

The Sojourner's Truth

20 years
2002-2022

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 26, 2022



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Gold Standard Leadership

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

How leaders navigate a crisis has an enormous influence over the impact that crisis will have on their organization, not to mention the personal impact it will have on the people and leadership of that organization, in its aftermath.

— Erica James



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After 39 years of protecting children from abuse and neglect, Robin Reese will retire from Lucas County Children Services. She was named executive director in 2016 after beginning as a caseworker in 1984 and later rising to manager of the Placement Department.

Reese's patient, careful and quiet leadership style will likely obscure her impactful achievements. Yet, she has displayed, possibly, the gold standard for leadership in Toledo rather than other, more high-profile or charismatic colleagues.

Reese accepted the position, as is often the case for Black leaders, when LCCS (or CSB) faced an organizational crisis. The community was facing an opiate epidemic, and the previous long-time executive director had recently left the organization. In addition, a recent levy had failed, community support had withered and workforce morale was extremely low. Nevertheless, Reese faced the challenge, stepped into the leadership gap, and contained and repaired the damage while preparing LCCS for impact.

The agency currently receives over 4,000 annual calls for service.



Robin Reese

... continued on page 7

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- ✓ Jennifer Brunner for Chief Justice Supreme Court
- ✓ Terri Jamison for Justice Supreme Court
- ✓ Marilyn Zayas for Justice Supreme Court

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE



OHIO SENATE

- ✓ Paula Hicks-Hudson for Ohio Senate - District 11

OHIO HOUSE

- ✓ Nancy Larson for Ohio House - District 41
- ✓ Erika White for Ohio House - District 42
- ✓ Michele Grim for Ohio House - District 43
- ✓ Elgin Rogers Jr. for Ohio House - District 44

COURT OF APPEALS

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- ✓ Lindsay Navarre for Court of Common Pleas
- ✓ Lori Olender for Court of Common Pleas
- ✓ Vallie Bowman English for Juvenile Court

BALLOT MEASURES

- ✓ Vote Yes on Issue 7 Lucas County Metroparks Tax Renewal
- ✓ Vote Yes on Issue 10 Imagination Station Tax Renewal
- ✓ Vote Yes on Issue 11 Lucas County Public Library Tax Renewal
- ✓ Vote Yes on Issue 21 Toledo Charter Amendment

HOW TO VOTE

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It Is Swami Time Again!!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

I have been blasted by my faithful readers into practically being forced to don my Swami headdress and trot out my trusted crystal ball to give them some relief, albeit small at times, regarding what would be the worst-case scenarios if the Trump-led GOP takes control of Congress.

Prognosticating as a Swami is not a role I take lightly because many people take to heart each spoken word, so I must be circumspect in what I say so that I do not give false hopes or make exaggerated claims.

If people only had a slight inkling of the stress that I undergo to wear the Swami crown, they would be in total awe and wonderment at the mental and emotional sacrifices I voluntarily undertake for their edification.

But, enough about my deprivations, let's move on to my predictions for the upcoming two years and commentaries thereto.

One: If the Democrats stumble and fall in the midterms and lose control of the House and Senate, high political anarchy and gridlock will prevail until the year 2024.

The GOP (at least 80 percent of them) are tied at the hip to the con artist Herr Trump and practically view him as their political savior and entrust him to Make America Great Again!... whatever that means.

With a reign of terror, by whomever is chosen as House Speaker and Senate leader, to befall the hapless Democrats, the now giddy with power GOP, will with great glee and delight terminate the January 6th Committee.

They will inveigh the findings of the report and call it a witch hunt (although the committee did find the witch...Donald Trump) and shut down any further funding for it; and they will challenge Merrick Garland, the head of DOJ to not follow their recommendations.

Two: When Trump's minions obtain political power, they will be hell-bent on revenge and will single out any disobedient Republicans who made a stand for the Constitution and those persons will be relegated to the fringes of being engaged in making law and policy.

Three: People like Marjorie Taylor Greene (aka: MTG), Paul Gosar, Lauren Boebert, Jim Jordan, and a host of other malefactors, will obtain juicy committee assignments in which they can lob political grenades at any progressive policies being put forth by the now minority Democrats.

Four: MTG will crow from her roost perch and believe that she is the female incarnation of Attila The Hun and will utter pure gibberish regarding subjects on which she is totally clueless. Regardless of what she utters, the feckless GOP will grin and bear it.

Her fellow travelers will take their ascensions as proof that the American public is ready to acquiesce to an authoritarian figure; and they will introduce legislation that will sound as if they were dictators but somehow working for the American people!

Five: the US Supreme Court will take their marching orders from the din of the crowd and issue rulings that will severely hamper and impede voting rights, civil rights, and laws that protect the environment.

Six: Trump will be indicted in the near future by both the Georgia prosecutor and the DOJ for a host of crimes regarding the document scandal at Mar-A-Lago and Trump trying to corrupt the Georgia vote. Leticia James in NY will score wins against Trump for his attempts to defraud the public with his real estate and tax avoidance schemes.

Seven: The American public will feel the brunt of a rush of cruel and misguided GOP laws and will "wise up and rise up" and will vote out the GOP in record numbers in the 2024 elections as never seen before in American politics.

Eight: Trump will exhaust his practice of delaying justice and the US

Supreme Court will not overturn his criminal convictions and he will go to prison even after an attempt to get mercy from the sentencing courts, he admits on open record that he lied about the election of 2020 being stolen.

Nine: Trump's GOP base will feel betrayed and will turn on the GOP sympathizers who knew the truth but withheld it from them for purposes of their personal and financial gain.

