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Coming Now: Toledo's Best Juneteenth Celebration Ever!

Kathleen Greely, Director, Community Reinvestment Coalition - Englewood SW

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A System Under Siege: How Toledo's Patterns of Misconduct Have Reached a Tipping Point

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

The Truth Contributor



...History brims with tragedies built out of incremental missteps.

- Alan Kesselheim

A series of alarming incidents involving the Toledo Police Department (TPD) and the broader criminal justice system have revealed a decades-long pattern of misconduct and systemic failures, culminating in an inescapable demand for reform.

The City's recent decision to settle with 14 of the 16 protesters from the May 30, 2020, George Floyd demonstrations highlights its ongoing struggle with accountability and effective policing.

The case of Willie Knighten Jr. also serves as a stark indictment of Toledo's justice system. Convicted in 1997 of murder and attempted murder, Knighten's trial was deeply flawed, marred by possibly coerced testimony and the suppression of exculpatory evidence. For over a decade, Knighten languished in prison, his impassioned calls for justice unanswered.

It wasn't until 2009 that then-Governor Ted Strickland granted clemency, acknowledging the significant doubts clouding Knighten's conviction. Yet, a complete exoneration was only fully realized in 2022, when Governor Mike DeWine, finally acting on the advocacy of the late Judge William Skow, issued a full pardon, affirming that crucial evidence had been withheld, which could have vindicated him much earlier. Knighten's prolonged ordeal exemplifies the catastrophic consequences of a justice system that fails to uphold fairness and transparency.

Simultaneously, Eric Misch's case further highlights systemic failings. Misch was convicted of murder in 1993, but the concealment of critical evidence also hampered his trial. The Toledo Police Department never turned over several pieces of evidence pointing to alternative suspects to Misch's defense team at his trial.

However, last week, Judge Gary Cook ruled that The State of Ohio violated due process by suppressing crucial exculpatory evidence, warranting a new trial under Brady v. Maryland. Although Cook's decision is not an exoneration, it underscores the severe procedural lapses and aggressive policing tactics that have resulted in a longstanding pattern of negligence and misconduct within the Toledo criminal justice system.

Adding to this crescendo of failures is the disturbing incident involving Brandon Upchurch. In April 2024, 38-year-old Upchurch, a Black man, was attacked by a police dog after being mistakenly identified as an automobile thief.

Despite Upchurch's distressed pleas to clarify his ownership of the vehicle, Toledo police deployed a canine, resulting in severe injuries. This blatant misuse of force led to a lawsuit against TPD, spotlighting issues of racial profiling and a troubling readiness to resort to violence. Upchurch's case is not an aberration but a clear reflection of the aggressive, sometimes racially biased, policing practices that have eroded public trust in the department.

The situation reached a boiling point with the settlement involving 14 of the 16 protesters from the May 30, 2020, George Floyd demonstrations. The City's decision to settle, rather than endure a protracted legal battle, is a tacit admission of the overreach by TPD during the protests. The aggressive tactics used, including tear gas and rubber bullets, against largely peaceful demonstrators accentuate a failure to balance much-desired effective law enforcement with respect for civil rights.

This settlement is also a stark acknowledgment that TPD's approach to handling protests was not just flawed but fundamentally at odds with the principles of justice and democracy. One observer remarked, "The City should own up when they make mistakes. The police were out of control. They shot a woman kneeling down, giving aid to someone."

So, the public clearly perceives a lack of institutional control within the police department. Furthermore, until TPD prevents such abuses in the future, its mismanagement will undoubtedly continue to cost the City money that could be better used to fund community wellness or empowerment projects.

These financial and reputational consequences underscore yet a deeper problem.

The escalating incidents collectively depict a system in dire need of overhaul. The suppression of exculpatory evidence in both Knighten's and Misch's cases, coupled with the aggressive and racially biased actions seen in Upchurch's and the George Floyd protests, paint a picture of a criminal justice system that is failing its citizens. These patterns are not merely the result of individual failings but indicative of deep-rooted systemic issues. The misuse of force, lack of accountability, and procedural negligence are pervasive, creating a justice system that too often perpetuates injustice rather than preventing it.

Yet, this pattern of misconduct has now reached a critical tipping point. The City's decision to settle with protesters and the judicial orders for new trials signals that the accumulated pressure is driving Toledo to confront its systemic issues. This climactic moment offers a pivotal opportunity to implement comprehensive reforms, address the underlying flaws, and prevent future tragedies.

Only by acknowledging and addressing both the historical patterns and the current tipping point can Toledo hope to restore public trust and set a new course toward a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system.

A hopeful development amidst these challenges is Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates's newly-established Conviction Integrity Unit. This unit, dedicated to reviewing cases where new evidence suggests wrongful convictions, represents a significant step toward addressing systemic

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And You Are Listening to Rappers About Trump!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There is nothing worse in being a traffic cop than engaging in crowd control. It is a specter that always has you on edge because the large milling crowd is either anxious, ready to stampede at a moment's notice or just will not listen to simple command instructions.

The most difficult personalities in crowd control are those types who hear a rumor of some sort or from some person they perceive as a "leader" telling them some unsubstantiated nonsense. Then they fall for it and become unteachable with verifiable facts.

Once you are able to calm the situation down and give them facts and inform them that their crowd behavior is baseless, some, not all, will evaluate the newly presented facts and disburse.

However, others, when confronted with the same facts, will either double down on their head scratching conduct or beliefs or form the opinion that you are out to dupe them; and they clam up and reject all plausible facts that contradict their beliefs.

Such is now happening in the political arena where convicted felon Donald Trump is coldly calculating that if he can pimp off the angst of convicted Black males, they will identify with his felony convictions and vote for him in the Fall election.

This is even more compounded when Trump enlists the aid and comfort of Black male rappers who buck and grin when they are around Trump and even go so far as to exclaim, "Make America Great Again!"

Imagine, if you can, some Black men putting their trust and hope in Trump who has repeatedly demonstrated via his historical record, that he thinks low and harsh of Black people but still thinks he can bamboozle them with a lot of sleights of hand tricks and pricey golden athletic shoes, trying to show that he is, "one of them."

You cannot make this nonsense up! Trump is trying to identify with some Black men who have been convicted in the judicial system of various crimes; and he will try to co-mingle his 34 felony convictions with their convictions so as to state: "Hey, I is one of you and with you!"

This political pornography belies belief but, it is out in the open with Trump sharing the platform with various Black rappers who shuck and jive for Trump as if somehow, if he wins in November, they are going to be direct beneficiaries of his largess.

