



# Corporate Tax Breaks and the Cost for South Carolina's Public Schools

Editorial By Dr. Kendall Deas  
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## Kylon Middleton Will Bring a Strong Sense of Moral, Ethical And Capable Leadership to Charleston County Council

By Barney Blakeney

Democrat Kylon Middleton will face Darryl Ray Griffin in the November 3 general election. He wants voters, Democrat and Republican, to support him for the same reasons they supported him in the June 9 primary election - he will bring a strong sense of moral, ethical and capable leadership to Charleston County Council as its Dist. 6 representative.

Middleton will put his training and experience to work for residents as a member of county council. "My experiences in organizational leadership and administration, both as a school administrator leading dynamic complex organizations and as a pastor leading large congregations, have provided me with the skill sets, disposition and knowledge base to be an effective member of County Council,"

Middleton said. "In both administrative worlds, I have been a leader in systemic organizational change as it relates to climate and culture, making, shaping and crafting policies that are inclusive, fair, and equitable which have moved those organizations towards continuous improvement outcomes making them stronger."

Middleton attended Charleston County public schools and graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Communications at the age of 18. He received graduate and advanced degrees from: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary - Columbia; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Duke University - Durham, North Carolina then went on to stellar careers in education as a teacher, administrator and as a

member of the clergy. He will put his training and experience to work for Charleston County residents as a member of Charleston County Council.

Middleton continues a successful career of service as a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for over 29 years. He is leading Charleston's Mount Zion AME Church congregation in a multi-million dollar restoration, renovation, and expansion project and is breathing new life into the congregation with a clear focus on racial healing, reconciliation, and transformation. In modern day peninsula Charleston's gentrified scenario he said, "I am expanding the church."

He said, "I'm running because we need strong moral leadership on Charleston County Council. It is my hope to be a committed leader with a bold plan to improve traffic and transportation,

invest in infrastructure, facilitate action now to secure affordable housing opportunities for all our citizens and to manage the COVID-19 recovery as we make sense of our lives post pandemic." Middleton said.

Experience, wisdom, moral turpitude and focus are attributes Middleton will bring to Charleston County Council as the Dist. 6 representative. Strong moral leadership through collaboration and experience are among the tools he will employ. In addition to his ability to promote morally and financially sound business practice on the council, Middleton also brings the ability to help bridge racial divides. His membership as a Charleston County Councilman won't be about business as usual. "We must have an ethical core, a



Kylon Middleton

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## Absentee Voting For The Nov. 3 Elections Have Begun

By Barney Blakeney

In-person absentee voting for the November 3 general election began this week. Charleston County Board of Elections and Registration Executive Director Joseph L. Debney said it's going to be a busy week.

The office now has four satellite voting locations for voters' convenience. Voting hours are from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. They also will be open Saturday, October 24 and Saturday, October 31 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. In person absentee voting closes at 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to an election.

Satellite locations will be: North Charleston Coliseum (Charleston Area Convention Center) Convention Hall B, 5000 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston open October 5 - November 2; Seacoast Church - Mount Pleasant, 750 Long Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC open October 19 - November 2; Seacoast Church - West Ashley, 2049 Savannah Hwy, Charleston, SC open October 19 - November 2; and Charleston County Main Library - Downtown, 68 Calhoun St, Charleston, SC open October 19 - November 2.

Debney said on Monday, "In-person absentee voting is underway at the Coliseum. It was great to see folks coming out so



Witness signatures are required on absentee mail-in ballots. South Carolina voters must get witness signatures for mail-in absentee ballots after the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the requirement.

early to vote! One young lady was there at 6:30 a.m.! So far, we have processed over 800 voters in person! Just to put that into perspective - in 2016, we only had 1,063 voters in the entire week."

Some experts suggest in-person absentee voting would avoid long delays to the vote count that some estimates say could take a week after Election Day. There are two other options to cast ballots in this year's elections: mail in voting and voting at the polls on Election Day. Whichever of the three voters choose, it will serve them well to be prepared.

Witness signatures are required on absentee mail-in ballots. South Carolina voters must get witness signatures for mail-in absentee ballots after the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the requirement.

Debney's office is trying to make mail-in absentee voting easier by adding a ballot drop box outside of the office for those who wish to drop off their absentee ballot at 4367 Headquarters Rd., North Charleston without having to include postage. The drop box is open 24/7 during the election period and is under 24/7 video surveillance.



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# Johnson Muzzled NAN Action Network Does His Own Thing



Elder Johnson

By Barney Blakeney

Last month's September 10 altercation at a North Charleston beauty supply store was among the first public debuts of the Racial Justice Network. The newly-formed organization was established by local civil rights advocate Elder James Johnson late August.

Johnson, a veteran civil rights activist most recently affiliated with the National Action Network as S.C. president, said he resigned that position to found the new organization. "I was tired of being muzzled," he said. "Now I can do my own thing." That thing has been calling out injustice the past 40 years. He's earned

a reputation for his bold direct approach to challenging discrimination and injustice.

But despite Johnson's 'in your face' challenge to the discrimination and disparities that permeate our local, state and national communities, is that enough to warrant another civil rights organization?

National Action Network Vice President for Religious Affairs and External Relations Rev. Nelson Rivers said Johnson was ordered to report his activities to NAN's executive leadership or resign. Johnson chose resignation, Rivers said. "As far as we're concerned, that's the end of it," Rivers concluded.

He added however, that as long

as people want a movement, there will be a need for organizations. He qualified the statement saying the requirement must be that organizations are effective. He said effective organizations must have power and resources, without which all that's created is a system of impotency.

Johnson said the Racial Justice Network, already chartered, registered and incorporated as a non-profit organization has some 35 members in its founding North Charleston chapter, is expanding to Florence, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties. Ultimately he hopes it will expand throughout the Southeast. He feels the success of the organization will depend on his established reputation as a civil rights activist.

"I'll continue to do the same work I always have done," Johnson said. "We have some serious problems in South Carolina and I'm happy to work with anybody who wants to improve the quality of life for our citizens."

Dot Scott, who has led the state's oldest NAACP chapter here in Charleston the past 20 years, echoed that there is enough injustice to keep any number of organizations busy. "We can't have too many," she said. "As long as their motives are good and their mission is righteous, let them do it!" About effectiveness she said, "If no organization exist there won't be effectiveness. Every little bit helps. If they're doing anything, somebody will know it and somebody will benefit."

# MIDDLETON

- continued from page 1

moral compass on county council that makes us do the right thing," he said.

Two other things Middleton will make priorities as a member of county council are bringing greater resources to communities such as Lincolnville which previously have been marginalized and ensuring that federally designated Opportunity Zones serve the residents of those communities. He pointed to continuing efforts to focus on the need for minority businesses to include Charleston International Airport.

"My experiences have given me a depth of knowledge, empathy, and awareness of the issues which affect citizens in Charleston County," Middleton said. He encourages voters to plan early as mail-in ballots will be distributed beginning early October. He reminds voters to fill out the entire ballot noting that down ballot races also are extremely important.



