

SF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED HISTORIC RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING TO AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS FOR SF’S PAST ATROCITIES

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Today, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a historic resolution apologizing on behalf of San Francisco to African Americans and their descendants for decades of systemic and structural discrimination, targeted acts of violence, atrocities, as well as committing to the rectification and redress of past policies and misdeeds.

The resolution was introduced by Supervisor Shamann Walton last December as one out of 111 recommendations from the San Francisco Reparations Plan, researched and produced by the African American Reparations Advisory Committee (AARAC). Last September, the community gathered to support the implementation of the San Francisco Reparations Plan to right the wrongs of history and address the enormous economic disparities for Black San Franciscans stating that reparations is not merely a buzzword or a political talking point but represent a moral imperative and a reckoning with the past that is long overdue.

San Francisco has a long history of creating and enforcing laws, policies, and institutions that have perpetuated racial inequity throughout the city. In 1937, San Francisco was one of 239 cities that was "redlined" by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. This process created "residential security maps," which divided cities into areas that were appropriate for investment and areas that were subject to risk. In San Francisco, the Western Addition, the Fillmore and Bayview Hunters Point, were some of the neighborhoods that were redlined and because of this, African Americans were denied loans, city investment, infrastructure upgrades, and other economic opportunities.

In 1947, the San Francisco Planning Commission submitted a plan to raze and rebuild a large zone in the Fillmore encompassing 36 blocks. The following year, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency was founded, which subsequently used redlining. San Francisco authorities deemed the Fillmore and Western Addition as “blighted,” which at the time was a vibrant Black community neighborhood and allowed the Planning Commission to institutionalize “urban renewal.” Over the next twenty years in the name of “slum clearance,” many homes were razed, businesses destroyed, and more than 10,000 Black residents were displaced because of the policy. These are just a few of the many past atrocities that San Francisco committed against its Black residents.

Black San Franciscans have faced historical redlining, limiting where they could live, limited economic and workforce opportunities for prosperity, and vast disparities when it comes to education, housing, health outcomes, and environmental justice. Only about 6% of San Franciscans are Black, but Black residents make up about 40% of the city’s homeless population.



San Francisco Mayor London Breed with Distrit 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton

Advocates Weigh in on Calif. Black Caucus Reparations Package

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

On Feb. 21, the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) held a press conference at the State Capitol organized to introduce a package of reparations legislation the lawmakers call “a starting point” to atone for the state's legacy of discrimination.

All 12 members of the CLBC were present to explain their efforts to rectify the damages caused by the systemic discrimination against Black Californians detailed in the 1,100-page report by the first-in-the-nation California reparations task force.

The nine-member panel submitted the recommendations on June 28, 2023.

CLBC chairperson Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) said it may take three to seven years to pass legislation aimed at implementing the task force recommendations.

The package the CLBC members presented consists of 14 legislative proposals, each designed to address different aspects of systemic racism and inequality.

One proposal by Assemblymember Cory Jackson (D-Riverside), ACA 7, seeks to amend the voter-passed initiative, Prop 209, that prohibits considering race, color, sex, or nationality in public employment, education, and contracting decisions. This amendment would allow the governor to approve exceptions to the law in order to address poverty and improve educational outcomes for African Americans and other marginalized groups.

Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood) discussed legislation aimed at compensating families whose properties were seized through eminent domain as a result of racism and discrimination.

The package of bills includes a measure proposed by Assemblymember Reggie Jones Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), Assembly Bill (AB) 3089 to formally acknowledge



California's history of ban involuntary servitude, slavery and discrimination, particularly within the state's prison system.

Reparations advocates and social justice groups from statewide organizations shared

Continued on page 2

Sun Reporter

Recommendations

For March 5th Primary Election

United States President

Joe Biden

United States Senator

Barbara Lee

United States Congress District 11Nancy Pelosi
United States Congress 12 District.....**Lateefah Simon**
State SenateScott Wiener
State Assembly AD19.....Catherine Stefani

State Propositions

Proposition 1 Yes.

