

Sun-Reporter



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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

SFNAACP Urgently Calls Upon The People Of San Francisco To Vote Against The Petition To Recall Members Of The San Francisco Board Of Education

EDITORIAL

By Attorney
Peter Graham Cohn

From its founding in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its later affiliate units including the San Francisco NAACP (SFNAACP) have often been called upon and compelled to assist the Nation in correcting and eliminating false narratives that have had catastrophic consequences for our communities whether they have been at the national or local levels. This consequential history included bringing the Nation to an understanding that it was neither morally nor legally right to lynch African American or other people of color as Saturday



Attorney Peter Graham Cohn

afternoon entertainment.

Similarly, other false narratives that the NAACP had to address was that it was not ok to deny people of color the equal opportunities

for education, employment, housing, health care, public accommodations and voting rights. If these false narratives were allowed to stand, it was

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Former Minneapolis Cop Derek Chauvin Pleads Guilty To Violating George Floyd's Civil Rights

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

Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer who killed George Floyd, would rather spend 25 years in federal prison than 15 in a state penitentiary.

The disgraced cop who infamously kneeled on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes pleaded guilty on Wednesday, December 15, to federal charges of violating the late Floyd's civil rights.

Federal prosecutors reached a deal with Chauvin, who agreed to serve 25 years in federal prison.

The sentence will run concurrently with the 22-year sentence Chauvin received after being convicted on state



George Floyd

charges of murder. Under the state sentence, Chauvin could have qualified for parole after 15 years.

However, there's no parole for the federal sentence, effectively meaning that the 45-year-old Chauvin choose the longer sentence to avoid state prison.

Since his conviction earlier

this year, Chauvin had remained in solitary confinement.

It's believed Chauvin chose to plead guilty because federal prisons are viewed as safer, and he most likely would avoid contact with anyone he previously arrested.

Asked by the judge on Wednesday how he wanted to plead, Chauvin replied, "At this time, guilty, your honor."

In entering the guilty plea on the federal charge, Chauvin admitted he violated Floyd's constitutional rights of being free from unreasonable seizures – precisely excessive force.

Three other former Minneapolis officers, Thomas Lane, Alexander Kueng, and Tou Thao, also face federal violations of Floyd's civil rights. The three men expect to stand trial in January.

Omicron In California: Officials Push Booster Shots To Stem Rise In Variant Cases

Aldon Thomas Stiles |
California Black Media

As of Monday, there were 39 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in California, according to the California Department of Public Health. That number represents a 140% increase in new variant cases since Thanksgiving.

As authorities monitor and work to stem the spread of the new strand of COVID-19, Gov. Gavin Newsom continues to promote booster shots for eligible Californians: Adults 18 and older -- or teens who are 17 or 16 -- who have been fully vaccinated for at least six months.

Additionally, the state has reinstated mask mandates in several counties that have been without them during the pandemic.

"Yesterday California reinstated -- in counties and in sections of the state where

we don't currently have any indoor masking requirement -- a one-month masking requirement indoors in public settings. This is intended to lean in, as we all have for a long time in California, to keep our guard up in a period of uncertainty and unknown with Omicron," said California Health & Human Services Agency Dr. Mark Ghaly.

"Requiring the indoor masking as California continues to learn more about Omicron gives us a chance to keep our guard up in a very purposeful and meaningful way during these critical weeks of celebration without needing to do what some other countries have had to do which is put further limitations on the things that we all miss," Ghaly elaborated.

Ghaly says once the federal government approves the booster shot for children, the state will issue a vaccine mandate for students in the state, adding to other immunizations California requires.

At a recent press conference, Newsom said it is unlikely that there will be another lockdown due to the new variant.

According to the Governor, the first confirmed case of the variant in California, which was reported in San Francisco two weeks ago, was someone who was not eligible for a vaccine booster shot. He expects the person to "fully recover."

Across the United States, there are now over 43 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant in at least 25 states.

Chief Medical Advisor to the President, Dr. Anthony Fauci says the booster shot is the surest method to combat the threat of the Omicron variant.

"There's every reason to believe that if you get vaccinated and boosted that you would have at least some degree of cross-protection," Fauci said in reference to the variant.

Last week, Fauci said he

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Cal Reparations Task Force Votes To Replace Economic Advisor

Antonio Ray Harvey | California
Black Media

One day after Darrick Hamilton testified before California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, the panel decided that it would not enter into a contractual agreement with the noted economist.

Seven members of the nine-member panel voted to move forward without Hamilton. Two appointees, Loyola-Marymount psychology professor Dr. Cheryl Grills and UCLA law professor Lisa Holder, abstained.

The group's chair Kamillah Moore said Hamilton informed the task force that he would have to narrow the responsibilities of his role, from advising on both calculations and methodology, to a "renewed or narrower scope of work."

"I feel that the work is inseparable," Moore said before the vote.

Hamilton was expected to bring an economic perspective

to the work the group is doing, helping to quantify past economic injustices African Americans faced in the state and elsewhere, and determining what or how much compensation should be for Black people living in California.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the state's historic reparations bill into law, Assembly Bill (AB) 3121, in 2020.

Former Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) authored the bill before she was appointed and sworn in as the state's first African American Secretary of State in January 2021.

AB 3121, titled "The Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans," created a nine-member commission to investigate the history of slavery in the United States, the extent of California's involvement in slavery, segregation, and the denial of Black citizens their constitutional rights.

In October, the task force approved the appointment

of Hamilton, who is an economics and urban policy professor at The New School in New York City.

According to Section F of Article 2, 8301.1, of the legislation, Hamilton would have been charged with affixing "what form of compensation should be awarded, through what instrumentalities, and who should be eligible for such compensation."

The contract would have paid Hamilton \$90,000 for the scope and term of his work, Moore said. But the reduced assignment the economist requested decreases his compensation to \$45,000.