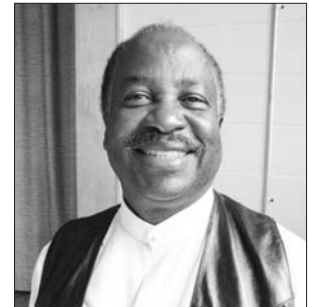
Fox News and similar "news" outlets will be held in disgrace and will go bankrupt because their advertisers will pull their ads due to public pressure of being duped by these so called "news" agencies.

Ten: The American Carnage, as predicted by Trump in his 2016 inaugural speech, will be completed and the hypnotic trance that held many GOP members in his sway will be broken and people will be embarrassed that they allowed themselves to be so easily conned by Herr Trump and his grifting machinery.

Well. There they are...my Swami predictions. As is usually my wont, I immediately must retire to my bed to recover from this exhaustive ordeal and hope that you will not bombard me with follow up questions since I do not do individual readings.

P.S. Representative Lauren Boebert, a staunch supporter of Herr Trump, recently stated that Jesus Christ is about to return...real soon. My prediction: That is false. No one knows the day or the hour of his promised return; and Rep. Boebert is woefully short on Bible knowledge to say such a thing, but...it gets her headlines. A true Bible doofus if there ever was one!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

Relaunch

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contact: **Nikolacolours**
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Gallery
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Biden Discusses Loan Forgiveness at Del. State, Amid Court Victories and Setbacks

By Julius Washington

Howard University News Service

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit granted a stay on appeal Friday evening in a case challenging President Biden's loan forgiveness plan. The decision "prohibits the appellees from discharging any student loan debt under the cancellation program," pending a full ruling from the court. The Federal District Court in St. Louis had originally dismissed the case.

Earlier on Friday afternoon, President Biden delivered remarks about his plan at Delaware State University in Dover.

"It's good to be home," Biden said upon taking the podium at the Historically Black University. The visit came the day after the district court in St. Louis dismissed a legal challenge brought by several states and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett denied an emergency request from the Brown County Taxpayers Association in Wisconsin.

"But just yesterday, the state court and the Supreme Court said, 'No, we're on Biden's side,'" the president said. Delaware's Congressional delegation joined Biden during his appearance at the university, including Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, alongside Senators Chris Coons and Tom Carper.

The loan forgiveness plan is expected to benefit some 40 million borrowers nationwide, and nearly 22 million Americans have already signed up for relief, according to Biden.

One of those Americans, Zachary Bernard, who is Mister Senior at Delaware State, introduced Biden and expressed his gratitude for the program.

"President Biden's student debt relief has given me the liberty to graduate debt free," Bernard said. "This relief is breaking barriers in our communities and in our minds about what we can do with our future."

Biden also addressed some of the Republican elected officials who had called out the program, but had received loan forgiveness from the Paycheck Protection Program.

"Rep. Vern Buchanan of Florida said our plan was reckless," Biden quoted. "Guess how much he got in that program, forgiven? \$2,300,000. That's not a joke. Can't make this stuff up."

Sen. Ted Cruz fired back at Biden's comments in a tweet, saying, "now he's comparing PPP loans that people got to deal w/ those govt mandates to loan

forgiveness he gave to his Ivy League slacker fringe liberal base to buy their votes."

In a letter addressed to President Biden, 22 Republican governors criticized the plan, writing: "A high-cost degree is not the key to unlocking the American Dream — hard work and personal responsibility is."

Like Cruz, opponents of the loan forgiveness program in the Republican Party have dismissed it as a handout to the wealthy or as an attempt to earn Democratic votes ahead of a consequential midterm election, or they claimed that Biden lacks the authority to make such a decision without Congress.

The Department of Education estimated that "nearly 90% of relief dollars will go to those earning less than \$75,000 a year" and released a five-page memo deriving authority for loan forgiveness from a provision of the 9/11-era HEROES Act.

"Republican members of Congress and Republican governors are doing everything they can to deny this relief, even to their own constituents," Biden said. "Who in the hell do they think they are?"

Mekhi Riley, a junior at Morgan State University, was supportive of the program and opined that a lack of empathy was responsible for much of the opposition to the relief plan.

"I feel like they're doing exactly what needs to be done," Riley said. "I think a lot of people fail to be empathetic towards someone who has to take out a bunch of loans because their job requires a [college] education."

President Biden also used the speech to urge the students in attendance to vote in November, pitching them on his agenda for the next term.

"Your generation will not be ignored. You will not be shunned. You will not be silenced," Biden said. "If we maintain the Senate and pick up a couple senators, we're going to see to it that we completely codify Roe v. Wade in every state."


Denesia Spencer, also a Morgan State student, said she was looking forward to signing up for the student loan relief program and could understand how it could bring more young people to the polls.

"I think it could promote some change in how students vote," Spencer said. "When they see that voting is actually helping them in the long run, they will probably be more likely to vote."

Julius Washington is a reporter for HUNewsService.com.







Biden-on-student-aid-White-House-via-You-Tube





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Community Calendar

October 28-30

Braden United Methodist Church Weekend Bible School: Youths 6-14; Register by calling 419-386-2700; Braden's Trunk or Treat is Sunday from 6 to 8 pm

October 30

Jerusalem Baptist Church Mass Choir: 5 om; Jerusalem Baptist Church; Homecoming Concert

November 5

Arts & Crafts Bazaar: Epworth United - Methodist Church; 9 am to 4 m; 67 vendors - books, candles, jewelry, pottery, among others

November 10

Toledo NAACP Vote: Noon to 8 PM; Vote for Executive Committee: The election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will take place in person following social distancing guidelines, wearing a mask is required. Polls will open from 12:00 pm (Noon) - to 8:00 pm. To vote in the Toledo Branch NAACP election, one must be a member in good standing of the Toledo Branch NAACP 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

It's Time to Vote – And Take Back Columbus!