San Franacisco Ballot

Judge of Superior Court.....Judge Patrick Thompson

DCCC - Assembly District 17

Cedric Akbar
Matt Dorsey
Nancy Tung
Luis A. Zamora

DCCC - Assembly District 19

Marjan Philhour

Catherine Stefani

Ballot Measures

Yes On A
Affordable Homes

No on B
Tax Cop Scheme

Yes on C
Improve Downtown/More Housing

Yes on D
Police Cameras

Yes on E
Safer City

Yes on F
Addiction Treatment/Accountability

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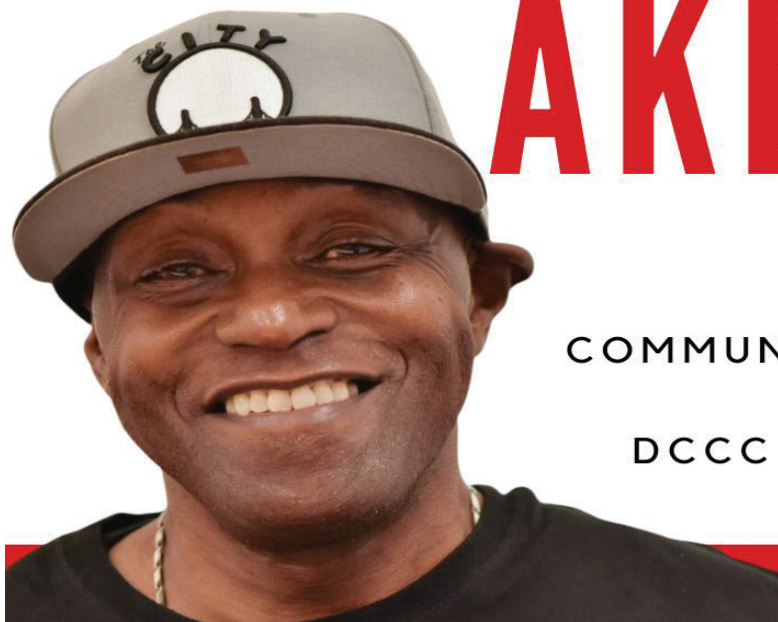
MARCH 5