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If you are out and about in the community, around others, or not able to socially distance or wear a mask, DHEC recommends that you get tested at least once a month.



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# Editorial & Opinion



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1111 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403 • P.O. Box 20548  
843.723.2785 office • 843.737.5443 fax  
editor@charlestonchronicle.net  
www.charlestonchronicle.net

# black to BLACK

## It's All About The Blood Ya'll

By Barney Blakeney



Barney Blakeney

I wish I could use the excuse that I'm just so busy I fall behind on a lot of stuff. But the reality is I'm a lot less busy than a lot of people I know. I keep it moving, but often I'm either moving and going nowhere or moving in the wrong direction. Whatever, I slipped up and missed my opportunity to write something during Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September. Still, better late than never.

One of my truly busy friends got me tuned into Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Eric just became a member of the local Red Cross board of directors and learned that Blacks are minimal donors of blood - only about four percent of Red Cross blood donors are Black. Here's Eric's request: "I hope you are doing well man. Do you know, are there any historical reasons that would lead to such a low percentage? Any advice on who I would speak to about raising awareness and increasing donations?"

My late older cousin Mildred Simmons' husband Pete who was a former driver for Van Smith concrete company was a 'gallon donor' when I was a kid. I remember him telling me gallon donors had the advantage of having any of their dependents receive unlimited amounts of needed blood. As an orderly during my senior year of high school working on the surgery floor I realized how important that was. Most surgeries required blood transfusions and pints of blood were expensive. I regularly gave blood and plasma as a college student.

I hooked Eric up with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s Sixth District Rep. Kurt Walker. They've embarked on an effort to get Q's throughout the district comprised of North and South Carolina to donate. I'm hoping the same can happen with my fraternity and sorority friends among the Alphas, AKAs, Kappas, Deltas, Sigmas and Fellowmen and women of Groove and Swing. Kurt and the Qs are off to a fantastic start. Maybe Black churches can do the same.

During the course of this interaction I told Eric I feel the Red Cross impacts the Black community in so many important ways. Over two days last week some 62 families in North Charleston were displaced by apartment fires. You can bet your sweet bippy the Red Cross is assisting those residents. I know one fire was on Apache Street and forget where the other occurred. But you also can bet 90 percent of those residents

were Black. The Red Cross always is there when we need it. We should be there when it needs us. A family and friends fund raiser might help.

Anyway, Eric hooked me up with local Red Cross Executive Director Ashley Henyan. She noted September was Sickle Cell Awareness Month. "Sickle cell disease is the most common blood disorder in the U.S. and impacts about 100,000 people, most of which are of African or Latino descent," she said. "To help manage this disease, sickle cell patients often require frequent blood transfusions. These transfusions help to increase the number of normal red blood cells in the body, helping to deliver oxygen throughout the body, unblocking blood vessels and relieving extreme pain caused when their cells form hard crescent-shaped cells."

I first became aware of Sickle Cell Disease when my high school classmate Leroy Butler died from it shortly after graduating. Dr. Yvette Miller, Red Cross medical director said, "Sickle cell patients endure unimaginable pain when their red blood cells stiffen and cannot flow smoothly to carry oxygen throughout the body. Sickle cell patients can require multiple blood transfusions to alleviate this throughout their lifetime to help treat their disease, and Black and diverse blood donors are essential in helping sickle patients recover from crisis and prevent more serious complications like acute anemia, tissue and organ damage and strokes."

Blood transfused to patients with rare blood types, like those with sickle cell disease, must be matched very closely to reduce the risk of complications, and these patients are more likely to find a compatible blood match from a blood donor of the same

race or similar ethnicity.

Amid this coronavirus pandemic, the Red Cross has seen a significant decrease in African American blood donors, Henyan said. Last spring, more Black blood donors gave at Red Cross blood drives held at educational institutions than at any other blood drive location type. As drives across the country canceled this spring due to coronavirus concerns, the number of Black blood donors giving at these schools decreased from over 15,000 in 2019 to about 2,700 this year. Drives at educational institutions make up the largest percentage of fall blood drive cancellations, so the need for more Black blood donors for sickle cell patients is expected to remain critical.

The Red Cross has an urgent need for healthy and eligible members of Black communities across the country to support sickle cell patients through blood donations. Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. To ensure the health of staff and donors, precautions include: Temperature checks for both staff and donors prior to entering a blood drive or donation center; Face masks required for everyone; Available hand sanitizer throughout the donation process; and Social distancing wherever possible.

In most states, individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. For tips on what to do before, during and after your blood donation visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/blood-donation-process/before-during-after>.

To save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive, donors are encouraged to complete a RapidPass. With RapidPass, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online on the day of donation from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. The Red Cross also asks that all donors schedule an appointment prior to arrival to help ensure we can manage the flow of donors at drives.

## Report Reveals Alarming Amount of Systemic Police and Prosecutorial Misconduct

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA  
Newswire Senior National  
Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

On Jan. 21, 2011, former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison for perjury and obstruction of justice because he lied under oath about his use of torture to extract confessions from numerous criminal suspects, overwhelmingly Black men.

Burge was fired in 1993 and was prosecuted only for lying in a civil case. He served more than four years in prison and died in 2018.

In 1987, when Ken Anderson was District Attorney of Williamson County, Texas, he successfully prosecuted Michael Morton for murdering his wife, Christine.

To do so, according to a report from the National Registry of Exonerations, Anderson concealed that neighbors had seen a suspicious stranger hanging around the Mortons' house.

After the murder, while Morton was in custody, someone else attempted to use a credit card belonging to his wife and cashed a \$20 check that was in her missing purse.

Further, the Mortons' three-year-old son, who witnessed the killing, told his grandmother that "a monster" killed his mother when "Daddy was not there."

What followed was a parade of horrors, researchers said.

In 2011, DNA testing of a bandana found near the crime scene identified the actual killer.

The District Attorney's Office had successfully resisted testing that bandana for many years. Morton spent 24 years in prison for a crime that he did not commit - a crime that was itself an unspeakable tragedy for him and his family.

The real killer went on to bludgeon another woman to death in 1988. Anderson himself was disgraced. He pled guilty to contempt of court, spent four days in jail, was disbarred, and was forced to resign from the position he later held as a judge.

While researchers of a new report released on Tuesday, Sept. 15, said it's hard to summarize the enormity of the harm Burge and his underlings inflicted their victims, and what Anderson did, they did piece together a critical and comprehensive study on tainted cases that have only underscored why Americans - particularly Black people - have lost trust in the police and prosecutors.

In the report titled, "Government Misconduct and Convicting the Innocent: The Role of Prosecutors, Police and other Law Enforcement," the National Registry of Exonerations examined more than 2,400 cases nationally which measured the role of government misconduct in wrongful convictions and how African Americans specifically suffer from those actions.

The study found that 54 percent of official misconduct involved corruption or negligence by police, prosecutors, lab workers, or other government employees.