"Fast forward to (Dec. 7), Dr. Hamilton essentially communicated to the task force that while he's still able to deliver on Section F, he will no longer be able to deliver on Section E," Moore said. "That would be doing the actual calculations for what any compensation should be. He meant that there weren't enough resources present in the given contract, he felt that he didn't have enough time,

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Amelia Ashley-Ward
Editor/Publisher

On Behalf Of The East Oakland Community Development Center (EOYDC) Community Board, We Are Delighted To Announce That Selena Wilson Will Take The Helm As Our Chief Executive Officer

Oakland, CA

Selena's story is a unique one. As a four-year girl she entered the EOYDC bubble of protection and grew up empowered by its programs and care. She graduated from Castlemont High School, obtained her B.A. at Holy Names University, and then moved further forward, earning her Masters of Science in Learning and Organizational Change at Northwestern University.

After a successful run as a Management Consultant at Deloitte Consulting's Chicago office, she returned to her hometown of Oakland. After providing EOYDC with pro bono consulting services for several years, she was hired to head up Organizational Effectiveness at EOYDC. As the Vice President of Organizational Effectiveness for almost 7 years, Wilson leveraged her multifaceted skill set to

streamline operations across the organization and enhance program effectiveness through evidenced-based practices, with a focus on providing trauma-informed, healing-centered care for systematically marginalized youth.

Interim Board President, Erin Dangerfield states, "I am delighted to work with Selena Wilson as our new CEO. I am even more proud that she is an alumni of EOYDC, fully understanding the critical responsibility she is accepting for the benefit of our families and the community at large."

Troy Datcher, East Oakland Youth Development Foundation President offered, "I have enjoyed working with Selena over the past year. I find her to be a bright, thoughtful and compassionate leader. I am looking forward to EOYDC's future under her direction."

The appointment of Selena Wilson is an exciting turning point for EOYDC after the long-term transition of its prior CEO, Regina Jackson.



Selena Wilson

"It has been a labor of love to mentor Selena over the past 2 decades. She has the skill, the will and determination to move this legacy forward. I feel like a proud mom or aunt. I could not think of a more thoughtful leader to pass the torch to".

Of this tremendous opportunity to serve her beloved East Oakland community, Selena shared that she is "excited, honored,

and immensely grateful to the Board for entrusting [her] to steward the 27-year legacy that Ms. Regina Jackson has built." In her first act as CEO, Selena Wilson is promoting fellow EOYDC alumni and Oakland native, Dr. Landon Hill, to the position of Chief Program Officer. Dr. Hill holds a Masters of Arts in Social & Cultural Analysis of Education from CSU Long Beach and a Doctorate of Education from San Francisco

State University.

The appointment of two EOYDC alumni to EOYDC's Executive Leadership team is a testament to the organization's ability to develop a pipeline of strong, community-oriented leaders through its cascading mentorship framework.

About the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC)

The mission of the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) is to develop the social and leadership capacities of youth so that they achieve excellence in education, career, and service to their communities. Our mission is based on solid research which demonstrates that interventions that foster relationships with caring adults, and mastery of technical and social skills, can lead to increased well-being and civic engagement among youth from high risk environments. For more info: <http://www.eoydc.org>

WITH AGE COMES WISDOM



"Just the ultimate feeling of being protected. It gave me the confidence that I would not get the virus, and now with the booster as well. I'm happy it was available in my neighborhood, and I like that it is being administered by professionals."

— Dennis Parker, 78



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Booster doses are free and available regardless of immigration or insurance status. Free transportation and in-home appointments are also available.



Visit VaccinateALL58.com or MyTurn.ca.gov or call 833-422-4255 today to learn more.

Reparations continued from page 1

and he also pointed out issues of clarity on how to tackle that part of the bill."

Hamilton told the task force that there was some misunderstanding about the work he could provide.

"I don't think we had complete clarity at the time the (Department of Justice) made its presentation in October or September," Hamilton said. "With F, I have great clarity given the time constraints as well as the potential budgets that are available."

Michael Newman, the Senior Assistant Attorney General of the California Department of Justice's Civil Rights Enforcement Section, said the DOJ was still in negotiation with Hamilton before the task force's fifth meeting and no contracts had been signed.

"To my knowledge, he has not done any reimbursable work under the contract. The contract has not been signed," Newman said. "Other than sort of scoping out the project, doing the initial evaluation, or preparing for his testimony (Dec. 7), he hasn't done anything on the project. I think he's accrued probably reimbursable time in his initial preparation, but we'll have to talk about that."

Hamilton, a leading national authority on race and public

policy, has been involved in crafting progressive policy proposals, such as Baby Bonds, which are trust accounts for low-income kids funded by taxpayers.

Hamilton is also a proponent of the Federal Job Guarantee, a policy that would mandate the government to provide a job for any person that needs one. Those initiatives have garnered national media attention and served as inspiration for legislative proposals across the country at the federal, state, and local levels.

In his defense, Grills said Hamilton's knowledge, intellect and skill set are absolutely not "limited." Hamilton is more than capable of performing the task, she explained, and said that he wanted to make sure both Section E and F would be completed thoroughly.

"I think he's trying to caution us about what it really takes to do a careful set of calculations that are aligned with how we are defining some of the factors and understanding the costs," Grills said. "He's offering caution about what it takes and to do it in a way that minimizes the negative feedback that we will get on everything we do."

With five meetings left on the agenda, Moore said that the task force will consider the services of William

A. "Sandy" Darity Jr., the director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He is also the Samuel DuBois Cook professor of public policy, African and African American studies, and economics at Duke University.

Darity's research focuses on racial, class and ethnic inequality and stratification economics; education and the racial achievement gap; North-South theories of trade and development; and the economics of reparations.

Darity and his coauthor of the book, "From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century," Kirsten Mullen, testified before the task force during the first meeting in June.