It is without the need for further discussion that in spite of Trump's disdain of all things Black, it means that if he can woo a tiny sliver of minority voters in certain key battlefield states, he could retake the White House. Let that nightmare sink in for a moment!

To me, it shows the embarrassing and abysmal lack of any level of reading maturity that any Black or Brown males would so much as blink towards a Trump candidacy. Without going through the litany of racially charged offenses against Trump, suffice to say that Trump has no lost love for the aspirations of people of color and his derogatory statements about such ethnic groups are recorded for all to see and read.

My beef with such lame and seemingly clueless Black rappers is that they, among other people, have not taken the time to read up on Trump's negative comments towards people of color, but they are "wowed" by his apparent hipness with Black culture (not true) and his ability to generate a charismatic aura that some Black men may find alluring.

Why else would any Black man, who has two working brain cells, convince himself or others that Trump is the Lone Ranger for the aspirations of minority communities?

Trump, being a pro-Nazi sympathizer (remember his comments about Charlottesville) and his derogatory comments about Black women (calling them "b*tches") and his desire to see the New York Central Park Five Black men get the death penalty for a crime that they did not commit (all were exonerated by DNA evidence), only affirms that Trump is no friend of ours. None.

Sadly, we have the embarrassing side clown show of Rep. Byron Donalds of Florida, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, former Trump Cabinet member Ben Carson and commentator Candace Owens, willing to tote Trump's water in exchange for a mess of pottage.

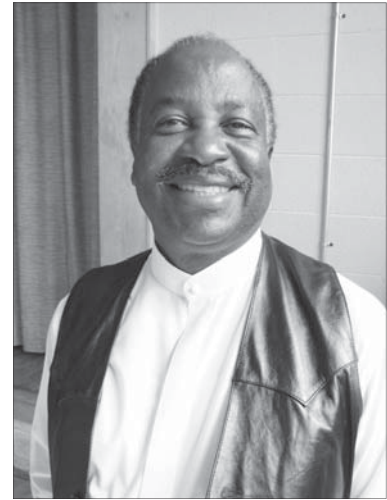
One could possibly understand the above-named persons being in love with Trump but only if (and they cannot) they can factually demonstrate that Trump is an OK guy. He is not and they cannot show that in any form.

His tireless attacks on prosecutors Leticia James of New York, Fani Willis of Georgia, and Alvin Bragg of Manhattan (all people of color who are prosecuting him for criminal conduct), evidences a pattern and practice of racial animosity, but Trump wants to recruit Black rappers to sing his praises!

So, the next time you are in the vicinity of some Negroes who are mouthing Trump MAGA verbiage, take the time to inquire of them what makes them attractive to Trump...and please, when they quickly change the subject and want to take about the GOP talking point of the Biden Crime Family, that is your cue to get up and leave.

Reason: You are in the company of a self-deluded moron whose ability to know the difference between a toaster and a pair of pliers is in question.


Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



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Court of Appeals Rules Against the Fearless Fund

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the shadow of a gavel's strike, the 11th Circuit Court's ruling echoes through the corridors of justice, reverberating with a familiar yet insidious resonance. The decision to halt the Fearless Fund's venture capital Strivers Grant program for Black women entrepreneurs is a manifestation of the same forces that have historically sought to stifle the progress of marginalized communities. We now find ourselves at another crossroads.



Ayana Parsons

The lawsuit against the Atlanta-based *Fearless Fund* was initiated by the *American Alliance for Equal Rights*, spearheaded by Edward Blum, a prominent conservative figure known for his involvement in legal challenges, notably the affirmative action case in college admissions. Blum welcomed the court's decision, arguing against programs that he perceives as excluding individuals based on race.

Arian Simone, the indomitable force and co-founder (along with **Ayana Parsons**) behind the *Fearless Fund*, poignantly described this ruling as devastating, and rightly so. For the message conveyed by these judges is not one of justice, but of maintaining a status quo where the scales remain forever tipped against equality. In their decision, they bring a narrative peddled by those who fear the rise of a truly diverse and inclusive America, a narrative designed to keep us divided and subdued.

The echoes of this ruling resonate in the hearts of every Black woman who has ever been told she is not enough or that her dreams are too big for the confines of her skin. The Court's decision, steeped in the rhetoric of so-called equality, dismisses the lived realities of Black women who, despite systemic challenges, still dare to dream and build.

The fortress of venture capital has often shut its gates to women, while mainstream financial institutions have left communities of color to fend for themselves, offering little in the way of support for entrepreneurial endeavors. For centuries, race and gender have been wielded as tools of exclusion, erecting barriers that prevent women and people of color from accessing opportunities that many take for granted. The scars of these policies are still fresh, particularly for Black women, who remain a mere 1.4 percent of the C-suite.

The fight for the *Strivers Grant Fund* and similar initiatives are crucial steps toward rectifying historical inequities. Fighting for these types of programs is a fight for our future, for the generations to come, and for the realization of a world where our children can dream freely and achieve boundlessly.

The Black community is more than aware that the dismantling of affirmative action was never just a consequence of misguided judgments; it was a calculated objective from the start.

Affirmative action was the only tangible, enforceable mechanism that held institutions accountable, compelling them to take concrete steps toward genuine equality. It was the hammer that cracked the shell of systemic discrimination, and those who benefit from the status quo understand this all too well.

The eradication of affirmative action was a successful strategic move by those in power to remove the very tool that mandated businesses, universities and other institutions to strive for a level playing field. It was the only administrative apparatus with teeth, one that could be enforced and measured, ensuring that opportunities were distributed more equitably. Without it, the push for diversity, equity, and inclusion risks becoming a series of hollow promises, devoid of the structural support necessary to make real change.

Still, Fearless Fund, a beacon of hope for Black women entrepreneurs, stands accused of discrimination. Yet, what is truly being challenged here is the audacity of Black women to dream, to build and to thrive in spaces historically denied to us. This decision, cloaked in the **'language of equality,'** is a gross misrepresentation of justice.

It's as if someone were to argue that a lifeboat designed for those left stranded at sea is unfair to those already safe on shore. The Fearless Fund's grant program for Black women is that lifeboat, a necessary and targeted effort to uplift those who have been systematically denied opportunities. Blum's argument is like saying that providing this lifeboat is unjust to those who don't need it.

This legal development underscores the broader conflict between efforts to foster diversity and the pushback from conservative groups advocating for what they see as 'color-blind policies.' It raises fundamental questions about the interpretation and application of civil rights laws in contemporary society for specific ethnic groups.

Yet, we remain undeterred.

