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Los Angeles News Observer

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Mayor Bass Hosts 3rd Annual Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Procurement Summit to Prepare Small Businesses for LA28 Contracts

By Marion Apio
California Local News Fellow

When Maurice Brewster won a contract with Disneyland, the biggest challenge was not getting the work. It was about having enough money to do it.

Brewster, founder and CEO of Mosaic Global Transportation, said his company needed to spend about \$10 million to acquire 30 vehicles in Anaheim within two months to fulfill the contract. Getting the financing was difficult, he said, but having the Disneyland contract and other business to show banks helped the company secure the money.

"It's tough getting financing," Brewster said. His experience captured one of the challenges facing small businesses hoping to compete for contracts tied to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games: winning the work is one thing; having the capital, people, equipment and systems to deliver it is another.

That was the focus of the Third Annual Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Procurement Summit, where Mayor Karen Bass and entrepreneur Earvin "Magic" Johnson spoke with business owners about preparing for opportunities connected to the Games and other major events.

Bass said the city began holding the summits three years ago because businesses often learn about government contracts too late to prepare.

"You find out about the RFP if you're lucky the week before or the week after it's due," Bass said. "And you usually have no heads up, and then you're scrambling, and then you're not prepared."

Bass said the city is providing technical assistance for proposal readiness and developing a more specialized program for businesses that have operated for more than three years. The goal, she said, is to help businesses prepare before LA28 releases its requests for proposals.

Johnson, however, put the emphasis on whether companies are actually equipped to take on the work.

"Are you capable?" he asked. He advised business owners to conduct a SWOT analysis of their companies, looking at their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. That assessment, he said, can reveal gaps in staffing, technology, finances or other areas that need to be addressed before pursuing a contract.

Johnson used his own experience with Disney to illustrate the point. At a conference years ago, he heard a Disney representative explain the scale of an order and make clear that contractors would have to deliver the full amount when required.

Johnson said he realized his company was not ready.

"We're not ready to go after a Disney contract," he recalled telling Bass. "But I said three years from now I'll be ready."

He spent the next three years building his staff and strengthening the company financially. He eventually won the Disneyland contract and said his performance helped position the company for a larger Walt Disney World contract.

"Capacity," Johnson said. "It's not that you're gonna get it. I want you to excel when you get it."

His advice to businesses was simple: "Overdeliver."

"If they say you have to meet these 10 things, do 15," Johnson said.

A successful contract, he said, can also become a credential that helps a small business win its next opportunity.

"When I had Disney, on my resume, the company started calling me," Johnson said.

But he cautioned businesses not to assume they have to figure everything out themselves. He encouraged owners to find someone who can help them understand an RFP, its requirements and



Mayor Bass and Earvin "Magic" Johnson at the 3rd Annual Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Procurement Summit at LA Convention Center. Photo by Marion Apio



deliverables.

"I'm not even smart enough to read the RFP, so I get somebody to help me," Johnson said.

Businesses should also submit their proposals early and seek information from their local council offices and the city's sports and entertainment officials, he said.

The financial demands can begin before a contract does.

Brewster said his Disneyland deal required \$10 million in spending on vehicles within two months. He said his company's existing contracts gave banks confidence when it sought financing.

He also credited Tiffany, the owner of Motive, with helping his company grow. Although the two companies compete, Brewster described their relationship as collaborative.

"Although we're competitive, we're friendly competitors," he said.

Bass said the city wants small businesses to benefit from the economic activity surrounding LA28 rather than seeing the Games as an opportunity limited to a few large companies.

"When I say games for all, that's what we mean: games for all," Bass said.

She pointed to the FIFA 2026 World Cup as a preview of that approach. Los Angeles hosted eight World Cup matches, Bass said, while events took place throughout the city during the tournament.

"A lot of businesses prospered," she said.

For the Olympics, Bass said she wants events, festivals and cultural programming to reach neighborhoods across Los Angeles. She described the city as a collection of communities with different cultures and businesses that she wants represented on the world stage.

She also tied the health of small businesses to one of Los Angeles' most difficult issues: affordability.

"Los Angeles was a lot more affordable. It isn't any longer," Bass said. "What's the key to affordability? You guys are the key to affordability. Because when the small business sector thrives, that lifts up everyone."

Bass said the city is also looking at infrastructure, accessibility and sustainability as part of its preparations, arguing that the Games provide an opportunity to accelerate work the city has needed for years.

"We have a lot of things we want to accomplish,"



Attendees at the 3rd Annual Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Procurement Summit at LA Convention Center. Photo by Marion Apio



Business Support Booth at the Procurement Summit at LA Convention Center. Photo by Marion Apio

she said, "but we have to take advantage of the Games coming to fast track a lot of things that we have needed to do in the city for a very, very long time."

For Johnson, the opportunity extends beyond winning a single contract. He said his businesses have focused on creating jobs and opportunities for other people and urged entrepreneurs to think about what their companies can become after the Games.

That growth, he said, requires making difficult decisions about who works for the company.

"The quickest way for your business to fail is if you hire the wrong people," Johnson said.

He acknowledged that family businesses can make those decisions particularly difficult. Johnson said his nine siblings do not work for him because he believes hiring should be based on expertise rather than emotion.

"I was smart enough to know what I know and what I don't know," he said.

He encouraged business owners to seek mentors and advice from experienced people in their communities.

"Take your ego out of it," Johnson said.

Brewster offered another piece of advice from his own experience: Know the business from the inside out.

"You have to know every detail, every revenue stream of your business," he said.

He recalled sitting outside one of his Starbucks locations and counting customers entering and leaving to understand the day-to-day numbers.

The message from the summit was ultimately less about simply getting an Olympic contract than being ready for what comes after the award.

For Bass, LA28 represents an opportunity to spread economic activity across Los Angeles. For Johnson and Brewster, the opportunity comes with a harder requirement: A contract can grow a business only if the business has the capacity, capital and people to deliver.

For small businesses hoping to compete, preparation starts before the RFP arrives.

Wisconsin High School Students Stage Walkout in Support of Nolan Wells

Students at Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, organized the walkout and marched from the school to the city's Firefly Park.



Source: Photo courtesy of WLOX / Nolan Xavier Wells

It has been nearly three months since Nolan Wells went to a party with several friends on an island off the coast of Mississippi on July 4, and we still have no idea why he died on that trip instead of returning with his travelling companions.

Last week, a Mississippi grand jury determined that there was no evidence of criminal wrongdoing in Wells' death, and that there was no evidence that his so-called friends had anything to do with his death. And there are certainly people invested in putting Wells' story to bed once and for all. Unfortunately for those people, that's not how it works. We don't just stop calling for justice and transparency because some court system said there was no justice to be had.

And that's why, on Monday, students at a high school in Wisconsin staged a walkout on Wells' behalf.

According to CBS 58, students at Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, Wis., organized the walkout and marched from the school to the city's Firefly Park.

"The justice that he deserves, it wasn't there," one student told CBS. "Obviously, they let them walk away, and I feel that wasn't right, so I'm just here to show my support for the family of Nolan Wells and for himself...just so I can contribute."

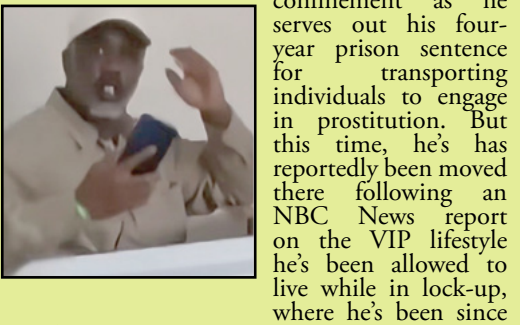
Look, we can expect that many people, mostly white people (and Brandon Tatum), will say these kids are misguided and that they've fallen for a hoax perpetuated by race-baiting sensationalists, but the fact is that this walkout is only one example of Black people's unwillingness to let Wells' story go. We're not going to stop saying his name just because some people are more invested in silencing Wells' supporters than in actually getting to the bottom of what happened to him.

It's still "Justice for Nolan Wells" until his family, his community, and the rest of us are satisfied that truth and justice are being appropriately pursued. We won't accept "he just died" as a conclusion, and if he wasn't a young, Black man, white America wouldn't either.

Diddy Moved To Solitary After Report Shows Him Living The High Life In NJ Prison

A report from NBC News showed disgraced Hip-Hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs living a VIP lifestyle in prison that included liquor and massages.

Sean "Diddy" Combs is back in solitary



confinement as he serves out his four-year prison sentence for transporting individuals to engage in prostitution. But this time, he's reportedly been moved there following an NBC News report on the VIP lifestyle he's been allowed to live while in lock-up, where he's been since

October 2025. Since then, he has spent thousands of dollars a month to bring his high-end lifestyle to the low-security prison, NBC News reported Tuesday in a story based on interviews with four men who spent time in the same unit as Combs.

They said he had no trouble acquiring contraband items such as cellphones and premium liquor, including Hennessy. He also pays several inmates who cook special meals for him, clean the toilet and shower areas before he uses them, do his laundry, make his bed and even give him Chinese-style massages.

"This is not some normal s— you see in jail. This is some rich s—," one of the sources said. "It looks crazy, but again, it's Diddy."

Ooooooh, so Diddy was up in the prison cell, cooking steak and cutting up razor-thin slices of garlic like the mobsters in Goodfellas, huh?

See, this is why we need to understand that the whole "the system is trying to bring the Black man down" narrative does not apply to the Bill Cosby, R. Kellys, and Diddys of the world. Being rich, famous, and powerful is a different kind of social privilege that the overwhelming majority of incarcerated Black folk will never catch a whiff of.

NBC's report included video footage and photos of Combs using a cellphone in prison. Here he is looking at whoever was holding the camera like, "Bro, who is you, Cellblock TMZ?"

After the report was published, Diddy was swiftly removed from his dorm and placed in a special housing unit, known as solitary confinement or the SHU, according to a source that spoke with TMZ, at least. A Bureau of Prisons spokesperson would neither confirm nor deny that Combs was moved.

"A high-profile guy like that, with all that money, I'm surprised they put him at a place like Fort Dix," Maraviglia said.

Yeah — nobody should be surprised by that. Again, the rich and powerful simply live by a different set of rules. There's justice, and then there's diet justice, and there's "just us" up in this cell poppin' bottles and eating Gordon Ramsay plates.

Must be nice.