Task Force member Don Tamaki said that Darity absolutely has the "stature" in terms of notoriety and has arrived at a number in his and Mullen's book "anywhere from \$9 trillion to \$14 trillion" in terms of reparations.

As did Grills, Tamaki also warned that it doesn't matter who does the work for 8301.1 Sections E and F. The report will get backlash, he said.

"The report is going to get criticized, scrutinized, and really taken apart," Tamaki said. "So, it really has to be a first-rate expert in this area.

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SFNAACP
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predictable to see how the Nation could so easily drift back into other forms of mob, police or other governmentally sanctioned violence against people of color or other marginalized groups.

We have certainly all seen and experienced the profound damage that the more recent big lies have caused our nation and the world. When we were confronted with a global pandemic, the leader of the free world in 2019 chose not to take the path to protect public health but elected to pursue the path of a false and anti-science political narrative. The tragic results not only significantly contributed to the deaths of some 800,000 people in the United States and millions of lives lost worldwide but also to the creation of a most divisive false narrative that taking the simplest of preventive public health measures (masking, social distancing and vaccinating) is a deprivation of one's personal liberty. The predictable result of this public health false narrative has not only divided family and friends but also aroused individuals to not only threaten public officials but also motivated some individuals to take up arms against them.

With this backdrop, it was easy to see the dire consequences of the ultimate big lie. Contrary to all the evidence as established by

the federal and state election oversight officials and judicial officers, the Trumpian false and unfounded view that the presidential election was stolen from him in 2020 has caused immeasurable harm to the people of our nation in the course of the January 6, 2021 deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and its aftermath. Like the pandemic big lie, it has torn apart families and communities and is seeking to undermine voting rights at the federal, state and local levels.

Similarly, we have seen false narratives at the local educational levels that have resulted in an assault on educators and school board members who have spoken up and advanced policies on racial equity in our public schools and universities. The false narrative or favorite moniker is to demonize them as "critical race theorists" who need to be removed from our educational institutions. Additionally, opponents of these advocates for education equity and inclusion argue that any books or scholarly references should be banned and the true history regarding the adverse role of race in education should not be a part of our public school system. In the course of pursuing this anti-intellectual and false course, they call for the discharge of educators as well as the resignation or recall school board members who have dared to address educational equity in our schools and our nation.

This is a direction or path that is beneath the City of St. Francis. Earlier in the year, when there was a political move to force the resignation of San Francisco School Board Commissioner Alison Collins based on a false narrative, the SFNAACP was compelled to submit an article to the Sun Reporter Newspaper setting forth in great detail as to why such an action was unjustified. The Sun Reporter – whose motto under the late Dr. Carlton Goodlett and today under Amelia Ashley Ward is – "Dedicated to the cause of the people – that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed" – chose to publish it on March 25, 2021. As a result, the forced resignation initiative was defeated.

In a similar way, the San Francisco NAACP believes that the upcoming February 15, 2022, San Francisco Board of Education Recall Election of Board President Gabriela Lopez and Commissioners Alison Collins and Faauga Moliga is unjustified and should be opposed because Commissioners should not be removed because of a mix of policy differences and false narratives. The SFNAACP discussed the issues involved in the recall and voted overwhelmingly to oppose the recall election at its November 21, 2021 Branch meeting at Third Baptist Church.

The policy differences around certain public education issues in the SFUSD

included: 1) when and how should the SFUSD safely reopen in the course of a global pandemic; 2) the renaming of certain schools in the SFUSD because the namesakes had purported connections with racial discrimination; 3) what to do with the adverse racial depictions in the front wall murals at Washington High School; and 4) the Board vote to modify the Lowell High School admissions policy so that Lowell might be more racially/ethnically inclusive and to conduct an Equity Audit in partnership with the University of Kentucky College of Education, NAACP and the community to address issues of concern that African American and Latino students and educational advocates had raised about the culture of Lowell.

While one might differ about how best to approach any of the above issues, it is within the authority and jurisdiction of the SF Board of Education to address these type issues, among others, as they might arise during the course of the Commissioners' service on the Board. However, there is no justification for removing commissioners based upon mere policy differences and their efforts to promote equity and racial justice in the San Francisco Unified School District.

When one carefully and critically examines the timing of the recall petition, it was filed on February 19, 2021 in retaliation for the February 9, 2021 Board's 5-2 vote which changed the Lowell admissions process to be more inclusive of all the diverse racial/ethnic communities of San Francisco. As the SFNAACP has historically asserted and advocated, ALL the public schools and resources of the SFUSD – including Lowell High School – belong to ALL the children of San Francisco and should be enjoyed by them.

Commissioners Lopez, Collins and Moliga's voices were singled out for silencing and recall because they were elected in November of 2018 and their terms run through November of 2022. Instead of letting these three Commissioners complete their terms and let the voters decide at a regular election within the year, there was a planned political initiative to remove them from office in an unnecessary special election.

From the Mayor's Office to the Board of Supervisors,

to the City Attorney's Office and to the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, the governmental leadership of the City has sadly demonstrated that they lacked profiles in courage in fairly dealing with the issues surrounding the SF Board of Education. They joined the false narratives about these public servants and the frenzy in the media and internet to remove the Commissioners.

They accepted the false narrative that San Francisco Board of Education policy was driven by anti-Asian sentiment – which is simply not true. We need to keep in mind that these three commissioners – an African American female, a Latina female and a Pacific Islander male – all volunteered to answer the honorable call to public service on behalf of the children of the City. They do not deserve to have their voices unceremoniously silenced through a recall – which is a phenomenon that we are observing across the country. The SFNAACP is in a unique position to assert this because, in its long history of over 90 years of public service in San Francisco, it has always advocated for the rights of all students – including Asian American children – to an equal educational opportunity.