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AKBAR

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COMMUNITY LEADER
ADVOCATE
DCCC CANDIDATE



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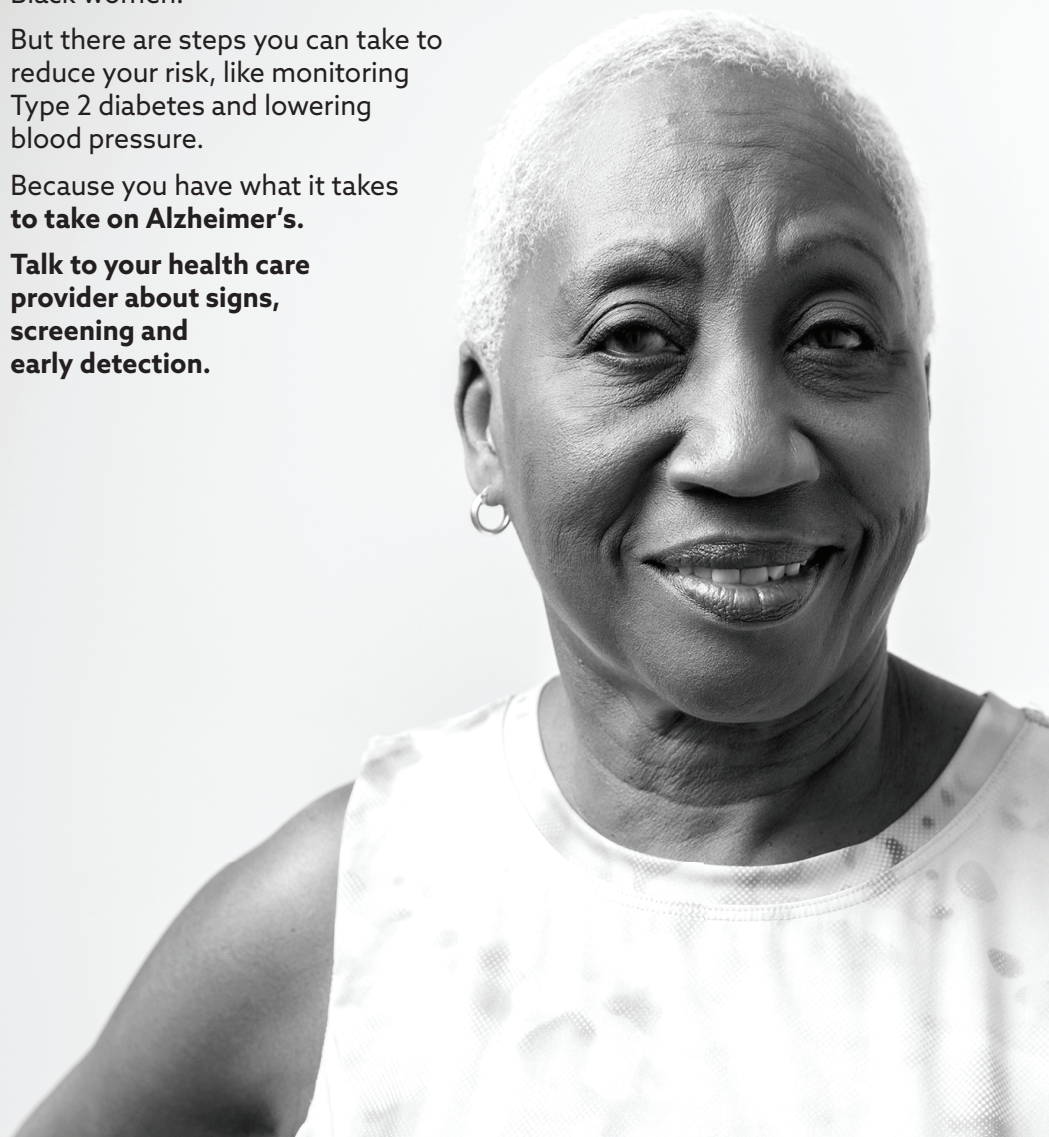
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HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Reparations

Continued from page 1

their support and criticism of the 14-bill reparations package with California Black Media (CBM).

A Coalition for a Just and Equitable California (CJEC) stated that the CLBC's package does not address direct-cash payment, which, for that group's leadership, is a non-negotiable component of any proposed compensation package.

“Our coalition’s unwavering commitment has been to pursue lineage-based reparations, encompassing direct monetary payments/compensation, state recognition of descendants as a protected class, and the establishment of the California American Freedman Affairs Agency through Senate Bill (SB) 490,” CJEC member Chris Lodgson outlined in a statement.

Lodgson continued, “We believe these vital components are imperative and a necessary first step toward true Reparations. As we’ve communicated to elected officials directly for some time, we believe any Reparations package must be targeted explicitly and exclusively to California’s 2 million Black American descendants of person enslaved in the U.S. (American Freedmen).”

Media present at the news briefing persistently questioned Wilson and other CLBC members about direct payments.

Wilson mentioned that the budget deficit California is currently facing has become consideration in discussions about compensation. A Legislative Analyst's Office report released Feb. 20, estimates that the state's budget shortfall could expand to \$73 billion by May.

“In regard to direct-cash payments to individuals we will continue to have that discussion as we navigate

the next few years," Wilson said. "As noted, we're halfway through a legislative session. We have about three months of the legislative process in each house (Senate and Assembly) to work through these existing bills. In the next session, we have two years, and during that two-year session, we will consider of the fact concluding additional payments whether they are direct-cash payments or direct payments to communities," Wilson said.

The Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation, and Truth (ARRT), a collaboration of California's leading Black power-building and justice groups, supports seven of CLBC's 14 reparations bills with proposals that include the restoration of property, establishing the property tax assistance for Descendants of enslaved persons program, a formal apology for human rights violations and crimes against humanity, amending the California Constitution to prohibit involuntary servitude for incarcerated persons, and prohibiting discrimination based on natural and protective hairstyles.

“The California Legislative Black Caucus reparations package marks a historic and meaningful moment in time. AART encourages lawmakers to pursue an even more expansive and definitive action to fulfill the reparations principles as recognized by the United Nations,” stated James Woodson, AART co-founder and Executive Director of the California Black Power Network. “Reparative justice must be impactful, transformative, and enduring, thus paving the way toward atoning for the wrongdoings deeply imprinted in the state’s history and healing this democracy.”

ARRT is a collaboration between the Black Equity Collective, the California Black Power Network, Catalyst California, Equal Justice Society, and Live Free USA,

Live Free California.

Former members of the California reparations task force have partnered with AART. Loyola-Marymount clinical psychologist professor Dr. Cheryl Grills, Oakland-based civil rights attorney Lisa Holder, Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of California Berkeley professor Dr. Jovan Scott Lewis, and Oakland-based attorney Donald Tamaki.

“We absolutely are (in support of direct-cash payments),” Woodson told California Black Media. “I think we got to have it all. There were multiple harms that were caused and one of them was financial and that needs to be compensated for cash payments. And there are also systemic harms that were created. We need to change laws. We need to change how rules work because a lot of it flows out of anti-Black racism. We have to have everything because if you leave anything out it’s not for reparations.”

Sources shared with CBM that there will be a series of listening sessions with the CLBC to help educate Californians about the reparation bills and the workings of the legislative process.

The members of the CLBC are Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson (D-Suisun City); Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood); Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa); Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights); Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena); Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson); Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Riverside); Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles); Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood); Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento); and Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles).

Sun Reporter



(ISSN 0890-0930)
Dedicated to the cause of the people--
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Published weekly by
Sun-Reporter Publishing Co.
1286 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA. 94115
Periodicals Postage Paid At
San Francisco, California
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to -
Sun-Reporter Publishing Co.
1286 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA. 94115
Phone: (415) 671-1000
Fax: (415) 671-1005
E-Mail address:
SunReporter@SBCglobal.net
Website:
www.TheSunReporter.com
Subscription Rates:
\$20 per year; 30 cents per copy.
Member of National Newspaper
Publishers Association, Inc., and
California Publishers Association.
Sun-Reporter has a six-column
format, 1.895" per column with .125"
between each column.
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SAN FRANCISCO'S SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL PROGRAM: OVER 140,000 POUNDS OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTIONS SAFELY DIVERTED

San Francisco, CA – Mayor London N. Breed today provided an update about the City's significant progress made to collect and safely dispose of over 140,000 pounds of unused medication under the Safe Medicine Disposal Program from 2017 to 2022. The Mayor championed the ordinance in 2015, setting the way for the program's inception.

Sponsored by then-Supervisor Breed and passed by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, the San Francisco Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance provides residents with free, safe, and convenient ways to dispose of their unwanted and expired medicines. Overseen by the San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), the Safe Medicine Disposal Program provides drop-off kiosk locations, mail-back envelopes, and one-day collection events funded by pharmaceutical makers that produce a range of prescription medications.

"In championing the passage of this landmark ordinance in 2015, my aim was to address the immediate dangers posed by unused medications while promoting a culture of care and responsibility throughout our City," said Mayor London Breed. "This is a free program that is simple and convenient for residents to participate, and the benefits are significant.

It keeps prescription drugs off our streets, out of the hands of children, and out of the environment. This is remarkable to see, almost a decade later, how the program continues to offer major benefits to our City."