Rulings Leave Questions Lingerin' in Nolan Wells Case

By Stephanie Gadlin
Black Press USA Wire

A grand jury declines charges in the Nolan Wells case, a Jackson man pleads not guilty in Tasia Fortune's hanging death, and a Maryland suicide ruling lands on raw nerves.

A Mississippi grand jury has declined to charge anyone in the death of Nolan Xavier Wells, the 18-year-old Black college football player who disappeared during a July Fourth boat trip with a group of white friends and was found dead two days later off Horn Island. His parents rejected the decision on Sept. 22, telling reporters they do not believe their son simply drowned and vowing to keep fighting for answers.

The grand jury's report was made public late on Sept. 21, the same week a Jackson man pleaded not guilty to murder in the hanging death of Tasia Fortune and Maryland officials ruled that a Black man found hanging from a tree in Prince George's County died by suicide.

All three cases now join the Crusader's ongoing "Lynchings By Suicide" investigation, which began after Demarravion "Trey" Reed, a 21-year-old Delta State University student, was found hanging from a tree on the Cleveland, Miss., campus on Sept. 15, 2025. The state medical examiner ruled Reed's death a suicide within days, a finding his family continues to dispute.

Nolan Wells: 'We'll Never Stop'

Wells, a wide receiver at Southwest Mississippi Community College, went to Horn Island, a barrier island reachable only by boat, with high school friends on July 4. When the group returned to the mainland that afternoon, Wells was not with them. A park ranger found his body in the water off the island on July 6.

Investigators have long said Wells chose to stay behind. His family never believed it, and an independent autopsy that attorney Ben Crump released in July at the NAACP National Convention in Chicago found an unexplained area of discoloration at the back of Wells' head and ruled the cause of death undetermined.

The grand jury, which heard from 43 witnesses, found Wells' death "consistent with drowning," Jackson County District Attorney Angel Myers McIlrath said there is "absolutely no evidence" that race played a role, according to NBC News. The state medical examiner, however, also ruled the cause and manner of death undetermined.

"Elmore and I do not believe that Nolan simply



Nolan Wells.

and accidentally drowned," Christine Wonsley, Wells' mother, said, according to CNN. His father, Elmore Wonsley, reminded supporters that his son is "not a hashtag, he's our son."

Crump said the district attorney wants the public to accept "We'll never know," while the family answers, "We'll never stop." The family is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate and demanding release of the full case file and the state's autopsy report. Mississippi has no statute of limitations on homicide.

Tasia Fortune: An Arrest, Not an Ending
Fortune, a 29-year-old mother of four, was found Aug. 3 hanging from a tree behind a vacant house on Road of Remembrance in west Jackson. From the start, her family insisted she did not take her own life.

After the state medical examiner ruled her death a homicide on Sept. 10, Jackson police arrested Jacques "Jock" Ratliff, 51, the next day as he walked along Capitol Street and charged him with murder. Ratliff is African American, as was Fortune, according to Mississippi Today. Police said the two knew each other but have not said how.

Ratliff pleaded not guilty on Sept. 14 and was denied bond as a flight risk. His attorney, Toney Baldwin, called him "a pillar of the community" and said his client made no confession.

Jackson Police Chief RaShall Brackney called the arrest "not the conclusion" and said more arrests are expected. "We understand this case is

being viewed through a broader lens, a global lens," Brackney said, according to ABC News.

Christy Spivey, Fortune's mother, said that when police told her about the arrest, "I just started crying and told them 'thank you, thank you, thank you.'"

Activists want more. Byron Brumfield of Medgar Evers Reloaded: A Mission and a Movement said Ratliff "should be charged with a hate crime also, just like anybody else," according to WLOX. Ward 3 Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes has asked U.S. Attorney Baxter Kruger's office for federal assistance.

Prince George's County: A Ruling in Hours

In Upper Marlboro, Md., a Black man was found hanging from a tree outside a business on D'Arcy Road on the morning of Sept. 20. Within hours, the state medical examiner ruled his death a suicide with no other signs of trauma. He has not been publicly identified.

Police Chief George Nader said the man's family agrees with the ruling. Relatives asked that his name be withheld and said the public attention had made his death "more unbearable," according to the Maryland Daily Record.

County Executive Aisha Braveboy urged residents not to share images or spread speculation online. "This is a tragedy. A person is dead," Braveboy said, according to WUSA9.

A Pattern the Crusader Has Tracked
Mississippi is where Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, was abducted and murdered in 1955, and where Mack Charles Parker was dragged from a Poplarville jail and lynched in 1959.

In February, JULIAN, the civil rights organization founded by attorney Jill Collen Jefferson, released "A Crimson Record," a report documenting more than 70 suspected modern-day lynchings across seven Southern states since 2000. The report calls the federal Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, signed in 2022, "toothless."

The Wells family is pressing for a federal investigation. Jackson police have promised more arrests in Fortune's killing, and activists are calling for hate crime charges. More than a year after Trey Reed was found on the Delta State campus, his family is still waiting on answers of its own.

Across these cases, families and advocates have made the same demand: release the grand jury findings, the autopsy reports and the evidence behind every ruling.

Based on reporting by Chicago Crusader.

World & Nation

IN MEMORIAM: The Mighty Sparrow, King of Calypso, Dies at Age 91 in New York

By nycaribnews
Black Press USA Wire
USA Charge d’Affaires Margaret B. Diop with the Mighty Sparrow Date 14 January 2015. Author U.S. Embassy Trinidad and TobagoNEW YORK — For anyone raised in the Caribbean, or in a Brooklyn, Bronx, or Queens household where the radio stayed tuned to home, there was never a time without the Mighty Sparrow. His voice was simply part of the furniture of our lives: at Carnival, at weddings, at Sunday lunch, in the car on the way to JFK. On Sunday, that voice went quiet.
Slinger Francisco, known to the world as the Mighty Sparrow, died Sunday, September 27, in New York. He was 91. His family said he passed peacefully after a brief illness, with loved ones at his bedside.
He was born in Grand Roy, Grenada, in 1935, and was still a small child when his family moved to Trinidad. Port of Spain made him. Its yards, its rum shops and its calypso tents gave him his rhythm and his sharp tongue. He sang in a church choir as a boy, but the city had a louder music, and by his late teens he was performing under the name that would become a title.
The breakthrough came in 1956 with “Jean and Dinah,” his mischievous farewell to the American servicemen leaving Trinidad after the war years. The song swept Carnival, winning him both the Road March and the Calypso King crown. It introduced

a young performer who could be funny and fearless at once, who could make an entire nation laugh at itself and then think hard about what it had just laughed at.
He was fearless offstage too. A year after that first crown, he refused to compete over the paltry prize money offered to calypsonians, a stand that helped push the art form toward the respect and the pay its practitioners deserved.
Over six decades, he recorded hundreds of songs. He could turn a love story, a boast or a bit of bedroom comedy into a hit, but he was just as formidable when the subject was power. “Dan Is

the Man in the Van” took apart a colonial schooling that taught Caribbean children nonsense about themselves. “Congo Man,” “Mr. Walker,” “The Lizard” and “Both of Them” became standards sung by people who had never set foot in a calypso tent. Long before anyone printed it on a poster, audiences had already crowned him the Calypso King of the World.
For New York’s Caribbean community, Sparrow was never just a visiting star. He made this city his home for many years and played its biggest rooms, including Madison Square Garden, before crowds of immigrants who heard in his voice the islands they had left behind. A Sparrow show here was less a concert than a homecoming.
Trinidad and Tobago honored him with the Trinity Cross, then its highest national award, and generations of calypsonians and soca artists have named him as the standard they measured themselves against. Fans called him “Birdie,” and the affection in that nickname said everything.
Tributes are already pouring in from across the region and the diaspora, and they will keep coming for weeks. But perhaps the truest tribute is the simplest one: somewhere tonight, in Port of Spain, St. George’s, Flatbush and beyond, someone is putting on a Sparrow record, turning it up, and singing along.
Based on reporting by New York Carib News.



USA Charge d’Affaires Margaret B. Diop with the Mighty Sparrow Date 14 January 2015. Author U.S. Embassy Trinidad and Tobago

Consumers and States Awarded \$694 Million After Predatory Auto Lender Settles Lawsuit

By Charlene Crowell,
Special to The Informerlack Press USA Wire

An estimated 55,000 consumers will benefit from a \$694 million class-action settlement against a predatory auto lender reached by attorneys general in 40 states and the District of Columbia.
The settlement announced on Sept. 18 with Credit Acceptance Corporation (CAC), one of the nation’s largest subprime auto lenders, will provide the following financial relief for affected consumers: \$630 million in debt relief for consumers — \$388 million to consumers whose cars have been repossessed; the remaining \$246 million for those whose vehicles have not been repossessed and will now keep their autos.
\$60 million in restitution to thousands of additional consumers who were misled and lost their cars within months of taking out their loans.
\$15.5 million in reimbursement to each state office that comprised the multistate working group, and the National Association of Attorneys General.
“CAC preyed on consumers in New York and across the nation with false promises of affordable loans, only to exploit them with outrageous interest rates that ruined their credit and cost them their cars,” said New York Attorney General Letitia

James, who led the multi-state effort. “While their customers struggled to make payments, CAC made millions. By continuing our case to hold CAC accountable, we secured hundreds of millions of dollars in debt relief and restitution for all those who were taken advantage of by their schemes.”
The lawsuit, originally filed in 2023, alleged that CAC projected, down to the penny, how much money it could extract from borrowers through loan payments, late fees, repossession and auction, debt collection, and wage garnishment, without considering a consumer’s ability to repay their loan, according to James. CAC then offered to split the projected collections with its affiliated dealers.
Low-income borrowers with either low credit scores or little credit history were routinely pushed into purchasing vehicles that were worth far less than their loans. CAC states on its own website: “Approval decisions are typically available in 30 seconds or less, and nearly 80 percent of deals are approved for funding within 24 hours.”
Further, CAC misstated key terms on loan agreements, including the principal and interest amounts, and did not disclose thousands of dollars in credit charges. Although the average loan carried an annual interest rate of more than 38%, other rates reached over 100%. These predatory debt trap loans soon defaulted within 12 or 18 months.
“Credit Acceptance Corporation set car buyers up to fail by making loans it knew they would never be able to afford, and by allowing dealers to inflate the cost of financing agreements with hidden add-ons. As a result, the company profited, even while customers lost their cars and continued to struggle with debt,” said District of Columbia Attorney General Brian L. Schwalb.
Other state officials had similar reactions to the settlement.
“Credit Acceptance Corporation closed its eyes to deceptive origination practices and made predatory, high-cost auto loans that were likely to result in repossession and leave consumers trapped in a cycle of debt,” said California Attorney General Rob Bonta.
Consumers eligible for restitution will be notified by a claims administrator. Consumers with questions about the settlement can call CAC’s customer service number at 800-634-1506.
The settlement also provides additional terms

that will free affected consumers from many of the other financial harms inflicted, while other stipulations carry long-term, consumer-friendly reforms.
In the short term, CAC must contact and

about the risks of default and the value of the vehicle.
Limiting a price cap for vehicle prices to no more than 109% of retail book value for certain consumers.



