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WDAS HONORS WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE



COUNCILMEMBER KENDRA BROOKS AND OTHERS CALL FOR WEALTH TAX IN PHILADELPHIA



PA. HOUSE COMMITTEE ADVANCES BILL EXCLUDING TRANSGENDER ATHLETES FROM WOMEN'S SPORTS TEAMS



UPTOWN'S CALVIN R. TUCKER IS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PA GOP



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BBQ

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BBQ Chicken	\$9.25 (1/2) \$18.50 (Whole)
Jerk Chicken	\$9.25 (1/2) \$18.50 (Whole)
Fried Chicken	\$9.50 (1/2) \$18.50 (Whole)
BBQ, Jerk, or Fried Wing	\$4.65 (3 Wings)

Platters

BBQ Pork Ribs-	\$17.00
Pulled Pork-	\$15.00
BBQ Beef Ribs-	\$18.00
BBQ Chicken-	\$14.50
w/White Meat	\$15.50

Jerk Chicken-	\$14.50
w/White Meat	\$15.50
Fried Chicken-	\$14.50
w/White Meat	\$15.50
Chicken Wings-	\$13.25
BBQ Pork Ribs & Chicken-	\$22.50
w/White Meat	\$23.50
BBQ Beef Ribs & Chicken-	\$24.50
w/White Meat	\$25.50
Turkey Wing-	\$13.50

Seafood

Shrimp-	\$24.00 (12) \$12.00 (6)
Fresh Fish Sandwich-	
Whiting	\$9.75
Catfish	\$10.25
Swai	\$10.25
Fresh Fish Platter-	
Whiting	\$14.75
Catfish	\$15.25
Swai	\$15.25
Grilled Salmon	\$17.00
Shrimp Platter-	\$27.50 (12) \$17.00 (6)
Fish/Shrimp Combo Platter-	
Whiting	\$26.75
Catfish/Swai	\$27.25

Desserts

Apple Cobbler-	\$4.00
Peach Cobbler-	\$4.00
Assorted Cakes-	\$4.00
Banana Pudding	\$4.00

Signature Sides & Sides

Potato Salad-	\$4.00/8.00
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Collard Greens-	\$4.00/8.00
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Mac & Cheese-	\$4.75/\$9.50
String Beans-	\$4.00/8.00
Baked Beans-	\$4.00/8.00
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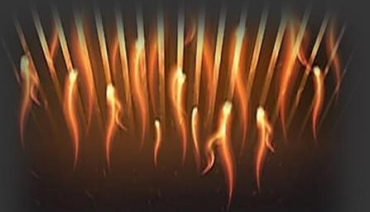
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Tasty Baked Mac & Cheese	\$4.75
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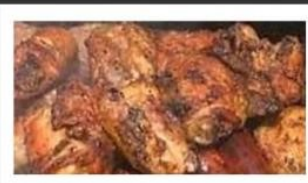
8 oz. portions
purchased separately from platter

PLATTERS

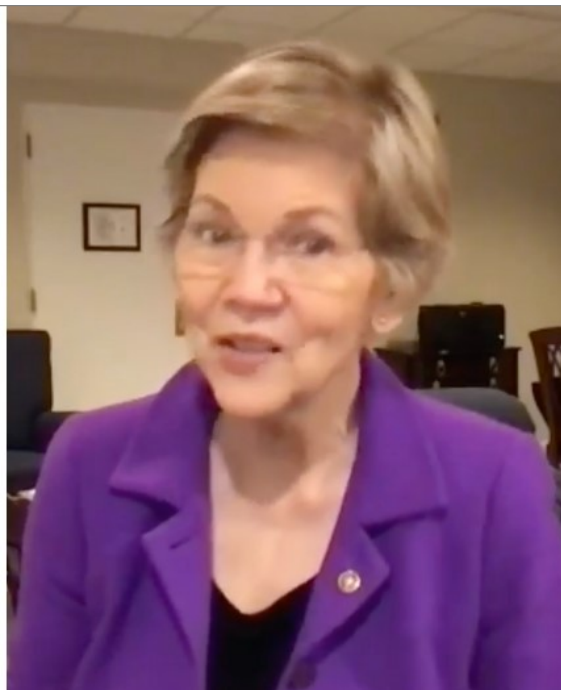
Chicken Platters	\$21.00
(1/2 of whole chicken w/(2) Sides)	
Fried Fish Platters	
3 pieces w/(2) sides	\$18.00
5 pieces w/(2) sides	\$20.00
Pork Rib Platters	\$23.00
With (2) Sides	
Beef Short Rib Platters	\$23.00
With (2) Sides	
Full Slabs	\$32.00