The governmental leadership sadly permitted the March 16, 2021 tragic murders in Atlanta to be falsely conflated with the policy choices of the San Francisco Board of Education with respect to its decisions regarding racial justice and inclusion in the SFUSD. As a result, a national tragedy was promptly used as a subterfuge to challenge the equity change in the admissions process at Lowell High School and to support the February recall petition of 3 of the 5 Board members – who supported the social justice change there. If the other two Commissioners Matt Alexander and Mark Sanchez had not been recently reelected in the course of the November 2020 election, the proponents of the recall would have had their names on the ballot as well. This is not a public policy result that is good for San Francisco.

The gravamen of giving credence to petty and false political narratives and unleashing them is several fold: 1) wittingly or unwittingly – such actions actually inflict new injuries and profound pain upon the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the SFUSD

and the City where they did not exist; 2) they falsely lead members of the AAPI community to believe that SFUSD and Board policies are based upon racial animosity or hatred towards them; 3) they falsely tell AAPI residents that there are people in public service actively working against their interests; 4) they creates a feeding frenzy in the community and on the internet to drive public servants from office by intimidation, threats, resignation or recall; 5) they debase the kinds of constructive conversations that should occur at school board and other public meetings and substitute great incivility – the likes of which we are unfortunately seeing across California and the United States; 6) the result of this incivility and personal assaults prompts good and well-intentioned people and candidates to avoid or leave public service; 7) they falsely suggest that street crimes in SF are related to Board policies and create a gap in the historic harmonious relationship between communities of color in San Francisco; and 8) these are all profound and real harms that are inflicted anew on the AAPI community – even by some who claim to be advocates for the community – and they are clearly unworthy of the best traditions of San Francisco.

The San Francisco NAACP calls upon other people and organizations of goodwill to vote against the February 15, 2022, recall of San Francisco Board of Education Commissioners Collins, Lopez and Moliga and to remind all eligible voters that they can vote early at San Francisco City Hall beginning on January 18, 2022. Let's let our voices and votes heal and unite our City and bring back civility to our public school and other City forums.

Attorney Peter Graham Cohn has represented the SFNAACP Branch and the public school children of San Francisco in the San Francisco school desegregation case in federal court from 1978 – 2006. He has worked with the national NAACP – including the late Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond – for over 45 years at the national, regional, state and local levels. He has also been an advisor and counsel to the SFNAACP Branch since the 1970's. He can be reached at: pgcohn@comcast.net.

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|----------|---------------|------------|-------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 201 | ONE BEDROOM | ONE BATH | 688 | 2 | \$428,203 | \$381,135 | 100% of AMI | \$547.68 | \$595.68 |
| 202 | TWO BEDROOMS | TWO BATHS | 959 | 2 | \$488,218 | \$434,015 | 100% of AMI | \$602.57 | \$650.57 |
| 303 | ONE BEDROOM | ONE BATH | 621 | 3 | \$430,613 | \$383,745 | 100% of AMI | \$534.10 | \$582.10 |
| 306 | STUDIO | ONE BATH | 468 | 3 | \$366,468 | \$326,536 | 100% of AMI | \$503.11 | \$551.11 |

198 VALENCIA STREET
198 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO



APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022.

Apply online through DAHLIA, the SF Housing Portal at HOUSING.SFGOV.ORG. Due to COVID-19, applicants will apply online as we are not accepting paper applications.

For more information and assistance with your application, contact HomeownershipSPF: (415) 322-5484 or info@homeownershipsf.org. For questions about the building and units, contact Loring Restine: (415) 501-0945 or Loring@198ValenciaSF.com.

Units are monitored through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and are subject to owner occupancy and other restrictions. Visit www.dohcd.org for program information.

LOTTERY DRAWING DATE IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022 @ 3:30PM.
View lottery results at HOUSING.SFGOV.ORG within one week of the lottery.

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OPEN HOUSE DATES All open houses are temporarily cancelled due to COVID-19.

*Certificate of Preference (COP) holders are primarily households displaced in Redevelopment Project Areas during the 1960's and 1970's. **Households in which at least one member lives in San Francisco, or works in San Francisco at least 7500 their working hours. The specifications are subject to change at any time and should not be relied on as representations, warranties or contracts. Square footage on floor plans shown is an indication and other materials is approximate and may be more or less than the actual size.

Omicron
Continued from page 1

expects the official definition of "fully vaccinated" to change from the current two-vaccination requirement to including the third booster shot. He said it's a matter of "when, not if."

Last Friday, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a five-page report sharing the results of study that focused on the 43 people across the country who have contracted

the Omicron variant. Only one of them was hospitalized and most experienced mild symptoms like coughing or a runny nose. More than 75 % of them were fully vaccinated and nearly 33 % had received booster shots.

California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris took to Twitter to calm Californian's fears regarding the state's response to this new variant.

"While we are still learning about the Omicron variant, our focus remains on

protection and prevention. Our best protection is getting vaccinated, wearing masks, getting tested if you have symptoms, and staying home if sick," Burke Harris tweeted.

"When these four interventions are taken by all Californians, we help slow the spread of COVID-19 – including the Omicron variant," her tweet continued.

California Black Media's coverage of COVID-19 is supported by the California Health Care Foundation.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.



Reparations Rising With Robin Rue Simmons

By Julianne Malveaux

The Honorable John Conyers, who represented Detroit in Congress from 1965 until 2017, introduced HR 40 every congressional session from 1989. He worked to get cosponsors for the legislation for nearly thirty years, but not even the entire Congressional Black Caucus would cosponsor. Upon his retirement from Congress, he passed the baton to Houston Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Thanks to her efforts and those of reparations organizations, including the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA),

the number of cosponsors approaches two hundred members of Congress. With 218, the legislation could pass in Congress.

(Full disclosure. I serve as a NAARC commissioner, as does Kamm Howard, the co-chair of N'COBRA.)