Photo by Pixabay on Pexels.com — Pixabay on

clearly inform consumers of any products they purchased and offer them a process to cancel those products while keeping their vehicles. It must also notify all affected consumers that their car loan accounts have been closed, no further payments are owed, any lien held has been released, and the certificate of title has been sent. Credit bureaus will also be notified of these actions.
For the next five years, CAC is required to submit written reports that demonstrate how it is complying with all aspects of the consent order. Any failure or shortcomings related to the order will prompt a mandatory remediation plan with details that identify how compliance will be achieved.
Other long-term settlement stipulations that CAC must observe:
Providing consumers with pre-loan disclosures

Implementing procedures that prevent dealers from raising car prices due to creditworthiness or above advertised prices.
Comments in a report released earlier this year by the Center for Responsible Lending showed how consumers with subprime credit scores, most of whom are Black, were left reeling from the effects of predatory car loans.
As Nicole, one participating consumer, noted, “You pay that and nothing, nothing ever changes.”
As CAC faces court-ordered reforms and restitution, Nicole and similar consumers can finally receive well-earned financial fairness.
Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.
Based on reporting by Washington Informer.

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Why Parents of Children with IEPs Should Know Their School Bus Driver

By Anthony Tilghman
Black Press USA Wire
As the father of a young daughter with autism, I have learned that getting your child to school is not always as simple as putting them on the bus and waiting for them to come home.
When your child has an Individualized Education Program, you pay attention to things other parents may never have to think about.
Who is working with my child today? Does

is incredibly important. The same bus, the same driver, the same seat and the same routine can provide a sense of comfort before the school day even begins.
Then one morning, something changes. The bus is late. There is a substitute driver. The route changes. The bus does not arrive when expected.
For many families, that is an inconvenience. For some of our children, it can change the entire

every detail of your child’s disability or educational record. But appropriate information about communication, behavior, safety or transitions can help the adults responsible for transporting your child better understand how to support them.
And when a transportation problem occurs, you are no longer starting the conversation with a complete stranger.
That does not mean parents should be responsible for fixing school transportation. We shouldn’t.
School systems remain responsible for providing required transportation services, including services identified in a student’s IEP. When buses are repeatedly late, accommodations are not being followed or transportation problems interfere with a child’s education, parents should document those concerns and raise them with the appropriate school and transportation officials.
Building a relationship with a driver should complement accountability, not replace it.
That distinction is important.
As a father navigating special education, I have learned that advocacy is not only about what happens during an IEP meeting.
Advocacy happens in the hallway. It happens at pickup. It happens through an email to a teacher. And sometimes it happens at the bus stop at 7 o’clock in the morning.
Our children’s educational experience begins before they enter the classroom and continues after they leave it.
Think about the person behind the wheel. For some children, their bus driver is the first school employee they see every morning and the last one they see every afternoon.
That person is part of your child’s school experience.
So tomorrow morning, if you haven’t already, introduce yourself.
Learn the driver’s name.
Let them learn your child’s name — and, when appropriate, a little about what helps your child succeed.
It won’t prevent every late bus, substitute driver or transportation problem.
But if there is one thing I continue to learn as both a father and an advocate, it is that relationships matter.
And for children with IEPs, one more adult who knows, understands, and cares about your child can make a difference.
Based on reporting by Washington Informer.



Photo by Mary Taylor on Pexels.com — Mary Taylor

this person understand her needs? What happens if her routine suddenly changes? If something goes wrong and she cannot fully explain it to me, who will be able to tell me what happened?
Those questions do not stop at the schoolhouse door. They follow our children onto the school bus.
That is why one of the simplest pieces of advice I can give another parent of a child with an IEP is this: Get to know your child’s bus driver and attendant.
Learn their names. Introduce yourself. Say good morning. Ask how your child is doing on the ride.
Those few minutes can matter more than we realize.
For some children with disabilities, consistency

morning.
As parents, we also know that our children may not always come home and tell us exactly what happened during the ride. That makes the adults who interact with them even more important.
A bus driver may notice that your child suddenly does not want to get on the bus. An attendant may notice that your child seems upset at the same point along the route every day.
They may notice a change in behavior, a problem with another student, or simply that something seems different.
That information can be valuable to a parent. But relationships work both ways.
Parents can also help transportation staff understand our children. You do not have to share

The Last Decade Has Been Great For Black Entertainment

10 Black ‘Oddball’ Films, TV Shows That Prove The Last Decade Has Been Great For Black Entertainment

The last decade should go down as one of the best, most unconventional, freest, least confined, least pigeonholed eras in Black film and TV history.

By Zack Linly
If you ask a lot of Black people — especially Black people of a certain age — what the golden era of Black TV and film is, I imagine most of them would say the 1990s, or maybe the ‘80s. They’d probably say it was the Spike Lee era. The prime Eddie Murphy era. The Cosby Show, A Different World, Martin, Living Single, and Fresh Prince of Bel-Air era.

And they might be right. When I think about my favorite Black classics — Friday, Harlem Nights, Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X, Devil in a Blue Dress — they’re mostly from that era.

Still, whenever I hear people — especially Black people — lament that “they just don’t make ‘em like they used to,” I find myself wanting to sit them down and wake them up to everything they’ve been sleeping on over at least the last 10 years.

In fact, I would argue that the last decade should go down as one of the best and certainly the weirdest, most unconventional, freest, least confined, least pigeonholed, most out-of-the-box eras in Black film and TV history.

Our actors and filmmakers aren’t nearly as confined to the boxes of comedy, rom-com, drama, and historical drama as they’d been for generations. We’re getting surrealism, afro-futurism, and stories that don’t so often have to come with a heaping side of trauma or buffoonery.

I’m just saying, Robert Townsend’s Hollywood Shuffle came out in 1987, and the issues raised in the film continued to plague Black creatives for decades to come. Even shows like Chappelle’s Show and The Boondocks, which were much more nuanced, ended up being cut short due to the interference of white showrunners and executives who were not of the culture and did not care about it.

Now, Black creatives have knocked down all those doors. We’re dabbling in all the genres. We are now in what I like to call our oddball era, and it’s the kind of consistent Black programming I’ve been waiting for my whole life.

That being said, here are some of the best, oddest, most innovative Black movies and TV shows gifted to the entertainment world over the last decade.

Atlanta
Now, I’ve already written about how Donald Glover’s Atlanta is one of the greatest shows in TV history. If someone had only watched the first scene of the pilot, they might have thought it was just another hood dreams show, with a rapper trying to escape street life. And the show was that. And also not that at all. Atlanta was a show that didn’t care about conventional storytelling.

It didn’t care about catering to any particular audience. This was a hilarious, dramatic, weird, surreal, artistic masterpiece that can’t be categorized in a single genre, and had a method to its madness that was simply up to the viewer to navigate. And what a ride it was. This series catapulted the careers of Brian Tyree Henry, LaKeith Stanfield, and Zazie Beetz because those three actors,



Sinners trailer Source: Warner Bros. Pictures / Warner Bros.

teamed up with Glover, brought to life some of the most well-written and well-crafted characters in TV history, and they bodied those roles. The show was that good, and it left us wanting so much more.

Insecure
First of all, we can’t even talk about HBO’s Insecure without talking about what preceded it: Issa Rae’s hit web series Awkward Black Girl. Rae gave us her authentic self: a quirky, awkward, nerdy-but-still-very-much-Blackity-Black girl, navigating relationships, her career ambitions, and the day-to-day of living in her skin.

Then, in 2016, not long after Atlanta came to FX, Insecure came to HBO. Issa Rae blessed the world with Issa Dee and an ensemble cast of friends, boyfriends, love interests, enemies, frenemies, and neighborhood characters with neighborhood shenanigans, living the millennial life in Los Angeles. Insecure was far from your average rom-com. It kept a focus on dating and relationships, but it also addressed racism, anti-Blackness, the public education system, the world of Black art and Black writers. And don’t get me started on Issa’s solo freestyle sessions in the mirror.

This show was an instant classic for a reason.

The Get Down
If anyone were to ask what canceled show I would bring back if I could, I’m answering The Get Down every time. This series about the birth of hip-hop — depicted through a more modernized lens — was an ode to the culture that never got the accolades it deserved. The style, the cinematography, the celebration of Black music, including rap music and the genres that inspired it — it was a fictionalized hip-hop history lesson told from its birthplace in the South Bronx. It had all the makings of a cultural masterpiece. It would’ve been nice to see where that ride was going.

Get Out
When I first saw Jordan Peele’s thriller-slash-horror-slash-dark comedy Get Out in the theater in 2017, I was blown away. I went in not knowing what

to expect—but it wasn’t that. When I saw the trailer for Get Out, with a Black guy (Daniel Kaluuya) and his white girlfriend (Allison Williams) pulled over to the side of a road in the middle of nowhere, being questioned by the police, I half expected it to be another movie that tries to tackle racism, but ends up doing so in ways that are ham-fisted and corny. But Peele hit it out of the park with a clever, spooky, funny, brilliant piece of art with a fresh approach to confronting racial dynamics in America. Such a great film. And so wonderfully weird.

Sorry to Bother You
Alright, it’s time for us to enter into the wild world of rapper, producer, songwriter, and filmmaker Boots Riley, and talk about his first feature film, Sorry to Bother You. In this dark comedy-slash-sci-fi-slash-sociopolitical satire-slash-rom-com-kinda, Cassius “Cash” Green, played by LaKeith Stanfield (y’all remember him from Get Out and Atlanta: I told you that show made them all stars), is a Black telemarketer in Oakland who uses a “white voice” to achieve massive corporate success before uncovering a massive biological conspiracy. It’s like Living Large if that movie did LSD. It’s really weird, and awesome.