DESSERTS

Dessert of the Month	\$5.00
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CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CALL FOR WEALTH TAX IN PHILADELPHIA



By Alan Yu, WHYY
Photo by PHLCouncil.com

Philadelphia City Councilmembers Kendra Brooks and Jamie Gauthier joined Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, and local union leaders today in calling for a wealth tax on Philadelphia residents who hold stocks and bonds.

The bill would revive an old statewide Personal Property Tax at a rate of 0.4%. Under the tax, someone holding \$1,000 worth of stock would pay \$4, for example.

The tax would apply to all Philadelphia residents, but the idea is that it would mostly affect the wealthiest, who are much more likely to directly own stocks or bonds. The tax would not affect retirement accounts, pensions, or bank checking or savings accounts. Federal Reserve data from 2021 shows that the wealthiest 10% of Americans hold almost 90% of the stock on the market.

The wealth tax would make the richest residents pay taxes to fund services for those

most in need, said Brooks, who lives in Nicetown. “The long shadow of trickle-down economics haunts my community to this day,” she said. “You can see it in the widening racial wealth gap, you can see it in the way billionaires have increased their wealth over the pandemic, while my neighbors are on the brink of eviction.”

The City Council members point out the city budget has fallen by \$220 million from 2020 to 2021, leading to cuts in homeless services,

street cleaning, and public libraries. They estimate that the hundreds of millions of dollars from the tax would be able to fund at least homeless services, libraries, and the parks department, based on the city’s 2021 budget.

Councilmember Jamie Gauthier said she sees the impact of losing these services everyday in west and southwest Philadelphia, which she represents.

“Fixing these issues requires resources and that’s exactly what the wealth tax will bring to our communities that are most in need,” she said. “I want to be very clear that this is not charity — it’s what Philadelphians and Black and Brown Philadelphians in particular are owed.”

As Billy Penn’s Jordan Levy explained, the Personal Property Tax in Pennsylvania goes back to 1913, from an even older policy that taxed “intangible and tangible personal property.” Legislators changed the law so individual counties could decide whether or not to enforce it; Philadelphia chose

to keep the tax. Companies challenged the tax in the 1990s, leading to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that a policy in North Carolina was unconstitutional because it exempted businesses based in-state and run by state residents. Pennsylvania had a similar exemption; a judge ruled the exemption illegal but not the tax, and Philadelphia and most counties just chose not to enforce it.

Brooks had called for bringing back the tax in 2020, but that never got a hearing. Brooks said there is a broader base of support for the bill this time, including from two local municipal employee unions, whose leaders were at the press conference, as well as Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Warren said she is working on similar legislation at the federal level, and said that President Biden’s proposed minimum tax on billionaires is a good sign. The wealth tax supporters also point to similar efforts in California and Washington state as a sign that this is not a unique policy idea.

PHILLY POLICE ‘CAN’T KEEP UP’ WITH RISING HOMICIDE RATE, OUTLAW SAYS



By Peter Crimmins, WHYY
Photo by: Phila Police Dept.

The homicide rate in Philadelphia continues to rise higher than last year — which was a record year for homicides, although those numbers are slowly declining.

Currently, 121 people have been killed in Philadelphia since the beginning of the year, up 2% from last year. The crime numbers are counter-intuitive: there have been fewer shootings than last year, but more of those shootings have resulted in

deaths.

In their bi-weekly update on gun violence in Philadelphia, city officials admitted that the homicide rate in areas identified as hot spots of violence by the police department’s targeting Operation Pinpoint prevention program is actually rising. Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said homicides in the Operation Pinpoint grid are roughly 41% higher than last year.