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

So often, during normal times, African-American commentators decry the tendency of African Americans to demonstrate such unwavering allegiance to one party when they go to the polls. Such allegiance, goes the theory, too often means that that one party, when in office, takes such votes for granted and then fails to properly reimburse voters for such loyalty.

That argument certainly possesses a certain logic, during normal times, but these aren't normal times and I'm not quite sure if we have ever witnessed normal times when it comes to politics.

What is happening in the United States, in general, and in the state of Ohio, in particular, during these times is pretty obvious. The Republican Party has put together a super majority in Columbus and they have such a troubling agenda for these times.

They want to eliminate women's reproductive rights, they are going to defund public schools to enrich the purses of wealthy owners of private and charter schools, they wish to hold onto power by making it as difficult as possible for the underserved to vote and, driven by some enigmatic fear of the thought of critical race theory being taught to first graders, they want to forbid references to this nation's history of racism in the classroom.

Apparently, Republicans don't want little white kids to feel bad about the way their nation has mistreated and abused little Black kids over the centuries.

It is critically important in this race for the statehouse to vote for Toledo area Democratic candidates: Nancy Larson in District 41; Erika White in District 42; Michelle Grim in District 43 and Elgin Rogers in District 44. All four will be newcomers to Columbus and all four will stand in strong opposition to the Republican lawmakers who believe that gun rights are absolute but limited government somehow means limiting voting rights and limiting the rights to one's control over her own body.

Larson is facing Republican Josh Williams, a somewhat thoughtful conservative who unfortunately believes in curtailing abortion rights and arming teachers in schools as a precaution against mass shootings since guns are here to stay.

White is facing incumbent Derek Merrin, an author of the six-week abortion ban legislation.

Grim is facing MAGA warrior Wendi Hendricks and Rogers' opponent is Roy Palmer whose campaign slogan appears to be "why can't we all just get along?"

Electing these four local Dems to the General Assembly will not change the balance of power immediately but perhaps will serve as notice that the Republicans will not reign forever in Ohio. Regardless of the impact in the legislature, however long that might take, there can be, with this election, an immediate impact on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Currently the court has four Republicans and three Democrats on the bench. However, three of the Republican seats are in play. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, a Republican, is retiring and Associate Justice Jennifer Brunner, a Democrat is vying for that position. Democrats Terri Jamison, an appellate court judge in the 10th District Court, and Mari-



Judge Marilyn Zayas, Justice Jennifer Brunner, Judge Terri Jamison



Michele Grim



Nancy Larson



Elgin Rogers

lyn Zayas, an appellate court judge in the 1st District Court, are trying to claim the seats of sitting justices Pat Fischer and Pat DeWine, respectively.

With Jamison and Zayas, there is an opportunity to overcome the Republican majority on the bench, a majority that tends to reflect the legislator's views on redistricting, abortion rights, employment rights, LGBTQ rights.

But the backgrounds of both Jamison and Zayas and what they have had to overcome to earn an education, become lawyers and end up on appellate courts are inspirational and a reflection of the trials of so many people of color.

Jamison, an African American from the coal mine areas of West Virginia, became a lawyer late in life as did Zayas, of Puerto Rican heritage and from a difficult childhood in the Washington Heights area of New York City. Both Democrats have undergone life experiences that make them well suited to keep Republican excesses in check on the judicial side.

It's time to start to make a change in Columbus. Reproductive rights, public school funding, voters' rights, an honest presentation of history in our classrooms, employment rights, LGBTQ rights and, perhaps above all, a scandal-free state government (the First Energy nuclear plant scandal still hovers) are all at stake. Vote as if your life, and the lives of millions of Ohioans, depends upon it.



Erika White

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Lisa Sobecki: Democratic Candidate for Lucas County Commissioner

The Truth Staff

State Representative Lisa Sobecki, a Democrat, is making an unusual turn this election cycle. Instead of running for re-election, since she is not term-limited, she has opted to make a run for a seat on the Lucas County Board of Commissioners in an effort to join fellow Democrats Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak – two long-time board members.

Sobecki believes that as a former state representative familiar with the ways of state government in Columbus, she will be well positioned to do more for Lucas County in her new role.

Sobecki particularly feels that she will have the background and ability to “be in the front lines” when the state legislators are grappling with their operating and transportation budgets and can change the usual results of such maneuverings which typically ignore the needs of northwest Ohio.

A perfect example, she says, is the \$2 billion in funds from the American Rescue Plan for the state of Ohio that is earmarked for the state Department of Transportation. “How can we benefit?” she asks.

In general, Ohio has an infrastructure problem that has built up after decades of neglect – and it is worse in northwest Ohio, says Sobecki, than in most parts of the state.

As she contemplates a victory on Election Day and then assuming duties in the Commissioners’ office, Sobecki speaks of several tasks that



Rep. Lisa Sobecki

...continued on page 12

Councilwoman Michele Grim's Next Challenge

The Truth Staff

Toledo City Councilwoman Michele Grim, PhD, is the Democratic nominee for the Ohio House of Representatives, District 43, running against Republican Wendi Hendricks. The race is a microcosm of what is happening around the nation in these turbulent political times.

“She is a supporter of Trump,” says Grim of her opponent. “A MAGA Republican. She believes in banning abortion even in cases of rape or incest. We had a 10-year-old girl in Ohio who had to go out of state for medical care,” notes Grim of the case that recently brought national attention to the issue of abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

“She believes in withholding funding from public education and is a supporter of Backpack legislation [House Bill 290] which severely undercuts public education. I know the value of public education and it’s being underfunded.

As in so many races around the country, on so many levels – other than the presidency itself in these midterms – the choice could not be clearer.