The authors - which included researchers from the Newkirk Center for Science at the University of California, Irving, the University of Michigan Law School, and the Michigan State University College of Law - cautioned that "the tally is very likely a vast undercount of the actual number of instances in which misconduct has led to the convictions of innocent people."

They outlined that many who've been wrongly convicted - including those who pleaded guilty to low-level crimes - did not have the necessary resources or legal counsel.

Why did Ken Anderson conceal all that evidence of Michael Morton's innocence?

"We don't know. We could ask, but we wouldn't trust the answer - if any was given - and Anderson himself may no longer know if he ever did," the authors wrote.

They concluded that the most important causes of official misconduct in criminal cases are systemic, "pervasive practices that permit if not encourage bad behavior; lack of the resources needed to train, supervise and

conduct high-quality investigations and prosecutions; and ineffective leadership by police commanders, crime lab directors and chief prosecutors," the authors stated.

"If these systemic problems are corrected, misconduct is less likely to occur - and when it does happen, more likely to be counteracted before innocent people are condemned."

Overall, Black defendants' exonerations have a slightly higher rate of misconduct than those of white defendants, 57 percent to 52 percent.

But the differences are more significant for murder cases (78 percent to 64 percent) - especially those with death sentences (87 percent to 68 percent) - and drug crime exonerations (47 percent to 22 percent).

The study concluded that official misconduct falls into five general categories:

Witness tampering occurred in about 17 percent of exonerations. Misconduct in interrogations occurred in 57 percent of all exonerations with false confessions or about 7 percent of all cases.

Fabricating evidence happened in about 10 percent of cases, in three forms: Forensic fraud - in 3 percent of exonerations, police officers or forensic analysts lied about forensic evidence. Fake crimes - in 4 percent of exonerations, police planted drugs or guns on innocent suspects, or lied and said the suspects had assaulted them. Fictitious confessions - in about 2 percent of exonerations, officers fabricated confessions from defendants who did not confess. At trial, misconduct occurred in about 23 percent of exonerations, about evenly divided between perjury by law enforcement officers, 13 percent, and trial misconduct by prosecutors, 14 percent (with some overlap).

*Misconduct in interrogations occurred overwhelmingly in murder cases the led to exonerations*

Concealing exculpatory evidence and misconduct at trial were most common in murder cases, followed by white-collar crimes. Witness tampering was slightly more common among exonerations for child sex abuse exonerations than for murder, and fabricating evidence was several times more common among exonerations for drug crimes than for any other crime.

Concealing exculpatory evidence contributed to 44 percent of exonerations' convictions, more than any other type of official misconduct.

The rate of concealing exculpatory evidence varies by crime, from 61 percent for murder to 27 percent in child sex abuse cases. "It is so common and widespread that it happened in 82 percent of all exonerations with any official misconduct," the researchers noted.

Prosecutors concealed exculpatory evidence in 73 percent of cases in which [exonerations] occurred.

Police concealed exculpatory evidence in 33 percent of cases where it occurred (including cases with concealing by more than one type of official), and forensic analysts did so in 6 percent.

In some portion of those exonerations, prosecutors did know about the concealed evidence. Still, the researchers stated that they knew of about 13 percent that included concealed physical objects like clothing and weapons.

The authors conceded that "this gap may in part reflect how effectively objects can be destroyed or hidden, but information may linger in electronic or physical files or the memories of people."

In 63 percent of cases with concealed exculpatory evidence, substantive evidence of the exonerees' innocence was hidden - evidence that in itself helps prove the defendant's innocence, such as an eyewitness who named another person as the criminal, the report noted.

In 80 percent of such cases, impeachment evidence that undermined testimony by prosecution witnesses was concealed - for ex-

ample, evidence that a witness who identified the exoneree as a murderer told his brother he never saw the killing.

In half the exonerations with concealed exculpatory evidence, both substantive and impeachment evidence were hidden. Often, a single item of evidence serves both functions.

"Substantive evidence may sound more important, but concealing impeachment evidence that eviscerates the credibility of a critical prosecution witness can be devastating to an innocent defendant," the authors stated.

"Predictably, law enforcement officials usually conceal their own misconduct. That's misconduct in itself, derivative concealment," they wrote.

For example, it's misconduct for an officer to plant drugs on a suspect, and it's a separate act of misconduct to conceal the officer's knowledge that the suspect is innocent.

Other notable findings in the report include:

- Evidence of other official misconduct was concealed in 26 percent of all exonerations.

- Guilty pleas rather than trial verdicts obtain at least 95 percent of criminal convictions in the United States, but 80 percent of exonerations followed conviction at trial.

- About 28 percent of those trials (23 percent of all exonerations) included official misconduct in court.

- Perjury by all law enforcement officials occurred in 14 percent of the trials at which exonerees were convicted, or 13 percent of all exonerations (including those after guilty pleas).

- In about a quarter of those cases, officials lied about forensic testing, or about things the officials themselves claimed to have witnessed the exonerees do or say.

- Perjury by police officers occurred in 11 percent of trials of exonerees. In 9 percent of those trials (7 percent of all exonerations), officers lied about others' information.

Most often, police lied about the investigations' conduct, including what a witness said or how a lineup was conducted.

The most common subject of police perjury was the conduct of interrogations at which innocent defendants confessed.

"We miss a great deal of police perjury," the authors wrote.

"We rarely have access to transcripts or other detailed information about trial testimony, so we only learn about perjury at trial if it becomes a conspicuous issue."

In 1959, the Supreme Court held that a prosecutor has a constitutional obligation to correct perjury by a state witness even if she did not herself offer the false testimony.

However, researchers discovered that prosecutors permitted perjury to go uncorrected in 8 percent of exonerations. In most cases, the perjury was by civilian witnesses.

The most common lies were about the favorable treatment the witnesses receive in pending criminal cases of their own.

"We know that prosecutors lied in court in 4 percent of exonerations. The real rate may be higher since we only count cases with clear evidence that prosecutors made statements they knew were false," the researchers noted further.

They said about half of lies by prosecutors were made in a closing argument with a common pattern of repeating and affirming perjury by a witness that the prosecutor knew about but failed to correct - for example, a lie by a witness who claimed to have no deal with the prosecutor.

Federal prosecutors committed misconduct in exonerations more than twice as often as police (52 percent to 20 percent), while state prosecutors committed misconduct less often than police (29 percent to 36 percent).

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Phone: (843) 723-2785 • Fax: (843) 737-5443

e-mail: chaschron@aol.com

www.charlestonchronicle.net

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TUESDAY at 12 NOON preceding date of publication

## Corporate Tax Breaks and the Cost for South Carolina's Public Schools

By Dr. Kendall Deas

Not many years ago while in graduate school, I worked for an economic development group that recruited companies to the Atlanta metro area. Time and again, when executives visited, among their first questions was: "How good are the schools?" It was very clear to me that the quality of schools matters a great deal when it comes to attracting investment and jobs.