The belief in scarcity, in the zero-sum game, is a relic of a bygone era, a tool of division wielded by those who fear the loss of their unearned privilege. We must reject this outdated notion embracing the truth that the world is rich with potential, that our collective prosperity is not diminished by inclusion but enhanced.

As the *National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA)* articulates in their recent statement, this ruling is a deliberate attempt to unravel the fabric of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) that so many have fought tirelessly to weave.

Nikitra Bailey, the Executive Vice President of the *NFHA*, aptly captures the essence of this judicial maneuver: "The 11th Circuit Court's decision is part of a larger unwise attempt to dismantle Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs nationwide and hinder decades of Civil Rights progress."

It is no mere coincidence that the same architects behind the Supreme Court's anti-affirmative action ruling in 2023 are the same hands guiding this decision in 2024. Still, Bailey's words ring with a truth that cuts through the fog of confusion:

"The reality is advancing racial equity is the rising tide that lifts all boats."

The U.S. economy, often touted as the land of boundless opportunity, stands to grow by \$5 trillion over the next five years if we effectively address the discrimination that has long targeted Black communities. This is not just about moral justice; it is about economic practicality.

It is a cruel irony to now insist on race neutrality, denying race-conscious solutions that seek to remedy centuries of injustice. The court's decision, misguided and disheartening as it is, cannot quench the flame of our resolve.

Truth-telling is an act of love, arising from a place of deep compassion and solidarity. It is a recognition that the wounds of injustice are not borne by the few but are a collective scar on our national conscience. People should never be mere cogs in the machinery of profit. We are all invaluable, irreplaceable, and deserving of every opportunity to thrive. When we speak out against racism, we affirm the humanity of those who have been systematically dehu-

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Community Calendar

June 13

Englewood Festival Community Day & Kids Zone: Scott and Robinson Parks; 10 am to 8 pm; Swimming, golf, tennis, football, basketball, kickball, baseball clinics

Speed Funding Event: TTEC; Opportunity for small business owners to chat with potential funders: 6 to 9 pm

Fatherhood Conference: The Urban Fathers: Mott Branch; Noon to 3:30 pm
Library Juneteenth Trivia Challenge: Kent Branch; 5:50 to 7 pm

June 14

Grand Opening – Ribbon Cutting Scott Center for Observation Treatment and Transition & the Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio partnership and shared office space; 10 am; 3100 W. Central Ave, Suites 202 and 206
FATHERS and Families Day: Port Lawrence Housing Development

June 15

Juneteenth Parade: St. Clair and Monroe, down Summit, up to Jackson, end at Government Center

Omega Psi Phi Juneteenth Community Health and Wellness Fair: MLK Academy for Boys parking lot; Noon to 3:30 pm

June 16

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3 pm; Sanger Branch Library

June 19

First Unitarian Church Juneteenth Celebration and Voter Registration: 10 am to 2 pm; Smith Park; Re-enactors of the 5th Regiment of U.S. Colored troops will be on hand: 419-346-4895

June 23

The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir Celebrates 35 Years of Music Ministry: Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church; 6 pm; Special guest Bishop Roger Hairston and Voices of Deliverance of Columbus: 419-350-9289 or 419-350-2124

Celebrating Juneteenth 2024: Toledo's Vibrant Tribute to Freedom and Community

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The spirit of **Juneteenth** is alive and thriving in Toledo, Ohio, where the Community Reinvestment Coalition - Englewood SW, led by Kathleen Greely, is orchestrating a celebration that embodies the resilience, unity and joy of the Black community. This year's flagship **Toledo JuneteenthNY Celebration** is a six-day extravaganza, from June 13 to 19, packed with events designed to uplift, educate, and empower. It's a celebration that promises to be as rich and diverse as the history it honors.

A Journey from Our Roots

Imagine a canvas painted with brushstrokes of history, culture, and progress. This is what the **JuneteenthNY Toledo Celebration** represents. Kathleen Greely, the executive director of the Community Reinvestment Coalition, has poured her heart and soul into this event, ensuring it reflects the collective journey of Black and Brown people.

"When I think about our journey and how we've risen from the Reconstruction era, like Black Wall Street, it's clear that we thrived when we supported each other," says Greely. This year's celebration is all about reclaiming that narrative and fostering a sense of community and mutual support.

Juneteenth Pregame: Minority Health Summit

Health equity is a critical focus in this year's celebration. **The Minority Health Summit** held this past Sunday, June 9, was an experiment in focusing early attention on a basic community need.

Kicking Off with Fun and Games: The Kids Zone Extravaganza

The Juneteenth Toledo Celebration kicks off on Thursday June 13 with a lively Kids Zone event at both Smith Park (grades 9-12) & Robinson Park (grades k-8), offering a day brimming with fun and engaging activities for children of all ages. At Smith Park, the day starts with a burst of energy as kids dive into swimming, golf, and basketball clinics, setting the stage for an exhilarating morning. Meanwhile, Robinson Park becomes a hub of excitement with tennis and football clinics, followed by a spirited kickball tournament.

As the day progresses, both parks come alive with stage performances showcasing the talents of local K-12 students, and the evening culminates with soulful R&B performances promising to keep everyone grooving. With baseball clinics and a thrilling baseball game rounding out the day at Robinson Park, the Kids Zone event is set to be a highlight of the Juneteenth celebration, offering a joyous blend of sports, music, and community spirit.

Culinary Delights: The Juneteenth Crawl

The dining festivities begin with the Juneteenth Crawl, a culinary journey from June 13 to 18 showcasing the vibrant flavors of seven Black-owned local restaurants, including **Jamaican Spice, Lyte House, Club Evolution, TurkeyUp, This is It, Bertha's Kitchen** and **Jera's Heavenly Sweet**. Each night offers a feast of Afrocentric cuisine, entertainment, and great conversation. "This year we thought let's create an activity that will require folks to simply go to another Black business and have fun, just have a great time," says Greely. This initiative is more than great eats; it's a celebration of Black entrepreneurship and community spirit.



Kathleen Greely

Uniting Through History: Black Wall Street Event

On June 13, **Black Wall Street Community Development** is also hosting an event at **TTEC** (Ternion Training and Education Center) bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors for a night of networking and inspiration. This event is about more than just business; it's a tribute to the thriving Black communities of today and a commitment to building a prosperous future. "Our black communities are beginning their healing journeys," says Greely. "There is also a conversation around reparations that we agreed really needs to be looked at and discussed."