Grim, who earned her doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University researching Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) implementation has spent a career working to end violence against women, fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS, trying to fund healthcare and working to bring forth effective laws to stop domestic gun violence.



Michele Grim

...continued on page 12

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Paula Hicks-Hudson For Ohio Senate District 11

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PAID FOR BY PAULA HICKS-HUDSON FOR OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 11

Perryman... continued from page 2

Through its intake and assessment process, it has 867 children in foster care and many others receiving services for domestic violence, homelessness, and other issues.

Here are a few observations of Reese's "gold standard" leadership approach:

Be Intentional about the Vision

The topic of children who have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma is fraught with emotion and conflict. It can lead to dysfunction within and outside the organization. Therefore, a good leader provides purpose and direction by shifting the focus from WHAT we do to WHY we do it. "It's about the Children!" So, the protection of children is now genuinely "the why" of the agency's mission.

Reese's strength is her style - not loud or flashy, but decisive and firm, without which the vision won't be operative or have the empowering focus it needs. "She doesn't get knocked off her square very easily. She's going to make a decision and then see it through," her peers say.

Reese effectively used this quiet style to implement a laser-like focus on making the protection of children from abuse, neglect, and the ravages of the opiate epidemic the organization's all-encompassing goal.

The Community Matters

Good leaders also define reality and realize the importance of the Black community. As CSB addresses the delicate care and placement needs of abused and neglected children, a disproportionate amount (50 percent) of the children served are racial and ethnic minorities.

One-third of the organization's 386 employees are African American. The agency also contracts with local media, including Urban Radio, WJUC, Toledo Journal, Sojourner's Truth and LaPrensa. In addition, LCCS includes minority suppliers in its bidding pool for IT and other products and services.

Recognizing this, Reese shifted the agency's position from reactive to proactive by taking CSB outside its walls and back out into the community. As a result, you now see the agency providing onsite prevention and intervention services in neighborhoods like the Greenbelt weekly.

Addressing Systems: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Collaborations

Good leadership also recognizes collaborative partnerships' importance in addressing organizational and community crises. Robin served as a participant and/or convener in creating coalitions advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

Perhaps the most persistent voice among several others that stepped up and spoke out, Reese made tangible strides to repair the broken "system." She worked tirelessly with the Toledo Racial Equity & Inclusion Council (TREIC), the 100 Women, The Movement, and other racial equity projects. All of these efforts were further evidence of the need for leaders to address the complex but dynamic systemic issues in the broader environment that also impact individuals and organizations.



Gov. Mike Dewine and
LCCS Executive Director
Robin Reese

... continued on page 11



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Mayor Michael Bell photo reprinted with permission of The Blade, 2013



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Toledo NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Glass City Convention Center banquet room was filled as members and officers of the Toledo Unit NAACP to celebrate the 107th Freedom Fund Dinner on Saturday, October 22. This year's theme was "This is Power."

Sax B, a live musician, serenaded guests as they mingled and networked within the newly renovated facility. Kristian Brown, the seasoned event mistress of ceremonies and 13abc anchor, officially opened the banquet. The program continued with Amanda Herron, leading the Negro National Anthem, "Life Ev'ry Voice and Sing," and Toledo NAACP President Rev. Willie Perryman officially welcomed the attendees.

"Welcome to the 107th Toledo NAACP Freedom Fund celebration. You all look absolutely beautiful tonight and I'm honored to serve again as mistress of ceremonies," shared Brown.

"We're pleased to have you join us for the 107th annual banquet. Let's not forget that the black vote counts, your vote counts, so vote," said Perryman.

The banquet recognized two local individuals, Captain Komako Lynnette Goolsby and Vince Davis. Goolsby graduated from Start High School and currently lives in Sylvania. She became a fire fighter in 2006, obtained her Paramedic certification in 2009, was promoted to lieutenant in 2019 and made history again since becoming the first African American woman to be promoted to Captain.

Davis, the second honoree, was born and raised in New Jersey and eventually moved to Toledo and earned a masters degree from University of Toledo. Davis is involved in several organizations such as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Phi Boule and several others. Davis also is a representative of State Farm Insurance company and the family operates the Devilbiss Mansion and surrounding houses.

In addition to Goolsby and Davis, Toledo NAACP executive committee members Theresa Gabriel and Carleton Finkbeiner were honored with tokens

... continued on page 9



Rev. Willie Perryman, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, John Rudley



Deborah Barnett and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

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NAACP Banquet... continued from page 8

of appreciation and Ohio Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson presented John Rudley, PhD, with a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Rudley, the keynote speaker, was a four-year starter and leading scorer on the University of Toledo Rockets basketball team, earned a master's degree and PhD in education administration from Tennessee State, served as the president of Texas Southern University from 2008 to 2016, and current president emeritus at the university. Rudley was inducted into the University of Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021.

Rudley sent the audience on a journey through history, through a series of events and reactions that occurred in the year that Toledo NAACP was founded.

"Thank you Dr. Perryman, the host committee and Mr. Ray Woods. I applaud all of the past presidents; your sacrifice wasn't forgotten. Imagine what life was like 107 years ago, what changes occurred in the world and our communities," said Rudley.

The 2022 Freedom Fund committee: Michael Alexander, chair; Anita Madison, co-chair; Rev. W.L. Perryman, PhD and Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, Kandice Saulsberry, Francis Amison, Doris Roberts, Theresa Gabriel, Bea Daniels, Darryl Jones, Brittany Jones and Cynthia Savage.



Theresa M. Gabriel, Rev. Willie Perryman and Anita Madison



Micheal Alexander and Kandice Saulsberry

The 2022 Toledo Branch officers: Rev. Willie Perryman, DMin, president; Micheal Alexander, first vice-president; Jasmine White, second vice-president; WilliAnne Moore, third vice-president; Frances Amison, treasurer; and Kandice Saulsberry, assistant secretary.