Back now in my native South Carolina, I am an educator and advocate for public education, and I am concerned about the subpar and uneven quality of our state's public schools. U.S. News and World Report ranks our schools at No. 43.

The state's "Corridor of Shame," a nickname given to a string of rural, impoverished, and poor-performing school districts along South Carolina's I-95 corridor, serves as a stark reminder that there is much work to be done to improve the Palmetto state's standing nationally in education.

This region of the state, with flat farmland and remnants of industries that have relocated overseas, needs to attract jobs and it also needs employers who want to invest in our future. But by disinvesting in their school systems, many South Carolina counties are undermining their ability to compete. To revitalize these economies, we need to invest in traditional public schools, yet this need to improve the quality of its public education system is too often ignored by state political leadership.

We have growth in some areas, and when jobs grow, people move in, and that means more families with school-age children. But then we abate the companies' taxes, stressing the tax base we need to keep schools modern and healthy. Until now, we did not know how severe this disincentive has become. Under state law, counties award massive economic subsidies and tax incentives even though school districts lose the most revenue. Last year, these corporate tax breaks cost South Carolina public schools \$423 million, an astonishing increase of \$99 million from FY 2017.

This news, released recently by Good Jobs First, a non-profit think tank along with The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA), found millions in property tax abatements granted to companies like Boeing, BMW, Volvo, Amazon, and dozens of other businesses operating in the state.

The biggest aggregate losers were Berkeley County (\$54 million) and Greenville County (\$41 million) while poorer counties including Orange-



Dr. Kendall Deas

burg, Dorchester, Calhoun, Greenwood, and Barnwell lost more than \$2,000 per pupil.

For a state with obvious examples of school districts that are underfunded, such as those within its Corridor of Shame, this loss of public school revenue is jarring. As a result, groups in the state that are committed to advocating for and supporting public education in South Carolina such as The SCEA and the Lowcountry's Quality Education Project (QEP), a state member of Diane Ravitch's Network for Public Education, will be working with allies to develop a legislative strategy and public awareness campaign to change the way economic development is executed in South Carolina. Legislative leadership can successfully move our state forward by recognizing this vital link between a quality public education system and economic growth. Simply put, we need to change the rules concerning tax abatements for major companies operating in South Carolina.

The legislature can act by taking the school portion of tax abatements off the table, it can give school boards a say in whether their money is given away (a power state law now delegates to county elected officials); and it can require counties to disclose costs and benefits of every company's tax-break deal, including actual jobs created and actual wages paid.

South Carolina cannot grow and grow fairly if we let newly arriving companies impoverish our schools. Great schools and good jobs go hand in hand.

*Author: Dr. Kendall Deas is a political science professor specializing in education policy and law with the Department of Political Science and Honors College at the College of Charleston and a Director of the Quality Education Project.*

## CRL Statement on the Federal Reserve's Plan to Revamp the Community Reinvestment Act

*CRA must help address systemic racial barriers and inequality, and it must benefit LMI and families of color*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week in a board meeting, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve approved its draft Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). In May, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency finalized its CRA rule, while the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has yet to join an agency in finalizing a CRA rule.

The CRA is a civil rights law designed to expand financial opportunity. The law requires banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they are chartered. The CRA was created to be a key driver in financial equity, helping to spur hundreds of billions of dollars of investment in underserved areas. Yet, the CRA requires strengthening to evolve with the changing banking landscape and to fully meet its statutory mission.

Center for Responsible Lending Executive Vice President Nikitra Bailey released the following statement:

"Unlike the OCC's approach in finalizing a deeply misguided rule without stakeholder support, we appreciate the Federal Reserve's commitment to a data-driven process that solicits broad input. The Federal Reserve should ensure that updated regulations account for the harsh realities of discrimination that still plague today's financial marketplace.

"CRA was designed to undo the injustices created by the horrific practice of redlining and to expand financial opportunity, equity, and help spur investments in underserved areas. Our nation's most recent reckoning with racial injustice has elevated the recognition and urgency to enact significant reforms to address structural racial barriers and provide opportunity to LMI families and people of color. CRA must be one of the major tools to provide these long overdue reforms."

# AS I SEE IT

by Hakim Abdul-Ali



## Looking at Life For All That It's Worth

"Looking at Life For All That It's Worth" is my theme for today's vibes. As you read that topical theme in this newly arrived month of October, I wonder if you realize how significant a factor that really is in our day-to-day recognitions?

For some reason, I'm heading into an unavoidable discussion with you, myself and others now about the living experience in general and the esteem that should be given to all created beings and things in nature including ourselves. I feel that there's far too much hatred, ignorance and chaos existing seemingly everywhere we turn, especially, on the "human" scale of deciphering unimaginable events.

It's not a rather mundane thought for me to say that, but it's a persuasively engulfing one that I have now because I know all-too-well that the next moment is not promised to me, you or anyone else for that matter. I offer that because rather simply put, I'm "Looking at Life For All That It's Worth."

Think about that very carefully as you visualize that life is about experiencing the ultimate spiritual sensations of being present in the here and now. Albeit, that being said and excepted as an undeniable given, we all should realize too that each moment in time is a very delicate moment in life's somewhat perplexing existence.

I have to constantly remind myself, you and others in "humanity" that no ethnic "human" being knows exactly when death will call. And it surely will occur, so don't think for a single moment in the present living experience that you, me or others will escape or delay that voyage of destiny.

Living in the world of today's ever-changing ups and downs makes me take a spiritual pause to assess why, e.g., there's so much political injustice, bitter anarchy and racial divisiveness going on. That

lone conscious spiritual thinking activity allows me to know that this truly precious moment of uncertainty is vital, and it is, indeed, a most provocative narrative unto itself.

So, I'd like you to also focus on that pensive scenario as you put any unproductive thoughts aside for a quick few in reading on because we all need to seriously "Look at Life For All That It's Worth." Again, I offer that resounding point of view because there's nothing wiser than for a sane ethnic universal soul to know that the natural libretto of the living experience is giving glory to the Most High Alone for allowing you, me and others to be a part of the only story that's worthy of recognition.

It's life, and I hope you know that the living experience is not an accidental anecdote to be taken for granted because, very candidly, each second we take could be our last, no matter who you are, rich or poor, light or dark, or whatever. Please never forget that as you prepare for your next moment in today's living episode to do whatever it is that you think you'll be doing or, more correctly, hope to be doing.

Do you fully comprehend and totally understand that subtle sentiment of mine, or are you taking your next expected breath as a certainty? I sure hope that you're giving conscientious thought about precious existence and what really is your purpose in life.

Remember that each breath we all take should serve as wake up calls for us to give all praises to the Creator Alone and no other. And I say that to you in the spiritual tenderness of savoring this unequalled gift we call a second, a moment or an instance, knowing fully well that all of the future trials, battles and ordeals of the coming living experiences await me, you, our families, friends, enemies, etc., with storyline unpredictable uncertainties galore.

