknown; You must answer the Petition, in writing, by your attorney, within thirty (30) days after notice of suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff/petitioner has demanded. Petitioner's attorney is Andrew G. Spear 1300 N. Pennsylvania St Ste 202, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Date: 07/24/20
Myla A. Eldridge, Marion Co. Clerk 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
SUMMONS--SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D12-2002-DN-009081 COUNTY OF MARION IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RICHARD A. CARSON Petitioner -VS- CHASITYD. CARSON Respondent
NOTICE OF SUIT
The state of Indiana to the defendants above, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: DISSOLUTION of MARRIAGE. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendants(s) whose addresses are: UNKNOWN and to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are: UNKNOWN and to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are: UNKNOWN. Chasity D. Carson, in addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. The Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the -- day of -----, 2020 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-023006 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: MARCELO S. GARRIDO Respondent
NOTICE OF SUIT
The state of Indiana to the defendants above, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: DISSOLUTION of MARRIAGE. And to the following defendant whose whereabouts are: UNKNOWN. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the -- day of -----, 2020 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT #7 CAUSE NO. 49D07-2007-DC-023006 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: Petitioner: Florencia J. Desirena Respondent: Marcelo S. Garrido
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Marcelo S. Garrido who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT #7 CAUSE NO. 49D07-2007-DC-023006 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: Petitioner: Florencia J. Desirena Respondent: Marcelo S. Garrido
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Marcelo S. Garrido who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION NO. 13 CAUSE NO. 49D13-2005-DN-0J6558 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: EISHA YONNE MONIQUE BLOOMFIELD, Petitioner, and OSAGTE KINGSLEY OMOREGIE, Respondent
ORDER
COMES NOW THE COURT, having been duly advised in the premises, and now finds counsel's Motion to Waive Mediation and Praecipe in writing to the petition must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty days after the third notice of suit. If you fail to file an answer within thirty days after the third notice of suit, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief requested by the Petitioner. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response. Dated: 6/23/2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Marion Co. Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: CARNELL JONES, Petitioner, Vs LOLA F. JONES, Respondent
49D13-2006-DN-019531
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to LOLA F. JONES who's being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the last Notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff/petitioner has demanded.
Dated: July 15, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: FLORENCIA J. DESIRENA, Petitioner, Vs MARCELO S. GARRIDO, Respondent.
49D07-2007-DC-023006
NOTICE OF SUIT
The state of Indiana to the defendants above, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: DISSOLUTION of MARRIAGE and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the last Notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff/petitioner has demanded.
Dated: July 14, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-GU-022602 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: NINJA SHELESE DEPP, Petitioner, Vs CHRISTIAN A. MOORE, A MINOR.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State Of Indiana to the Respondent/Father and the minor child in the above-entitled cause, and any other person Who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Guardianship of Minor Ward. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent/Father and the minor child whose address is: And to the following named Respondent/Father and minor child being served by this summons there may be other parties Who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: July 16, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: WAKILI OWOLABI OSENI, Plaintiff, Vs MABEL OKUN, Defendant
49D02-1910-DN-044720
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following defendant whose whereabouts are unknown: MABEL OKUN. In addition to the above named defendant being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the -- day of -----, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: June 18, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT #7 CAUSE NO. 49D07-2007-DC-023006 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: Petitioner: Florencia J. Desirena Respondent: Marcelo S. Garrido
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Marcelo S. Garrido who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.
Dated: June 18, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT #7 CAUSE NO. 49D07-2007-DC-023006 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: Petitioner: Florencia J. Desirena Respondent: Marcelo S. Garrido
NOTICE OF SUIT
This notice is directed to Marcelo S. Garrido who is being sued and whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above person being served by this summons, there may be others who have an interest in this law suit. Darrell J. Dolan represents the person seeking service by publication, and can be located at 6525 E. 82nd Street, Suite #102, Indianapolis, IN 46250. The nature of the Suit against you is a Dissolution of Marriage and the property at issue is marital property. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty days after the last notice of action is published. If you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff / Petitioner has demanded.
Dated: June 18, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION NO. 13 CAUSE NO. 49D13-2005-DN-0J6558 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: EISHA YONNE MONIQUE BLOOMFIELD, Petitioner, and OSAGTE KINGSLEY OMOREGIE, Respondent
ORDER
COMES NOW THE COURT, having been duly advised in the premises, and now finds counsel's Motion to Waive Mediation and Praecipe in writing to the petition must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty days after the third notice of suit. If you fail to file an answer within thirty days after the third notice of suit, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief requested by the Petitioner. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response. Dated: 6/23/2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Marion Co. Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION NO. 13 CAUSE NO. 49D13-2005-DN-0J6558 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: EISHA YONNE MONIQUE BLOOMFIELD, Petitioner, and OSAGTE KINGSLEY OMOREGIE, Respondent
ORDER
COMES NOW THE COURT, having been duly advised in the premises, and now finds counsel's Motion to Waive Mediation and Praecipe in writing to the petition must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty days after the third notice of suit. If you fail to file an answer within thirty days after the third notice of suit, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief requested by the Petitioner. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response. Dated: 6/23/2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Marion Co. Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: NITA LARSON, Plaintiff, Vs KEITH LARSON, Defendant
49D02-1910-DN-044720
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Dissolution of Marriage And to the following defendant whose whereabouts are unknown: KEITH LARSON. In addition to the above named defendant being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the -- day of -----, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the last Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: May 27, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