Honoring the Kings: Black Kings Awards

The pinnacle of the **Juneteenth Toledo Celebration** is the **Black Kings Awards** on June 19. Inspired by the principles of Kwanzaa, this awards reception will honor 28 influential Black men who have made significant contributions to the Toledo community. From the Unity Award to the Faith Award, each accolade celebrates excellence in various fields, from business and art to community leadership and faith. "The celebration of Black Kings is about recognizing those who have restored people to their purpose and used their voice for community issues," explains Greely.

Empowering the Future: Workforce Development

Economic empowerment is a cornerstone of the **Juneteenth Toledo Celebration**. On Friday June 28, a Workforce Development Event at TTEC on Hill and Reynolds will feature a job fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In collaboration with the NAACP, Pathway Inc., and United Ways African American Leadership Council, this event is designed to help individuals who are unemployed or underemployed find their footing in the job market. "Many can get a job, but how do we keep it? How do we understand the unwritten rules in the workplace?" Greely asks. The job preparedness workshops, both virtual

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Perryman...continued from page 2

errors and preventing future injustices.

Created in response to persistent advocacy and recent high-profile cases, it marks a crucial move toward fairness and accountability. By operating independently from the criminal division, the unit aims to provide an impartial review process to help rectify past wrongs and restore trust in the justice system.

However, while establishing the Conviction Integrity Unit is a promising start, more is needed. The systemic problems evident in the mis-

Court of Appeals... continued from page 4

manized. We declare, unequivocally, that Black lives matter.

The selective outrage is telling. There was no uproar when the *Paycheck Protection Program* funneled over 90 percent of its initial \$350 billion to White-owned businesses, leaving Black and Latino business owners to grapple with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. 40 percent of Black-owned businesses and 32 percent of Latino-owned businesses closed their doors in those early, chaotic days. Yet, when an initiative like the Fearless Fund's Strivers Grant dares to level the playing field, the forces of regression spring into action, cloaking their intentions in the language of equality.

To confront the harsh realities of capitalistic division is to demand a reckoning with an economic system that has, for far too long, placed profit over people. It is to challenge the false narrative that equates worth with wealth, to expose the lie that the market is a neutral arbiter of value. In truth, the market has been shaped by policies and practices that prioritize the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few, while the many are left to struggle and strive, often in vain.

Speaking truth to power is an act of courage, a refusal to be silenced in the face of oppression. It is to say, with the clarity of conviction, that we will not be divided by the false distinctions of race and class. We will not be pitted against one another in a zero-sum game of survival, but will join hands in the struggle for a more just and equitable society.

There is a myth that expanding opportunities for one group necessarily takes from another, as though the bounty of the world were a finite, piecemeal ration to be doled out sparingly. This is deception, a shadow cast by those who would have us believe in scarcity, in the false arithmetic of zero-sum gains. But let us cut this illusion with the sharp blade of truth, and let us understand that the world is abundant, that opportunity, like love, multiplies when shared.

Imagine, if you will, a vast and fertile garden. It is a place where every seed, when planted, does not merely occupy space but contributes to the richness of the soil, to the vibrancy of the ecosystem. In this garden, the flourishing of one plant does not stifle the growth of another. Instead, the diverse array of flora thrives symbiotically, each one enhancing the beauty and progress of the whole. This is the reality of opportunity—when nurtured and spread, it enriches us all.

To believe that giving opportunities to the historically marginalized somehow diminishes the prospects of others is to misunderstand the very nature of progress. It is to overlook the truth that our society, our economy, and our humanity are not static but dynamic, ever-expanding. When doors

are opened for Black women, for people of color, for those who have been systematically excluded, we do not merely redistribute the existing wealth of opportunities. We create new avenues of innovation, of creativity, of growth that benefit everyone.

Let us not be dismayed.

In this moment of systemic adversity, we must remember the lessons of our ancestors who faced even graver injustices with unyielding courage and tenacity. We must channel the spirit of Angela Davis, who

handling of evidence, excessive use of force, and racial bias cannot be corrected by one initiative alone. Instead, establishing this unit must catalyze broader, more impactful reforms to achieve lasting change.

As Toledo grapples with its systemic issues, the momentum for reform must not only be maintained but intensified. The potential consequences of inaction are stark, and only through continuous and concerted efforts can Toledo hope to build a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system for all residents.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

once declared:

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

The spirit of resilience in our community is undiminished. Now, more than ever, we must channel our energy into creating and advocating for new laws that can carry the torch of equality forward. Here are some key DEI areas where we can focus our efforts:

- Strengthening Anti-Discrimination Laws
- Implementing Transparency Mandates
- Supporting Minority-Owned Businesses
- Advocating for Comprehensive Equal Opportunity Policies
- Enforcing Pay Equity
- Enhancing Civil Rights Enforcement
- Promoting Inclusive Economic Policies

To speak truth to power in this landscape is to engage in an act of profound love and defiance, a testament to the unwavering belief in the inherent dignity and worth of every human soul.

The recent ruling against the Fearless Fund by the 11th Circuit Court is a stark reminder that the battle for justice and equality is far from over. Instead, it is a clarion call to every soul who carries the legacy of resilience, resistance, and renaissance within them.

We must also engage in the legal and political arenas with the same fervor that drives our entrepreneurial spirits. We need advocates and allies who understand that true equality is not a win-lose situation but a shared journey toward a more just society. Organizations like the *National Venture Capital Association* have already stepped forward in defense of the Fearless Fund, recognizing that diversity is not merely a box to be checked but a foundation for innovation and growth. DEI professionals must expand these alliances, build robust networks of support, and invest in our futures with unwavering resolve.

James Baldwin reminds us that "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." In this spirit, we can confront the uncomfortable truths of our history and our present. We can face the legacy of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism that continues to shape our society in the relentless pursuit of profit.

Our friends, our children—they know when we lie. They sense it in the hesitance of our words, in the disconnect between what we say and what we do. When we lie to ourselves, we become frauds, actors in a play where the audience sees through our masks. The Black community is not fooled by this latest act. They see the truth, the bitter irony of being told that efforts to rectify centuries of oppression are somehow unjust.

The myth of statistical quotas of equality is another illusion. We are flooded with data showing the stark divides in wealth, education, and opportunity. Yet, we are asked to believe that addressing these divides is unnecessary, even harmful. It's like standing in a desert, being told there's no need for water, while the mirage of an oasis shimmers just out of reach.

The Black community is wise to this deception. We all know that true equality is not achieved by ignoring the disparities but by confronting them head-on.