That's why today's vibes speak to you (and others) the way that I'm hoping that they do as spiritual reminders to us all to start living in peace and not exist in untold ethnic, racial and political hatreds and divisions galore. You know what I'm saying is correct because "Looking at Life For All That It's Worth" is more than a solo secret individual desire and pursuit.

The USA and the rest of the world are searching for relief from the staggeringly and suffocating effects of global "historical" racial injustices with no apparent let up in sight. I say that because every sensible soul knows what the game of "poly-tricks" is all about, and, in 3-D bipartisan reality, it's downright nasty, brutal and cutthroat to the core when you really get down to the nitty-gritty of grasping it all.

Folk are going to be folk, no matter who they are, especially if they are misguided with evil intents in the first place. That's why I feel so strongly about the nature of spiritual guidance being at the forefront of correcting and curing the woes of the self and the rest of the world's plaguing ills.

Most intelligent spiritual folk unequivocally know that no one but the Creator Alone knows the future because the living experience is under the Most High Alone's control. That really is a no brainer to digest because life, being what it is, is God Alone's created realm, or planned storybook, and He (Alone) knows the exact length of our being a part of its next page, or moment, in time.

Therefore, that reality has me entrenched into "Looking at Life For All That It's Worth." If our individual lives are likened to written scripted books, then only God Alone, and not any created man or woman, knows when the chapters will end for everyone.

The living experience, we ca-

sually refer to as life, is a fragile, basic platform narrative of existence where we see new life exposed in created formats which come into existence daily and seasonally, including birth and death. I, personally, think of all of these phenomena as I witness the passing of the elders and even the young, right before my very eyes.

No amount of tears can bring back the dead into this present life, and I truly know that the living experience is a spiritual gift unlike any other. Only God Alone, not man or woman, creates life, and He Alone takes it away right before our eyes, and all this should remind us that "Looking at Life For All That It's Worth" is nothing to play with.

If that's understood, then we'd know that the living experience is a story unto itself for the peaceful, spiritually thinking souls of life and nature who are trying to make sense of what few delicate moments in existence we all may have left. Life is about worship, praise and remembrance of the Creator Alone.

In conclusion, I'm old school spiritual to the core, if that's what you want to label me. Yes, I'm stuck on the only basic premise that the Creator Alone of everything and everyone is but One, unique and unparalleled, who, Alone, is the only one worthy of praise.

Do you know that without the Creator Alone, Who (Alone) creates everything in existence, there would be no story to tell? I don't think that's not too complicated to figure out. Life is real.

The living experience is the real no joke scenario. Don't you take it for granted as some folk do. That living story must never be forgotten because it's as old as the prefaces and indexes of time itself. For today and always, that's, "As I See It."

## Trump Promises "Platinum Plan" for Black Americans

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor

In an attempt to win Black voters that have been elusive for the Republican Party for many cycles, President Donald Trump announced a "Platinum Plan," of Black Economic Empowerment.

Trump unveiled the plan during an Atlanta rally with less than six weeks left until Election Day on November 3rd. Currently, President Barack Obama's former Vice President Joe Biden is leading in the polls in many key states in the presidential contest.

Trump's proposals for Black America include prosecuting Antifa and the Ku Klux Klan, making Juneteenth a holiday on the federal level and proposals focused on Black wealth. Trump's proposal related to improving Black economic standing included an investment of \$500 billion in Black communities. Trump did not disclose how he would pay for such a plan.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused over 200,000 deaths and 50 million to file for unemployment, budgets on the federal level are expected to be tight in the coming years.

Trump attacked his Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, as he announced his proposal saying that Biden "inflicted" damage on Black communities during his four decades in Washing-



President Donald Trump

ton.

"Biden should not be demanding your support; he should be begging for your forgiveness," Trump told a crowd of supporters on September 25. "No one in politics today has done more to hurt the Black community than Joe Biden," Trump added. Trump may have in part been referring to Biden's authorship of the Clinton Crime Bill of 1994, or more formally, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement

Act. The "tough on crime" law was a driver of mass incarceration through the 1990s as it incentivized incarceration.

Trump won 8% of the Black electorate in 2016 as he defeated Hillary Clinton. Clinton won the popular vote by close to three million voters but Trump won the electoral college map.

Current polling shows that Biden is ahead of Trump with Black voters by a very wide margin: 83% to 8%. The intro-

duction of his plan for Black America is likely an attempt to win the support of Black voters in what could be a close presidential contest.

**Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist at Principal of Win Digital Media LLC.**

**Burke may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at [LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke)**

# Accelerating our commitment to affordable housing

There's a shortage of affordable housing in America, especially in communities of color. The impact of this health and humanitarian crisis has intensified the need for increased action.

As part of our commitment to invest \$1 billion over four years to advance racial equality and economic opportunity, Bank of America is accelerating our investment in development in neighborhoods of color — including right here in the Lowcountry. We're working side by side with nonprofits and community leaders to help revitalize neighborhoods, expanding on work we've had underway for many years.

My teammates and I remain committed to addressing the Lowcountry's affordable housing gap and helping build the community in which we live and work.



Mark Munn  
Charleston/Hilton Head Market President



## Building together

Here in the Lowcountry, we're partnering with organizations that are expanding affordable housing options. They include:

**Sea Island Habitat for Humanity**

**Operation Home**

**Charleston Urban League**

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

To learn more, please visit [bankofamerica.com/community](https://bankofamerica.com/community)

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# “MAKE OCTOBER VOTING MONTH”

**-JIM CLYBURN**

## IMPORTANT DATES

# IN PERSON VOTING IS NOW OPEN!

**OCTOBER 31** LAST DAY TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL

**NOVEMBER 2** LAST DAY TO VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON

**NOVEMBER 3** GENERAL ELECTION DAY

YOU CAN GO TO [VOTEBLUESC.COM](http://VOTEBLUESC.COM) TO REQUEST A BALLOT

## VOTING ABSENTEE

Everyone registered to vote in South Carolina is eligible to vote absentee this year. You can do that by mailing in a ballot request, or by going to the locations listed below by county to vote Absentee In-Person. Not all locations are open the same dates and times.