John Rudley and Anita Madison



Monique Ward Redmond and Robert Smith



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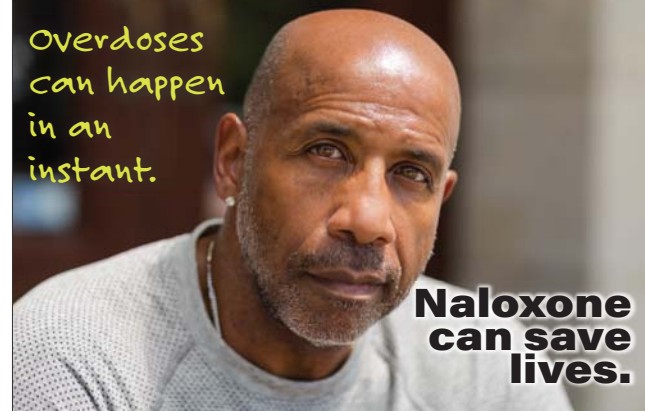


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Funding for this project was made possible (in part) by the Ohio State Opiate Response (SOR) -5H79T083294-02 Grant from Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Commission on Minority Health.

Toledo's Newest Intimate Wedding Venue

On Saturday, October, 8, De'Lisa Moore invited invited community members, business friends and family to visit the new intimate wedding venue, Tye The Knot Wedding Chapel, while showcasing other local wedding vendors who offered samples and promoting their businesses.

Located at 4314 Monroe St Toledo, OH 43606, Tye The Knot, Wedding Chapel is a perfect place for couples looking to have a grandeur wedding, on a smaller scale, said Moore. "Our venue is perfect for those with a wedding date less than a year away who are open to a weekday or weekend wedding, and have a guest list with fewer than 30 guests," she added.

Vendors such as J's Catering, owner Jasmine Dees, and DJ Ohiowatson were also present for last week's opening.

Contact Moore at 567-343-2933 or info@tyetheknot419.com



De'Lisa Moore



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Vote For: Imagination Station's Levy

Sojourner's Truth Staff

As far as levies go, this one is fairly simple, says Lori Hauser, executive director at Imagination Station, the local science center that is requesting a renewal of its current five-year, 0.17 mill property tax levy.

"Our record is pretty good," she says, pointing out the discounts the science center offers every day, the free Saturday admission for Lucas County kids 12 and under, the fact that Imagination Station creates access to future engineers, scientists and innovators.

The levy is the smallest one on the general election ballot but the impact is huge for Imagination Station. The funds generated will total

about \$1 million annually providing almost 23 percent of the science center's annual operating budget.

Those funds go towards programmatic exhibits, says Hauser, bringing in different audiences with different interests and providing a van to go into the community to reach out and introduce even more audiences to the wonders of science.

It is simply a renewal – no new monies taken out of Lucas County residents' budgets and for that small amount, Imagination Station offers a breathtaking array of science programming for the entire family.

Pretty simple choice!

2023 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2021 through the third quarter of 2022, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive an 8.7 percent COLA for 2023. Other important 2023 Social Security information is as follows:

Tax Rate	2022	2023
Employee	7.65%	7.65%
Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%

NOTE: The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

	2022	2023
Maximum Taxable Earnings		
Social Security (OASDI only)	\$147,000	\$160,200
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
Quarter of Coverage		
	\$1,510	\$1,640
Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts		
Under full retirement age	\$19,560/yr. (\$1,630/mo.)	\$21,240/yr. (\$1,770/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.		
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$51,960/yr. (\$4,330/mo.)	\$56,520/yr. (\$4,710/mo.)
NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the		

	2022	2023
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,350/mo.	\$1,470/mo.
Blind	\$2,260/mo.	\$2,460/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 970/mo.	\$1,050/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement		
	\$3,345/mo.	\$3,627/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	\$ 841/mo.	\$ 914/mo.
Couple	\$1,261/mo.	\$1,371/mo.
SSI Resource Limits		
Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000
SSI Student Exclusion		
Monthly limit	\$2,040	\$2,220
Annual limit	\$8,230	\$8,950
Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable		
	Before 8.7% COLA	After 8.7% COLA
All Retired Workers	\$1,681	\$1,827
Aged Couple, Both Receiving	\$2,734	\$2,972
Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$3,238	\$3,520
Aged Widow(er) Alone	\$1,567	\$1,704
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	\$2,407	\$2,616
All Disabled Workers	\$1,364	\$1,483

This press release was produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Fedor Announces Retirement from Ohio Senate

COLUMBUS – Today, state Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) announced that she will retire from the Ohio Senate, effective October 31, 2022.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve in the Ohio Legislature for the past 22 years in both Ohio House of Representative and the Ohio Senate," wrote Fedor.

"On Monday, October 31, 2022, I am retiring from the Ohio Senate. This was an extremely difficult decision to make and one that I reached after consulting with family, friends, and colleagues."

Perryman... continued from page 7

Expand Your Horizons

Good leaders look beyond established horizons and reach for new frontiers. Mrs. Reese has developed a close working relationship with Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, a Republican, and served on his Transformation Advisory Council. She also sits on the Public Children Services Association of Ohio's Board of Trustees, is a member of the OhioRISE advisory board, and is a frequent advisor to the Annie E. Casey Foundation on matters of child welfare policy.

Neither Reese nor LCCS is perfect. Yet, you can measure the quality of leadership by observing how leaders navigate in a crisis.

At a difficult time and faced with an organizational crisis, Reese was intentional about the vision, realized the importance of Black community matters, and participated in collaborative partnerships to address systemic issues. Finally, she looked beyond established horizons to reach for new frontiers.

