**African Americans and the Coronavirus**

**Mayor Breed’s Early Actions Helped Stem Spread Of Covid-19 In San Francisco**

*By Billy Bevill*

San Francisco Mayor London Breed’s first in the nation Stay-at-Home order issued to fight the spread of the coronavirus is being credited with helping to save untold numbers of lives in San Francisco. Mayor Breed said Tuesday that she thinks San Francisco has helped residents’ taking the threat of COVID-19 seriously as never before.

“I think from the very beginning when we talked about a declaration of emergency in February, people started to behave differently at that time. That played a major role in what we’re seeing in our city. We are seeing record low cases in our city compared to other cities,” she said.

Mayor Breed announced a declaration of emergency February 25, even though there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus in the city. The first confirmed case was announced on March 5. The Stay-at-Home order was effective March 17.

As of Tuesday morning, 1,468 residents had been diagnosed with coronavirus, 20 were in ICUs, 87 hospitalized and 23 residents had died from the COVID-19.

“Fortunately, as high as those numbers are, the work we are doing is having an effect on what could have been far worse numbers,” Mayor Breed said. She added that contact tracing has been expanded in the city.

She credited the contact tracing with stopping the spread of the virus, after an outbreak occurred at the city’s largest homeless encampment.

Notably, Breed said San Francisco has also not had a disproportionate number of deaths and cases in the community. American Community.

She said that of those infected have been African-Americans, and out of the 23 deaths, three were people of color.

She said the numbers are not as significant in the SF African American community as in other cities nationally. “I think it’s because we have an equity plan in place and we’ve been able to get out into the Emergency Response Center.”

She added that one of the first clinics opened in the city to provide medical services during the pandemic was in Bayview Hunter’s Point, and a testing site was later added in that location.

She said a team also goes out every day to give out masks in public housing units and to the homeless, 33% of whom are African American.

One of Breed’s major goals during her tenure as Mayor has been to get thousands of people off the streets.

She said the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on those efforts as well.

Mayor Breed’s Early Actions Helped Stem Spread Of Covid-19 In San Francisco

Sheryl Evans Davis

Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Dion-Jay Brooker

Young Community Developers Executive Director

James Spingola

Collective Impact Executive Director

Young Community Developers (YCD), having been around for over 20 years, is an organization that believes the social problems we face today are not unique to the Bay Area or even the United States. We are addressing the basic needs for our community, and especially in times of crisis. This pandemic has exacerbated what’s gone on in our communities for a long time, making it more challenging for people to address the basic needs for themselves and their families.

We’ve adjusted delivery of our in-person programming and services to a remote service model, much like our faith-based partners support our clients, customers, and other through trying times. In the spirit of continuous improvement, YCD will continue to refine and adapt our service delivery models to best serve our San Francisco Residents.

Community-based organizations are pillars in the community, and especially in times of crisis. We’re providing laptops and tablets to our clients, customers, and others on an ongoing basis. We’re also offering job training, educational tutorials, and one-on-one meetings via Zoom.

Basic Necessities: We’ve been able to secure over 200 Safeway gift cards, even offering them online via an online platform to ensure all our clients, customers, and others on an ongoing basis.

Childcare: We’re working with foundation partners and community based organization partners to address the challenges of childcare while children aren’t able to go to school and many parents still have to work.

Transportation: We’re supporting families who are

Continued on page 8

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Sheryl Evans Davis

Continued on page 8

Naomi Kelly

SF City Administrator

James Spingola

Continued on page 8

Dion-Jay Brooker

COVID-19 crisis are:

Housing: We’re helping families with eviction protection, and working on getting funding from foundations and the Mayor’s office to support this work.

Connectivity: We’re providing laptops and tablets to our clients, and we’re also offering job training, educational tutorials, and one-on-one meetings via Zoom.

Basic Necessities: We’ve been able to secure over 200 Safeway gift cards, even offering them online via an online platform to ensure all our clients, customers, and others on an ongoing basis.

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Continued on page 8

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We're here for you. The SFPUC continues to work around the clock to ensure essential water, power, and sewer services for you and your loved ones.

sfwater.org/coronavirus

SFHRC - Sun Reporter Supplemental - Outreach To AA Community

I n the light of the COVID-19 outbreak and shelter-in-place orders, San Francisco’s African American communities are experiencing disproportionate impact due to pre-existing inequities when it comes to accessing necessary resources. The City and County of San Francisco and The San Francisco Human Rights Commission have made considerable efforts to fill gaps and support the safety, health, and general wellbeing of its African American citizens.