With a Senate dominated by conservative Democrats and obstructionist Republicans, when HR 40 passes in Congress, it is unlikely to pass in the Senate. However, it is essential to acknowledge the enormous progress the reparations movement has experienced since Conyers first introduced HR 40. Then, if you mentioned reparations in some circles, including those dominated by African Americans, you'd be rewarded with an eye roll and a "reality" check. Movements don't

happen overnight, though, and the reparations movement is rising, thanks to the tireless work of committed activists, who have persistently raised the issue.

Robin Rue Simmons, a former Alderman in Evanston, Illinois, shepherded reparations legislation in that city and helped design a program that will use money from legal cannabis sales to fund reparations. The program emerges from documentation of the ways local legislation widened the wealth gap between 1919 and 1969 and explicitly targets Evanston residents and their descendants for the initial round of reparations. Within the next several weeks, 16 families will get \$25,000 checks to put a down payment on a home, reduce a mortgage balance, or do repairs that

increase the value of their homes. While these modest payments do very little to reduce the wealth gap, they improve the wealth position of these families. Evanston has taken a small but revolutionary step in the right direction.

Robin chose not to run for reelection, although she would have probably faced only token opposition if she had. Instead, she has been working full-time on the issue of local reparations, founding First Repair (firstrepair.org), an organization focused on helping state and local governments shape reparations initiatives. First Repair most recently (December 9-11) co-convened a symposium (along with NAARC) with state and local reparations leaders. Sixty people from twenty-five cities, including Boston, Asheville, North Carolina, Houston, Denver, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, gathered to discuss their efforts to implement local reparations. The activist Danny Glover spoke at a town hall meeting

that included a telephone address by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

The fact that so many cities and states are considering reparations initiatives and appointing reparations commissions is invigorating and encouraging. As Robin Rue Simmons said, change happens from the bottom up and not the top down. The more cities and states that have reparations conversations, the more awareness those at the top will have that this is an issue that is not going away. Our nation is culpable for the exploitation of enslaved people and their descendants. We have gotten little more than a tepid apology. Our country must do more.

While HR 40 calls for the establishment of a commission to make reparations suggestions, if President Biden really wanted to have our backs, as he so often says, he could, through executive order, establish such a commission now. I had hoped that President Obama

might have done so, but that issue was such a hot potato for our then-President that he would not even consider it. The more talk there is about reparations, the more information is disseminated. President Biden, Vice-President Harris, can you take this step in the right direction?

Meanwhile, I'm lifting up Robin Rue Simmons, a 45-year-old leader, activist, and tireless reparations advocate. She has dedicated her life to the reparations movement, using the Evanston experience as a blueprint for other municipalities considering reparations. It's important to note that reparations are not just about a check. It is about healing, restoring, reclaiming what has been taken from the descendants of enslaved people. It's not just about enslavement. It's about laws passed after Emancipation that systematically robbed us of our rights, work, worth, and wealth. Thanks to folks like Robin Rue Simmons (also a NAARC commissioner), Kamm Howard, Dr. Ron Daniels, Sheila Jackson Lee, Danny Glover, and so many others, the reparations movement is rising!

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA. She can be reached at JulianneMalveaux.com

Ring In The New Year With Health Care Savings

The New Year is right around the corner and it's a time to set new goals. One opportunity that everyone should embrace is to make sure that you have access to quality health care in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic and the new Omicron variant have highlighted the importance of our health, and now is the time to get comprehensive health coverage.

The good news is that quality health care coverage is now more affordable than ever before, thanks to the new and increased financial help from

the American Rescue Plan. The law dramatically increased the subsidies available to Californians in nearly every income bracket – allowing them to get covered and stay covered with comprehensive, name-brand health insurance.

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Covered California is part of the Affordable Care Act, sometimes known as

Obamacare -- and it's the only place you can go to get financial help to bring the cost of health coverage within reach. Right now, an estimated 1.1 million Californians are uninsured and eligible for financial help. The overwhelming majority of this group, about 940,000 people, will qualify for no-cost health coverage through either Covered California or Medi-Cal. Even if you do not qualify for \$0 health plans, many people can get health coverage for less than \$10 per month.

In addition, the American Rescue Plan extends the financial help available to

middle-income Californians, who were previously ineligible for federal financial help. For example, an estimated 260,000 Californians purchase their coverage directly from a health insurance company, without any assistance. They can switch to Covered California, and in many cases keep their same health plans and doctors, while saving hundreds of dollars a month.

Everyone can benefit from ringing in the New Year with big savings, peace of mind and access to quality health care.

Health insurance protects you financially if an injury

or illness sends you to the emergency room or hospital. Preventive care helps keep you healthy and out of the hospital in the first place, which is especially important for African American communities which experience higher rates of chronic diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure.

You can easily find out whether you are eligible for financial help, and find out what your health coverage options are, by visiting www.CoveredCA.com. All you need to do is enter a few pieces of information, your age, ZIP code, household income, and

the ages of those who need health insurance and you can see your results in just seconds. You can also call Covered California's Service Center at (800) 300-1506 to enroll in health plans.

Sign up by Dec. 31 and your coverage will start on New Year's Day. If you miss that deadline, don't worry, open enrollment runs through January 31. There has never been a better time for Californians to get health insurance, and with this new financial help available, the cost of health coverage is more affordable than ever before.