“The truth is the homicides are not happening in a vacuum — there are those out

there who are determined to attack and kill their victims,” Outlaw said. “While we are making constant adjustments to mitigate this sickening reality, our officers, simply put, just can’t keep up by being everywhere at all times.” One of the problems, Outlaw said, is she has fewer officers. The police force is about 10% below full recruitment. Mayor Jim Kenney said the city’s efforts to recruit more officers are “handcuffed” by a city law that says new hires have to have lived in the city for at least a year before applying.

“If council members are requesting that we increase our police force, they got to take the handcuffs — so to speak — off our ability to recruit,” Kenney said. Outlaw urged residents to call 911 to report any information related to crime, and to take advantage of the breadth of resources available to people impacted by crime on the city’s 211 hotline.

UPTOWN'S CALVIN R. TUCKER IS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT & ADVANCEMENT.



By Shelly Shell Williams
Photo Credit: Calvin Tucker

Mr. Calvin R. Tucker, businessman, entrepreneur, management, and government relations with 30+ years of experience in the financial services industry, working primarily with SMB's. He served as an Executive, and Senior Officer with Advance Bank, United Bank of Philadelphia, GMAC Commercial Mortgage Corporation and has originated over \$750M in loan transactions. His current position is Deputy Chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and Director of Engagement & Advancement.

Calvin R. Tucker, a life-long Philadelphian from 16th & Berks in North Philadelphia, was inspired by his Stepfather because he was a hard-working long-shoreman and Republican politician.

Calvin R. Tucker's mission is to recruit African Americans into the Republican Party in a city where there is an overwhelming number of African Americans that primarily represent the Democratic Party.

Shelly Shell: What is it about Philadelphia that kept you here?

Calvin Tucker: The attitude, the people, the beauty, and the opportunity.

Shelly Shell: What did you want to be as a youth, and are you doing that now?

Calvin Tucker: This is difficult, but as a youth, I was trying to survive my environment; and today, I can say that I'm still trying to survive life's journey.

Shelly Shell: Your background is in the financial

services industry; what brought about the shift into politics?

Calvin Tucker: I started in politics as a young man. I worked with my mother, who was a Republican Committeewoman who introduced me to her ward leader. The Ward Leader would pick me up on weekends to accompany him as he would go about completing his political obligations. During those days, as a result of the Ward Leader's introduction, I met and worked with candidates like Arlen Specter, Tom Gola, Frank Rizzo, Phil Price, Dick Thornburg, Dr. Ethan Allen, Bea Chernock, Joan Specter, Richard Nixon, etc. ... In fact, a large portion of my college tuition at Lincoln University was paid with Senatorial Scholarships from both Republican and Democrat politicians such as Charlie Dougherty, Bob Rover, Paul McKinney, and Freeman Hankins.

Shelly Shell: When and why did you decide to be an advocate for the Republican Party?

Calvin Tucker: Because my parents were Republican politicians who spoke about both parties and talked about how as a people, we were being fooled by the Democrats. They would say that the Republican party offered the best solutions to address the needs of the black community. They talked about the history of both parties and how the Democratic party was founded by white supremacists, and the Republican was founded to fight slavery. Also, they noted that the first Black elected officials were Republicans.

Shelly Shell: In your role as Chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and Director of Engagement & Advancement, your chief responsibilities are recruit-

ing African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asian Americans, Millennials, and Women into the Republican Party of Pennsylvania. Why did you take on this role? What is the significance of garnering the support of this demographic for the Republican party?

Calvin Tucker: What I do in terms of advocating for the Republican Party in the minority is very critical in America and Pennsylvania in order to create competition among the two major parties in this nation, state, and city. Without competition, would a single party begin to seriously address the issues of poverty, unemployment, crime, dilapidated houses, drugs, health and wealth disparities, and economic distress that is prevalent, particularly in the underserved communities? Look around us as we live in these communities and ask yourself, why hasn't the dominant party provided

these solutions to the above issues? Simply put, I believe that the lack of competition is first and foremost the major factor that drives this disinterest in the challenges and issues in the minority community. I also believe that it is not because of the lack of minority or Black representation because we have significant Black representation in this city and around this country. Yet, the issues continue to persist in our community.

Shelly Shell: What type of flack do you get from African Americans for being a Republican?

Calvin Tucker: I don't get as much flack as one would think. However, when I am challenged about my voluntary choice of which party I am affiliated with, I am happy to make my case.