Remember, the promises of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are not mere words to us. They are lifelines, lifeboats in a sea of historical inequities. In 2020, we witnessed a tidal wave of pledges, a surge of voices declaring that Black lives matter, that the time for change was now. A majority of Americans stood with us, echoing our cries for justice. And now, as the powerful attempt to rewrite the narrative, we must remind them—and ourselves—that we are the authors of our destiny.

As we navigate our new world toward equality, may we all remember the power of collective action. **The powerful may try to shift the story, but they cannot shift our collective spirit.** They cannot dim the light of our resolve. **As we move forward, let us carry with us the unwavering belief that we are all enough, that we deserve every opportunity, and that our fight is righteous and just.** We shall not be moved, for our roots run deep, nourished by the waters of ancestral struggle and resilience. We stand on the shoulders of giants, and our vision is clear. **Together, we shall overcome.**

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In Memoriam

Roy Eugene Hodge, Jr. – September 29, 1965 – May 29, 2024

During his senior year at St. Francis High School in 1982-83, Roy Hodge took his first computer programming class. Sometimes it is just that easy to find one's path in life. When Hodge entered The Ohio State University the following year, he decided to major in computer information systems. He later transferred to DeVry University and graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in the same discipline.



Roy earned a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Toledo and even managed to expand his knowledge beyond that by earning several IT Certification including Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud Practitioner, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) and graduated from the "Scale Up - Entrepreneur Exchange Program" sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and positioned REH System Solutions as a prime Federal Government IT Contractor.

Through his dedication to community service, Roy has served on several boards including the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce, Lucas County Workforce Development, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce – TASBA, Regional Growth Partnership, State of Ohio Department of Development ITEC, the University of Toledo Alumni Association and was a current board member for Bon Secours Mercy Health. His most recent dedication of service was by hosting for two years a youth coding camp and most recently completed a Coding camp with The Center of Hope.

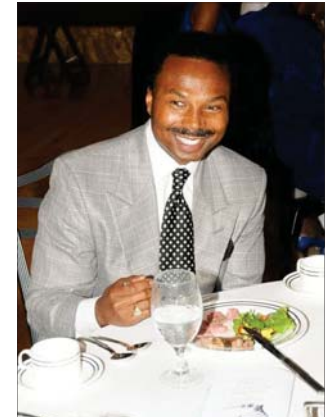
Roy always managed to stay busy as he was an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the National Black Data Processing Associate, The U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce and the Atlanta Black Chamber of Commerce where he was the technology lead. Throughout all of this his main passion was how he loved the Lord. He was a faithful member of Friendship Baptist Church and served as a Deacon for many years.

Roy was preceded in death by Roy Eugene Hodge Sr., Mary Hodge, Robbi Hodge, Michale Hodge and Reginald John Hodge.

He leaves to cherish the memory of how he was always a supportive, loving provider to his family. His spouse, Montalena; his children John Reginald, Lena, Kriston(Latricia), Arthur(Shayna), Michael; his grandchildren Montana, Lonzo and Amya; his nieces Mikeasha and Ava; his loving cousins Judy and



Roy and Montalena Hodge



Roy Hodge

Krishay, and many other family and friends he made as he traveled his road of life.

He was loved more than he knew.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Premier Canter, 4480 Heatherdowns, Toledo, Ohio 43614.

3 to 3:30 p.m. Family and Friend Social

3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Program

4:30 to 6 p.m. Family and Friend Social.





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Equality Starts With You.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a specific fund to support the removal of barriers to equity and access for all in our community. If you are a nonprofit organization in the Greater Toledo Region that has a program that supports this mission, you are encouraged to apply for funding by July 2nd.



For more information, contact Artisha Lawson at 419.241.5049 or visit toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative

Bethesda Christian Center Helps Artina McCabe Celebrate her 60th

The Truth Staff

"Let the little children come to me," said Bishop Marjorie Holt of Bethesda Christian Center on Sunday, June 09, as she quoted Matthew 19:14 and invited the little children, members of Artina McCabe's family, to come forth for their Christening.

Artina McCabe took the occasion of her 60th birthday celebration to make sure the babies in her family, her grandchildren, were introduced to the church and to join her, the rest of the family and friends in a catered brunch following the service.

Sunday's service opened with a Call to Worship, followed by a Praise and Worship and the Prayer. After the Scripture Reading and Affirmation, the congregation received the Proclamation of the Word. Then the babies were christened by Bishop Holt.

Artina McCabe was raised by her grandfather, Rev. Sidney Lawson, in a church environment which is one of the reasons she wanted to incorporate her faith into her big day of celebration of her 60th. Her husband is David McCabe. Her children are Artisha Lawson, Arnez Lawson, David McCabe II, Delano McCabe and Demetrie McCabe.

"I've been at Bethesda Christian Center since 1999," said McCabe. "I'm a deacon at the church, I also work with the Youth Ministry and am part of the dance ministry."

McCabe, a nurse who also works at the Lucas County board of Elections and is a tax preparer at Jackson Hewitt, decided she wanted to celebrate her birthday not only with her direct family but also with her church family. "Where else would a church girl spend her birthday?" she added.

Joining her at the service were her son, Demetrie; her nephew David Murdock; Tamia Patterson whom she used to babysit and the new generation in her family and the church family.



Bishop Marjorie Holt



The after-service brunch



A'Lani McCabe, Demetrie McCabe, Au'Bree Robinson, Bishop Marjorie Holt, David Murdock, Payton Decker, Zahir Mudock, Tamia Patterson, Ty'Mia Patterson, Deacon Artina McCabe.

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The Youth Summer Blast Pass (YSBP) is intended to help passholders, ages 6-19, find independence while learning more about how to use public transit.

From June 1st - August 31st, the YSBP provides unlimited rides on all TARTA services:

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Get started today at TARTA.com/blast.



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The advertisement features a background image of two young women smiling. One is holding a basketball. Overlaid on the image are colorful geometric shapes (triangles and squares) in red, yellow, blue, and pink. In the bottom right corner, there is a graphic for the 'TARTA YOUTH SUMMER BLAST PASS' with a QR code and the text 'DIP TO ACTIVATE' and 'SWIPE TO USE'. The TARTA logo is also present in the graphic.

Warren AME Church Honors the Women Missionary Society

The Truth Staff

The members of Warren African Methodist Episcopal Church held their annual Missionary Day Celebration on Sunday, June 9, in order to celebrate the accomplishments of the church's Lillian E. Mitchell Women's Missionary Society.

Guest speaker First Lady Yolanda Cooper of the United AME Church of Xenia, OH, brought the word for the day's celebration.