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Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

A Mission From Birth (Christmas)

Lesson Text: Luke 2:25-35; John 12:23-26

Place: Jerusalem

Times: 6 or 5 B.C.; A.D. 30

Golden Text: "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Luke introduced another person who would be divinely told of the Messiah's arrival and who would confirm the baby's identity. His name is Simeon. He was spiritually in tune with God: righteous, devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, with the Holy Spirit resting on him. His occupation is unknown. He had all his life held on to God's promise of a coming deliverer, so through the Holy Spirit, God promised that Simeon would not die before seeing the Lord's Messiah. The "consolation of Israel"

was another way of describing the Messiah. "Consolation" refers to the restoration of Israel as a nation; the word comes from Isaiah 40:1. Simeon, a righteous, devout, and Spirit-filled man who hoped in the future God had promised, stands forever in Scripture as a model of devotion and faithfulness to God. (Life Application Bible Commentary - Luke). (Luke 2:25-26). When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord, Simeon also went into the temple courts, having been moved by the Spirit to be there on this particular day. God was ordaining this meeting, in keeping with his promise to Simeon.

Mary and Joseph arrived in the temple to do for [Jesus] what the custom of the Law required. This obedience to

the Old Testament law is mentioned several times in Luke. It points out Jesus' credentials as one who obeyed the law, even from birth, because his parents did exactly as they were commanded. At the temple, Mary and Joseph met an old man who took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. The Spirit led Simeon to recognize this baby as the "consolation of Israel... the Lord's Messiah" (Luke 2:25-26). Mary and Joseph arrived in the temple to do for [Jesus] what the custom of the Law required. This obedience to the Old Testament law is mentioned several times in Luke. It points out Jesus' credentials as one who obeyed the law, even from birth, because his parents did exactly as they were commanded. At the temple, Mary and Joseph met an old man who took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. The Spirit led Simeon to recognize this baby as the "consolation of Israel... the Lord's Messiah" (Luke 2:25-26). (Life Application Bible Commentary - Luke. (Luke 2:25-26).

Simeon's song is often called the "Nunc Dimittis," the first words of its Latin translation. Simeon praised God that he had done what he promised and could dismiss your servant (meaning himself) in peace. In other words, Simeon was now ready to die in peace because he had seen God's salvation. To see Jesus is to see salvation. This salvation has been prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and

for glory to your people Israel. Jesus Christ is the fullest manifestation of God's "glory" that his people had ever seen. Luke, writing to Gentiles, pointed out that from the very beginning God's plan was to offer salvation to Gentiles as well as to Jews. The mission to the Gentiles is a key theme in Luke and Acts. Even the prophets had predicted this (see, for example, Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 52:10; 60:1-2). The Jews were well acquainted with the Old Testament prophecies that spoke of the Messiah's blessings to their nation. They did not always give equal attention to the prophecies saying that he would bring salvation to the entire world, not just the Jews. (Life Application Bible Commentary - Luke). Here Joseph and Mary are called the child's father and mother, which they were, although Joseph was not technically the father (as the genealogy in chapter 3 will clarify, and as the reader already knows). They marveled (were amazed) that this stranger in the temple recognized their small son and prophesied his coming as a light to all nations, not just the Jews. Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and then prophesied that Jesus would have a paradoxical effect on Israel. He would bring light and salvation, but his coming could also cause division. Some would "fall" because of him (see Isaiah 8:14-15), while others would "rise" (see Malachi 4:2). There would not be overwhelming acceptance of the promised Messiah—in fact, many would

not recognize him and would reject him altogether. With Jesus, there would be no neutral ground: people would either joyfully accept him or totally reject him. He would indeed be a sign, but he would be spoken against by many, thus revealing what was inside many people's hearts. This would have surprised and saddened Mary. Simeon told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul. As Jesus' mother, Mary would be grieved by the widespread rejection he would face; she would experience great pain when he died. Although she could not have known it and Simeon had only a hint of it, Mary would be the only person on earth who would witness both his birth and his death. He was God's Son, but she would always be his mother and she would love him as dearly as any mother loves a son. The sorrow and horror he would face would affect her deeply. (Luke 2:33-35).

In John 12:23-26, Jesus had been moving toward His decisive hour (John 8:20). The coming of the Greeks confirmed that the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. For most people death is their humiliation. But for Jesus death was His means of entry into glory. His willingness to die for others' sins in obedience to the Father (see Isaiah 53:10, 12) brought Him renown (glory; read John 12:16; 17:1, 5). I tell you the truth introduces a solemn affirmation. The analogy of

a kernel of wheat "dying" in the ground and producing many seeds teaches that death is necessary for a harvest. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). The wheat analogy according to John 12:24 illustrates a general paradoxical: death is the way to life. In Jesus' case, His death led to glory and life not only for Himself but also for others. In the case of a disciple of Jesus, the principle is similar. A disciple must hate his life in this world. To "hate his life" means to be so committed to Christ that he has no self-centeredness, no concern for himself. On the other hand, the man who loves his life will lose it. Anything in life can become an idol including goals, interests, and loves. A believer should undergo a spiritual death to self (read Romans 6:1-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; as well as Galatians 6:14). Being a servant of Jesus requires following Him. Many of Jesus' original servants did follow Him—in death. According to tradition, the early disciples died as martyrs. Jesus' word was thus a prophecy and also a promise. His true disciples (those who serve Him) follow Him in humiliation and later in honor or glory (read Romans 8:17 and 2 Timothy 2:11-13). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). Be Blessed my brothers and sisters in Christ.

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Little Zion Baptist Church
1245 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am
Morning Worship 11:am
Evening Worship 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Keva L. McNeill, Pastor

1320 Golden Gate
San Francisco, CA.
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am
Children's Church 10:am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm
Prayer meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church

1601 Newcomb Avenue
San Francisco, CA.
94124
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Neighborhood Baptist Church

608 Hayes Street
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Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Evening Worship 6: pm
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

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Fax: (415) 822-0156

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece
Pastor

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Morning Worship 10:25: am
Communion Every 1st Sunday
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

Evergreen Baptist Church

6270 3rd Street
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Rev. Jackey Wilson
Pastor

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Morning Worship 10:40: am
Wendnesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
Sr. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
Saturday Food Pantry 10-11 am

Ascension Baptist Church

1311 Quesada ave.
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94124
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony Anderson

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Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM
Church School Wednesday 7: pm
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Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

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(Cubberly Community CTR)
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Morning worship - 10:45 am
BTU 6:30 pm
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YOUR AD HERE

Alabama's Bryce Young Becomes First Quarterback In Team History To Win The Heisman

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

Bryce Young isn't even eligible for the 2022 NFL Draft, but his gridiron achievements certainly are pro-worthy.