In doing so, she went from replacing "a guy that had been there a long time" to someone that will be viewed as a "historical leader of LCCS for all time."

Robin Reese will be missed.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



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Take TARTA To The Polls With Fare-Free Rides On Election

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) wants to make sure everyone's voice is heard on election day by giving customers a free ride to their polling place.

TARTA, TARPS paratransit services, and Call-A-Ride services will be free all day on Tuesday, November 8, as part of the Voter Ready With TARTA campaign.

At tarta.com/news/voteready, customers will find resources to help them locate their polling place and find which route can get them there. "Our mission statement revolves around connecting people to their communities, and that certainly includes being able to take part in the democratic process," said TARTA Mobility Manager Daniel Hunt. "We see giving people a voice in who represents them as just as important as a trip to a place of work or a doctor or any other essential destination."

"Additional efforts like Voter Ready are key components of TARTA and TARPS service. It's important that we take an active role in enhancing the independence of our customers – in particular those with significant mobility challenges - by making it easier for them to vote."

TARTA customers can find which bus can get them to their polling place at tarta.com/news/voteready. Customers can also use tarta.com/routes to find out how to reach the polls. Riders with specialized mobility needs are encouraged to call Daniel Hunt at 419-725-5281 to find out how we can help.

Taking part in the process by voting early? TARTA has you covered. Use TARTA routes 3, 19 or 52 to reach Lucas County's new Early Vote Center at 3737 W. Sylvania Ave.

Early voting in Lucas County runs through Monday, November 7. About TARTA TARTA provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background.

Lisa Sobecki... continued from page 6

will command her attention.

The county needs a strategic plan, something that has never been drawn up, she says. "We need a foot print where we are going to go – in five to 10 years." Such a plan, which she has experience drawing up when she served on the Toledo Board of Education, would involve both an examination of internal operations such as a physical analysis of services and buildings and of external operations such as workforce and economic development.

That would entail a look at problems in different sectors. "We have to have a focus – and look at rebranding and retooling."

One area of concern, she says, that involves infrastructure and that lack of focus, is the fact that building a new jail – discussed for about 10 years – still has not been accomplished. "We need to stop talking and get it built because cost has doubled over time."

Her background, she adds, includes time on the school board when 44 schools were built and two – Scott and Waite high schools – were remodeled. "Under budget and on time," she says, while also giving ample consideration for the inclusion of minority and women-owned contractors.

Another task she looks forward to taking on is overcoming the shortage of workers in the county. She envisions applying for a waiver from the federal and state governments "so we can do what small counties, such as Allen County, have done and get people off the benefit cliff."

The "benefits cliffs" refers to the tipping point for low-income individuals and families who find that it is financially challenging to earn too much money if it precludes them from retaining government assistance or benefits. Too many such individuals are lost to the job force.

According to Emily Campbell, associate director and Williamson Family Fellow for Applied Research, in her research paper, "Policy Change Can Reduce Benefits Cliffs and Incentivize Work," it is possible to bring such individuals back into the workforce with proper state programming:

"Ohio has taken some steps which can minimize or address benefit cliffs. The most deliberate is the 'Benefit Bridge' pilot included in Ohio's recently passed biennial budget. The Benefit Bridge enables six counties' departments of Job and Family Services to test approaches to minimize the impact of benefits cliffs. It is largely based on the success of efforts in Allen County, which paired TANF Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) supports with job coaching assistance and financial incentives benchmarked to employment goals for a limited number of TANF participants. It also included subsidized employment. The identified pilot counties are Allen, Fairfield, Hamilton, Licking, Meigs, and Stark. Many features of the pilot align with solutions other states have enacted."

"We have a lot of needs here that don't get recognized down in Columbus," she adds. "And we need to have a stronger voice and my background will make a difference."

Michele Grim... continued from page 6

In her short stint on City Council – she won election in November, 2021 – Grim feels that her time that has been well spent.

I feel like I've accomplished quite a bit," she says. Her proposal led to a "stand alone health committee," she "has worked to strengthen critical services to improve health and safety needs, and to increase access to free clinics."

In Columbus, Grim sees her opportunities to effect change, in a Republican dominated statehouse, as critical to her goal of bringing an end to the production "of laws for Ohio that don't work." The six-week ban on abortion is at the top of that list, along with a firearms law that allows gun owners to avoid telling police officers that they are carrying weapons.

Healthcare, however, is at the top of Grim's list in terms of what she can accomplish in Columbus. Because of state actions, notes Grim, there is an issue with "the underfunding of health and human services in Toledo. "Food banks, for example are underfunded."

"I think I can work to build common ground on issues such as healthcare costs, mental health and violence against women," says Grim referencing her background as a rape crisis counselor. "We've really gone backwards with our domestic violence laws and sexual assault laws."

Grim adds that she will hope to join her colleagues in Columbus supporting House Bill 266 which, among other things, will eliminate the statute of limitations for rape and other sexual assault crimes against children.

"It won't be easy in Columbus," says Grim. "We need to elect people who will stand up and fight for our communities."

From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge: Canada and the Civil War by Brian Martin

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

It looks like your ticket was purchased the day you were born.

Your destination was unknown and the journey takes a lifetime, but a seat was reserved for you that no one can take away. And yet, you could change courses any time you wished, for greener pastures or safer homes. In the new book *From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge* by Brian Martin, your fellow travelers are good with that.

Even in the earliest days, there were slaves.

In 1501, says Martin, a Portuguese explorer came to the easternmost shores of what's now Canada with at least one slave. An unnamed Black person, probably a slave, died in Port Royal in 1606; another fell in Acadia two years later. There weren't a lot of slaves when those lands were controlled by the French, but after Great Britain took over in 1763, slavery surged and the number of Black people grew. Numbers jumped again during the Revolutionary War, when the Brits eagerly invited slaves to taste freedom by fleeing their American owners.