GUARDIANSHIP
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET: 49D08-2007-GU-022602 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: NINJA SHELESE DEPP, Petitioner, Vs CHRISTIAN A. MOORE, A MINOR.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State Of Indiana to the Respondent/Father and the minor child in the above-entitled cause, and any other person Who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Guardianship of Minor Ward. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent/Father and the minor child whose address is: And to the following named Respondent/Father and minor child being served by this summons there may be other parties Who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: July 16, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

GUARDIANSHIP
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET: 49D08-2007-GU-022602 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: NINJA SHELESE DEPP, Petitioner, Vs CHRISTIAN A. MOORE, A MINOR.
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State Of Indiana to the Respondent/Father and the minor child in the above-entitled cause, and any other person Who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Guardianship of Minor Ward. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named Respondent/Father and the minor child whose address is: And to the following named Respondent/Father and minor child being served by this summons there may be other parties Who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the day of, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: July 16, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/31/20 08/07/20 08/14/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: WAKILI OWOLABI OSENI, Plaintiff, Vs MABEL OKUN, Defendant
49D02-1910-DN-044720
NOTICE OF SUIT
The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Dissolution of Marriage. And to the following defendant whose whereabouts are unknown: MABEL OKUN. In addition to the above named defendant being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the -- day of -----, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.
Dated: June 18, 2020
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

DISSOLUTION
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CAUSE NO. 49D08-2007-DC-011604 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: RENE IBARRA, Petitioner/Husband and YANIRA ELIZABETH GARCIA, Respondent/Wife.
ORDER TO APPEAR
Comes now the Petitioner/Husband, Rene Ibarra, by counsel, and having a Verified Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, and the Court having read said motion and being duly advised in the premises now finds that said Motion should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this matter is set for 30 minutes hearing on September 10th, 2020 at 10:00 am. ALL IS SO ORDERED This July 10, 2020 (That counsel Vanessa López Aguierra will be out of the country from the weeks of August 30th-Sept 4th and on a pre-planned vacation) Distribution to: Vanessa López Aguierra LOPEZ LAW OFFICE, PC, 3502 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208, Yanira Garcia 07/24/20 07/31/20 08/07/20

NAME CHANGE
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION, ss: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: TYRESE AARON MAKI' ALFORD, Name of Minor ARAKIO THOMAS, Petitioner, CAUSE NO. 49C01-2007-MI-025061
ORDER SETTING HEARING
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner Amekia Thomas, pro se, filed a verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor child from Tyrese Aaron Maki' Alford to Tyrese Aaron Maki' Thomas-Alford. The petition is scheduled for hearing in the Court on September 30, 2020 at 1:30 pm, which is more thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. The parties shall report to this will be a video hearing.
Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk 08/07/20 08/14/20 08/21/20