Shelly Shell: You served as a media surrogate and African American Advisor to Donald Trump; what type of opposition do you encounter?

Calvin Tucker: Not as much as one would think. When I do, I explain why I supported him. Candidate Trump before being elected President of the United States, was a business executive

who had the requisite skills to tackle the serious economic challenges facing America and our urban cities. He was not a politician who would be typically guided by polls, surveys, and lobbyists to make a decision about what he believed was right or wrong for the American people.

Shelly Shell: What are the primary responsibilities of a media surrogate?

Calvin Tucker: My primary responsibilities were meeting and talking to the media, domestically or internationally, about the candidate and his policies for the minority community. During my tenure, I was interviewed by no less than 75 media outlets [electronically or print].

Shelly Shell: Trump's presidency was a subject of much debate within the underserved and minority communities; how were you able to advocate for Trump's campaign in the African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos communities?

Calvin Tucker: In fact, quite easily since he embodied the attributes of a visionary who represented the change agent that our community needed to fight the many challenges that are embedded in our communi-

ty.

Shelly Shell: You are the co-host of WPFSI Radio Show; There's Money Out There," which airs on WURD 900 AM. Tell us, first off, where the money is (lol) and in what ways do you educate the community on how to obtain it?

Calvin Tucker: I was the former co-host of WPFSI Radio Show; There's Money Out There," which airs on WURD 900 AM. To answer where the money is: The money is in traditional i.e., Banks, Finance Companies, etc.. and nontraditional financial institutions (CDFIs, Credit Unions, Small Business Lenders, etc...), but many of our small businesses and entrepreneurs are not prepared to receive it. On this note, as a business consultant, I provide a series of Access to Capital workshops to educate small business owners on the elements i.e., factors that lenders seek when evaluating whether to lend money to a business. In fact, lenders only seek the answer to five [5] questions from a prospective business applicant.

Shelly Shell: You're serving in many roles and have achieved success in busi-

ness, politics, and media. Did I leave anything out? What is the one thing you still want to achieve?

Calvin Tucker: Immortality.

Shelly Shell: Who will have your endorsement for the next presidential election?

Calvin Tucker: It is too early to make any declaration on the prospects for the U.S. Presidency, but whoever that person, he/she will be someone from my party, is a problem solver and will address the issues and challenges that I laid out about with respect to the minority

community in general and the black community in specific. He or She must understand the economic condition that we've faced and have solutions to solve complex issues such as inflation, cost of energy, poverty, employment, homeownership gap, crime, etc...



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WDAS HONORS WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE



By Latrice Mudlow, VP

After being forced into a 2 year hiatus due to the pandemic.

There was something absolutely magical if you had the privilege to be in attendance yesterday at the "6th Annual WDAS Women of Excellence Luncheon 2022" The magnitude of excellence, grace, beauty and wisdom that filled the room was enough to leave one completely speechless, while filled with absolute pride and joy.

These WOMEN made the decision to answer and accept their calling to be of service to their community.

Their imprint of accomplishments, and future achievements will echo for lifetimes to come. And it is because of their hard work and dedication to our community that all can continue to believe and have hope for the positive change, improvement and impact that we all so tirelessly strive towards.

To whom much is given much is required. And these WOMEN have made the conscious decision to give their all day after day. They willingly endure personal sacrifices for the greater good of our community. That is something we do not take for granted and we love and honor you all that

much for it.

The Uptown Standard Newspaper would like to congratulate all of you. We Salute and thank you for your contributions and dedication to be of service.

Women of Excellence "Legend Award"
Sheryl Lee Ralph – Singer, Actress, Activist. Her award winning body of work includes film, television and the Broadway stage. Her accomplishments are one of EXCELLENCE! In addition to her contributions to the world of acting, entertainment and arts, she is also known for her Activist work through her DIVA Foundation that focuses strongly on the awareness of HIV and AIDS.

"Trailblazing Woman of Excellence Award"
Dr. Ala Stanford – is the Founder and CEO of the Black Doctors COVID19 Consortium (BDCC). Dr. Stanford has committed to serving the city of Philadelphia during the pandemic to provide access to reliable and trustworthy healthcare in underserved communities.

"The Dr. Ala Stanford Center for Health and Equality", will accept all patients including infants and adults.