A Black Lady Sketch Show
Another Black gem that was cut short before it really got to shine as bright as it might have was Robin Thede’s A Black Lady Sketch Show, which, of course, did bless us with four seasons, so I won’t complain too much. This Emmy Award-winner, which made history by having the first all-Black women’s writers’ room, turned the sketch comedy genre on its head. The sketches were smart and original. Even when they weren’t necessarily laugh-out-loud funny, you would still marvel at the creativity. Not since Chappelle’s Show had I seen a sketch comedy series that made me ask, “Who could even think of that?” as often as BLSS.

Lovecraft Country
OK, this is another one that is hard to explain to people who have never seen it. Misha Green’s

Lovecraft Country is basically Indiana Jones if the wicked curse our heroes were trying to save the world from was white people. I’m joking — kinda. This story begins with Atticus Freeman, a young Black veteran played by Jonathan Majors, embarking on a journey across the U.S. in search of his father, Montrose Freeman (Michael K. Williams). Joined by his friend Letitia (Jurnee Smollett) and his Uncle George (Courtney B. Vance), Atticus and his team end up on a dark, twisted adventure that, again, you would just have to see for yourself. Lovecraft Country is another Black show that got canceled far too soon, especially considering how popular it was. It’s a shame how much harder our brilliant creatives have to be in an industry that has defaulted to whiteness for the overwhelming majority of its existence. A damn shame.

The Book of Clarence
Stanfield is back again in Jeymes Samuel’s 2023 biblical comedy-drama film The Book of Clarence. In this religious satire, Clarence is a down-on-his-luck resident of 33 AD Jerusalem, where he’s in deep debt to a local loan shark named Jedediah the Terrible, who lives up to his moniker. Anyway, a bunch of other stuff happens, and Clarence starts his own ministry, or cult, or alternative Jesus following, or something like that. Clarence is basically performing “miracles” behind a paywall. I won’t give away anything else. It’s a great film. Go watch it if you haven’t yet.

They Cloned Tyrone
“I ain’t been right with Jesus since I pimped this girl named Mary!” — I swear this was my third favorite Jamie Foxx role behind Ray and Django Unchained.

They Cloned Tyrone is another piece of beautiful Black art that, much like Atlanta, is like a Trojan Horse that comes to you looking like a regular-degular hood flick, but then busts out of its sides, revealing a sci-fi mystery comedy about a secret government shadow conspiracy controlling an inner-city neighborhood called The Glen, where the lead character, Fontaine (John Boyega), is a local drug dealer who gets shot and killed one night, kinda, but not really. Fontaine, back from the kinda-but-not-really-dead, works with local pimp Slick Charles (Foxx) and sex worker-slash-aspiring detective Yo-Yo (Teyonah Parris) to uncover a mystery you just have to see to believe.

Sinners
Alright, y’all, I’m not even going to insult your Black intelligence by trying to tell you anything you don’t already know about Ryan Coogler’s masterpiece, Sinners. You already know, and if you don’t, we at NewsOne have already talked about it at length here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here. I mean, it — it was kind of a big deal.

In fact, all you really need to know about the greatness that is Sinners is this...

This is a short list of Black films and TV shows that could have gone on and on. It could’ve included I’m A Virgo, I Love Boosters, The Harder They Fall, Swarm, The Vince Staples Show, Us, Nope, HBO’s Watchmen, Supacell, Grand Crew, Abbott Elementary, and everything else I’ll probably kick myself for not remembering to include later. It has been a great decade for Black entertainment, y’all. The doors have all been kicked down, and our creatives are running through them three or four at a time. Don’t sleep on that.

Why Black Artists Struggle to Sell Tours

By Amaka Watson

Black Press USA Wire

The internet chatter about Black artists struggling to sell concert tickets points to a much larger crisis reshaping the touring business, according to recent industry reporting and artists’ own comments.

Since spring 2026, a wave of major touring acts across genres have canceled or postponed shows due to sluggish ticket sales, a trend some in the industry have dubbed “blue dot fever,” a reference to the blue markers that indicate empty seats on Ticketmaster’s

venue maps.

The phenomenon is not limited to Black performers, but several recent examples involving Black artists have fueled online conversation about whether Black touring acts face extra hurdles. For a market like Houston, home to a large hip-hop and R&B fan base and a steady stream of major tour stops, the debate carries added weight.

Here are five reasons the touring business has gotten tougher for artists trying to fill seats. Blue dot fever is spreading industrywide. View this post on Instagram A post

shared by CBS Mornings (@cbsmornings)

Black hip-hop megastars like Ludacris, T.I., Rick Ross, and BigXThaPlug felt the impact of Blue Dot Fever after struggling to sell tickets. Industry watchers say many artists are being booked into venues too large for their current draw, leaving sections visibly empty, discouraging last-minute buyers. The trend cuts across genres, but it has compounded challenges already facing some Black touring artists this year.

Fans keep comparing every artist to music’s biggest superstars

Grammy-winning singer Melanie Fiona recently weighed in on the online conversation about canceled shows and slow sales, explaining that most artists do not have the resources or reach of music’s top-tier headliners. The trade outlet Ticket News has made a similar point, noting that few artists can match the pricing structure or demand generated by superstar-level tours. When any artist falls short of that bar, fans and social media users are quick to call it a flop, even when the artist is still performing at a healthy level for their career stage.

Stadium bookings are outpacing actual demand. A hip-hop stadium concert set to take place in Louisville in October 2026, featuring Ludacris, T.I., Rick Ross, and BigXThaPlug, reportedly had nearly 47,000 seats still available as showtime approached. The example illustrates a broader booking problem. Venues sized for arena or stadium crowds do not always match the number of fans willing or able to buy tickets, regardless of an artist’s streaming numbers or name recognition. Some promoters are now facing pressure to book smaller, more intimate venues that better match an act’s current draw.

Rising costs are squeezing fans’ entertainment budgets

Housing, groceries, and everyday expenses have climbed for many households, and live music



The struggle for modern Black artists in hip-hop and R&B to sell out concert tours is influenced by high ticket prices, changing fan demographics, and increasing production costs. Credit: Gemini — Credit: Gemini

is often one of the first expenses fans cut. Older or legacy acts leaning on nostalgia appear to be hit hardest, since higher ticket and fee prices make attending a bigger financial decision than it once was. Newer or lower-profile Black artists competing for the same limited entertainment dollars face an uphill climb, especially when fans have to choose between one or two shows a year instead of several.

Black artists in hip-hop and R&B often compete for airplay and playlist placement within genre-specific categories rather than mainstream ones, which can limit the crossover exposure that turns streaming success into ticket sales. Artists working outside those two genres, including gospel, jazz, and Afrobeats-influenced acts, face a similar challenge in reaching audiences beyond their dedicated fan bases. Whether that structural gap is driving today’s sales slump remains an open question that industry analysts and artists are actively debating.

South Central Artist Turns the Hollywood Bowl into a One-night “Funk Opera”

By OGNSC Staff

LOS ANGELES — The Hollywood Bowl looked a lot like South Central on Sept. 29, when visual artist Lauren Halsey took over the entire amphitheater for emajendat, a one-night event she described as a “funk opera.”

Halsey, a native Angeleno whose large-scale sculptures and installations have been shown at museums around the world, remade the Bowl from the entrance to the stage. Grounds opened at 6 p.m. with carnival-style games, a basketball booth, a Double Dutch area and installations built from her signature collage of hand-painted signs and neighborhood imagery. The headline concert followed at 8 p.m.

Erykah Badu and producer The Alchemist topped the bill, performing ahead of their upcoming collaborative album. Anderson .Paak spun as his alter ego DJ Pee .Wee, Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist Flea sat in, and the Charles Gaines Collective joined L.A. jazz group Black Nile and saxophonist Devin Daniels. Actress Yvonne Orji of “Insecure” hosted. The night closed with fireworks.

The title, pronounced “imagine that,” comes from Halsey’s 2024 exhibition at London’s Serpentine galleries. She has said the Bowl project grew out of her relationship with Badu, whom she

invited to DJ the Hammer Museum’s 2025 gala, where Halsey was honored alongside Jane Fonda.

Halsey told LAist she wanted to bring her



work to what she calls “the people’s venue” and reach audiences who may never set foot in a gallery. She also hopes the sold-out evening serves as proof of concept for more artist-led takeovers of major stages.

Tickets had ranged from \$44 to \$209. The LA Phil, which runs the Bowl, announced the event in April as a late addition to its 2026 season.

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Features

California Enacts New Anti-Hate Training Requirements for State Officials, Private Sector Employees

By Edward Henderson
California Black Media

California is adding new anti-hate training requirements for elected officials and some private sector employees after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two bills aimed at strengthening how government agencies and employers respond to hate speech and bias.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1578, authored by Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), requires state elected officials and certain elected local agency officials to complete training on responding to hate, de-escalation tactics and confronting hate speech beginning Jan. 1, 2028. AB 1803, authored by Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and co-authored by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood), requires employers with five or more employees to incorporate anti-hate speech training into existing workplace sexual-harassment prevention training beginning the same year.

Newsom signed both measures Sept. 27.

The new legislation comes as California continues to record thousands of reported hate-related offenses and bias incidents each year.

According to the California Department of Justice's (DOJ) most recent Hate Crime in California report, 1,955 hate crime events were reported statewide in 2025, a 3.4% decrease from 2,023 and 2024.

However, reported hate crime events involving racial or ethnic bias increased 6.2%, from 1,011 to 1,074.

Anti-Black bias remains the most frequently reported category. The number of reported anti-Black or African American bias events increased from 494 in 2024 to 508 in 2025, a 2.8% increase. Anti-Hispanic or Latino bias events increased 30.3%, from 198 to 258. Reported anti-Islamic bias events rose from 24 to 38, while anti-transgender bias events increased from 73 to 90.

The state also reported 2,402 victims of hate crimes in 2025. Hate crimes referred for prosecution increased from 818 in 2024 to 870 in 2025, with

595 of those cases ultimately filed for prosecution by district attorneys and elected city attorneys.

The DOJ cautions that hate-crime data is historically underreported and that comparisons should be made carefully because not all law-enforcement agencies submitted a full year of data for 2025.

"Confronting hate requires more than words. It requires turning what we hear from our communities into meaningful policy," Jackson told California Black Media (CBM).

"I'm proud that two bills from our anti-hate legislative package, AB 1578 and AB 1803, were signed into law, and grateful to Assemblymembers Josh Lowenthal and Patrick Ahrens for their partnership and leadership," continued Jackson.