Residents can safely dispose unused and expired prescriptions, as well as over-the-counter medications. San Francisco residents utilized a total of 62 collection kiosk locations, 164 mail-back envelope distribution sites, as well as one-day disposal events to safely dispose of their unused pharmaceuticals.

"Our program tackles a vital challenge affecting communities around the world. It provides a simple and effective way to keep our water clean and our residents safe from risks of unused drugs," said Tyrone Jue, Director of the Environment Department. "Residents can drop off unwanted medications when they go to pick up their prescriptions, and our residents with limited mobility can participate by requesting pre-paid, mail-back envelopes be sent directly to their homes. Our approach, based on the principle of extended producer responsibility, delivers concrete results and is a model for what we can achieve when we work together through the product lifecycle in the common interest of public

health and environmental sustainability."

The safe collection and disposal of unused pharmaceuticals is an essential public safety imperative. Unused medicines can all too easily be diverted for illegal use and resale. As cities across the country grapple with the sale of illegal narcotics, this program has kept more than 140,000 pounds of medicine off the street—and out of trash bins, protecting children, pets, and wildlife who come into contact with medicines from accidental poisoning. Additional risks for children include consumption of medicines mistaken for candy, and sanitation workers that can be harmed by discarded injectors such as Epi-Pens, if thrown in the garbage.

Due to federal DEA requirements, only pharmacies, hospitals or clinics with a pharmacy, law enforcement agencies, and narcotics treatment programs can lawfully host medicine collection kiosks. Residents in all 11 of San Francisco's Districts can drop their expired and unwanted medicines in the collection kiosks at all San Francisco Police Stations, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital's outpatient pharmacy, Kaiser Permanente, and many retail pharmacies throughout the city including many CVS and Walgreens locations.



Since the free program began in 2017 under an ordinance sponsored by Mayor Breed when she was Supervisor, the City has kept unsafe medications out of communities, outdoor spaces and water sources

"We are committed to keeping illegal drugs off our streets – including unused pharmaceuticals that can be sold on the black market," said SFPD Chief Bill Scott. "We have provided drop-off locations at all our district stations where anyone can dispose their unwanted pharmaceuticals. Please help us keep these drugs out of the wrong hands."

"Keeping unneeded or expired medications is a public health risk, especially for people with children or teens at home," said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health. "The misuse of prescription medications can lead to hospitalization or death from unintentional overdose

or poisoning. Medication collection sites like those we have in San Francisco are a valuable and necessary service that helps people to prevent medications in their name from hurting someone."

The safe collection and disposal of unused pharmaceuticals is also an environmental imperative. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceutical chemicals, and when medicines are flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain, they can pass untreated into surrounding waterbodies and contaminate drinking water sources. When old medicines are thrown into garbage destined for landfill, they can also leach into waterbodies.



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Judge Patrick Thompson was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Gavin Newsom because of his outstanding qualifications. Judge Thompson graduated from Harvard Law School and went on to a distinguished legal career. He has also served our community working to expand access to health care in San Francisco and to promote programs that support the youth.

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Judge Thompson is one of just a handful of African American judges, but he is now the subject of unfair attacks from a group funded by conservative mega-donors.

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The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.
Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Biden’s Walk Can Beat Trump’s Talk with the Working Class, But He Needs to Speak Up

By Ben Jealous

Spoiler alert! Donald Trump will be allowed to remain on the ballot this fall.

One way or another, the Supreme Court is going to decide that a state cannot remove Trump from based on the 14th amendment’s ban on insurrectionists holding elected office. Trump is an insurrectionist. But that is not the question currently before the Court. The decision will likely be joined by some of the Court’s moderates. It could even be unanimous.

Regardless of the reasoning behind or the narrowness of

the ultimate decision, another barrier will be removed for Trump. His base will be further energized.

Increasingly, the question on many people’s minds is this: with the Trump train picking up speed again, what can President Biden really do to stop it?

The first step is to recognize what we’re dealing with. Yes, many Americans are depressed about this election, and depressed about it being a rematch between the same people who were on the ballot last time. However, turnout will still be high.