She understands the importance of rebuilding a trustworthy Doctor/Patient relationship. And starts by providing access to all of who are in need, and to be an advocacy for her patients. She understands how important it is to be empathic so that a relationship can be established. And through that relationship, patients are more willing to be properly educated about healthcare, which then allows an opportunity for real action and change.

"Women of Excellence Honorees"

Bumi Fernandez West – Chief Executive Officer of the Odunde Festival

Catherine Hicks – President of the NAACP and Publisher of the Sunday Sun Newspaper

Tiffany Tavaréz – Senior VP of Technology Diverse Segments, Representation & Inclusion (TDSRI) and Technology DE&I Council

and Director of Communications, Wells Fargo

Anita T. Conner – Managing Partner, Anita T. Conner & Associates.

Tracy Davidson – Anchor NBC10 News

"Local Sheroes"

Trudy Haynes – The first African American TV News reporter for KYW-TV, now known as CBS 3, in Philadelphia.

Traci M. Smith – Founder of "Traci's Bio" (Beautiful Inside & Out). A Non-Profit Organization for Breast Cancer Awareness

Tanya T. Morris – Founder of "Mom Your Business", to support mompreneurs and professional

Chekesha Ellis – Founder of "Chase No More", an organization that provides support to individuals suffering with substance use disorder.

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BIDEN LAYS OUT A 'FUND THE POLICE' BUDGET PLAN



Photo Courtesy of the Philadelphia Police Department

By Ariana Figueroa,
Pennsylvania Capital Star

The Biden administration is requesting billions in its fiscal 2023 budget from Congress to fund police departments, despite progressive Democrats' calls for some of that spending to be reallocated to social services.

President Joe Biden's budget request to Congress unveiled Monday asks for \$30 billion for state and local governments to add more police officers across the nation.

Biden has countered the narrative that Democrats want to "defund the police," bringing up the administration's commitment to police departments in his State of the Union address to Congress, and in a recent visit to New York City, meeting with Mayor Eric Adams, after two police officers died in the line of duty.

The "defund the police" slogan means to redirect funding away from police departments and instead use those funds for alternatives through other government agencies that would place more stress on public health

solutions, prevention, intervention, and social services. The movement grew after the murder of George Floyd, a Black man, by police in Minneapolis in 2020.

Some cities have taken this approach, in Baltimore, the City Council voted to move \$22 million away from the police department's budget of more than \$500 million, and put those funds toward recreational centers, trauma centers, and loan forgiveness for minority-owned businesses.

Republicans in advance of the midterm elections have tried to use the "defund the police" debate to portray Democrats as soft on crime. Biden has repeatedly said that Democrats want to "fund the police" and has also touted allocations through the American Rescue Plan, which provided \$350 billion to local police and fire departments.

In its budget, the White House is also requesting \$1.7 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to expand its operation in tracking guns across multiple

districts by adding more personnel, regulating the firearms industry and modernizing its National Tracing Center, which helps law enforcement track the origin of a gun that has been found at a crime scene.

The White House is also requesting funds for the Department of Justice for police reform, prosecuting hate crimes, and enforcing voting rights. The proposal is for \$367 million, an increase of \$101 million from fiscal 2021.

That would include \$18 million for the FBI to investigate civil rights violations, \$8 million for the U.S. attorneys' offices to prosecute civil rights violations and \$1 million for the Criminal Division to expand its investigations of election-related crimes, such as voter suppression.

Biden's request to Congress also asks for \$106 million for the use of body cameras for the Department of Justice's law enforcement officers.

Keystone First proudly celebrates Black History Month 2022

We hail the 2022 theme: Black Health and Wellness. Keystone First has been caring for the community for more than 35 years with a firm dedication to promoting health equity and helping to improve the well-being of those we serve.

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COMMUNITY

SAPHE HAVEN INC, IS A NEW VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM



Asinia Abdul-Wakeel and his students. (Photos: ZLAW (Zaimah Abdul-Wakeel))

By Maleka Fruean,
Germantown Info Hub

Asinia Abdul-Wakeel would say everything he's done has led up to building his own nonprofit.

Whether through counseling, behavioral health coaching or building out peer mediation programs in the school district of Philadelphia, he has dedicated his life to building programs that help with the challenges that many younger folks face growing up in the city. As of last year, SAPHE Haven Inc. is a reality.