Jackson's work on the legislation followed a year of investigation by the Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate and Xenophobia, which he chairs. The bills were also informed by findings from California's Commission on the State of Hate.

AB 1578 establishes anti-hate training requirements for public officials. Beginning in 2028, state elected officials must complete at least one hour of training on responding to hate within six months of taking office and every two years thereafter. Elected local agency officials will receive anti-hate speech training through existing sexual-harassment prevention training requirements.

The law covers recognizing, reporting, confronting and responding to speech that vilifies, humiliates or incites hatred against people based on specified protected characteristics.

For Lowenthal, extending anti-hate education into workplaces is intended to give employees and supervisors tools for addressing problematic conduct before it escalates.

"There's no ambiguity in hate speech, so there should be no ambiguity in its prevention," Lowenthal said. "That is why AB 1803 draws a clear line that intolerant speech will not be tolerated in California's workplaces."

AB 1803 applies to employers with five or more employees and requires anti-hate speech



From right, Asm. Dr. Corey Jackson, D-Moreno Valley; then-Asm. Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento; and Asm. Mia Bonta, D-Alameda, participate in a State of Black California listening session in Sacramento on Sept. 14, 2024. McCarty is now mayor of Sacramento. CBM file photo by Antonio Ray Harvey

training to be incorporated into the state's existing workplace sexual-harassment prevention framework. The training is intended to help employees and supervisors recognize, report and confront workplace speech that vilifies, humiliates or incites hatred based on protected characteristics.

Zbur, who was also a lead author of AB 1803, said the measure is intended to provide workers and

employers with practical tools for responding to hate.

"Hate has no place in California's workplaces, and every worker deserves to feel safe and respected on the job," Zbur said. "AB 1803 gives workers and employers the tools to better recognize and respond to hate before it escalates."

Property Is Power! What Is a Gift of Equity and What Could It Mean for Black America?

By Dr. Anthony O. Kellum
Contributing Columnist
Source: Black Press USA Wire

For generations, the conversation about Black wealth has focused on what we do not have: not enough savings, not enough access to capital, not enough homeownership and not enough inherited wealth. Those realities matter, and the disparities behind them are real but there is another question worth asking: What are we doing with the wealth we already have?

That question deserves more attention because one of the greatest barriers to homeownership is often not the ability to make a monthly mortgage payment. It is the ability to get through the front door the down payment, closing costs and cash required to purchase a property in the first place. For many Black families, that initial hurdle can delay homeownership for years, even when someone has a stable career, good income, reasonable credit and the financial capacity to sustain a mortgage.

Yet in some families, part of the solution may already be sitting within the family itself.

Across Black America, there are parents, grandparents, sisters, brother, aunt and uncles who may not consider themselves wealthy but who own something extraordinarily valuable equity. They purchased homes decades ago, made mortgage payments month after month, raised families in those homes, maintained them through recessions and difficult economic periods and, over time, watched those properties appreciate. A house purchased for \$50,000 or \$75,000 may today be worth \$250,000, \$300,000 or considerably more.

That difference represents more than appreciation on a financial statement. It represents years of work and sacrifice converted into an asset and therein lies a tremendous opportunity.

A gift of equity allows a homeowner, typically in a transaction involving family, to sell a property for less than its appraised market value and transfer some of the difference to the buyer as equity. Subject to the requirements of the mortgage program, that equity can potentially be used toward the buyer's down payment and, in some circumstances, closing costs.

Example. Suppose a mother owns a home that appraises for \$300,000. She wants to sell it to her daughter for \$240,000. The \$60,000 difference between the appraised value and the sales price can potentially become a gift of equity. The mother does not have to withdraw \$60,000 from a bank account and hand it to her daughter. The wealth is already there it has been accumulating inside the property.

That is what makes this strategy so important to understand. We frequently talk about the difficulty of saving a down payment without asking whether a family may already possess an asset capable of helping overcome that barrier. A son or daughter could spend another five or ten years attempting to save enough money to purchase a home while a parent or grandparent is sitting on substantial equity accumulated over several decades.

The family has wealth it simply may not be liquid.

A gift of equity can create a bridge between those two realities. The previous generation may have spent 30 years building equity so that the next generation does not have to begin at zero. That is one of the deeper meanings of generational wealth. It is not simply about leaving something behind after we die. It is about understanding whether the assets one generation has built can improve the economic starting position of the generation that follows.

For Black families, that distinction is especially important we have spent generations fighting for access to property and the opportunity to own it. As more Black families acquire homes and build equity, the conversation must eventually expand beyond the question of how we create more first-generation homeowners. We must also ask how the ownership already achieved by one generation can help create ownership in the next.

This requires us to think differently about inheritance. We often imagine inheritance as an event that occurs at the end of someone's life, when assets pass through a will, trust or estate. But property gives families another possibility. Under the right circumstances, real estate can be used to transfer economic opportunities while parents and grandparents are still alive to participate in the process and see what the asset they spent decades building can do for the next generation.

A parent may not have \$100,000 sitting in a savings account that does not mean the parent has nothing substantial to give. The family home may be the largest asset that person owns, and this points to a distinction that is essential to any serious conversation about wealth income is what we earn; wealth is what we own.

A family can have relatively modest income and still possess meaningful wealth because a home purchased decades earlier has appreciated while its mortgage has steadily been paid down. This matters for Black America because the racial wealth gap

cannot be understood solely as a question of wages and income. It is also a question of ownership, assets and whether those assets successfully move from one generation to another.

Return to the mother with the \$300,000 home. She could sell the property on the open market, receive the proceeds and allow the house to leave the family. There is nothing inherently wrong with that decision. She earned that equity, and her own financial security must matter. But suppose her circumstances allow another choice. She sells the property to her daughter for \$240,000 and provides \$60,000 through a gift of equity.

Her daughter may now be able to purchase a home she otherwise could not have acquired because she lacked sufficient cash. More importantly, she does not necessarily begin her ownership journey at zero. She enters it with equity. If she manages the property responsibly, makes the mortgage payments, maintains the home and allows time and amortization to work, the economic value accumulated by one generation has the potential to continue growing in another.

The mother has therefore transferred more than a house she has transferred a financial head start.

That is when property becomes more than shelter it becomes capital.

None of this means that a gift of equity eliminates financial responsibility or the normal requirements of obtaining a mortgage. The buyer still has to qualify. A lender will evaluate credit, income, debt and the ability to repay the loan. The property generally must be appraised, title requirements must be satisfied and the transaction must comply with the rules of the mortgage program.



Dr. Anthony O. Kellum

There is documentation as well. A lender will generally require a gift-of-equity letter identifying the parties, their relationship, the amount of the gift and confirmation that repayment is not expected. That final requirement matters because a gift cannot secretly be another loan. If a parent provides \$50,000 in equity but expects the child to repay the \$50,000 later, it is not a true gift for mortgage purposes.

The larger issue, however, is not the paperwork. It is what happens to Black-owned property over time. For much of American history, Black families faced enormous barriers to acquiring property in the first place. Redlining, restrictive covenants, discriminatory lending and unequal access to mortgage credit limited where Black Americans could purchase homes and whether they could obtain the financing necessary to do so. Against that history, when a Black family has managed to acquire property, pay for it, preserve it and accumulate substantial equity over decades, we should understand what has been created.

It is not simply a house it is an asset, and assets require strategy.

Before a family property is simply listed for sale, there should be a deeper conversation around the kitchen table. What is the property actually worth? How much equity has accumulated? Is there someone in the next generation who wants the home and is financially capable of maintaining it? Could that person qualify for financing? Could a gift of equity help make the transaction possible? And perhaps most importantly, what do we want this asset to accomplish for our family?

Generational wealth rarely happens by accident. Someone has to think beyond today's transaction and understand that the equity accumulated over 20, 30 or 40 years represents stored economic power.

A gift of equity will not be appropriate for every family, and it is certainly not a solution by itself to the racial wealth gap. But it illustrates a much larger principle. We should not spend all of our time discussing the wealth Black America has yet to build while overlooking the wealth that millions of Black families have already spent generations creating.

That is what it means to turn ownership into legacy.

Property is Power. And when property passes from one generation to the next with knowledge, planning and purpose, that power can outlive us.

Property is Power! is a movement to promote home and community ownership. Studies indicate homeownership leads to higher graduation rates, family wealth, and community involvement.

Based on reporting by Michigan Chronicle.

Governor Newsom Signs Bill Requiring Large Corporations to Disclose Profits From Chattel Slavery

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Assembly Bill (AB) 2599, the Truth in Disclosure Act, authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights), was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom, making California the first state in the nation to require large corporations to disclose historical and financial ties to chattel slavery.

Qualifying businesses must submit findings to the California Civil Rights Department via an affidavit under penalty of perjury. The first filings are due by Jan. 15, 2029.

Bryan told California Black Media (CBM) that Newsom waited until Sept. 30, the constitutional deadline, to sign AB 2599. But Bryan said, once he knew the bill would become law, his anticipation eased.

"Yes, he waited until the last day because it's a big bill, an important bill. It went down to the wire, but I think ultimately, we put a lot of pressure on him, and the governor knew it was the right thing to do," Bryan said.

Under AB 2599, companies with annual worldwide gross receipts exceeding \$100 million that existed — or whose predecessor entities existed — on or before Dec. 31, 1964, and historically profited from the slave trade must search their records for evidence of slavery-era commerce.

The California Civil Rights Department will compile those disclosures into a searchable public digital database, allowing academics, journalists, advocates and others to trace how corporate participation in the slave economy contributed to modern-day wealth.

"This is really important because we've had a lot of conversation about what public repair or redress should look like, but we haven't had a lot of conversation about what private repair should look like," Bryan said. "Part of the reason we haven't had a conversation about what accountability or repair looks like is that we don't know the extent to which that wealth has been generated. We know anecdotally, but the data hasn't been disclosed publicly."

The Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation and Truth, or ARRT, and its coalition partners praised Newsom for signing the Truth in Disclosure Act into law.

About 44 organizations rallied behind ARRT's campaign for the bill's passage, including the California Black Power Network, Equal Justice Society, LA Voice, Faith in the Valley and Faith in Action East Bay.

ARRT, a multiracial, multisector coalition of organizers, advocates, policy experts and



Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Truth in Disclosure Act (Assembly Bill 2599), authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, left, on Sept. 30. The new law makes California the first state in the nation to require qualifying companies with more than \$100 million in annual worldwide gross receipts to examine their records and disclose historical financial ties to slavery. Bryan is shown being interviewed by ARRT social media manager Jai Battle following the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the bill June 23 at the State Capitol Annex Swing Space. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey

community leaders, is dedicated to advancing a comprehensive approach to reparations for Black Californians. The organization views the public database as an important foundation for transparency and a step toward healing.