The Alabama quarterback became the fifth sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, college football's most outstanding player award.

Young, 20, also becomes the first Crimson Tide quarterback to win the Heisman, and it marks the second consecutive year an Alabama player has won the award.

"I've always been labeled as someone who's not the prototype, being an African-American quarterback and being quote-unquote undersized and not being that prototype, I've always been ruled out and counted

out," Young stated during his acceptance speech.

The six feet and 194-pound field general has thrown for more than 4,300 yards this season with a 68 percent completion rate.

During the 2021 season, Young has passed for 43 touchdowns with just four interceptions, and he enjoys a 175.5 passer rating.

"People a lot of times have told me that I wasn't going to be able to make it," Young exclaimed.

"And for me, it's always been about not really proving them wrong but proving to myself what I can accomplish.

So, I've always pushed myself to work the hardest, and I try my best to do all I can to maximize all that I can do. And thanks to the people around me and through the grace of God, I've been able to make it here, and I'm truly



Young led the Crimson Tide to a 12-1 record, including an explosive 41-24 victory over then No. 1 ranked Georgia in the SEC Championship./Rolltide.com

grateful for that."

Young led the Crimson Tide to a 12-1 record, including an explosive 41-24 victory over then No. 1 ranked Georgia in the SEC Championship.

Young broke the single game passing record, 559 yards

against No. 22 Arkansas, and shattered SEC Championship record for total offense and passing yards after going 26 of 44 for 421 yards and three touchdowns during his first year as a starter.

Bryce is the 8th African

American quarterback to win the award.

Andre Ward was the first in 1989. Since 2010, 6 of the 10 quarterbacks selected to win the Heisman are African American.

Tim Tebow (Florida 2007),

Sam Bradford (Oklahoma 2008), Mark Ingram Jr. (Alabama 2009), and Lamar Jackson (Louisville 2016) are the only other sophomores to win the Heisman in the award's 86-year history.

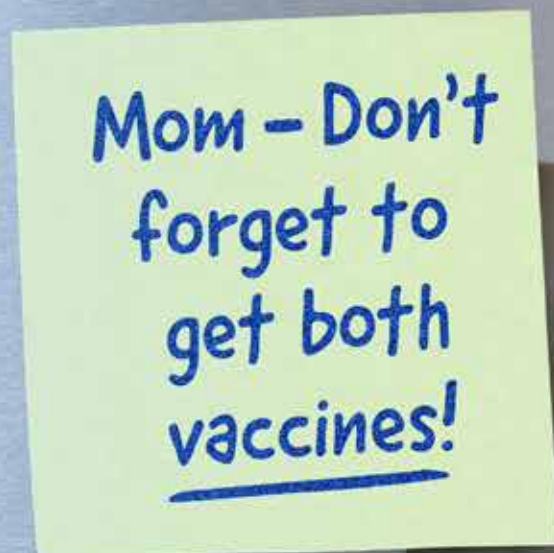
Johnny Manziel (Texas A&M 2012), and Jameis Winston (Florida State 2013), are the only freshmen to win the award.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) profoundly congratulates Bryce Young, the African American star quarterback of the University of Alabama, for winning the Heisman Trophy," NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., stated.

"Young's outstanding achievement on the football field epitomizes the genius and excellent talent of African American athletes in all sports," Dr. Chavis declared.

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Holiday Travel Season: Cal Black Churches Offering COVID Testing, Vaccinations

Aldon Thomas Stiles | California Black Media

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Van Hook, pastor of Community Church in Oakland, says when COVID-19 vaccinations were first released late last year he did not want to get the shot.

“As African Americans, we have a healthy distrust of the government based on our history,” said Van Hook.

But after some soul searching, there was a shift in his spirit, says Van Hook. It led to a change of his heart.

“It came to me through God’s visitation of the holy spirit that not only do I need to get vaccinated, but I need to become an ambassador in the community where we live work and worship. So that’s how my journey began.”

A little over a year ago, Van Hook joined hands with 38 other Black pastors from around California and formed the African American Community Empowerment

Council (AACEC). With help from the state, members began setting up testing and vaccination sites at their churches.

“It is an initiative led by African American pastors, realizing that we need to pay special attention to our community – an affirmative action plan, if you please -- for Black Californians who are understandably skeptical and don’t want to get vaccinated,” Van Hook said.

“Our healing, our hope, come through vaccination,” he continued. “That is how we will push past this pandemic in a healthy way to get to our new normal.”

Now, ahead of the holidays Van Hook and other pastors are encouraging Black Californians to get vaccinated and tested before traveling and getting together with relatives.

“A majority of the cases and deaths are among those who are unvaccinated,” said Van Hook. “For those of us who have been waiting to see what was in it, what it was all about,

we now have over a year of vaccinations and nobody’s eyes have fallen out. No bug has been placed in us where we can be tracked. There are so many stories we have heard in social media.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that Black people in the United States are being hospitalized for COVID-19 2.6 times more than Whites. According to the agency’s website, Black people are also dying of COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of White mortalities.

During the thick of the pandemic, the AACEC website says the pastors “stepped up” responding to a call to action by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who asked all Californians to deploy every resource available to them to confront and defeat the deadly virus.

“Through this effort, testing of at-risk, underrepresented, and under-resourced African Americans, and all community members appearing for a test, will be phased across the

state beginning in Alameda County and extending in regular intervals to encompass San Francisco, Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Gabriel, and San Diego counties,” the AACEC website reads.