It is still a presidential year. The media coverage will not let any of us escape constantly

hearing about the election. And people know there is a ton at stake.

Each side sees a lot to fight against. Each side sees a lot to fight for. This election is likely to go to the side that working class America believes is fighting for them.

In order to understand working class America today, we have to understand a huge swath of working-class America generally has the same address. It is the place where the factory shut down and opiate addiction, meth addiction, and suicide shot up.

The economic and social struggles of this broad base of American society define the political moment that we

are in. It is a populist one. This has allowed Donald Trump to speak to Americans’ anxieties with no intention of following through, and in completely dishonest ways.

Trump has been stealing Bernie Sanders’ talking points since back in 2016. Remember before the all the “rigged election” rhetoric, Trump spoke of the “rigged economy.” He truthfully told voters our healthcare system is broken but dishonestly said he would give us a better one. And, of course he lambasted NAFTA as the disaster it was. It was all empty rhetoric. Trump lacked the conviction, knowledge, and genuine desire to do anything about these issues.

Take the issue of trade. All of Trump’s tough “America first” talk about trade belies the fact that his policies would do nothing to ensure American competitiveness. Despite China being a favorite target from the stump, Trump would allow China to dominate the emerging global economy by preventing the domestic growth of the industries at its center.

The irony is that what working class America is demanding, Joe Biden is delivering. He is just not talking about it.

Biden’s landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is reopening American factories, rebuilding American manufacturing, and creating jobs. Our current president is backing up industrial unions like the United Auto Workers when they find themselves in a real fight. And he is ensuring that America seizes the moment to lead the world economy in this century like we did the last one.



Ben Jealous

In a world where Donal Trump talks the talk and Joe Biden walks the walk, we should assume that the talker has the advantage. The only way to bridge that gap is for President Biden to start talking the talk too. As a guy from Scranton, he knows how to do it and it is authentically in his heart.

President Biden does not need to sound more like Trump. Trump is all bluster and aims only to foment anger. What President Biden needs to do is make it clear that when it comes to cars and energy, there is only one future: electric vehicles and renewable sources like solar and wind.

He needs to speak plainly about how if America does not seize these markets and support the manufacturing sectors behind these industries, China will. China already controls more than 80 percent of the world's solar manufacturing capacity and the Chinese electric car industry is growing rapidly.

To be sure, there are many, many factors at play in this year’s election. But many of the big ones tie back to the working class. For instance, the gender gap has grown – but not necessarily in Biden’s favor. Women skew more heavily towards Biden in polls that follow public displays of Trump’s misogyny or news of his sexual assaults. But in general, recent polls are showing Biden’s base advantage with women has shrunk. Meanwhile, the gender gap for men skews more and more heavily towards Trump. That is driven by the trend among working-class men. And it is working-class men of all races – including growing numbers of Black men.

Democratic politicians need to get over their default inclination to disregard working-class white men in their messaging. It ultimately leads to disregarding working-class people across the board.

We all grew up hearing that actions speak louder words. But talking the talk is becoming more and more important in our politics. This is not a case against action. Rather, where President Biden is already showing great leadership with his actions, he needs to also make sure the American people hear about it.

Civil Rights Leaders Urge Solidarity With Palm Springs Section 14 Survivors

Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr. | California Black Media

About 70 years ago, beginning in the 1950s through the 1960s, the Riverside County resort city of Palm Springs demolished the homes and other prosperities of some of its Black and Latino residents without warning or compensation in an area known as Section 14.

Frederick Douglass Haynes III, President and CEO of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition -- successor to the Rev. Jesse Jackson – praised advocates from different backgrounds for standing in solidarity with the descendants of Section 14.

Haynes was speaking at a prayer vigil organized to coincide with Black History Month and to support survivors and descendants. It was held at the Church of St. Paul in the Desert in Palm Springs.