"Our annual Missionary Day is in recognition of our mission and the service that is conducted," said Debra Jelks, president of the WMS. "Our purpose as missionaries is to do projects not only in the local church but outside in the community."

WMS, noted Jelks has adopted a local school, Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, to provide help and guidance, and also have given contributions to women in Africa.

"So we not only aid our community and our local church but we also provide aid to the district church and conference ... so we are pretty busy," added Jelks.

Cooper, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a graduate of the University of Akron, is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She lives in Columbus and is principal of Woodcrest Elementary of the Columbus City Schools. She also specializes in planning and executing interactive workshops and programs in the areas of communication, leadership development and relationship building.

Sunday's service began with an invocation by Shirley Jackson, scripture readings by Madison Guy and Dominique Bradley and the Decalogue led by Sis. Margaret Huntley.



Margaret Huntley, WMS Chaplain; Speaker Yolanda Cooper; Debra Jelks, WMS President

The service included a presentation to the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls by Rosie Payne, then the litany by Joyce Powell-Miller before the address by Cooper.

The Lillian E. Mitchell Women's Missionary Society officers are: Debra Jelks, president; Theo Simmons-Hampton, vice president; Darlene Sawyer, secretary; Rosie Payne, treasurer; Margaret Huntley, chaplain; Dominique Bradley YPD director.

Other members are: Marilyn Anderson, Katrina Cogdell, Rosa Day, Janis Deahl, Bonnie Hopkins, Shirley Jackson, Sylvia Johnson, Joyce Powell Miller, Gwendolyn Stinson-Ellis, Darrell Jackson.



Warren AME Lillian E. Mitchell WMS



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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

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Londrina, Brazil Representatives Visit Sister City Toledo

By Paul Hubbard, Chairman of the Board, Maritime Academy
Guest Column

A delegation from Toledo Sister City Londrina, Brazil visited Maritime Academy on May 21, 2024. The delegation wanted to examine how Maritime Academy uses technology to teach and prepare students for future careers and endeavors.

Members of the delegation were interested in seeing the state-of-the-art class A ship handling simulator which allows students hands-on training experiences for ship handling. The Maritime Academy of Toledo offers students a variety of programs and courses like welding, culinary arts, math and the opportunity to learn needed skills that can provide a for preparation for any university or career.

The Brazil delegation consisted of Joao Lonis Esteves, Secretary of Government Londrina, Brazil; Emmanuel, president City Council; Angelo Pamplona, president Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Maritime Academy is one of 18 maritime-themed schools in the USA. It contains grades six to 12 and aims to shape future leaders in developing true character and innovative minds. The Maritime Academy provides students with rigorous academic pathways towards college and careers with a socialized learning experience.

The delegation also went to a Walleye game, rode Pearl Boat, went to Glass City Metro Park, had dinner at Real Sea Food and Final Cut Steak House and visited the Perrysburg Farmers Market, the Toledo Museum of Art and Toledo Zoo

What many of us don't realize is that Jeep is a major vehicle in Brazil. Willys/Jeep was opened in Brazil in the 1950s. The official name is Willys Overland Do Brazil. In 1957 Jeeps were imported from the USA to Brazil In 1959 Jeeps began to be built in Brazil.

Toledo Sister Cities International acts as a bridge to foster international activities for world peace and global concerns in education, culture and



Aaron Lusk Maritime Academy Superintendent; Government Administrator Lonrina Brazil; President City Council Lonrina Brazil



Toledo City's Council Cerssandra Mc pherson with Londrina, Brazil President City Council Emanuel Gomes

economic development, within an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. This visit was a chance for citizens of Toledo's Sister City in Londrina to experience the diverse offerings of our city Toledo.

I had a personal conversation with those representatives of Toledo's Sister City that the Toledo African American community needs to be invited to take part in Sister City activities and visits. Toledo's Sister City is open to our discussion and involvement.

Celebrating Juneteenth... continued from page 5

and onsite, aim to answer these questions and equip attendees with the skills they need to thrive.

Building a Healing Village

The theme of healing runs through every event of the *Juneteenth Toledo Celebration*. From the Minority Health Summit to the Black Kings Awards, the intention is clear: to create a supportive and nurturing environment where the community can come together to heal and grow. Greely passionately states, "It takes a village and THE VILLAGE NEEDS TO HEAL." This celebration is a step towards that healing, providing a platform for discussions, learning, and community building.

A Call to Action: Join the Celebration

The *Juneteenth Toledo Celebration* is more than just an event; it's a quest. Greely's heartfelt letter invites everyone to be part of this transformative experience: "This year marks the beginning of our community's journey towards recovery with a focus on village healing. We invite you to be a part of this pivotal moment as we come together to address these pressing topics and work towards building stronger, more resilient societies."

For those looking to support this mission, the Community Reinvestment

Coalition kindly requests an annual membership fee of \$20. This contribution will enable the continuation of impactful events and initiatives, fostering a healthier and more equitable future for all.

"There is a dedicated effort to raise funds for ten scholarship recipients to enroll in **Dr. Joy DeGruy's** transformative coursework," says Greely. DeGruy, PhD, the esteemed author of *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*, delves deep into the residual impacts of trauma on African descendants in the Americas. Her work lays a critical foundation for understanding how historical traumas continue to shape present-day attitudes and behaviors. By addressing these deep-seated issues, her coursework aims to help participants recognize and eliminate non-productive coping mechanisms developed during periods of intense racial oppression.

As the festivities of Juneteenth 2024 unfold in Toledo, they serve as a vibrant reminder of the strength, resilience, and unity of our Black community. Events like these truly honor our history and celebrate our culture. Join the Juneteenth Toledo Celebration fun! It's time to come together, support each other, and continue the journey towards a brighter, more equitable future.

Find the events calendar @toledo.juneteenthnyworldwide.com

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Social Security Column

Why It's Important To Tell us About Your Financial Accounts

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, Toledo, OH

Do you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? If so, you need to tell us about any financial accounts you own, alone or with someone else. That's because SSI is a needs-based program, and eligibility is determined by your resources as well as your income. Examples of financial accounts include:

- Checking, savings, and credit union accounts.
- Christmas club accounts.
- Certificates of deposit, also known as CDs.
- Stocks and U.S. savings bonds.

What you need to tell us

You need to tell us about changes to your financial accounts or account balances to ensure you receive the correct SSI payment amount. Let us know if you:

- Open a new account.
- Close an account.
- Add a joint owner to an existing account.
- Increase your account balance over the SSI resource limit of:
 - \$2,000 for an individual
 - \$3,000 for a married couple living together and receiving SSI.