There are now also testing sites in San Bernardino County. Vaccination sites are located in Oakland, Pasadena, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Across the country, another organization called Choose Healthy Life (CHL) has similarly united Black religious leaders to battle COVID-19, opting to focus on tackling misinformation and increasing vaccination rates.

Black clergy members and civil rights leaders such as the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, are leading the charge for this program.

“Covid-19 has exposed health disparities, and more disturbingly, the impact of misinformation among our

own people. But I have looked beyond the horizon of today’s headlines. After 750,000 deaths in America and more than 5 million worldwide, the pendulum is beginning to swing —and Choose Healthy Life is at the vanguard of that change,” Sharpton said.

CHL spokesperson Judy Klym detailed the program’s scope.

“After launching CHL in 50 churches in five major cities in January 2021, the program’s expansion has led to more than 50,000 members of the public being educated and empowered,” she said. “Through this collaborative effort, more than 6 million people have been impacted. Choose Healthy Life now has 120 participating churches in 13 states.”

Klym cited the new omicron variant as part of the reason for the urgency of this program’s implementation.

“As the threat from COVID continues with the emergence of the Omicron variant, the ongoing nature of the pandemic seems inevitable. CHL is

rising to meet the challenge by building a sustainable

infrastructure to help Black communities throughout the pandemic and future health crises,” Klym stated.

Debra Fraser-Howze, founder of CHL, says the Black church’s involvement in the COVID-19 fight is critical.

“The Black church and clergy have been a steadfast center of strength and leadership during so many of our crises and struggles in the past. Now, through the Choose Healthy Life Action Plan, they are once again leading the way by ensuring that Black communities are better informed and safer throughout the pandemic,” she said.

Van Hook says when vaccination began at his church earlier this year on Resurrection Sunday, he drew a parallel.

“Vaccinations equal resurrection. Both of them give life as opposed to the death that this invisible, deadly virus has ministered all over the world,” he said.



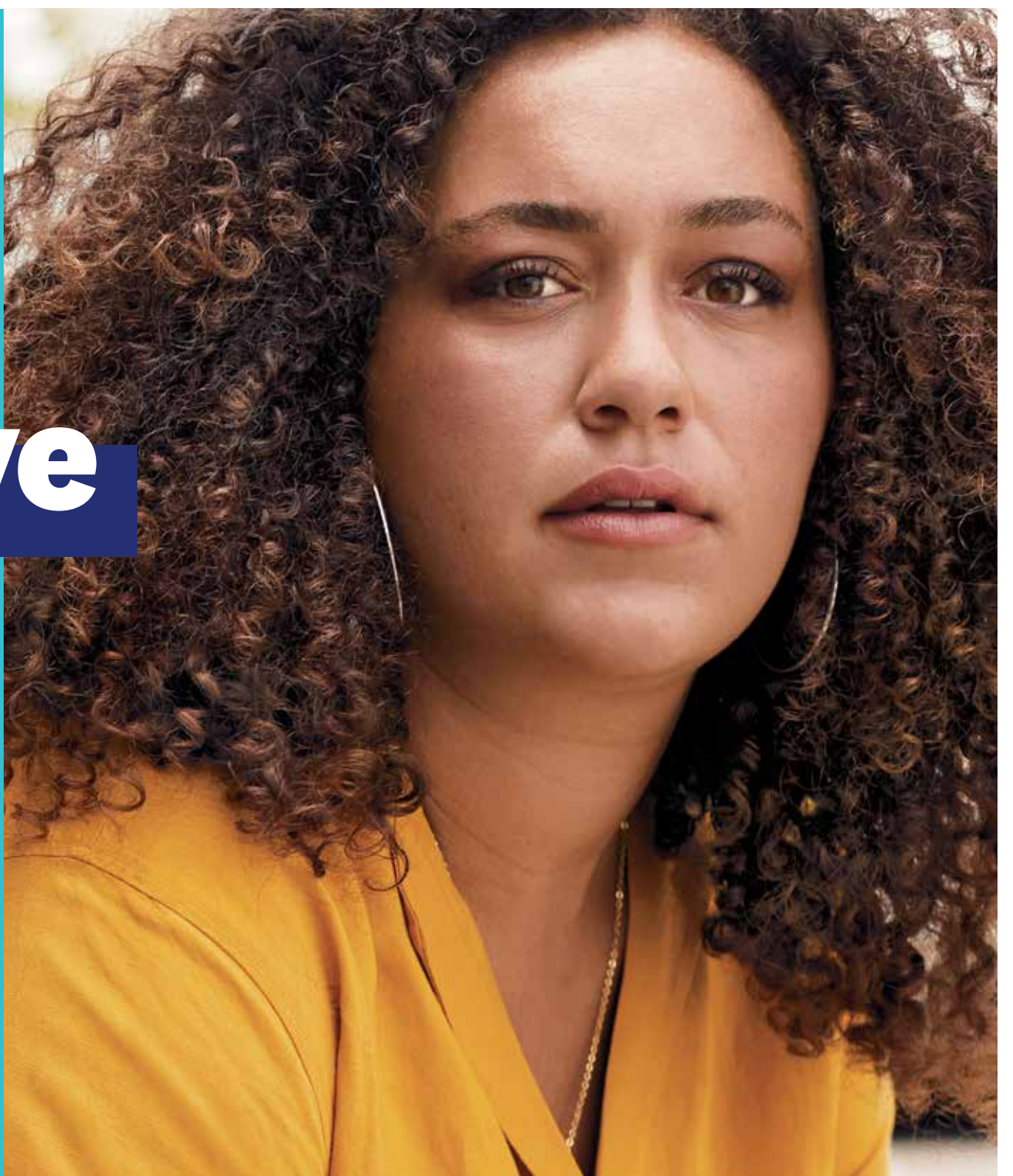
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