Immediately after the war, Britain realized how much its public disliked slavery, and they "inched" to abolish it with the Act on the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire of 1807. By then, runaway slaves from all over America had been seeking freedom in Canada. By the 1830s, running north had a name – the Underground Railroad – and it had several leaders to lead slaves away from bondage.

But Canada wasn't just a safe haven for former slaves or freedmen hoping for more tolerance or a better life. Bounty hunters came north across a border that was easy to ignore. Abolitionists crossed over, as did politicians and journalists eager to tell a tale or two. Canadians crossed south, to fight mostly with the Union.

Our northern neighbor was always welcoming and willing to shelter any-

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ECW Press
\$19.95
352 pages

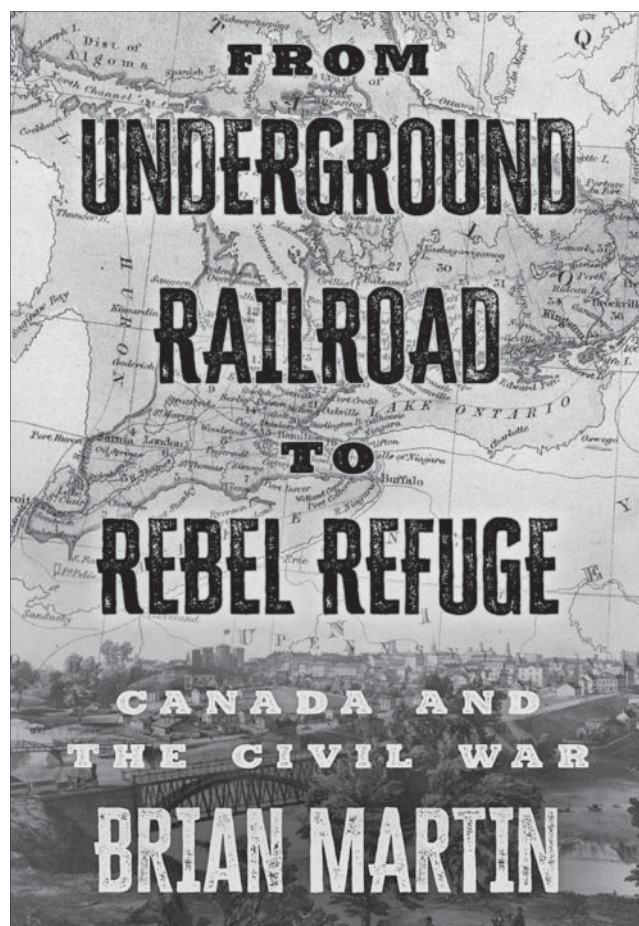
one who needed it. Even if, says Martin, they were once plantation owners.

Even if they were white supremacists and Klan leaders...

At this point in your life, you've probably heard your fair share of nineteenth-century American history. You know quite a bit about the Civil War and slave history, too, but *From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge* will open your eyes even wider.

Remember high school history class? It probably left you frustrated with vague information, when it came to slavery in America and Canada's role in it, but author Brian Martin gets *specific* here, regaling readers with exciting, surprising, astonishing stories of individuals whose lives and experiences made a mark on both countries' attitudes and laws. These are tales you didn't get in high school – and though this book can feel somewhat text-bookish sometimes, you won't mind too much. The stories are the strength here.

This book will make a historian head for the easy chair tonight. *From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge* will introduce you to a new set of heroes and villains. And if your goal is to learn more about American history this winter, this book about Canada will get you right on track.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION – MONROE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The Mission of Monroe Street Neighborhood Center (MSNC, the Center) is to work in partnership with our neighbors to promote self-sufficiency, strengthen and enrich families, promote community development, and grow ownership of the community.

MSNC values: empowerment of individuals and families so they can be self-sufficient and whole; training and education for all people; integrity in all things; acceptance of all people and living out the belief that all people are of worth. MSNC strives to work alongside our neighbors to build and enhance community.

The Executive Director represents the Center and serves as the chief administrative officer, managing director, and primary contact for all MSNC programming. The Executive Director is deeply knowledgeable of the culture and dynamics of the community served, committed to the values and goals of the Center, and able to work effectively and collaboratively with all program constituents.

Responsibilities:

- Oversight of daily operations and accountability for all programs/ services of the Center
- Oversight of the Center's financial performance
- Work cohesively with the Board of Trustees to uphold and advance the mission of the Center
- Provide leadership to the Board of Trustees in clearly defining and implementing the vision for the organization.
- Works collaboratively with the mission and leadership of Monroe Street United Methodist Church
- Resource development for all Center programs through relationship building, grant writing and fundraising events. Ensuring adequate space for program operations.
- Community involvement: building and strengthening relationship with the communities served and connecting those communities with needed and desired resources in the greater Toledo area.

Recruitment, selection, and effective supervision of Center staff and volunteers

Marketing, public relations and communications management that promote the Center and its stature in the community.