Many of these efforts have been made on the front line, delivering immediate support directly to people in need. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission has provided emergency funding to several organizations focused on African American community needs so that they are able to continue doing the crucial work that only becomes more urgent in this time. We’ve also taken on hot meal distribution for families in public housing sites and across the City, and are offering informational flares along with the food.

We’ve entered into a partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District Equity Studies Task Force to develop practices to minimize impact of shelter in place on learning. We’re making sure that families have internet access and devices to stay connected, especially for students who are not in school and wouldn’t otherwise have access to these tools. We’re connecting with online instruction, and we’ve developed culturally relevant online engagements. Some of our most respected community leaders have stepped up to share virtual story time sessions. Mayor London Breed offered a reading of Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” by Elzaar Greenseid, and Police Chief William Scott read Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie. We’ve also compiled and distributed activity kits for families who are now at home together far more than they usually are. And when we aren’t putting these resources directly into the hands of families, we’re offering gift cards for them to get their own essential needs, including food, hygiene products, and cleaning and disinfecting supplies.

To make sure that our reach is broad and comprehensive rather than limited to those in our immediate network, we’ve been able to employ community ambassadors to reach specific populations. In collaboration with the San Francisco Police Department and the Street Violence Intervention Program (SVIP), community ambassadors are also distributing face coverings and emphasizing the importance of social distancing and other ways for community members to keep themselves and their families and neighbors safe. Our collaborative efforts have helped to secure emergency housing for members of the trans community and people who were recently released from prison without stable shelter, and we’re working with Black-led LGBTQI organizations to connect their clients with food and medical support. We’re partnering with homeless providers in the Tenderloin, where the plurality of clients are African American, to ensure that some of our most vulnerable neighbors are not left behind.

While there’s plenty of urgent work to be done to support individuals in crisis, we’re staying vigilant and active on big picture items like broad communication, messaging, and post-coronavirus policy. Our newly established weekly roundtables are focused on issues impacting the African American community. We’re tapping into national conversations about economic recovery, continuing to move forward the conversation on reparations, and pushing for clear plans to address and remedy disparities that existed before COVID-19. On this front, we are continuing to work with our African American-led and -focused communications firm, PJS Consultants, to craft thoughtful and urgent messaging to keep our communities informed and healthy.

The Black Equity officer at the Emergency Operation Center is focused on helping us remain intersectional in our response and avoiding exacerbating the impact of pre-existing structural inequities. We’re also developing a partnership with PolicyLink to raise awareness about the intersecting impact of racism and the epidemic.

Finally, we’re leveraging the power of print and digital media. We developed a community strategy with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), Project Level, and Collective Impact to reach African American partners and communities through print, online, and social media. We’ve also run “Rona Is Not a Game” ads in the Bayview Newspaper and developed a comprehensive special edition supplement in the Sun Reporter to highlight the impact on African American communities, resources available, and what more is needed.

Page 2 - Sun Reporter Special Edition, Thursday, April 30, 2020
African American Women Providing Essential Service

By Gail Berkley

The Pioneering tradeswomen, Deanna Kelly, 30, Jewelia Haynes, 24, Jenell Daniels, 38, Dayunie Living, 25, and Larita Shambray-Robinson, 25, have been afforded the opportunity to sharpen their skills as they work on the lead and asbestos removal and clean-up project at Pier 70.

All of the women are Distinct 10 residents and are employed by African American owned Eagle Environmental Construction, Inc., a subcontractor on the Pier 70 project. EEC previously completed biohazard remediation and removal work at 1800 Jerrold Avenue, and several of the women also worked there. EEC owner Roland Bopitkc, his business developer Wilton Watson and Construction Foreman Earl Watson, are committed to providing jobs for residents in Distinct 10 where EEC is also located.

The women have inspiring stories to tell about working in a male-dominated environment where they may face bullying, sexism and other challenges.

Deanna Kelly

Deanna Kelly, a single mother raising an eight-year-old daughter, is still in the lead removal stage. She is working during the shelter in place in order to complete the project. Since her daughter is out of school, Kelly has to find resources to support her daughter.

Kelly completed the EPA Environmental Technician Training Program through Young Community Developers (YCD) and Hunts Point Family last November and began working almost immediately. She said she knows that she has to have a good work ethic and trust to respect everyone. “I don’t have anybody. I’m doing everything on my own.” She said her ultimate goal is to become an electrician.