NAME CHANGE
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION, ss: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: NINJA SHELESE DEPP, Petitioner, CAUSE NO. 49C01-2006-MI-021047
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
NINJA SHELESE DEPP, whose mailing address is: 2625 N. Meridian St. Apt. 606, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 and if different, my residence address is, in the Marion County, Indiana hereby gives notice that NINJA SHELESE DEPP has filed a petition in the Marion Circuit Court, requesting that her name be changed to NINJA SHELESE REED. Notice is further given that a hearing will be held on said Petition on the 28th day of September, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at this hearing and to file an objection at 200 East Washington St., Room W506, City-County Building, Indianapolis

Pike continues preparing for uncertain football season

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

From a distance, almost everything looked normal at Pike High School's football practice the morning of July 31.

One of Pike's assistant coaches, Orlando Lowry, called out some of the safeties for not hustling to him for drills near the 30-yard line on the east sideline after warmups. Running backs were near one end zone working on handoff exchanges, and defensive linemen did agility drills at the other end zone.

Still, if you watched and listened closely, there were signs that this practice — the last summer practice before the season started — was happening in the middle of something completely abnormal.

There were reminders from coaches to keep socially distant. Players wore masks when standing around — and some even while doing drills. There weren't any one-on-one drills, and players could only go into the locker room to get their helmet before practice one small group at a time.

This is football practice in the age of COVID-19.

"I always keep it in the back of my mind, every practice could be my last practice," senior defensive end Kyran Montgomery said after practice, "so I go hard every time, spend time with my teammates, just try to keep it as positive as possible."

Athletes saying they're going to treat every practice or game as though it could be their last is an old sports cliché that carries new weight now.

North Central High School got approval from the Washington Township school board to resume practice Aug. 3 after sports were put on hold following the board's decision to begin the school year online. Indianapolis Public Schools put athletics on hold until at least Aug. 17, and a football player at Warren Central recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Marion County schools likely still have at least another week to wait before learning the fate of fall contact sports — football, soccer and volleyball — from the Marion County Public Health Department.

Pike and some other Indianapolis-area high schools are supposed to begin football scrimmages Aug. 14 and 15.

Pike's second-year head coach, Pat Echeverria, said



Pike High School football head coach Pat Echeverria talks to his team after practice July 31. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

he's delegated most football responsibilities to other coaches. He spends a lot of his time and energy on making sure everyone follows guidelines from the Indiana High School Athletic Association — such as wearing a face covering when not participating in an activity.

Players leave their bags along the fence to limit the need to go into the locker room, and there are multiple whiteboards spaced out under the home bleachers so not everyone has to crowd around one space.

Lowry, the assistant coach, pointed out the obvious truth in all of this, that there's an inherent hazard just by simply being there. Prudence can lessen the chance of a virus upending the season, but that possibility won't go away completely.

"Everyone's health is at risk," he said.

If the high school football season happens, expect some sloppiness at first. Pike and other teams are behind where they would normally be just a couple of weeks before scrimmages because of practice limitations.

There's been some talk about delaying football and other sports, and of course there's the very real possibility that those sports won't happen at all.

"I try not to think about that because it's my senior season," Pike left tackle Mahamane Moussa said. "I wanna play in the fall. I don't wanna play in no spring."

Pike ended practice by going over kickoff coverage responsibilities, and Echeverria gave a short talk that again offered the illusion of normalcy.

Playing time isn't just about skill, he said, it's also about attitude. They were to come back ready to compete and show they can handle adversity.

"They have to take advantage of each day," Echeverria said afterward as players gathered their things to leave. "It could be the last day at any point in time. I don't want to dwell on it and focus on it, but it's out there. It's real."