**ABBEVILLE**  
903 W GREENWOOD ST  
ABBEVILLE, SC  
OCT. 6 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**AIKEN**  
1930 UNIVERSITY PKWY  
AIKEN, SC  
OCT. 2 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**ALLENDALE**  
158 McNAIR ST  
ALLENDALE, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**ANDERSON**  
301 N MAIN ST  
ANDERSON, SC  
OCT. 6 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**BAMBERG**  
1234 NORTH ST  
BAMBERG, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**BARNWELL**  
367 FULDNER RD  
BARNWELL, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**BEAUFORT**  
15 JOHN GALT RD  
BEAUFORT, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4PM

**BLUFFTON**  
61B ULMER RD  
BLUFFTON, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4PM

**BOREAS**  
539 WILLIAM HILTON HWY  
HILTON HEAD, SC  
OCT. 6 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4PM

**BERKELEY**  
6 BELT DRIVE  
MONCKS CORNER, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**BETHLEHEM**  
1216 OLD MURRAY CT  
HANAHAN, SC  
OCT. 19 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**BETHLEHEM**  
113 RAVENELL DR  
ST. STEPHENS, SC  
OCT. 19 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**CALHOUN**  
102 COURTHOUSE DR  
SAINT MATTHEWS, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**CHARLESTON**  
5000 COLISEUM DR  
N CHARLESTON, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHARLESTON**  
750 LONG POINT RD  
MT. PLEASANT, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHARLESTON (cont.)**  
68 CALHOUN ST  
CHARLESTON, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHEROKEE**  
110 RAILROAD AVE  
GAFFNEY, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHESTER**  
109 ELLA ST  
CHESTER, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHESTERFIELD**  
205 W MAIN ST  
CHESTERFIELD, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**CHESAPEAKE**  
109 MAIN ST  
PATRICK, SC  
OCT. 12 - OCT. 13  
9AM - 4PM

**CHESAPEAKE**  
38 W JUNIPER ST  
McBEE, SC  
OCT. 14 - OCT. 16  
9AM - 4PM

**CLARENDON**  
411 SUNSET DR  
MANNING, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**COLLETON**  
2471 JEFFRIES HWY  
WALTERBORO, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:00AM - 5PM

**DARLINGTON**  
131 CASHUA ST  
DARLINGTON, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:00AM - 5PM

**DARLINGTON**  
301 S. SIXTH ST  
HARTSVILLE, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**DILLON**  
305 W HAMPTON ST  
DILLON, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**DORCHESTER**  
201 JOHNSTON ST  
ST. GEORGE, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**DORCHESTER**  
301 N HICKORY ST  
SUMMERVILLE, SC  
OCT. 19 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**DORCHESTER**  
9006 DORCHESTER RD  
N CHARLESTON, SC  
OCT. 19 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**EDGEFIELD**  
210 PENN ST  
EDGEFIELD, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**FAIRFIELD**  
1674 US 321 BUSINESS  
WINNSBORO, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**FLORENCE**  
219 THIRD LOOP RD  
FLORENCE, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**FLORENCE**  
221 E. MAIN ST  
LAKE CITY, SC  
OCT. 26 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**FLORENCE**  
100 E MAIN ST  
PAMLICO, SC  
OCT. 26 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**GEORGETOWN**  
303 N HAZARD ST  
GEORGETOWN, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**GREENVILLE**  
301 UNIVERSITY RDG  
GREENVILLE, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**GREENVILLE**  
310 W CURTIS ST  
SIMPSONVILLE, SC  
OCT. 12 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4:30PM

**GREENVILLE**  
951 GREER HWY  
TRAVELER'S REST, SC  
OCT. 12 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4:30PM

**GREENWOOD**  
710 S FAIRFIELD RD  
GREENVILLE, SC  
OCT. 12 - OCT. 30  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4:30PM

**GREENWOOD**  
600 MONUMENT ST  
GREENWOOD, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**HAMPTON**  
21 JACKSON AVE W  
W HAMPTON, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 5PM

**HORRY**  
1515 4TH AVE  
CONWAY, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**JASPER**  
1506 GRAYS HWY  
RIDGELAND, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**KERSHAW**  
517 BULL ST  
CAMDEN, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**LANCASTER**  
101 N MAIN ST  
LANCASTER, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**LAURENS**  
200 COURTHOUSE PUBLIC SQ  
LAURENS, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**LEE**  
101 GREGG ST  
BISHOPVILLE, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 5PM

**LEXINGTON**  
605 W MAIN ST  
LEXINGTON, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 5PM

**MARION**  
2523 E HWY 76  
MARION, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**MARLBORO**  
714 N MARLBORO ST  
BENNETSVILLE, SC  
SEPT. 29 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 4 PM

**MCCORMICK**  
610 S MINE ST  
MCCORMICK, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**NEWBERRY**  
1872 WILSON RD  
NEWBERRY, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**OCONEE**  
415 S PINE ST  
WALHALLA, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**ORANGEBURG**  
1437 AMELIA ST  
ORANGEBURG, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 6PM

**ORANGEBURG**  
10304 OLD 6 HWY  
VANCE, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 6PM

**PICKENS**  
4585 MAIN ST  
NORTH, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 6PM

**PICKENS**  
222 McDANIEL AVE  
PICKENS, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 5PM

**PICKENS**  
124 N CATHERINE ST  
PICKENS, SC  
OCT. 19 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9:30AM - 4PM

**PICKENS**  
304 BILTMORE RD  
PICKENS, SC  
OCT. 19 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9:30AM - 4PM

**PICKENS**  
105 COMMONS WAY  
CENTRAL, SC  
OCT. 19 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9:30AM - 4PM

**RICHLAND**  
2020 HAMPTON ST  
COLUMBIA, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
8620 GARNERS FERRY RD  
EASTOVER, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
7494 PARKLANE  
COLUMBIA, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
1009 BICKLEY RD  
IRMO, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
1031 MAIN ST  
EASTOVER, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
1320 CLEMSON RD  
COLUMBIA, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
920 BEATTY RD  
COLUMBIA, SC  
OCT. 7 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
702 BATESBURG HWY  
SALUDA, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
366 N CHURCH ST  
SPARTANBURG, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
385 N CHURCH ST  
SPARTANBURG, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
141 N MAIN ST  
SUMTER, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 6PM

**RICHLAND**  
1246 DUNCAN BYP  
UNION, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 9AM - 6PM

**RICHLAND**  
147 W MAIN ST  
KINGSTREE, SC  
SEPT. 28 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8:30AM - 5PM

**RICHLAND**  
6 S CONGRESS ST  
YORK, SC  
OCT. 5 - NOV. 2  
MON-FRI, 8AM - 6PM



**QUESTIONS?  
855-785-0222**

# Covid-19 And Youth Sports

## Is it safe to play?

### Roper St. Francis physician weighs in on impact of Covid-19 on Youth Sports

As communities, schools and workplaces slowly start to reopen, many are welcoming back another time-honored tradition – the return to sports. With the opportunity to let kids back on the field also comes many questions from families. Most importantly: Is it safe for kids to play sports during the COVID-19 pandemic?

"It really comes down to your family's risk tolerance," explains Valerie Scott, MD, family medicine provider at Roper St. Francis Physician Partners Primary Care. "We know this virus is spread by close human contact, and that defines sports. But, we also think kids with COVID-19 tend to have more mild symptoms or be asymptomatic."

"To be honest, the jury is still out on long term consequences of COVID-19," Dr. Scott continues. "The big one that worries me more than any is potential heart damage."

Dr. Scott recommends families sit down and consider what they are comfortable with. "Most children are going to do fine if they get sick," she says. "But, there are still risks. That's why if we have them return to play, we have to do it in the most scientific way possible."

That includes parents learning about the risks associated with COVID-19 in children, and the steps sports leagues and coaches are taking to protect children and prevent the spread of the virus.

### Keeping athletes safe on and off the field

Roper St. Francis Healthcare certified athletic trainers are in many high schools across Charleston County and see firsthand how schools are helping athletes return to play.