Abdul-Wakeel started SAPHE Haven's programs last year in Germantown at Waterview Recreation Center. His organization was a recipient of a grant from the Office of Violence Prevention. But SAPHE Haven had been a long time coming for him.

"Because I have a passion for youth, for helping youth that have challenges similar to the challenges I experienced growing up in this city in this particular neighborhood, that is definitely what guided me and motivated me to start my

nonprofit," Abdul-Wakeel said.

Abdul-Wakeel is no stranger to Germantown, having gone to what is now Mastery-Pickett School, continuing to Central High School, Drexel and LaSalle. Throughout all his school years, his mother stressed to him and his siblings the importance of education and he passed that on to his children and the students he works with as well.

Two of his most popular programs while working on peer mediation taught students how to counsel and mediate conflict between peers, and his "Healthy Relationships" program— all about healthy ways to interact with folks you are in relationships with. It was his most requested workshop. Abdul-Wakeel notes that many of the students he's worked with in the past appreciated the skills they learned in it.

"[I am] trying to give back to the kids and trying to teach them about health related things and topics that I know would have benefitted me if I had them

in addition to school and my academic career," Abdul-Wakeel said.

"What motivated me was in my master's program degree in LaSalle," he continued. "I gravitated to youth nonprofit development. My thesis was on violence prevention. I've always gravitated to violence prevention."

Abdul-Wakeel designed a violence prevention program for his thesis, but didn't get to implement it right away. After about seven years, and extra time and motivation when the pandemic started, he was

finally able to start his own program. Witnessing the rise of gun violence in the city was also a motivator.

Abdul-Wakeel heard about the Office of Violence Prevention grants the week before the application was due. He wrote up a grant proposal with a plan to market the program straight to kids using incentives, including free sneakers. And it worked.

That was last fall. It's been a journey of challenges with getting the actual grant monies reimbursed for executing the pro-

gram and a slew of Covid-19 related pauses, but doing direct engagement and outreach in front of schools, businesses, and libraries about the program got a regular group of kids out to Waterview Rec Center. In the end, reimbursements were made, and with his own investment and the community's help, he ran the program and had the class "graduate."

SAPHE Haven's programming has ended at Waterview Rec Center, but Asinia Abdul-Wakeel's nonprofit journey is still moving forward.

UPTOWN STANDARD PRESENTS

THE 2ND ANNUAL

UPPITY AWARDS

MUSIC BY DJ GARY O

OCTOBER 1, 2022
8PM-1PM
THE COMMODORE BARRY CLUB

POLITICS

PHILLY POLICE SAY SOCIAL MEDIA A CATALYST FOR GUN VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

By Tom McDonald, WHYY

Philadelphia Police say social media could be a motivator for some serious acts of violence in the city, but there are hopes neighborhood-level interventions could help stem the rising tide of violence.

During the city's bi-weekly violence update with reporters, Deputy Police Commissioner Ben Naish spoke about how some young people are committing violent acts for bragging rights. Naish said the pandemic was a driving force for the violence, with people cooped up in homes without an outlet to expend their energy. That, he said, resulted in bad acts happening in areas that spread across the country.

"The social media has been driving it," Naish said. "What we see in our society today, what happens in one part of the country, it doesn't take years to move across the country, so I think it was starting in other places, and it's not like I think it would have come here no matter what," he said. "They think it's a game," Naish said. "It's a sad indictment of today's society with some youths that don't understand the severity of what they are doing is life and death, and it can ruin their life as well as people, the impact that it has on the victims."

In many homicide investigations, there is specific talk to others on social media on different platforms about violence, he said. "As if it's like a trophy I am holding up, and it's all bad things." Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw added that the youth who are involved in

shootings are getting younger and younger.

"These kids are looking for a sense of belonging, and we have to just find ways and outlets [for them]," she said. Outlaw spoke about doing "dumb stuff" during her youth but added that children today have "instruments of harm" and the tools and equipment to commit serious violent acts. Erica Atwood, senior director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Criminal Justice and Public Safety, said they are moving teams of people back into neighborhoods to work on the violence issue now that COVID-19 numbers are trending down. Atwood spoke about the need to "be together and see each other, to get to know each other and to hear from one another as a part of this return to in-person events."