Qualifications:

- Positive experience in providing visionary leadership
- Leadership and supervisory skills and a proven track record (Strong Administrative Leadership skills)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience in successful non-profit management preferred
- Experience in fundraising and grant writing
- Bachelor's degree in related field preferred

INVITATION FOR BIDS RFP22-R009 – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT COLLINGWOOD GREEN & PARQWOOD

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals from Property Managers for Property Management Services at Collingwood Green and Parqwood in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until October 28, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



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TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON UPCOMING SERVICE CHANGES

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) has scheduled a series of public events to collect community feedback on upcoming proposed service additions and changes. Proposed adjustments, if approved by TARTA's Board of Trustees, would go into effect in March of 2023, and would include:

- The addition of Route 33, from TARTA's Transit Hub to University of Toledo College of Medical and Life Sciences and Walmart on Glendale Ave. This new route would replace portions of routes 28, 32, and 34
- The extension of Route 32 to Spring Meadows Place shopping center and other route modifications along Airport Highway
- Modifications to Route 34
- Removal of Route 28 A/B

These events will include two in-person forums and one virtual feedback session. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. Public meetings are scheduled for:

- In-person meeting, **Monday, Dec. 5, 2022**, 5-6 p.m., conference room at TARPS, 130 Knapp St., Toledo
- Virtual meeting, **Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022**, 10-11 a.m.
- In-person meeting, **Friday, Dec. 16, 2022**, 2-3 p.m., conference room at TARPS, 130 Knapp St., Toledo

If you are unable to attend, a recording of the virtual meeting will be posted on tarta.com.

All language assistance services for TARTA programs are provided to the public at no charge. In-person translation services for events can be provided and should be requested at least 5 business days prior to the event.

Registration and additional details will be available in the coming weeks at tarta.com or by calling 419-243-7433. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions may do so by sending them to customer-relations@tarta.com.

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB22-B006 SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 111 COMMUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for Snow Removal Services for AMP 111 Communities locations in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until November 8, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS RFP22-R010 – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR CO DETECTOR INSTALLATION

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals from General Contractors for Construction Manager at Risk for CO Detector Installation at locations in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until November 8, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



The 11th Annual Fall Expo Extravaganza

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

On a beautiful fall day, Saturday, October 15, 2022, the 11th annual Fall Expo Extravaganza was held at the St. Clements Hall in West Toledo.

There were several small businesses with their products and wares: crafts, candles, artwork, women and men's apparel.

Vendors such as beauty supply store Bonita's Beauty Supply (Tierra Sutton, owner); Savvy Sistas (Loretta Taylor); Simply D'Vine Boutique (Terrie Cooks); Younique Products (Kelly Westmoreland); One Hope Wine (David Green) and many more in attendance.

Food providers in attendance were the famous Deet's Barbecue Food Truck and Bombay Kitchen Restaurant and entertainment by DJ Steven Wolfe and door prizes.

Special thanks to the Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Service Board for the donation of Self Covid Kits for all guests and vendors. Thanks also to Cathy Clayborne and Lisa Sahadi-Davis for their contribution for making this event a great success.

The sponsors were The Huntington National Bank, The Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Service Board, Taylor Automotive Family and The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper.

The next event scheduled for the Social Butterfly is the 11th Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the St. Clements Hall, Toledo, OH. For more information contact Donnetta Carter, Event Organizer at (419) 367-9765 or email: thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com



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The Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods Starts Community Town Halls

The Truth Staff

Led by former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, a number of community and religious leaders gathered at Epworth United Methodist Church on Monday, October 24 to express their dismay at the current level of violent crime here in Toledo and to lay out a gameplan to help the city curb that violence.

"Every life is important and every life that is lost to gun violence diminishes every single one of us," said Steve Swisher, senior pastor of Epworth United as he opened Monday's press conference and announced a community town hall meeting this Thursday at Epworth United that will try to define the next steps in the movement.

"Everywhere I travel, people say 'you're from Holy Toledo,'" Swisher continued. "That's a great cute phrase but I wonder how effective that is if we are not using that platform to raise the community ... Holy Toledo isn't working."

"Let's make that 'Holy Toledo' count for something," added Finkbeiner as he recognized some of the others present who will be part of the Coalition's efforts to stem violence including Baldemar Velasquez, Bishop Marjorie Holt, Toni Moore, Alphonso Narvaez, Jose Montalvo, June Boyd, Harvey Savage, Erika White, Bob Reinbolt, Luis Santiago, among others.

Finkbeiner emphasized the importance of holding the judicial system accountable for meting out appropriate sanctions and punishment to fit the crime while noting that too often unjustly harsh sentences are handed out for minor offenses such as marijuana possession while violent offenders are released too soon into the communities they have just terrorized.

"One thing that helps stem violence is to take away the frustrations of those on the bottom of the heap," said Velasquez during his time at the microphone. "Give them choices by creating jobs and opportunities – we have to do the hard work to create those options."

Such sentiments were echoed by the speakers who followed.

"Are we ready? Are we committed to making Toledo holy again?" asked Bishop Holt. "We have got to get back to the hub. Let's do it again."

The Coalition announced a number of steps that they feel will be necessary to "saving lives and stopping violence:"

- Creating a citywide plan for engaging citizens in safe meaningful ways – reintroduce neighborhood watch programs;
- Getting police officers to engage in community-based policing, working side-by-side with neighborhood residents;
- Working with law enforcement, the Coalition will identify places and people driving the violence, surround and arrest them;
- Encouraging anti-violence education and workshops to be offered in schools, churches and civic organizations;
- Assisting the city in finding 1,000 youth jobs during the summer months
- Noting that churches are a centerpiece for the above programs;
- Asking the judicial system to review current sentencing systems.

Thursday community town hall meeting is the first scheduled in what will be a series held throughout the city. The Truth will post such meeting in the paper and online as soon as we receive that information.



Bishop Holt speaks as Carty Finkbeiner stand by

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JudgeMarilynZayas.com

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- ★ **9 YEARS** as a child victim prosecutor, protecting our county's most vulnerable.
- ★ **STRONG ADVOCATE** for criminal justice reform.
- ★ **LIFELONG TOLEDO** resident from a proud union home.
- ★ **ELECTED** Judge in 2020 by the citizens of Lucas County.
- ★ **22 LOCAL UNION ENDORSEMENTS**

Learn more about Judge Olender at

voteolender.com

[Paid for by Olender for Judge]