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts

ABLE programs allow people with disabilities to save money without losing important benefits, including SSI. We exclude ABLE accounts with balances less than \$100,000 when determining SSI eligibility. To learn more about ABLE accounts, visit www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-able.html.

How to Report Changes to Your Financial Accounts

Call us toll free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Contact your local Social Security office. You can find your local office at www.ssa.gov/locator.

Additional Information

For a complete list of SSI reporting responsibilities, please refer to the publication *What You Need to Know When You Get SSI* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11011.pdf.

Please share this information with those who need it.

Here Comes The Sun... continued from page 16

and strong, Ohio is offering the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT or SUN Bucks). This benefit provides families \$120 per eligible school-aged child, to help stretch the grocery budget and buy more of the foods that children love! Any family that had an approved free or reduced lunch application during the past school year is eligible to receive SUN Bucks. This is automatically added to an Ohio Direction EBT card for SNAP recipients. Benefits are distributed in increments of \$40 through summer months (June, July, August) for food/groceries per child.

SUN Bucks is designed to work together with other benefits families may already get, like SNAP and WIC, and all children can still enjoy free SUN Meals at local meal sites, too. Many families will get SUN Bucks automatically if they are getting other benefits, but some families may need to apply for the program. For families who need to apply, please contact your local county job and family services agency <https://jfs.ohio.gov/about/local-agencies-directory>

Adults, it's summer! What's on your plate? Saggese recommends this bright and refreshing "**Watermelon Summer Salad**" recipe from Celebrate Your Plate (celebrateyourplate.com)

Ingredients

For the Dressing

- 2 tablespoons olive oil OR vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons lime juice (about 1.5 limes)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

For the Salad

- 5 cups seedless watermelon (about 1 small melon), cubed
- 1 medium cucumber, sliced into half moons
- 1 cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/3 cup torn mint OR basil leaves

...continued on page 13



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Father's Day Books by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

He already has a blue tie.

And a yellow one, a plaid one, and one that looks like a fish. He doesn't need any more tools. He doesn't smoke, and he has enough mugs to last any Dad a lifetime. The best gift to give then, perhaps, is a good book. Maybe one of these...

c. 2024
various publishers
\$28.00 - \$36.00
various page counts

If Dad eagerly devours big books and the Natchez Burning trilogy were his faves, he will be so happy to get *Southern Man* by Greg Iles (Wm. Morrow, \$36.00). It's been a decade now, and Penn Cage is almost totally alone. Most of the people he loved are gone, and it pains him. What also hurts is that Natchez and Bienville are still burning, in more ways than one, and a Black radical group is taking credit for some of the violence. Politics has something to do with it. So does the current polarized atmosphere. Is there any way to stop the man who's running on a third-party ticket, a man who could destroy America?

Ripped from the headlines, give this book to Dad and watch him race through it.

Speaking of racing, if Pops can't get enough of motors and all things with wheels, then *The Race to the Future* by Kassia St. Clair (Liveright, \$29.99) might make him slow down enough to read. It's the true story of the Peking-to-Paris Motor Challenge of 1907, in which five drivers entered a competition to see who could get from China to France in the fastest time. It's also a story of the early twentieth century, early automobiles and their creators, cultural history, and a World War a-brewing. Rev your engines, wrap up this book.

For the Dad of an almost-teenage daughter, *Dad Camp* by Evans S. Porter (Dutton, \$28.00) is a great novel about a man who aspires to be the Best Dad in the World. Alas, his preteen daughter is having none of that so he takes her on a summer retreat: a week-long Dad-and-daughter camping trip that should make them closer than ever, right?

This is a funny book, but also bittersweet. For any Dad whose little girl is growing up too fast, it's the right gift.

Or if Dad loves thrillers, then *The Year of the Locust* by Terry Hayes



(Emily Bestler Books / Atria, \$32.00) couldn't be a better gift. Kane, from Hayes' bestseller *I Am Pilgrim* is back and he still doesn't pay any attention to boundaries or limits. He also only pays attention to violence and danger enough to avoid it.

In some places, though, death, violence, and vengeance simply can't be avoided.

This is another one of those books that Dad will dive into, and he won't easily be able to quit until it's done.

Still need more ideas for giving Dad a great book? Check with your favorite bookseller, or ask your local librarian for ideas. They'll have all kinds of suggestions for making Pops happy now and for a few weeks' of reading. Books always help you tie up your gift-giving.

Here Comes The Sun... continued from page 12

- 1 pinch salt
- 1/2 (jalapeño or serrano) pepper (optional)

Instructions

Before you begin, wash your hands, surfaces, utensils, and produce.

Make the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, lime juice, and salt.

Arrange the watermelon, cucumber, and red onions on a large plate or platter. Drizzle with half the dressing. Top with the feta, mint, and jalapeño pepper, if using, and drizzle with remaining dressing. Season to taste and serve.

Tips: Makes six, half cup servings. For a spicier option, add 1/2 jalapeno or serrano pepper, thinly sliced. To jazz it up, try adding fresh berries to the watermelon salad!

Two in-person opportunities for all families coming up SOON! Both of these events are free but we ask you to RSVP so we know how many to expect.

The Summer Meals Kickoff Event was **Thursday June 6, 2024, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Woodward High School.** The theme this year was "Grow with Summer Meal Partners." Summer menu items, and enjoy youth gardening, nature, and nutrition activities and enter to win a bike.

A number of vendors displayed their meal items as visitors were able to sample what kids will be enjoying during these summer months – from Memorial Day to August. "The meals are healthy, following USDA guidelines, low-fat dairy and whole grain selections," said Suzanne Saggese, program specialist with the Ohio State University Extension.

TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski was also in attendance and she informed those on hand that youngsters who are in need of getting to the various sites will be able to do so during summer months at no charge on TARTA buses and through the TARTA Flex program. The pass is available in hard copy or via mobile phone.

"Transportation is never a barrier for our children," said Koprowski.

Coming up next is "[Summer Food and Summer Fun for Kids](#)" [educational program, Thursday, June 13, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the new Glass City Enrichment Center, 815 Front Street](#) (in front of Glass City MetroPark, across the street from Burger King). Please RSVP at go.osu.edu/osugcec or call 419-574-0975. (There is a monthly lesson at this site on various topics. Save the July 11 date for "Basic Home Food Preservation: Deciding What's Best for You – Canning, Drying, and Freezing Produce"

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CLASSIFIEDS

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June 12, 2024

BUS TRIP

Blue Chip Casino Trip. Sat, June 22nd also shopping at 47 store outlet mall.
Firekeepers Casino Trip July 6th and 7th. For more info contact Ms. Mixon at (419)901-1515.