In an Oct. 1 statement to CBM, ARRT said "Corporations have a moral and ethical responsibility to conduct business practices in alignment with human rights, and it is critical that they acknowledge the financial benefit gained from historical ties to human trafficking and slavery. While we commend the Governor for these momentous steps forward, this is not the end of the fight for comprehensive reparations for Black Californians."

Oakland-based civil rights attorney Don

Tamaki, one of nine members appointed to California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, also supports AB 2599.

Tamaki, who is Japanese American, said the legislation reflects specific recommendations in the task force's final report. He called requiring corporations to disclose their historical ties under oath a "critical first step toward full accountability."

"The final (reparations) report recites that though slavery 'was our nation's original sin,' the Emancipation Proclamation did not bring an end to the atrocities and deprivation visited upon African Americans," Tamaki said. "Our report tells the truth about history. AB 2599 tells corporations they also have to tell the truth."



Shutterstock

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

Gov. Newsom Signs Laws
Protecting California
Workers From AI Abuses

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a package of bills establishing new protections for California workers as artificial intelligence and automated surveillance systems become more common in the workplace.

The four measures, signed Sept. 30, limit employers' use of AI in disciplinary decisions, require disclosure when automation contributes to mass layoffs and restrict invasive workplace surveillance.

"AI should expand opportunity — not come at the expense of workers and families," Newsom said in his signing statement. "As this technology reshapes the workplace, California is putting people at the center, ensuring we all have a voice in the decisions shaping their future."

Senate Bill (SB) 947, authored by Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), prohibits employers from relying solely on automated decision-making systems to discipline or fire workers. Employers must provide human oversight and independently verify an automated system's findings. Workers must also be notified when such technology contributes to a disciplinary or termination decision.

"No worker should ever be fired or disciplined by a robo boss," McNerney said. "Artificial intelligence systems have the potential to increase productivity, but they've also been prone to errors, bias, and misjudgments."

McNerney added that the new law ensures human oversight and keeps AI "a tool controlled by humans, not the other way around."

SB 951, authored by Sen. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-Colton), requires employers to disclose when AI or other automated technology causes a mass layoff, relocation or termination. It also directs the state Employment Development Department to collect information about AI's effects on hiring and employment.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1331, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary (D-Los Angeles), prohibits employers from using surveillance technology in workplace bathrooms.

AB 1883, authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights), restricts employers from using AI-powered surveillance systems to interpret workers' emotions or collect neural data.

The package of legislation represents one of the nation's broadest efforts to regulate AI in the workplace. Labor organizations supported the measures, arguing that safeguards are necessary to prevent discriminatory decisions, protect workers' privacy and ensure that humans remain accountable for employment actions.

Becerra vs Hilton: California
Gubernatorial Hopefuls
Spar in Only Debate

Democrat Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton clashed over affordability, immigration, artificial intelligence, homelessness, and California's

political direction on Sept. 30, in their only gubernatorial debate before the November election.

The candidates seeking to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom also traded attacks over their ties to national politics, with Becerra repeatedly linking Hilton to President Donald Trump and Hilton arguing that California needs a break from decades of Democratic leadership.

"All you ever say is Trump, Trump, Trump," Hilton told Becerra during the debate, as he argued that the state's problems were the result of 16 years of Democratic leadership. Hilton said Becerra would represent a continuation of the status quo.

Becerra, meanwhile, criticized the Trump administration's immigration policies and questioned how Hilton would respond to federal immigration enforcement. Hilton said he would follow the law when asked whether he would direct California law enforcement to cooperate with the administration's mass deportation efforts.

The candidates also differed on artificial intelligence. Becerra said he would consider whether proposed data centers would benefit their surrounding communities before determining where they could be built. Hilton said AI companies may require regulation and legislation and called for an immediate pause on AI technology in classrooms.

On homelessness, Becerra defended his record as California attorney general, saying he had demanded accountability. He said he would clear housing encampments while addressing mental health and addiction.

The candidates found common ground in opposing a proposed one-time wealth tax on billionaires, although Becerra said he did not believe the measure was the right approach despite its support from the state Democratic Party. Hilton warned the tax could drive revenue out of California.

The debate ended with both candidates reflecting on California's history and what they believe the state needs from its next governor.

Hilton praised California's "rebel spirit" and its history of building, inventing, and creating, but argued that bureaucracy was holding the state back.

Becerra pointed to California's economic strength and its history of opportunity for immigrants.

"I started by saying that my parents came to California with \$12 in their pocket. They lived the California dream. We need to make sure we don't forget that," Becerra said.

Gov. Newom Signs
Legislation Protecting
Parents' Rights in Youth
Football

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation giving California parents greater control over the safety equipment their children can use while playing youth tackle football.

Assembly Bill (AB) 708, authored by Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (D-Anaheim) requires youth tackle football leagues to allow players to use additional safety equipment, including soft-shell helmet add-ons, when requested by their parents.

The law addresses concerns about concussions and repeated head impacts in youth football while

ensuring families can choose additional protective equipment for their children.

"One of the things we all are concerned about as parents, particularly when our kids say, 'Dad, Mom, I really want to play tackle football,' is their safety, particularly concussions, head to head, helmet to helmet," Newsom said.

Newsom said soft-shell helmet covers offer an additional safety option but noted that not every community, school district, club or football team in California previously allowed their use.

"Well, that's no longer the case because I just signed a bill requiring that safety feature if requested," Newsom said.

Valencia, a former football player and coach, said he understands the physical demands of the sport and the potential effects of repeated head impacts on young athletes.

"Parents should have the ability to choose this technology for their children, regardless of where they play, especially during these critical years of cognitive development," Valencia said.

AB 708 builds on California's existing youth football safety requirements. In 2019, Newsom signed AB 1, the California Youth Football Act, which established minimum safety standards for youth tackle football leagues.

Newsom also convened a youth football safety summit in 2024 that brought together health care providers, football administrators, parents, youth football organizations, and current and former players to discuss safety and support for young athletes.

Report: California Voters
Aged 18 to 24 Are Most
Likely to Have Their Ballots
Rejected for Being Late

California voters ages 18 to 24 are more likely than older voters to have their mail ballots rejected for arriving late, according to a new report compiled by Public Policy Institute of California.

The report found that 3.1% of ballots mailed by voters ages 18 to 24 were rejected for being late during the 2025 Proposition (Prop) 50 special election. That compared with no more than 0.5% among voters ages 65 and older across the 2022, 2024, and 2025 elections studied.

The gap was also evident in previous elections. Among voters ages 18 to 24, 3.9% of mailed ballots were rejected and marked 'as late' in 2022 and 1.7% in 2024. Researchers found that age was by far the strongest demographic factor associated with late-ballot rejection, even after accounting for other voter characteristics.

The report also found that voters with less recent voting experience were more likely to return their ballots late. In the elections studied, voters who had not participated in the previous general election had late-ballot rejection rates of 2.6%, 1.2%, and 2.6%, compared with 1.1%, 0.3%, and 1.2% among voters who had voted previously.

Overall, late ballots accounted for 0.7% of all mail ballots received by California election officials during the 2025 Prop 50 election, up from 0.6% in 2022 and 0.3% in 2024. The rate rose to 1.1% in the 2026 statewide primary.

Gov. Newsom Approves Tax Credits for Newsrooms
Despite Eligibility, Cost Concerns

By Tanu Henry
California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation on Sept. 30, aimed at strengthening California's struggling local news industry, saying journalists are essential to exposing wrongdoing and protecting democracy.

"It's journalists that need to report those stories and local journalists that need to uncover and sort of peel back the facade if democracy is going to survive, let alone thrive," Newsom said before signing Assembly Bill 2222 at his Sacramento office.

By state law, Sept. 30 is the last day the governor can sign or veto bills. Legislation that he does not approve or veto automatically becomes law.

Authorized by Assemblymembers Chris Ward (D-San Diego) and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), AB 2222 creates refundable tax credits for qualifying local news organizations based on the number of journalists they employ. The measure, formally named the Community Newsroom Employment and Workforce Sustainability Act, is also known as the Community NEWS Act.

Under the law, eligible news organizations can receive a job-retention credit of \$20,000 per journalist for their first five positions and \$15,000 for each additional journalist. Part-time positions qualify for \$7,500 credits.

Publishers can also receive an additional \$15,000 credit for each new journalist hired, an incentive designed to expand newsroom staffing. The credits are "news neutral," meaning eligibility is not based on an outlet's size, editorial viewpoint, platform or organizational structure.

Supporters say the law could provide a lifeline to local news outlets that have struggled with declining advertising revenue, newsroom layoffs and closures. California has lost more than 12,000 local journalists since 2002, according to Rebuild Local News, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

Regina Brown Wilson, executive director of California Black Media, said the governor's action

recognizes journalism's critical public-service role.

"I am extremely grateful that Governor Newsom stood up for a free press at a time when journalism is under attack, including at the federal level," Wilson said. "His signing of AB 2222 sends a powerful message that California understands the essential role of the Fourth Estate in our democracy. Today, California demonstrated that protecting



Turlock, CA - Jan 6, 2025: CA Governor Gavin Newsom speaking at a press conference regarding the California Jobs First project and previewing budget top lines for the upcoming fiscal year. (Shutterstock Sheila Fitzgerald)

journalism is protecting democracy."

Newsom also criticized what he called the "assault on the free press and the First Amendment" coming from Washington and President Donald Trump.

To underscore the value of local reporting, Newsom cited the Los Angeles Times' investigation that exposed municipal corruption in the City of Bell, where local government officials received exorbitant salaries.

"No one would have known had it not been for local journalism," Newsom said. "How many more Bells are out there, not just in this state, but all across the country?"

The measure drew support from more than 180 local, state and national organizations, including press associations, nonprofit and independent publishers, identity-based media groups, labor unions, journalism educators and national industry advocates.

"The News/Media Alliance applauds Governor Newsom for signing AB 2222, the Community NEWS Act, into law," said Danielle Coffey, the alliance's president and CEO. "This law creates a common-sense model to support the sustainability of journalism in California, and its greatest strength is that it is 'news neutral,' covering the full, diverse scope of news media within the state."