“What is occurring right now in Palm Springs is a beautiful show of unity across faiths, backgrounds, races, sexual orientations, age, and beyond. This city has an opportunity to be a leader, and to show the

rest of the country how much good can come from standing together and doing the right thing for each other. It’s as simple as that,” said Haynes.

“Black history is American history – and that means speaking candidly about the past, even if it creates discomfort,” said Areva Martin, lead counsel for the Section 14 Survivors.

“The sixties and fifties weren’t that long ago, but for my clients, the destruction of their homes, possessions, and community sixty years ago has deeply impacted their lives to the present day,” continued Martin. “With strong allies across the region and state – now, with Rev. Dr. Haynes,

a national civil rights leader joining us – we are building a powerful coalition of supporters and allies, and our movement is being recognized by leadership here in Palm Springs and beyond. We are grateful for the support we have received, and for the prayers of everyone across this city and region. Hopefully by this time next year, we will honor Black History Month in Palm Springs with a celebration of justice achieved.”

Hanes said Section 14 survivors have waited too long for justice.

“Today, we lift our hearts and hands in prayer for the leaders of this beautiful



Attorney Areva Martin (left) engages in a thought-provoking conversation with Pastor Freddy Haynes of Friendship-West Baptist Church and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition during a compelling event shared on Facebook.

city to seek a path forward and allows justice to be that honors the past realized here,” he said.

Legislative Analyst’s Office: California Budget “Problem” to Grow by Estimated \$15 Billion

Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr. | California Black Media

On Feb. 20, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) released an update on the California state budget. According to the report, the projected budget shortfall could

increase by \$15 billion by the time the Governor presents his revised 2024-25 spending plan in May.

Previously, the LAO had estimated the state will have a \$58 billion deficit. Now, based on the most recent calculations, that figure has been updated to \$73 billion.

“The actual increase in

the state’s budget problem will depend on a number of factors, including formula-driven spending changes, most notably Proposition 98 spending requirements for schools and community colleges,” the LAO report states.

Last week, the California Department of Finance also released its February

report, which indicated that revenues received during the last month are 19.7% (or \$5 billion) below the Governor’s budget forecast for January.

The revenue sources in the report include personal income cash receipts, corporation tax cash receipts and sales and use tax cash receipts.



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THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By
Shunda Criswell

Sustaining Our Faith

Lesson Text: Jude 1:17-25

In a typical letter opening, Jude identifies himself and his audience and prays for them. • **keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ** (or keeps you for Jesus Christ): This description introduces an important emphasis and gives assurance in the context of false teaching. In Jude 17-23, After condemning the false teachers, Jude again encourages his readers directly (see vv 3-4). They had been warned by the apostles about false teaching (vv 17-19). They should encourage each other in the faith (vv 20-21) and reach out to those who might be going

astray through the false teachers' influence (vv 22-23). (New Living Translation Bible). In a typical letter opening, Jude identifies himself and his audience and prays for them. • keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ (or keeps you for Jesus Christ): This description introduces an important emphasis that gives assurance in the context of false teaching. They were ungodly people. Such as being ungrateful and they were ambitious, and prideful, professing to be leaders, practicing immoral lifestyles, perverting the grace of our Lord and God, promoting immorality, mocking God's judgment, despising authority, seeking wealth in greed and speaking evil

of others. Jude was the brother of Jesus Christ, and an elder and talented leader. He was labeled an opposer of Jesus until after the Resurrection. In addition to examples from the Old Testament of God's punishment of sin (1:5-7) and citations from prophecy about the Second Coming (1:14-15), Jude appealed to the believers to remember what the apostles had said regarding false teachers. The words of the apostles were already being considered authoritative and on the level of Scripture. The words quoted here, "in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to enjoy themselves in every evil way imaginable," parallel 2 Peter 3:3. The "last times" began with Christ's resurrection and will continue until his return, when he will set up his Kingdom and judge all humanity. Jesus and the apostles forewarned all believers that during that interim, including the time period in which we live, "scoffers" will come. To "scoff" means to show contempt for something by one's actions and language, to mock. These false teachers scoffed at the truth and taught their own lies. They despised all morality and religion. Jesus had warned against the deception of false teachers (see Mark 13:21-23), as had Paul (see also Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5), Peter (2 Peter 2:1-3:7), and John (1 John 2:22; 4:1-3; 2 John). Because Jesus and the apostles had warned against false teachers, the church must also be prepared. (Life Application New Tes-