Atwood said one such event is an expungement and pardon clinic with Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, a place Philadelphians who have a criminal record despite being found not guilty in a case can clear their name. The clinic will be Saturday from 12-2 p.m. at the Lenfest Center at 3890 North 10th Street. Atwood also pointed to continuation of the office's community listening tour, which is designed to hear feedback and help steer the city's gun violence prevention strategies.



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PA. HOUSE COMMITTEE ADVANCES BILL EXCLUDING TRANSGENDER ATHLETES FROM WOMEN'S SPORTS TEAMS



By Cassie Miller,
Pennsylvania Capital-Star\
Photo Courtesy of Pennsyl-
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The Pennsylvania House Education Committee voted Tuesday to move a bill that would exclude transgender athletes from competing on women's sports team in the commonwealth. HB 972, also known as the "Protect Women's Sports Act," would bar transgender athletes from participating in sports consistent with their gender identities. It passed through the committee Tuesday morning in a 15-9 vote. The bill was first introduced last April by state Rep. Barbara Gleim, R-Cumberland.

Gleim was joined on the bill by Reps. Martina White, R-Philadelphia; Dawn Keefer, R-York; Valerie Gaydos, R-Allegheny and Stephanie Borowicz, R-Clinton. Speaking to the committee, Gleim said the bill to exclude transgender athletes "preserves fairness for all women."

"Identities don't play sports, bodies do," Gleim said, repeatedly misgendering University of Pennsylvania swimmer and Division I national champion Lia

Thomas in her testimony. The panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. Mark Longietti, of Mercer County, questioned whether the decision would be better left up to the governing bodies of high school and collegiate sports in the commonwealth – the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

"Let's not become the school sports eligibility committee," Longietti said. Rep. MaryLouise Isaacson, D-Philadelphia, echoed Longietti's comments about the committee's role in the decision: "There are governing bodies over high school and collegiate sports. We are not one of them," she said.

Rep. Napoleon Nelson, D-Montgomery, said that he was "dumbfounded" that the committee was considering advancing the bill after a September 2021 hearing suggested that this bill "is not yet ready." The General Assembly's LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus called the bill "dangerous," in a statement following the vote.

"Once again, the majority party is wasting taxpayer money by bringing up divi-

sive and hateful legislation that pushes a harmful narrative instead of addressing legislation that could help expand educational resources and protections for all students," state Sen. Katie Muth, D-Berks, co-chair of the LGBTQ+ Caucus said. "This bill is an ignorant attempt to fix a problem that doesn't exist. If the majority's intent is to give women a level playing field, we should address the inequities in funding, resources, media coverage and pay in women's sports."

Naiymah Sanchez, trans rights organizer at the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, said she is concerned about the harmful effects exclusion from school sports would have on transgender youth. "School activities like sports give trans kids a feel-

ing of belonging and inclusion," Sanchez said. "Like cisgender students, trans students benefit academically and emotionally from participation in sports. It is despicable that some state reps are pursuing a public policy of exclusion and isolation."

Citing Utah Gov. Spencer Cox's now-overridden decision last week to veto a similar ban on transgender athletes, state Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny said laws excluding transgender athletes are "harmful and discriminatory."

"It's unconscionable that Republicans in the House Education Committee even brought this bill up for a vote, considering this harmful and discriminatory legislation is a direct attack on

transgender and gender-nonconforming youth across the state," Frankel, who founded and co-chairs the LGBTQ+ Caucus, said. "Even Republican governors are now vetoing these bills because they are cruel and unnecessary," Frankel continued "While our Democratic governor surely will do the same, that doesn't change the fact that transgender youth in our commonwealth are being unfairly targeted. We stand with all LGBTQ+ residents, and we will always do what we can to protect them." Eleven states now have laws barring transgender athletes from participating in sports consistent with their gender identities.

Just hours after the bill passed the committee, LGBTQ allies and advocates joined the Pennsylvania Youth Congress at the Capitol to call for the bill's defeat.

Preston Heldibridle, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, which organized Monday's rally, called the bill "cruel and unnecessary," and said it was "not based in science or reality," but instead sought to use "transgender children as political pawns. "Pennsylvania is better than this," Heldibridle said.