She says her daughter is her motivation. On the better challenges she says, “Being a woman, the men always try to help me, and I don’t need help. I feel like they want to help me because, I’m a woman.” She perseveres though because she is able to make good money and take care of her family.

Jewelia Haynes

Jewelia Haynes, a 2018 graduate of the City Building Academy, is a member of the Operating Engineers Local 3. She faced several setbacks on the way to becoming a member of the union and creating her hard work, drive and motivation for her success. One year after passing the entrance exam, she fell ill due to a condition in the labors union and completed her 6-week training in San Francisco. She says with pride, “I am an operator engineer and learned how to navigate and operate heavy equipment safely and smart.” She said the current city job is better because she works under the rules, and manages the work to be done. She said under the job they don’t want me there and I can feel the pressure, but I continue to focus on my task and learning.”

Jenell Daniels

Jenell Daniels, 25, says, “I feel like my career is keeping me out of jail, because I’m making a sustainable income.” Daniels says that she became a construction worker and spent 6 months in jail for shoplifting but has turned her life around. She completed the EPA Environmental Technician and Job Readiness Training programs at YCD facilities last November.

She was hired for the Pier 70 project a month later and says, “ECD has been really supportive, and I feel they got my back. This career has changed my life for the better.” She said while in the EPA program she completed a goals matrix chart, and set personal goals that has almost met all her goals. She said she’s proud that now she is a productive member of society.

Dayunie Living is a wife and mother of two-year twins and says she got into the construction trades after spending six years in security and office jobs. Seeking better pay she completed YCD’s EPA program in November 2019.

She said YCD helped her get into Local 67 by paying her union initiation fees. After completing the Fall Protection class in February, she was hired by EEC in February on the 1800 Jerrold project. When it ended, she was transferred to Pier 70.

“I would encourage more women to get into the field because construction is not only a man’s job. If you’re willing to make the money, you can do it. I can now provide a sustainable life for my family.”

In the future Living hopes to transition to the safety of the industry as an inspector or project manager. She also wants to learn to speak Spanish so that she can individualize and families and-Hispanics on her job site.

Larita Shambray-Robinson

Larita Shambray-Robinson is a single mother of three young children—twelve-year-old twins and an eight-year-old son. She is also raising her 17-year-old sister.

She says she eventually wants to be a Project Manager or Safety Inspector. She said when faced with challenges what keeps her focused is remembering, “You are your brand, don’t let anybody destroy it.”

Feeding The People and Fighting The Coronavirus

As San Franciscans shelter in place to fight the deadly coronavirus pandemic, one group of workers continues to provide essential construction services to the City and County of San Francisco. Among them are five African American women, excelling in trades that are not always in the construction trades.

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Like in so many other cities, food insecurity is a parallel challenge to COVID-19 in San Francisco. One outcome of years of disinvestment in healthy food options for communities of color is disproportionate rates of chronic illness. Although challenges abound, we cannot work towards recovery using the same white supremacist model of the past. The systems have failed our people for far too long, without consequence or intervention. The community has always been resilient, making a way out of no way, and taking care of our own in the face of discrimination, limited resources, and structural barriers. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission is here with you to fight racism and discrimination in all city and private business practices, and to ensure that you are able to meet your most basic needs with dignity and equal opportunity.

Brittini Chicuata

Acting Chief of Staff SF Human Rights Commission

Submission: Brittini Chicuata, Acting Chief of Staff San Francisco Human Rights Commission

The Coronavirus challenges us all through Black communities across America. As the local economic impacts become clearer, we know that the fallout will continue to have its greatest impact on the African American community in San Francisco. The history of structural racism—including redlining, job discrimination, and concentrations of poverty—make it so that we already experience poorer living conditions, lower wages, and greater health disparities than any other community in San Francisco. We are at the greatest risk of dying if we catch COVID-19.

An NPR article from 2017 details how food has been used as a tool of social control and families that experienced food insecurity were reminded, “silently ripping

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Brittini Chicuata

Chicuata with plantation dogs for scraps of food and the way slave owners would make enslaved children eat out of troughs filled with mash, like animals. Both starvation and forced overconsumption were reminders of dominance and power.

That antebellum history casts a dark shadow on contemporary food access challenges for many. In our current society, people who are food insecure are often food insecure because the coronavirus! With so many parents furloughed or fired, children forced to stay home from school; elders and other vulnerable populations—more isolated than ever, the HRC created a program called City Soppers.