Coffey said the coalition supporting the legislation demonstrated a model that other states could follow to sustain local journalism.

Gov. Newsom emphasized that the program benefits all media outlets, including hedge fund-owned media chains and outlets, he said, produce propaganda instead of balanced news stories.

"This bill that I'll sign today will benefit even those propaganda outlets because that's what the 1st Amendment demands. There's no censorship. There's no bias, and I think that's a healthy thing," Newsom said. "So, California will continue to lead in this space. We did so a number of years ago when we established a framework of a public-private partnership where we actually got Google to contribute and match state contributions of \$25 million that I put in the budget this year for our civic media program, which was the first in the nation. We did that to support grants of up to \$250,000 to newsrooms."

The tax credits provided by the new law would be financed by aligning California's tax code with a provision in President Trump's federal tax law that eliminated certain deductions for executive compensation exceeding \$1 million annually.

James Luckey, Publisher of the Observer

The researchers also examined whether changes by the U.S. Postal Service contributed to the increase. They found that late-ballot rejection rates in ZIP codes affected by the USPS Regional Transportation Optimization program increased 0.6 percentage points more than in comparable ZIP codes between 2024 and 2025.

However, the report found that the USPS changes accounted for only about 19% of the overall statewide increase in rejected late ballots because the affected ZIP codes represented about one-quarter of mailed ballots.

The researchers said the remaining increase requires further investigation. They recommended stronger outreach encouraging voters, particularly younger voters and those in affected ZIP codes, to return ballots early or use in-person drop-off options.

The report also urged state officials to continue pressing the USPS for election-period accommodations, including evening pickup in areas affected by the changes.

Gov. Newsom Appoints San
Francisco Arts Professor
Jacqueline Francis to
California African American
Museum Board of Directors

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed San Francisco arts professor Jacqueline Francis to the California African American Museum Board of Directors, adding an academic and art historian with extensive experience in African American art and visual studies to the museum's leadership.

Francis has served as dean of the Humanities and Sciences Division at the California College of the Arts since 2024. She previously held several positions at the college, including professor, academic engagement coordinator, associate professor, and chair of the Graduate Program in Visual and Critical Studies.

Before joining California College of the Arts, Francis was an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 2000 to 2008.

Her academic background includes a Doctor of Education degree in history of art from Emory University, a Master of Arts degree in African American studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Dartmouth College.

Francis is also involved with several organizations focused on art history and visual culture. She is a co-founder of the Association for Critical Race Art History and serves as secretary of the National Committee for the History of Art. She is also an advisory board member of Third Text and Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art.

The California African American Museum, located in Los Angeles, focuses on preserving, interpreting, and presenting the history and contemporary experiences of African Americans through art and cultural exhibitions.

Francis' appointment does not require Senate confirmation and carries no compensation. She is a Democrat.

News Group in Southern California, which serves Bakersfield, Antelope Valley and Los Angeles, said, for small newsrooms across California, finding good journalists is not the problem.

"It's keeping them," Luckey said. "We've had talented fellows come through the Bakersfield News Observer and the Los Angeles News Observer and when the fellowship ends, we're left doing the math on whether we can afford to keep them," Luckey said. "Too often we can't. AB2222 changes that. A credit tied directly to the reporters on our payroll means we can plan a year out instead of week to week."

Luckey added, "As a third-generation publisher, we haven't missed a week in 50 years. This bill is the state saying it wants papers like ours to still be here for the next 50. I'm grateful to Assemblymembers Ward and Wicks, and California Black Media, and the coalition, and the governor for getting it done."

Business organizations, including the California Chamber of Commerce and California Taxpayers Association, opposed the measure, arguing that it would raise employer costs that could be passed on to consumers.

Newsom's finance office also raised concerns that the bill does not cap the credits, potentially creating an unlimited financial obligation for the state.

Newsom acknowledged that wealthy corporate owners and hedge funds could benefit, even if they do not need public support.

"It does subsidize those that don't need to be subsidized," he said, adding that lawmakers and the next governor should consider narrowing eligibility.

"We should not be subsidizing hedge funds," Newsom said. "We should be focused on where the need is the greatest."

Despite those concerns, Newsom said the benefits of supporting local journalism ultimately outweighed the bill's potential liabilities.

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Chargers Fall to 0-4 in Seattle

By OGNSC Staff

SEATTLE — The Los Angeles Chargers put up a season-high 23 points Sunday and still came home empty-handed.

The defending Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks held off a late Chargers rally for a 30-23 win at Lumen Field, dropping Los Angeles to 0-4 for the first time since 2017. The Bolts have not won a game since Week 16 of last season.

The numbers tell a familiar story. The Chargers outgained Seattle 301 yards to 286 but turned the ball over four times, took 16 penalties for 130 yards and let Justin Herbert get sacked four more times. Seattle, which lost to Washington a week earlier, improved to 3-1.

Emanuel Wilson did most of the damage for the Seahawks, catching a 23-yard touchdown pass from Sam Darnold in the first quarter and walking in untouched on a touchdown run in the final minute of the first half. Darnold finished 13-of-22 for 168 yards and two scores.

Turnovers Dig the Hole

Herbert threw an interception on the Chargers' very first play from scrimmage. Tuli Tuipulotu answered immediately by picking off Darnold on Seattle's first snap, and Cameron Dicker turned that into a 40-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead. It was the last time Los Angeles was in front.

Herbert's second interception came late in the half when he tried to force a throw to Ladd McConkey and a Seattle defender dropped into the lane for an easy pick. The Seahawks needed only 20 yards to turn that one into points.

Rashid Shaheed added a 28-yard touchdown run, and Seattle led 20-6 at the break. Herbert was 5-of-14 for 36 yards in the first half with a passer rating of 4.8, and the Chargers managed just 92 yards of offense before intermission.

"I can't do that and can't turn the ball over like that," Herbert said. "Just have to be more careful with it."

Through four games Herbert has six



Justin Herbert (10) throws under pressure from Seattle's Leonard Williams (99) in the Chargers' 30-23 loss Sunday. (Photo: Ty Nowell/Los Angeles Chargers)

interceptions and has been sacked 12 times. According to NFL.com, he is the first Chargers quarterback to open a season that way since Ryan Leaf in 2000.

Bolts Show Some Fight

Seattle opened the second half with an eight-play, 68-yard drive that Darnold capped with a six-yard touchdown pass to Tory Horton, pushing the lead to 27-6. From there, the Chargers finally found

a rhythm.

Herbert hit Kimani Vidal on a nine-yard shovel pass for a touchdown to make it 27-13. After a Seattle field goal, Los Angeles put together a nine-minute drive that ended with Omarion Hampton's two-yard scoring run. Dicker's 36-yard field goal with 2:14 left pulled the Chargers within 30-23.

The defense got one more stop, and the Chargers had the ball back with 1:42 to play. But

Herbert was sacked and fumbled, Seattle recovered, and that was the game.

Herbert finished 19-of-31 for 189 yards and a touchdown. Hampton led the ground game with 45 yards and a score on nine carries. Los Angeles outscored Seattle 17-10 after halftime.

"I think there were a lot of good things in the second half," Herbert said.

Herbert took a beating along the way. In the fourth quarter Seattle's Derick Hall landed on him after a throw and drew an unnecessary roughness flag. Herbert stayed down briefly, then waved off head coach Jim Harbaugh and the trainers who ran out to check on him.

Harbaugh Stands by His Quarterback

Harbaugh was asked afterward why Herbert still has to play "hero ball" two and a half years into the coach's tenure. He pushed back hard.

"One of the real grittiest performances I've been associated with from a quarterback," Harbaugh said. "I've never seen him flinch. I've never seen him rattled."

The coach acknowledged the four sacks were a problem but put that on the rest of the roster.

"The quarterback taking the hits he did, there's nobody I respect more," Harbaugh said. "Protecting him is always at the front of the mind."

Harbaugh also said offensive coordinator Mike McDaniel's job is not in jeopardy, and insisted the fight he saw in the second half is what the team will build on.

"We'll take this team and keep fighting, keep growing," he said. "That's what we're going to do."

Broncos Up Next

The Chargers return to SoFi Stadium on Sunday to face AFC West rival Denver (2-2). Kickoff is 1:05 p.m. on CBS. Kansas City sits atop the division at 4-0, with Las Vegas at 3-1.

At 0-4, the Bolts are running out of room. A home win over the Broncos would be a start.

Lakers Split Preseason Back-to-Back



Oct 5, 2026; Sacramento, California, USA; Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Dončić (77) drives with the ball against the Sacramento Kings during the first quarter at Golden 1 Center. (Photo Credit: Sergio Estrada-Imagn Images | IMAGN IMAGES via Reuters Connect)

By OGNSC Staff

The new-look Los Angeles Lakers got their first taste of game action this week, and it came in two very different flavors.

Monday night in Sacramento, a shorthanded Lakers squad ran the Kings off their own floor, 127-103. Twenty-four hours later in San Francisco, an even thinner roster got run out of Chase Center by the Golden State Warriors, 124-98.

For head coach JJ Redick, who spent the summer rebuilding nearly the entire rotation around Luka Dončić, the back-to-back offered an early look at both the ceiling and the floor of this group. He liked one half of it a lot more than the other.

A Longer, Harder Camp

Redick promised two things when camp opened in El Segundo: a highly competitive training camp and a roster built around Dončić. He also wanted

more time on the practice floor than the team got a year ago.

"We had six real practices, preseason last year," Redick said. "This year we'll have at least 12, plus a couple get-what-you-need days. It's just generally just gonna be a more productive preseason training camp."

The emphasis all week was defense. After finishing 20th in defensive rating last season, the Lakers spent camp drilling full-court ball pressure and getting into opponents' space on the perimeter. Newcomers Ziaire Williams and Matisse Thybulle were brought in largely for that purpose.

Two-way wing Chris Mañon drew notice for his work in live scrimmages, and Redick said he sees Arthur Kaluma and AK Okereke as 3-and-D wings within the system.

Statement in Sacramento

The camp work showed up right away Monday at Golden 1 Center. Playing without Austin Reaves (ankle), Walker Kessler (finger), Collin Sexton and Kaluma (lower body), the Lakers built a 73-47 halftime lead and never looked back.

Williams set the tone by picking up Kings rookie point guard Darius Acuff Jr. all 94 feet from the opening tip. Los Angeles forced 26 turnovers, held Sacramento to 45 percent shooting and 17 percent from three, and knocked down 20 of its own 44 attempts from deep.