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

In the end, Penske made the right call

By DANNY BRIDGES

Highly successful businessmen rarely make poor decisions especially when it involves their brand. Throughout his storied career, Roger Penske has strived for perfection both as an entrepreneur and the owner of the most successful organization in the history of motor sports. While his resume is filled with tremendous accomplishments, it's the attention to detail along with his quest to be the greatest that sets him apart from his competitors.

When he purchased the Indianapolis Motor Speedway this past November, he obviously had no inkling in regards to the pandemic that would soon ravage the United States in 2020, but when it quickly placed a stranglehold on the nation he immediately began the process of navigating through uncharted waters by rescheduling the Indianapolis 500 from its traditional date in May until Aug. 23, allowing for a period of time in which he hoped the infection rates would diminish, allowing for a safe gathering of some 275,000 fans as he showcased the greatest race in the world for the first time.

However, after a quarantine in which Americans refused to fully practice the recommendations of advanced medical science, millions of people returned to their normal way of life in an irresponsible rush to reopen the country, bolstering the virus and spiking the numbers of infected individuals throughout the country, including the Midwest.

Penske remained hopeful, and implemented a plan to reduce paid attendance to 25% of capacity, counting on the cavernous space at IMS to allow for safe spacing and plenty of social distancing. But as the COVID-19 statistics became even more overwhelmingly dangerous, IMS business partner Indiana University Health publicly stated the Indy 500 should not be run with fans in attendance, and the decision to pull the plug on an expected crowd of some 75,000 race fans became an easy one.

No one could've possibly anguished this decision more than Penske, as the Indy 500 itself became the focal point of his career many years ago. The historic dominance of his team at the famed oval is well documented, and when the opportunity to showcase the enhancements he's made to the circuit in his first year of ownership evaporated, it's safe to say he made the most difficult decision in his professional life. No one loves the hallowed grounds at 16th Street and Georgetown Road more than Penske himself,

and it shows by virtue of him calling off all the best laid plans for people to congregate on race day, which ultimately would clearly compromise their safety.

As troubling as it was for him, in the end he made the right decision in terms of public safety as it relates to environmental health, and one that we must respect. The Indianapolis 500 will persevere and hopefully will be run in 2021 as normal. There will be a tremendous television audience and hopefully a highly competitive event will prevail. Sure, you can't pack your cooler full of beverages and make your annual trek to the track, but you can take solace in the fact that your health and welfare have been taken into consideration and common sense prevailed in your favor. For those who felt the risk was minimal, well, the call wasn't yours to begin with, and I for one salute Roger Penske for what was the toughest decision he'll ever have to make as the owner of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Notes: While the business relationship between Indiana University Health and IMS is longstanding and goes far beyond the Infield Medical Care Center, they undoubtedly played a role in Penske's decision. By placing their relationship with IMS on the back burner and publicly proclaiming the health risks associated with a large number of race fans converging at the track, IU Health maintained its professional integrity as a prominent health care provider.

The announcement to prohibit fans on race day also includes any public attendance for practice and qualifications and Carb Day.

IMS will credit those customers who purchased tickets for the 2020 Indy 500 with similar provisions for the 2021 event. You can read all the specific details on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway website.

NBC Sports will offer two different ways of following all the on-track action starting next week with practice. You can view all that activity on their Gold Package streaming service for a nominal fee.

As a race fan, I can personally tell you it's a bargain, so check it out soon. They will also offer a number of televised hours of coverage including the race itself, which will be aired live locally on WTHR.

Danny Bridges, who will miss the sights and sounds associated with the massive race day crowd, but supports Mr. Penske's decision one hundred percent, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.



Indy Eleven suffer rare home defeat

Indy eleven's Matt Watson (8) dribbles away from Sporting KC II's Enoch Mushagalusa (77) in a 1-0 loss Aug. 1 at Lucas Oil Stadium. It was the Eleven's first home loss of the season and the team's third loss in its last four matches. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Indy Eleven beat Hartford Athletic

Indy Eleven snapped a two-game losing streak with a 4-1 victory over Hartford Athletic on July 29 at Lucas Oil Stadium. Indy Eleven's Nick Johnson (17) competes in the air for a ball with Hartford Athletic's Conor McGlynn (28).