City Soppers provides daily hot meals to people across the City that don’t have more support during this time. In a few weeks, our service capacity has ballooned to serving nearly 10,000 weekly meals at 18 public housing sites and two community centers. Also, we provide a stream of income to restaurants—primarily neighborhood small businesses—so that they can close their doors due to COVID-19. In short, we are both feeding the people and providing economic relief.

Initially, this work was meant to be a bridge to help sustain families during this public health emergency. But the response has been overwhelming and highlighted what many of us already knew in San Francisco, making healthy food choices is not an option for everyone. There are far too many people who do not have access to quality, nutritious, affordable food in the communities they live in. Now, we are working to build a sustainable, ongoing, direct food system.
Phelicia Jones
Community Activist

These lessons I have learned to deal with and challenges I had to deal with led me to care for my people.

I was raised in the South. I was raised right here in Bayview Hunters Point. I've been fighting for Black communities and supporting the struggle for the Black community. In addition to working for the San Francisco Department of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to get real-time data on the number of COVID-19 deaths by district/city code and by race. As a community activist, I have been involved with these issues for a long time. I have always been passionate about community activism and supporting marginalized communities.

Shakirah Simley
Director, Office of Racial Equality SF Human Rights Commission

A new sense of urgency has surfaced in daily difficulties that are reminiscent of past traumas of systemic racism and discrimination, stoked by implicit and explicit racial bias, and systemic racial inequities that affect communities throughout the City of San Francisco, according to the SF Human Rights Commission. It is critical to address these systemic issues.

Shammam Walton
Sf Supervisor District 10

SUN-REPORTER SPECIAL EDITION, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

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Shammam Walton
Sf Supervisor District 10

I am ready, and I hope you are too.
COMMENTARY: Who Gets The Ventilators?

By Julianne Malveaux, NNPA Newswire Contributor

T
e public and the media have been discussing the coronavirus and its impact on various groups of people. The virus has been particularly deadly for older people and those with underlying health conditions. However, there are concerns that certain groups, such as African Americans, are disproportionately affected. In this commentary, Julianne Malveaux discusses the issues and what can be done to address them.

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for equitable access to healthcare, especially in marginalized communities. With the number of cases and fatalities continuing to rise, it is crucial to ensure that everyone has access to necessary medical care. The government and healthcare providers must prioritize vulnerable populations such as the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, and ethnic minorities who are at higher risk of severe illness.

Malveaux argues that the virus is not an accident; it is the result of systemic racism and inequality. She points out that the coronavirus is not a random pandemic, but a deliberate attack on the vulnerable. The virus has exposed the weaknesses in our healthcare system and the failures of our political leaders to address the underlying issues.

The commentary concludes with a call to action, emphasizing the need for urgent measures to prevent the spread of the virus and to protect the most vulnerable populations. It is imperative that we work towards a equitable distribution of resources and healthcare to ensure that everyone has access to the care they need to survive.
Supporting Our LGBTQI Community

By Tuquan Harrison
LGBTQI Policy Advisor, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

S
ince the 1970s, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SFHRC) has advocated for full freedom, justice, and equality for all members of the LGBTQI community in San Francisco. The Commission has supported the LGBTQI fights against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation; advocated for the civil rights of community members living with HIV/AIDS; and educated the public on a range of issues affecting the most vulnerable.

Given this history, it comes as no surprise that the SFHRC is a leader in the current citywide effort supporting the LGBTQI community during the COVID-19 pandemic. As was the case with many past public health crises, the LGBTQI community is disproportionately impacted and at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 as a result of many factors, including:

- Lack of access to healthcare providers for meals and health wellness programs.
- When we view the current situation through the lens of intersectionality, the complex factors of race, socioeconomic status, immigration status, engagement with the criminal justice system, and living with disabilities exacerbate the impacts of the coronavirus crisis for already-vulnerable members of the community.
- SFHRC Director Sheryl Davis and LGBTQI Policy Advisor Tuquan Harrison have worked to ensure LGBTQI people—including people of color and the trans and gender variant community—are supported. Advisor Harrison launched a survey to solicit feedback from community organizations, programs, and individuals at the LGBTQI community; the survey asks about current needs and existing gaps in services, and also provides information on how to support other efforts put in place in response to the pandemic. Additionally, SFHRC is in partnership with the Emergency Operation Center’s Equity Team created a citywide LGBTQI resource page to help streamline current services and support for the San Francisco LGBTQI community.
- SFHRC has also granted $80,000 dollars in funding to support cash grants for groceries, mutual aid, and rental assistance to trans and gender variant organizations in San Francisco. Advisor Harrison saw the importance of partnering with SFHRC grantees to provide essential services.
- SFHRC Partner Aria Sa’id, Executive Director of the Transgender District: The Transgender District, in the southeastern Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco, is the first legally recognized district culture of its kind in the world. The mission of the Transgender District is to create an urban environment that fosters the rich history, culture, legacy, and empowerment of transgender people and its deep roots in the Tenderloin. The Transgender District aims to stabilize and economically sustain themselves during a time of uncertainty.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Transgender District aims to provide cash grants, mutual aid, and eviction prevention funding to transgender people experiencing catastrophic loss of income and lack of access to monetary resources for groceries, supplies, and medications. We also aim to support housing stability and other consequences of the pandemic from the perspective of transgender people severely impacted by economic depression. In light of this fact, our goal is to ensure that these communities receive financial support to sustain themselves during a time of uncertainty.

In partnership with SFHRC, the Transgender District will provide cash grants and eviction prevention funds to transgender residents of the LGBTQI community, prioritizing transgender residents of the cultural district which holds the densest transgender population in San Francisco, and those who experience high rates of housing instability and homelessness, and who live significantly below the local and federal poverty line.

Tuquan Harrison


ginger
Cinnamon
Mint
Menthol crystals (optional)
Eucalyptus, rosemary, or lavender (I used essential oils but if you it fresh that’ll work as well)
Bay leaves
And LOTS of ALOE

(Don’t worry about not having all the ingredients. Use what you have at home.)

Once the boil starts to produce steam, turn off the fire, isolate the steam with a towel over your head, and breathe in! It’s very soothing to your lungs and your body will smell AMAZING!!

Toolkit Item 5: Asking for Help

At Rafiki we deeply acknowledge that “it’s ok to not be ok,” and to ask for help if these tools are not working is important. Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. During this crisis of COVID-19, Rafiki team members are doing wellness calls, providing resources around food banks, and helping with unemployment applications, testing resources, crisis care, etc., or just talking with our community members for a bit. We also have a few phone or video appointment openings with Dr. Danielle Drake, an expressive arts trained therapist, who uses culture and creativity in her work with our community. For information please contact us at 415-615-9945.

***Rafiki Coalition is a holistic community wellness organization in San Francisco’s Bayview Hunter’s Point dedicated to eliminating health disparities in Black/African American and marginalized communities. We offer culturally resonant exercise classes, nutrition workshops, health education forums, health screenings and complementary medicine services. We also manage an 11-bed transitional housing facility for homeless HIV-positive persons. For more information please contact us at 415-615-9945, or maxine@rafikicoalition.org.

Toolkit Item 2: Setting Positive Environment

I want to share with you a quick air purifying/respiratory steam that you can do in your home to cleanse the space and also aid in rejuvenating our lungs.

In a pot of water, bring to a boil:
- Citrus (lemons, limes & oranges)
- Ginger
- Cinnamon
- Mint
- Menthol crystals (optional)
- Eucalyptus, rosemary, or lavender (I used essential oils but if you fresh that’ll work as well)
- Bay leaves
- And LOTS of ALOE

(Don’t worry about not having all the ingredients. Use what you have at home.)

As a result of many past public health crises, as was the case with many past public health crises, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, LGBTQI youth makeup close to 40% of the homeless population.

LGBTQI people make up 30% of the homeless population in San Francisco; LGBTQI youth makeup close to 40% of the homeless population.

LGBTQI tobacco use is 50% higher than the general population.

Higher rates of HIV/AIDS and cancer exist in the LGBTQI community.

Additionally, LGBTQI senior populations are highly vulnerable because they are more likely to live in isolation.