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THE METAVERSE - REVISITED



By R.S. Broker

I knew this would happen. I had gotten so many questions, even more about this Metaverse. It's got to a point where family and friends are contacting me early Sunday mornings after church. I'm cool with that, because that's why I'm here. From the Gram, to TikTok and even at a kids birth. We know Facebook has changed their name to Meta. And if you know a little something about cryptos, you know that the Winklevoss brothers (Tyler and Cameron) recently raised \$400 million to build a metaverse.

So we shall revisit once again. What is the Metaverse? The metaverse is like set of universes. It is a virtual world that individ-

uals can come together to socialize, on a virtual reality. Basically, it's the link between the digital and the physical forms. As The goal is to wedge the real world with the digital world. This is the 2nd innovation of the internet; some say it's the successor. The term "metaverse" was first mentioned and created in Neal Stephenson's novel Snow Crash- termed a cyberpunk book. This was an imaginary place that could be experienced by anyone over the fiber optics network.

You can buy digital assets like digital land or build a digital horse (for example horse racing) or a beautiful park- like a Central Park in New York and combine it with Fairmount Park in Philly and make it a virtual reality. Or you can be Pac-man himself, running through a maze and chased by ghost (note- Atari does have its own token). So instead of just viewing information on a website or an application, you would be IN the digital content. This sounds so ridiculous and extreme right? But if you

know like I know, from DeRace to Meta Hero to the Micro Pets, its already here. And you thought Fortnite was awesome. Please understand that there was a digital lot of land in the metaverse world of Decentraland sold for a record of \$2.43 Million USD. Yes, we are talking about virtual real estate, an imaginary world. And then there's DeRace, a Non-Fungible horse racing metaverse where you can have horse races, breed these horses, build your own course for theater/ performance venues- and make money while doing it. In other words, DeRace is a virtual NFT horse racing universe based on blockchain. One horse sold for \$125,000, btw.

But not everyone thinks the metaverse is great for mankind. Some folks believe it's going to cause a strain on mental health, such as depression or confidence and that some would rather spend much more time in virtual forms than actual reality.

This is uncharted territory

we are entering and be ready for it. I was able to understand the world of cryptocurrency and its applications very easily. But then came NFT Art and Music, which seems more complicated. And now this, the metaverse, just blew my mind. Please my people, this is the future, get ready for you a new reality. If you want to invest, please talk to your local bank or a financial advisor. Whether your 20 or 60, a new transfer of wealth is upon the horizon. This isn't just the USA going through a change. The universe is... It won't be easy, but you never know until to try. Oh, and don't forget to follow me on IG or YouTube at @TheGetMoneyShow. Believe in yourself, believe in your dreams, and always remember money a'int just green. We are not financial advisors or giving out financial recommendations.



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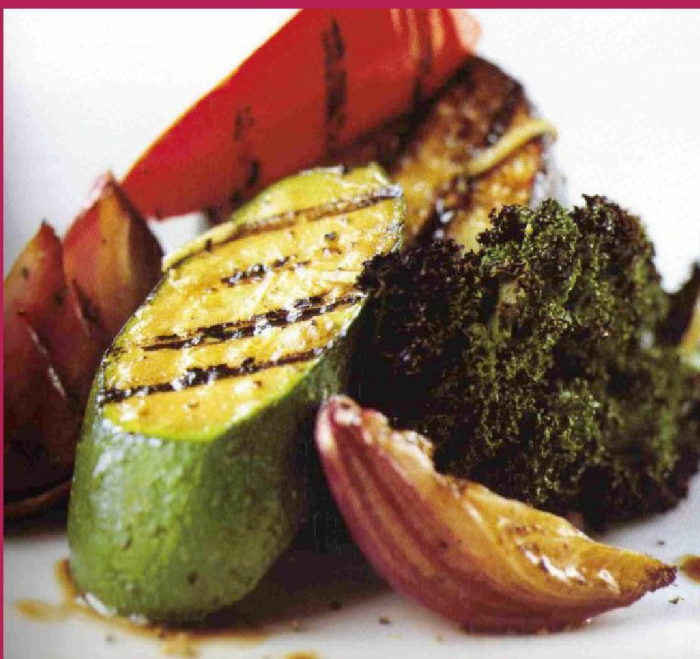
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