"Charleston County has done extensive research on how they can best keep athletes safe. It's amazing what they've implemented in such a short time," Dr. Scott shares.

That includes protocols such as:

Keeping opposing teams and fans separate to reduce the risk of spreading virus between communities

Requiring masks for coaches, staff and fans (and athletes when not in play)

Regularly disinfecting shared surfaces

Graduated return-to-play guidelines when athletes do become sick

"We're so used to thinking 'Oh, they feel well, they can play again.' But that may not be the best approach with this virus," explains Dr. Scott. "Making sure athletes are healthy keeps them safe and reduces the risk of spreading the virus to teammates, coaches and their families."

"Athletes, families and coaches may not like the quarantine timeline for players who do get COVID-19, but it's a critical step. Quarantine reduces community spread and it ensures we have the time to catch any potential issue," she continues.

For Dr. Scott, that includes cardiac damage.

### Myocarditis and athletes

Recent findings suggest that individuals recovering from even a mild case of COVID-19 are at risk of developing myocarditis. Myocarditis is when the middle layer of the heart wall becomes inflamed. It can lead to heart damage, abnormal heartbeat and sudden death.

A small study, published in JAMA Cardiology, performed cardiac imaging tests on 28 athletes who recovered from COVID-19. Imaging showed that four athletes had myocarditis. The study also found eight additional athletes had signs of prior myocardial injury.

"Research is just starting to look at the connection between COVID-19 and myocarditis. There is a lot we don't know," Dr.



Scott admits. "It may be that there is a zero-point-one percent or a three percent risk of myocarditis. The risk may be low, but it's still a risk. Parents should stay informed so they can make the decision that is best for their children."

Myocarditis is particularly troubling for athletes because it is the most common cause of sudden heart failure. Monitoring for symptoms and diagnostic testing may help identify myocarditis, but there are not yet any specific recommendations for COVID-19 patients.

"If it were my child, I would have them get an EKG or echo before they got back to sports, and I'd want to be sure athletic trainers had an AED on the sidelines of games," Dr. Scott says.

An electrocardiogram (EKG) can identify an abnormal heartbeat, which may increase the risk of sudden heart failure. An echocardiogram takes pictures of the heart and can also identify inflammation or trouble with how blood moves through the heart. These tests are important to diagnose myocarditis so athletes can properly recover from the condition.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that may be able to shock the heart back into rhythm if it suddenly stops. Dr. Scott underscores these are important for any sport – even when it's not a global pandemic.

"If your child has a rhythm disturbance, CPR is nice, but an AED will save their life," Dr. Scott says.

### Making a choice that's best for your family

Dr. Scott understands the confusion and even frustration families and athletes are feeling.

"Our knowledge base is constantly changing," she says. "Making a decision about playing sports is not cut and dry. Juniors and seniors in high school often have a lot riding on their seasons. It really comes down to what's best for your family and your athletes."

For Dr. Scott, that includes weighing your child's risks of developing complications and reviewing the protocols schools and teams have to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

But, most importantly, it includes following those guidelines. "You don't want to base a return-to-play decision on whether or not there is a tournament coming up. You also can't keep your child or the

community healthy by not following the guidelines yourself."

Dr. Scott encourages parents to model healthy behavior at games, including properly wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance and respecting team protocols. Being supportive shows your child that it's important to follow the rules and helps them feel comfortable letting you know if they aren't feeling well.

"There's often pressure on athletes to tough things out," says Dr. Scott. "We just can't do that anymore. Athletes need to let their parents and coaches know if they aren't feeling well, even if it's just mild symptoms. If an athlete has a fever, cough, sore throat or another symptom, then get them tested."

### Talk to your child's doctor

If you're not sure what's best for your family, talk to your child's primary care provider. They can identify any health conditions that may put your youth athlete at risk of complications from COVID-19 and ensure they start the season with a clean bill of health.





**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: 20-P037S

The City of Charleston is accepting proposals for a **Recreation Sports Clinic**. The City will receive proposals until November 5, 2020 @ 12:00pm at 75 Calhoun Street, Suite 3500, Charleston, SC 29401. The solicitation will be available on our website, www.charleston-sc.gov, (Bidline, Procurement Bids), or may be obtained by submitting a request to: Chenette Singleton by email, singletonc@charleston-sc.gov.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: 20-P036R

The City of Charleston is accepting Proposals for the **Audit Services**. The City will receive proposals until October 22, 2020 @ 12:00pm at 75 Calhoun Street, Suite 3500, Charleston, SC 29401. The solicitation will be available on our website, www.charleston-sc.gov, (Bidline, Procurement Bids), or may be obtained by submitting a request to: Robin Barrett Robinson by email, robinsonr@charleston-sc.gov.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The regular monthly meeting of the Charleston Water System Board of Commissioners has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 103 St. Philip Street. The meeting will also be available remotely at this address for the public to follow along as well as to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting agenda. All social distancing precautions will be adhered to. The Committee meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting to be held immediately following the Committee meetings. Citizens comments or questions may also be submitted prior to the meeting by email to saiam@charlestoncpw.com or by phone at 843-727-7146. Any changes to this public notice will be posted on the Charleston Water System website at http://www.charlestonwater.com.

The public may also join the webinar through the **Zoom Cloud Meetings** application. To do so, please use the following link:

Link: <https://charlestoncpw.zoom.us/j/82131339555?pwd=c3BSZURlcmVEdlUrNU1KcThjelpQdz09>

Passcode: 145864

To join the referenced Zoom webinar by phone:

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Webinar ID: **821 3133 9555**

Password: **145864**

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All persons having claims against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the Personal Representative indicated below and also file subject claims on Form #371ES with Irvin G. Condon, Probate Judge of Charleston County, 84 Broad Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401, before the expiration of 8 months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, or else thereafter such claims shall be and are forever barred.

Estate of: SANDRA KETCHEN  
2020-ES-10-1092  
DOD: 06/15/20  
Pers. Rep: CHENIQUE KETCHEN  
PO BOX 1181, MT. PLEASANT, SC 29465  
Atty: VERONICA G. SMALL, ESQ.  
3300 W. MONTAGUE AVE., #102,  
NO. CHARLESTON, SC 29418

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All persons having claims against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the Personal Representative indicated below and also file subject claims on Form #371ES with Irvin G. Condon, Probate Judge of Charleston County, 84 Broad Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401, before the expiration of 8 months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, or else thereafter such claims shall be and are forever barred.