tament Commentary). (Jude 18). These false teachers should have been easy to spot. They were not godly ministers; rather, they lived by natural instinct—living to please themselves and their sinful desires. They did not have God's Spirit living in them. They set themselves above all other Christians because of their imagined superior knowledge and understanding of their "freedom" in Christ. Those allegedly enlightened enough to join them regarded themselves as distinct and superior from others in the church. Thus, Jude condemned these false teachers for creating divisions. Ironically, the very presence of these false teachers who scoffed at the apostles' teachings and at the prophecies of the Second Coming was a fulfillment of prophecy. The apostles had indicated that these false teachers would be abundant in "the last days" (see 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 John 2:18-26). Their presence only further assured the believers that Christ would soon return. (Life Application New Testament Commentary). (Jude 19). The believers could stand against the false teachers if they followed Jude's advice in four areas. First, they must build on the firm foundation of their faith, standing strong. They could do this by staying close to other believers and by continuing in worship, including taking the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11). Second, Jude encouraged the believers to continue to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prays on behalf of believers (see Romans

8:26-27), opens their minds to Jesus (John 14:26), and teaches believers more about their Lord. Prayer is the lifeline that connects all Christians to their Savior. Believers must never stop praying. (Life Application New Testament Commentary). Third, believers should live in such a way that God's love could bless them. This means that the believers must stay close to God and his people, not listening to false teachers who would try to pull them away (see John 15:9-10). Obedience is the key. The false teachers had flouted obedience and thus had stepped out of God's love. Fourth, the believers should patiently wait for the eternal life promised by the Lord Jesus Christ. The promises will come true. Christ will return and bring his people into eternal glory with him. While believers have already received his mercy, they must wait for the consummation of that mercy when their salvation will be made complete (Also read 2 Peter 3:11-12, 14). Believers wait in confident expectation. God's promises are not "ifs" but "whens." They must know, beyond any doubt, that their Savior will soon return for them. (Life Application New Testament Commentary). Although the false teachers were hopelessly entrenched in their sin and Satan's grip, the believers had a responsibility to those who had fallen prey to false teaching. As the letter began, it ended—with assurance. In this great doxology, Jude stressed the mighty power of God to keep us securely in him. God is able to keep believers from

falling prey to false teachers. Although false teachers were widespread and dangerous, although it would be dangerous to attempt to rescue slipping fellow Christians, the believers should not retreat or be afraid. Instead, they should trust God and remain rooted and grounded in him. God can be trusted to bring all believers into his glorious presence. We should praise him for this great promise. The believers could trust that God would do as he promised and one day bring them to himself. But that will not be a day of punishment (as it will be for the false teachers). Rather, it will be a day of joy, for God will present his people innocent of sin and with great joy. When Christ appears, and we are given our new bodies, we will be like him (1 John 3:2). Coming into Christ's presence will be a time of "great joy" for God and for all believers. Finally, in Jude 25, the author recorded, "Contemplating the great joy awaiting all believers and the fulfillment of God's promises of eternal glory, Jude praised God with a beautiful doxology. Jude had originally intended to write about the salvation all believers shared (1:3); he got his chance here. This one final verse captures the focus and goal of believers' salvation and faith. Christianity is not a series of made-up ideas or free-floating thoughts; it is faith in a person—not just any person, but God who became our Savior, **through Jesus Christ**. To this God alone the believers should ascribe. Be Blessed Saints!!!

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qm
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