

UPTOWN STANDARD

JULY/AUGUST 2020

FREE

BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS LOOK TO POLICE THE POLICE



The Police Reform Working Group is a collection of elected officials and advocates working to bring accountability and transparency reforms to law enforcement. With all that has been going on across the country our elected officials have responded and responded loudly by passing quick hard hitting legislation to police the police.

The working group is composed of State Representatives and City Councilmembers. The majority of the City Councilmembers were elected to City Council in 2019 such as; Philadelphia Councilmember-At-Large Isaiah Thomas, Philadelphia Councilmember-At-Large

Kendra Brooks, Philadelphia Councilmember-At-Large Katherine Gilmore Richardson. At this point Philadelphia Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson is the only City Council veteran that is a member of the committee.

There are also a select group of young veteran State Representatives that have joined the committee as well such as; House Democratic Whip Jordan Harris, House Democratic Chairwoman Joanna McClinton, House Philadelphia Delegation Chairman Jason Dawkins, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Stephen Kinsey, State Rep. Donna Bull-

ock, State Rep. Danilo Burgos, State Rep. Morgan Cephas, State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, and State Rep. Chris Rabb.

Recently, the group had the following to say about working with Mayor Kennedy's administration in the near future:

"To bring about true and meaningful law enforcement reform, we must work together with leaders at all

levels of government so the voices of those we represent can be heard and forward-thinking change achieved. We've already had several conversations with Mayor Kenney's administration and those discussions have been promising. We appreciate the mayor's willingness to listen and believe that his announcement today is the first step in what will be a long, but productive, journey to reform."

The group has already accomplished a great deal; at the state level they have passed legislation to require law enforcement officers to be evaluated for PTSD after lethal use of force, create a database to track police to prevent troubled from moving from department to department after being released, and lobbied for Gov. Wolf to create Deputy Inspector General to investigate corrupt police departments.

**INSIDE:
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PEACE AND LOVE
UPTOWN BUSINESS GUIDE**

BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS LOOK TO POLICE THE POLICE (CONT.)

Just recently Rep Chris Rabb legislation House Bill 1841, which would improve police accountability and safety, gained unanimous support in the House of Representatives.

A very emotional Rep. Chris Rabb read a passage his great-great-great-grandfather, Rev. Amos Noë Freeman, co-authored with four other men, including Frederick Douglass, for the Colored National Convention in July 1853. ‘We ask that in our native land, we shall not be treated as strangers, and worse than strangers.

‘We ask that, being friends of America, we should not be treated as enemies of America.

‘We ask that, speaking the same language and being of the same religion, worshipping the same God, owing our redemption to the same Savior, and learning our duties from the same Bible, we shall not be treated as barbarians.’

“In this moment, we are acknowledging and affirming everyone’s humanity and belief that everyone should be held to the same high standard of excellence, that we believe in transparency and accountability,” Rabb

said in the House chamber during legislative session.

At the municipal level City Council has reduced the Police Department funding by \$33 million and they have called for the following reforms; body cameras for police officers, implicit bias training for police, engage mental health professionals for police-assisted diversion, adding an Equity Manager for the police force, transfer funding for crossing guards (\$12.3 million) and public safety enforcement officers (\$1.9 million) to Managing Director’s Office (MDO), create a Deputy Inspector General for police-related investigations (in MDO), fund a Police Oversight Commission (\$400,000 to MDO), and additional funding for the Public Defender (\$1.2 million).

“Specifically, the mayor’s commitment to an immediate update to the police use-of-force policies, creation of a deputy inspector general focused on deterring, detecting, preventing and eradicating waste, fraud and abuse within law enforcement, increased transparency regarding Internal Affairs investigations and changes to collective bargaining are well much-needed changes that will increase transparency and

accountability while improving the safety of our communities. These are the type of changes necessary to stop the bleeding from centuries-old wounds of police brutality in Black and Brown communities.”

“As Mayor Kenney said, we are only at the beginning of this process. We’ve seen and heard the anger of Phil-

adelphians and Pennsylvanians across the state who are demanding change. As we move forward working with Mayor Kenney’s administration, we will bring those voices with us and ensure they’re heard. We will ensure that the voices we convey are just as loud throughout this long process of reform as they are in the beginning. We will not be

satisfied with small victories, as small victories won’t put an end to the needless death of members of our communities.”

By Brandon Brown
Photos Courtesy of: PA.Gov, PHLCouncil.com, Isaiah Thomas Facebook, Kendra Brooks Facebook.



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UPTOWN’S OWN MAURICE BROADWATER JR. LAUNCHES BOOM CANDLES



Leaders come in all shapes and sizes. But a leader that makes candles now that’s something special.

Maurice Broadwater Jr. a

former Paul Robeson Husky and former 800-meter standout has now found a new way to spark a passion. Why the fancy wordplay well easy Broadwater is now the proud owner of Boom Candles. Homemade Candles with 11 scents made by Broadwater himself.

“When the quarantine hit, I needed a way to make some extra money,” says Broadwater as he explains where he first saw this done at a high level, “A group of teens in Harlem did the same thing and now they

are millionaires!”

While making money is on this young entrepreneur’s mind, he has big dreams for the company and has the belief and passion that he could sell candles not only in Philadelphia but Worldwide. Currently Boom Candles come in 11 different scents, scents include, Lush Linen, HoneySuckle and Jasmine, Apple Maple Bourbon and Caribbean Teakwood, just to name a few. Broadwater is always looking to add new scents as well as different sizes of jars to satisfy his already

large client base.