Position Available: Grant Writer



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high-quality civil legal assistance to people living in poverty, seeks a Grant Writer. This position can be based out of ABLE's Toledo or Dayton office.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> to review full details for the position and apply.

ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Airfield Crack Seal and Remarking project at Toledo Executive Airport, 28331 Lemoine Road, Millbury, OH 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Airfield Crack Seal and Remarking" project consists of the rehabilitation of Runway 4-22 and Taxiway B paved surfaces at Toledo Executive Airport (TDZ). The rehabilitation scope includes approximately 10,000 LF of crack routing and sealing of asphalt pavement, application of micro-surface seal coat (FAA specification P-629) over approximately 47,000 SY of pavement, and new nonprecision runway and taxiway markings. Also included in the project is the replacement of existing faded airfield sign panels.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's opinion of probable construction cost for the project is approximately \$458,937.00 and is anticipated to require 15 calendar days for completion.

Coordination with project engineer for pre-bid site visit(s) as well as site access, scheduling, and airfield closures during construction will be required. All materials procured, construction methods used, and construction activities must be done in accordance with FAA material specifications and guidance on operational safety on airports during construction referenced in the project manual.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system until Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 11:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Friday, June 14, 2024, at 9:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notice>

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

INVITATION FOR BIDS DUCT & VENT CLEANING SERVICES IFB24-B009

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Duct & Vent Cleaning Services** in accordance with IFB24-B009. Received in accordance with law until **July 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DISASTER CLEANING SERVICES RFP24-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Disaster Cleaning Services** in accordance with RFP24-R005. Received in accordance with law until **June 28, 2024, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

Be a part of something incredible!
The Lucas County Land Bank is looking for a hard-working and capable Construction Specialist to join our team! The Construction Specialist works with our Director of Construction to manage our residential construction projects, support homeowners, inspect properties, estimate renovation costs, and oversee contractor relationships. Annual salary of \$60,000 - \$75,000, depending on experience. Very generous benefits, including high-quality health care coverage, significant paid time off, a retirement plan with competitive employer match, and a company-provided vehicle.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 14 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated almost 1,000 properties, completed hundreds of construction projects, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and made countless contributions to the stability of Lucas County neighborhoods and residents.

To learn more and to apply, visit lucascounty-landbank.org
Position open until filled. The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal-opportunity employer.

Lucas County Fatherhood Coalition's Fatherhood Week

The Truth Staff

"Black fathers in this community are challenged; they are not absent, but they are challenged," said Avis Files, chair of the Lucas County Fatherhood Coalition, during a press conference on Monday to announce the opening of Fatherhood Week, a series of events that will run from Monday, June 10 to Saturday, June 15.

Files, director of Family and Supportive Services for Pathway, Inc. helped found the Fatherhood Coalition 10 years ago and, along with Co-Chair David Kontur, director of the Lucas County Family Council, has assembled a coalition of numerous agencies to support the goal of easing those challenges to fatherhood, especially those impeding the progress of low-income and minority fathers.

Along with Pathway, Inc. and the Lucas County Family Council, some of the other participating agencies or groups include: Mom's House, Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Lucas County Children Services, Harbor, Bethany House, Ohio Means Jobs, First Church of God, among others, and, critically, the Lucas County Commissioners who provide much of the funding to support the Coalition's activities.

"The role of a father has gotten much harder as society has gotten more complex," said Commissioner Pete Gerken during the press conference. "This is a shared and learned experience ... [we are] suffering from the over incarceration of Black men in our community."

Commissioner Lisa Sobecki noted that the Coalition has "helped over 8,000 fathers in our community" while adding that the county "has the resources that you need."

Commissioner Anita Lopez also spoke of the high rates of incarceration impacting the local community and the relief that the County and the Coalition can provide. "When we promote fatherhood and its importance, it impacts a child's life each and every day."

The week's Fatherhood Week includes: Monday – a conversation with Lucas County Child Support and Ohio Means Jobs; Tuesday – a FaceBook presentation on physical and mental health; Wednesday – Show Fathers Love

Sign Day and a discussion of violence at Mott Branch library from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; Thursday – Fatherhood Conference at Mott Branch by the Urban Fathers Voice from noon to 3:30 pm; Friday – FATHERS and Families Day at Port Lawrence Housing Development; Saturday – the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Juneteenth Community Health and Wellness Fair at MLK Academy for Boys



Fatherhood Coalition Chair Avis Files



Lucas County Commissioners Pete Gerken and Lisa Sobecki



Avis Files describes the Fatherhood Week's activities



TRIO
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND
 Funded by the U.S. Department of Education

Veterans Upward Bound is a **FREE** educational program for qualified veterans providing support in preparing for success in post-secondary education and training.



Helping NW Ohio veterans with:

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567.661.7300

Website: www.owens.edu/trioub/

Email: veteransupwardbound@owens.edu

** TRIO Veterans Upward Bound is hosted at Owens Community College but can help **ANY** qualified veteran attend **ANY** college, university, or technical/trade school

Here Comes the Sun! And Free Lunches for Area Students!

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

School's out and it's time for Sun Meals, formerly known as the Summer Food Service Program. Suzanne Saggese, Program Specialist at OSU Extension, Lucas County and Convener of Summer Meal Partners Coalition shares, "Summer should be an exciting time for children to enjoy time with friends, engage in sports, or spend time at a pool. But for the nearly 60,000 children in Lucas County who receive free and reduced-price meals at school, summer can mean hunger. Just like learning should not end when school lets out, neither should a child's need for good nutrition"

Throughout the state, all children ages one through 18 are eligible to receive free meals during the summer months at participating program sites. Individuals ages 19 through 21, following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs also are eligible for free summer meals.

Depending on your location, you can find a site convenient to you. In the greater Toledo area, many sites such as libraries, community centers, schools, parks, houses of worship, etc, are served by Connecting Kids to Meals. Often, these sites will have a sign to indicate they are a Sun Meals partner. In urban locations, kids must eat the meal on-site. In some rural areas, families have the option to pick up to-go meals. For more information call 1-866-348-6479 (1-866-3-HUNGRY).

In addition, to help kids have access to nutritious food to grow healthy
...continued on page 12



Vendors display their products



Suzanne Saggese explains the program as Toledo City Councilwoman Vanice Williams and Lucas County Commissioner wait to speak



Some of the fresh food students will enjoy this summer



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From preventative health and wellness to management of chronic conditions, we are open to care for our community.

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Internal Medicine Physician

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