Estate of: MARY LEE COBBS-GALLASHAW  
2020-ES-10-0983  
DOD: 06/24/20  
Pers. Rep: JAMAAL G. COBBS  
3829 REDDIN RD.  
NO. CHARLESTON, SC 29405  
Atty: M. CHASE PAYNE, ESQ.  
280 SEVEN FARMS DR., #A,  
DANIEL ISLAND, SC 29492

Estate of: VICTORIA G. JOHNSON  
2020-ES-10-1280  
DOD: 07/08/20  
Pers. Rep: ALLEN JAY JOHNSON  
6748 MAYBANK HWY.,  
WADMALAW ISLAND, SC 29487

**ESTATES' CREDITOR'S NOTICES**

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Estate of: ETHEL LEE TERRY  
2020-ES-10-0982  
DOD: 04/23/20  
Pers. Rep: ALFREDA T. RANDOLPH  
2557 OTRANTO RD.  
NO. CHARLESTON, SC 29406

Estate of: EDNA MAE MITCHELL DUNMEYER  
2020-ES-10-1106  
DOD: 05/25/20  
Pers. Rep: BONITA J. DUNMEYER  
872 SAVAGE RD., CHARLESTON, SC 29414

**Register of  
Deeds Office  
will Delay  
Opening on  
Tuesday,  
October 13**

The Charleston County Register of Deeds office will open at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13. The office is holding a staff meeting in the morning and will push back opening from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in order to allow all Register of Deeds employees to attend.

**Register of Deeds Office:**

O.T. Wallace County  
Office Building  
101 Meeting Street  
Room 200  
Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: (843)958-4800



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# OP-ED: Uplifting Americans with Sickle Cell Disease

By Admiral Brett P. Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Ja'Ron Smith, Deputy Assistant to the President

Providing more opportunities for all children and families, especially in minority communities, is a goal that all Americans can support. Over the past three years, America has felt the significant changes to empower minority communities by improving infrastructure, creating better economic and workforce opportunities, and addressing health disparities. Addressing Sickle Cell Disease is one of the many ways President Trump's Healthcare Plan is providing Americans with better care.

In the United States, approximately 100,000 people live with sickle cell disease (SCD), an inherited condition causing some red blood cells to bend into a "C" or sickle shapes that clog blood vessels and prevent the body from getting enough oxygen. Sickling of cells leads to excruciating pain, organ failure, strokes, and premature death.

Although SCD was first described in 1910, treatment innovations have been rare, primarily due to scarce attention and investment. Data indicate that despite the availability of SCD treatment guidelines, many children and most adults with SCD do not receive the recommended treatments. Further, because patients with SCD experience severe episodic and chronic pain, they are frequently accused of "drug seeking" and wait significantly longer for treatment by healthcare providers who have little or no experience treating SCD.

This makes many patients and their families feel that those living with SCD are "always at the end of the line." For too many, suffering and shortened lives seem inevitable. And indeed, life expectancy of adults with most severe forms of SCD remains 20-30 years shorter for Americans living with SCD than for the average American. We are determined to change this.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has taken bold steps to continue reducing health disparities impacting our nation. In March 2018, we launched an initiative to improve the lives of people living with SCD and create the necessary public-private partnerships and learning systems to improve health equity. An interagency Task Force, led by the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) and tasked with implementing the initiative, began with listening sessions with patients and advocacy groups.

You can't improve what you can't measure—so OASH is working to help expand the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's comprehensive SCD database, which assesses data on SCD populations in select states. We also developed a comprehensive national infographic on the demographics, utilization, and care for patients with SCD who are enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)—the majority of patients with SCD.

This infographic, published by the Centers for Medicare &

Medicaid Services, confirmed what patients with SCD and advocates had told us - SCD care needs improvement. In 2017, more than half of children with SCD did not receive most of the recommended screenings, vaccinations, and treatments that would protect their health and improve their quality of life. Patients who went to the emergency department (ED) reported an average of five visits annually and they had more life-altering conditions (e.g., asthma, chronic pain and fatigue, kidney disease, depression) than other Medicaid/CHIP patients.

These data are sobering, and we intend to use them to drive accountability. With these data, the Trump Administration will take action to improve care by continuing to award funds to support children and families.

We also worked for two years with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) to issue an SCD National Action Plan. This Action Plan is comprehensive about the impact of SCD nationally and the path to real change, including increasing awareness; addressing stigma; developing team-based systems of care; and creating clear treatment guidelines and training healthcare providers. The NAEM plan could transform the lives of people living with SCD and serve as a model for those with other chronic conditions, especially among vulnerable populations.

OASH and our interagency partners have led many other SCD activities over the past two years. President Trump issued presidential messages on National SCD Awareness Month in 2018 and 2019, and an official presidential proclamation this year. OMH has collaborated with other HHS agencies to launch educational programs, including a national webinar series for primary care providers; a journal supplement on care of patients with SCD in emergency departments; and outreach to stakeholders, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities. And most recently, the First Lady held a roundtable discussion, at the White House, in which people living with SCD, their families, SCD advocates, and health care professionals could express the impact of this disease on themselves and their families and contribute to the Administration's bold initiatives.

The most exciting news is that the National Institute of Health's is making progress on genetic therapies for SCD that are potentially curative. While these treatments are not available to everyone, there is real

promise that more accessible genetic cures could give people living with SCD the pain-free lives they deserve. With the Food and Drug Administration accelerated approvals of two new SCD drugs, it is an encouraging momentum for more life-saving new medicines on the horizon.

We recognize the long-standing barriers to care people living with SCD face, but we are

committed to building upon this progress and momentum to break them down forever. The future effort must be done with American compassion and full bipartisanship, transcending administrations, Congresses, and funding cycles. By solving SCD—a definable, tangible, treatable, and potentially curable disease—our hope for achieving the best health in America is one step closer.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 13, 4 P.M.**  
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# Flu shots are more important than ever this year

Flu season is just around the corner. And since it seems likely that COVID-19 will still be spreading this fall and winter, there is the potential for two pandemics to occur at the same time.

That's a dangerous possibility health experts want to avoid. It's why it is vital for you and your family to get your flu shots this year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu shots for everyone 6 months and older, with rare exceptions. Flu shots are especially important this year for:

- Essential workers. This includes healthcare workers and others who offer needed services to the public during the pandemic.
- People at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This includes older adults and people with certain underlying conditions.
- Members of minority groups that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus, including Black, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people.
- People at increased risk for flu complications. This includes infants and young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older, and people with chronic conditions.

Will a flu shot protect me from COVID-19? The flu and COVID-19 share some symptoms, but they are caused by different viruses. So a flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19. Still, it can help protect you from the flu—or from serious illness if you do get the flu.

When should you get a flu shot? Most people should get their flu shot in September or October, according to CDC. That's before the flu starts spreading in most communities but also late enough to last through the worst of the flu season.

Children 6 months to 8 years old who have not had a flu shot before need two doses given at least four weeks apart. They should get an early start—so they can get the second dose by the end of October.

Ask your doctor what timing is right for your family.

Should I get a flu shot if I have COVID-19? No. You should wait to get your flu shot until you feel better and your doctor says it's safe to go out.

Will COVID-19 change where I can get my flu shot? It's possible. You may not be able to get your flu shot at your workplace because of social distancing, for example. But you should still be able to get a shot at your pharmacy or doctor's office.

To find the nearest location to you to get a shot, go to [VaccineFinder.org](http://VaccineFinder.org).

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