In his younger years Broadwater Jr. was tasked by his father Maurice Broadwater Sr. to be the team captain of the now the former Ivy Hill Track club, a creation from the older Broadwater’s mind. “At 11 years old my dad made me the team Captain and said that I needed to step up”. As Broadwater Jr. grows up this lesson and growth continues to push him in that same direction, but now with an idea of building an industry.

Boom Candles can be pur-

chased directly from Maurice Broadwater Jr. via Facebook or Instagram by searching Boom Candles. The current price of the candles is \$10 and can be delivered to your doorstep with a simple request.

At one point it was Broadwater who led a group of youth onto a track and now he is hoping to lead the world of “candle making,” with a goal to spread his light all over the World.

By Andre Brown
Photos by Andre Brown

TENT CITY: A QUEST FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC HOUSING



Juneteenth was officially named a holiday on June 19th. While many buildings closed, and groups put together small celebrations and protest, another group of people were in a very unique situation.

Only about a few city blocks from the Philadelphia Museum of Art is a city of tents. In these tents are over 200 of the cities homeless with an additional 100 volunteers. People from all walks of life have positioned themselves in this park not only for shelter but to demand public housing in Philadelphia.

“We are running out of resources,” says 29-year-old Ron one of the leaders who has been talking to people to receive more equipment. “Currently we need tents, blankets, locks, and sleeping bags,” says Ron.

In addition to medical personal, there are many services such as barbers, and beauticians available in this encampment. Additionally, there is also a chef who now

says there is a lack of protein, and encourages people to donate things such as hot dogs in order to feed the people.

While their List of Demands are clear, it is not clear how long this will continue. many of the people in the

encampment are afraid to talk.

Tanya or Tata was one of the residents of this “Tent City” who wanted to speak out about who she was and why this is important to her.



Tanya who referred to herself as the “Queen of the City,” says it is her job to protect the people in this camp. “I love the people, and all we want is unity and respect,” says 24-year old Tanya.

Tanya spoke on the many hardships that contributed to her being homeless including a tragic incident that left her 1-year old child in a bathtub dead. “I believe that we all will make it out of here,” says Tata,” Belief is the main thing we must all have to achieve this goal of adequate public housing.”

While many of the countless

protests have brought attention to so many of the issues that were unheard of, these people are looking for answers.

Much like how Juneteenth represents freedom for the slaves, the absents of tents in the park could represent equal public housing for the homeless community in the City of Brotherly Love.

By Andre Brown
Photos by Andre Brown

Dan Jenkins Photography

PORTRAITS & SPECIAL EVENTS
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HAIR POP UP SHOP AT BROAD AND OLNEY



Hair is a form of expression that allows us to be who we are. Taking care of

that hair can sometimes be difficult.

For 35 year old Syco hair has been the reason to start a new business. Jamaican Party Extension is a pop up newsstand version of a hair store.

Located on the corner of Broad and Olney on the Girls High side of the street. A young shopper exclaimed Pattie’s pro-

vides, “convince and variety!”

For Syco life in his hometown of Spanish Town JA has prepared him for this moment. “I was a loner,” he says, “I had to learn self-Control and self reliance, and learn to believe in myself.”

35 year old owner Syco islands vibes make shopping at Patties Extension

extremely enjoyable.

As a new piece of the community Syco ensures that this is just the first stop. “I started off with a comb,” Syco wh is humbled by his beginnings, “Now I’m looking to build this into a franchise.”

This is a very different shopping experience but is a great way to grab necessary items for men and

women to beautify their hair.

“All one people, all one nation, and all one youth coming together to change the community.” The hope that owner Syco feels he will provide the Olney section of Philadelphia.

By Andre Brown
Photo by Andre Brown



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CHANGE MAKERS: PEACE AND LOVE



Herman Davis is an entrepreneur and community activist. Herman has dedicated his life and his business to make change for his community, and the entire world. His determination and hard work to put an end to domestic violence and its terrifying effects on the urban community makes him the perfect candidate for our *Change Maker of the month*.

Davis' journey began not too long after his sister, Theresa Davis, mother of three, was murdered by her husband in 1985. Shortly after, energized by the former mayor Michael Nutter's decision to cut crucial funding to a local woman's shelter his sister frequently stayed at when she was alive, Herman Davis, along with his sister, started

Peace and Love.

"We started by doing programs in local schools to raise awareness of lives lost to senseless violence and domestic violence," Davis said.

Peace and Love is a non-profit group that works to advocate against violence and its plague on the urban community. The group also works to encourage the youth to take an interest in nonviolent therapeutic avenues such as art. "Art is a form of therapy, poetry, writing, dancing, even just putting your headphones on and listening to music, it can help people heal from traumatic experiences they might face that could potentially lead to violence." Davis stated. The goal is to help the effected youth make better choices when faced with challenges. Herman believes art can be used as not only therapeutic relief, but as a vehicle for change.

Peace and Love is a Phila-

delphia based organization and have visited many schools throughout the tri-state area. They have also visited numerous HBCUs, or Historically Black Colleges and Universities; they have even had their message heard in other countries. Davis said in an interview,



"Peace and Love will be global, I see it continuing to grow here in the U.S. and outside of our country as well."

"At Peace and Love, we try to help people tap into the

healing of a loss, as well as the power of forgiveness. We believe forgiveness is crucial to healing." Herman said. When asked about the current state of our country and how he sees himself and his organization effecting change he said, "In all honesty, we have to start having conversations, not about the problem, about the solution. We know what the problem is, just look at our history, we as black men and woman have to begin to focus on the solutions not the problems."

To find out more or to get involved with Peace and Love, like them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/weneedpeaceandlove/ or follow them on Instagram @peaceloveworldwide. To shop with Peace and Love you can go to www.weneedpeaceandlove.com

By Brandon Brown



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