Dončić led all scorers with 21 points and said afterward he felt great physically. The surprise was rookie Cameron Carr, the Baylor guard the Lakers traded up to grab at No. 24 in June. Carr poured in 19 points with three rebounds, two assists and two steals in his debut.

"Every chance I get to step on the court, just growing in areas and just getting more comfortable with just playing in the offense and being efficient," Carr said.

Redick credited the carryover from camp.

"We just consistently just did the right play," he said, "and the right play helped our teammates." Reality Check at Chase Center

Tuesday was another story. With Dončić, Williams and Thybulle joining the four players already sitting out, the Lakers were down seven rotation players against a Warriors team that played its starters.

Golden State was up 81-53 at the half and led by as many as 31. Redick called his first timeout less than a minute into the game. Stephen Curry scored 16 points in under 15 minutes, and rookie forward Yaxel Lendeborg had 17 points and nine rebounds. The Lakers shot 39.8 percent for the night.

Redick did not hide his frustration, preseason or not.

"The way we started that game was insane," he said. "I don't know the reasons why, because this group has been awesome for the two months I've been around them. The first half was unacceptable."

He did praise the group that opened the second half, singling out Adou Thiero and Jake LaRavia for restoring the physical defense the team showed in Sacramento.

"I still expect to win, and I still expect us to play to our standards," Redick said. "You can still hold them accountable. And I do think they respond."

What's Ahead

The Lakers play their first home preseason game Thursday night at Crypto.com Arena in a rematch with the Kings, then meet the Warriors again Tuesday, Oct. 13, in Las Vegas before closing the exhibition slate Oct. 16 against Denver.

The real thing starts Wednesday, Oct. 21, when Golden State comes to Los Angeles for the season opener on ESPN. By then Redick expects a full roster — and a full 48 minutes.

Rams Rally Past Eagles 24-20

By OGNSC Staff

PHILADELPHIA — For three and a half quarters Sunday, the Los Angeles Rams looked like a team headed for a 1-3 start. Then Matthew Stafford and Kyren Williams went to work.

Williams scored two touchdowns in the final four minutes, and the Rams rallied from 10 points down to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 24-20 at a rain-soaked Lincoln Financial Field. The win evens Los Angeles at 2-2 and keeps the Rams in the thick of the NFC West race.

It was not pretty. Stafford, the reigning league MVP, threw two interceptions that set up 10 Eagles points, and Philadelphia took a 20-10 lead into halftime. Special teams miscues and a pair of failed fourth-down tries kept the Rams stuck in the mud for most of the afternoon.

"Plenty of plays where we didn't get the result we wanted," Stafford said afterward. "But we got the result we wanted at the end of the game."

A Huddle and a Message

As the third quarter wound down with his team still trailing by 10, head coach Sean McVay gathered the entire offense around him on the sideline. Stafford summed up the message simply: the coach was trying to put some belief in his team.

"Guys, we're capable," McVay said he told them. "You got to believe and we got to just string good plays together. Our defense is doing everything that they can to keep us in this game."

The offense responded. A 98-yard drive, aided by an unnecessary roughness penalty on Philadelphia, ended with Williams punching it in from a yard out with 3:59 left to cut the lead to 20-17.

The Eagles went three-and-out again, and the Rams got the ball back with less than three minutes to play. Stafford hit Puka Nacua three times on the 10-play, 79-yard march and added an eight-yard scramble of his own. Williams finished it, breaking several tackles on a seven-yard touchdown run with 1:10 remaining.

McVay celebrated by sprinting down the sideline and nearly leapfrogging safety Quentin Lake.

"I think a lot of teams would have folded in those situations," McVay said. "I think our defense kept giving us a reason to believe."

Defense Does the Heavy Lifting

The comeback does not happen without the Rams defense, which smothered a banged-up Eagles offense all day. Philadelphia went 0-for-12 on third down, finished with just 68 net passing yards and 172 yards of total offense, and did not score a point in the second half.

The Eagles have now been outscored 31-0 after halftime in their last two games, both losses. Philadelphia head coach Nick Sirianni took the



Justin Herbert (10) throws under pressure from Seattle's Leonard Williams (99) in the Chargers' 30-23 loss Sunday. (Photo: Ty Nowell/Los Angeles Chargers)

blame for a failed fourth-down call that handed the Rams a short field during the rally.

"You go for it and you get it, great," Sirianni said. "You go for it and don't get it, that's on the head coach."

Nacua Back in the Lineup

Stafford finished 32-of-51 for 317 yards, and most of that went to Nacua, who returned from injury and caught nine passes for 125 yards. Williams had a complete afternoon with 80 yards

and two scores on 16 carries plus 10 catches for 67 yards.

The Rams came in averaging 417 yards a game, second in the NFL, and moved the ball again Sunday. The turnovers and the fourth-down gambles simply kept the scoreboard from showing it until late.

Bills Come to SoFi

The Rams get a short turnaround on the travel but a big one on the schedule. Buffalo visits SoFi

Stadium on Sunday in a matchup of two offenses ranked in the top 10 in yards per game.

McVay said finding a way to win an ugly one could matter down the road.

"You can't win it until the fourth quarter," he said, "and our guys came alive when they did."

Stafford put it in plainer terms. Instead of 1-3, the Rams are 2-2, and he called the win proof of a group that stayed steady when the game got sideways.

Local

Inglewood Shifts \$2.8 Million in HOME-ARP Funds to Sankofa Place Affordable Housing Project

By Marion Apio
California Local News Fellow

Inglewood is putting \$2.8 million of its approximately \$3.1 million in federal HOME-ARP funds toward Sankofa Place, a \$105 million affordable housing development that will bring 120 units to two parcels on Centinela Avenue and Warren Lane.

The project will include 118 deed-restricted affordable rental units and two manager units. Fifty-nine units are planned as permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, according to Venice Community Housing, one of the project's developers.

The city's HOME-ARP allocation is the largest public funding commitment from Inglewood to the project. The money will cover part of the land acquisition, according to Ian Nevarez, senior director of development and communications for Venice Community Housing.

The city originally allocated some of the HOME-ARP funds for affordable housing and some for administrative costs. Roberto Chavez, Inglewood's HUD programs manager, said the city moved the remaining funds into the housing project to help close its financing gap.

"Part of it was already allocated to this purpose, but some of it was allocated to administrative dollars," Chavez said. "So we reallocated whatever wasn't there to the remainder, so that we could make sure that the developer had enough funding to close their gaps."

The city conducted a 30-day public review of the amended HOME-ARP plan. Chavez said he did not recall receiving public comments during the review period.

The decision reflects the city's preference for using the federal funds for permanent housing rather than shorter-term assistance, Chavez said. He said the city viewed a project with a 55-year affordability covenant as providing longer-term stability for low-income families.

"So basically, when the city was developing their strategy for spending," Chavez said, "the city did a public hearing and requested comments from the public on the use of the funds."

The project is being developed by Venice Community Housing, Linc Housing and the Social Justice Learning Institute through Sankofa Place LP.

The total development cost is \$105 million, according to Venice Community Housing. The financing includes 4% low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bond financing, an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities permanent loan from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, a construction-to-permanent loan from the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency, a No Place Like Home loan from the Los Angeles County Development Authority, an Infill Infrastructure Grant, financing from KeyBank, tax credit equity from Freddie Mac and a \$1.7 million capital contribution from the Social Justice Learning Institute.

The project also has 59 project-based vouchers conditionally committed by the Inglewood Housing Authority. Chavez said those commitments were made before the housing authority entered a

designated shortfall, meaning the city currently has limited ability to make new voucher commitments.

"We want to honor those obligations," Chavez said. "But in the future, right? If I want to do any now, I'm limited until we're out of the shortfall."

Chavez said the shortfall is separate from the HOME-ARP reallocation.

The housing authority's shortfall is tied to federal funding for its existing voucher program, he said. The authority has spent its annual allocation and is being monitored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to prevent additional overspending.

The distinction matters because Inglewood's existing commitment to Sankofa Place can move forward while the city faces limits on new project-based voucher commitments, Chavez said.

The project is intended to serve households earning between 30% and 80% of the area median income. The 59 permanent supportive housing units will serve people experiencing homelessness, with some units designated for transition-age youth and people with mental illness and a portion targeting American Indian and Alaska Native residents, according to Venice Community Housing.

Residents for the permanent supportive housing units will be referred through Los Angeles County's Coordinated Entry System. Some affordable units will be referred from Inglewood waiting lists, while the remaining units will be filled

through a lottery of eligible applicants, according to Venice Community Housing.

The project is designed to remain affordable for decades. It carries a 55-year affordability covenant, while funding from the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency requires 99 years of affordability, according to the developer.

Construction was scheduled to begin in late September, with completion expected in fall 2028, according to Venice Community Housing.

The project also includes the future headquarters of the Social Justice Learning Institute, which will occupy about 17,000 square feet. The nonprofit plans to continue programs including job training, pre-apprenticeship training, anti-displacement work, financial assistance and active transportation programs from the site.

An additional Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant will support infrastructure improvements around the development, including new and connecting bicycle paths and pedestrian improvements.

The project is subject to Section 3 requirements aimed at targeting local workers and a project labor agreement. Because it receives federal and state funding, workers will be paid the higher of applicable prevailing wage rates or Davis-Bacon rates, according to Venice Community Housing.

Derek Steele, executive director of the Social Justice Learning Institute, said the project is

intended to respond to the displacement pressures accompanying development in Inglewood.

"Displacement has been a challenge with all the development that has happened in the city," Steele said.

Steele said the project's financing extends beyond the city's contribution and the nonprofit's investment.

"There's a whole capital stack," he said. "It's not necessarily just built around the contributions that the city made or that we made."

Steele said the development will provide housing across several income levels while including permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness.

"It's 30% to 80% AMI," he said. "So this is an AMI spread that covers multiple aspects of our community at a time where these types of solutions are needed."

For Inglewood, the project represents one of the city's larger commitments to creating new affordable housing while its housing authority faces limits on new voucher commitments.

"When you ask what the city is doing to help the homeless, it's partnering with Venice Community Housing to build affordable housing," Chavez said.

The city's HOME-ARP investment is one part of the larger financing package needed to bring the 120-unit project to construction.



Senior defensive back Ta'Shawn James runs past Maryland running back Iverson Howard while returning his third interception of the year.

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✓ California Primary Care Association
- ✓ NAACP California/Hawaii State Conference

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