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Patience And Persistence In The Crisis

By Anthony Wagner, Member of the Sutter Health Board of Directors

During my 46 years as a healthcare executive, I’ve never witnessed a health/ economic crisis such as the one we currently are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic. From my experience, these are some thoughts I would like to share with our community. First of all, I’m acutely aware of the physical, mental and financial pressures caused by this pandemic. It remains uncertain where we here in the Bay Area will be relieved from the “shelter in place” and the mask-wearing orders. Although these orders are a major inconvenience, they are absolutely necessary for our community to eventually return to a more “normal” way of life. In that regard we must be patient. We should all be so Persistent in advocating for health equity. It is no secret to us that our community has continued to fare worse than its counterparts, such as Asians, Whites, or Latins. This virus has ripped the band- aid off of a swath of inequities for which we, as epidemiologists and data folks, are daily reported. Another health inequity that has been exposed is the underfunded and inadequate system of care in the majority of our skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes in the United States. I contend that in a country as wealthy as ours, our responses have not always allowed us to continue. The entire system of long-term care must be rethought and redesigned.

I can’t begin to address all of the reasons for these two problems. At the heart of our ethnic healthcare disparities is racism. I am as likely to imply that measuring health inequities will by itself eliminate the negative burdens derived from racism. Racism in healthcare and our larger society has a long history and the two-tier system cannot be undone overnight. However, the development of quantitative measures and data applied to health equity presents the opportunity to make some of these significant steps forward in health equity since 1964. That was the year the Civil Rights Act passed and the Federal government used the threat of withholding funding to desegregate hospitals. However, since then, we’ve all been hampered by the inability to quantify and address the more subtle and nuanced racism in healthcare that lead to stark differences in outcomes.

One of the many challenges provider organizations, like the ones in which I spent my professional career, face is addressing the fine nuances of racism and recognizing the many forms it takes. There are at least three forms of racism that contribute to healthcare disparity. First, there is external/societal racism. Second, there is racism internal to our organizations, such as unconscious bias, arising from our backgrounds and experiences. Third is systemic or institutional racism, baked into our traditions and action by historical practice, this is often the most apparent. This is an area that I, along with several healthcare and community individuals, worked on with the Disparities in Healthcare for African American Americans in San Francisco Project several years ago.

With the advent of this pandemic, we could be at a turning point in history where we can make important strides in eliminating disparities in the light of the data and the national discourse. So we anxiously comply with the Governor’s and Mayor’s orders. We must be persistent in our advocacy in righting these wrongs.

Pray And Vote

By Dr. Amos Brown

America faces two existential dangers today, one of which affects the human body, the other infects the body politic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has profound consequences for the entire nation. The infection threatens millions of lives. Every day, we watch the news and see and hear those who fancy themselves as leaders call for prayer for God to cure the virus. Prayer is appropriate. Power is but a prayer alone will not solve the political disaster that a has befallen our nation. Only action by a united nation will.

The administration in Washington also has profound consequences for the entire nation. The political disaster that has befallen us threatens millions of lives. Every day, we see and hear people young and old for a radical change in November, hoping for a change that, however long is the timeline we set on the timeline this fall rather than unite behind a candidate who can succeed at the polls and defeat this racist regime.

Some may imagine what we once were, a united electorate will. When black leaders like Rev. Lee were sacrificing their lives to secure their right to vote, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. observed that many blacks who could vote were sacrificing their lives to secure their right to vote. The past, apathy was a moral failure. Today, it is a form of moral and political suicide.

His words ring true today. Young people born during the past three decades have enjoyed a great privilege. They have grown up in an era with strong civil rights protections enshrined in the law. They have no memories of the decades of struggle that preceded the civil rights laws of 1968, the long fights in the courts and in society in the years that followed. They have not seen and cannot imagine what we once were.

So what can we do? We can vote. May the Lord have mercy on us. The Lord will have mercy on us.

Rev. Amos Brown

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there will be some easing of restrictions through May 31. While announced Wednesday the Health Dr. Grant Colfax and meditation (or prayer, as the old say), the positive impact that music, and improved health outcomes. Additional studies highlight the positive impact that music, physical health and well-being. We can expect disappointment; we can even plan for it—but we must remain hopeful.

A sense of medical research suggests hope is critical for mitigating barriers to employment, freedom, and improved health outcomes. Additional studies highlight the positive impact that music, physical health, and well-being. We can expect disappointment; we can even plan for it—but we must remain hopeful.

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Coronavirus and Human Value

By Angela Glover Blackwell and Michael McAfee

judging by the T witter r age and s tinging jabs from late-night comics, people were appalled by suggestions that grandparents should let themselves die of Covid-19 to save younger ones. The outrage was predictable because the face of the old and frail, as put out by the media, was elderly and White. The proposal, however, should not have been a surprise. The call to sacrifice old people on the altar of prosperity is an expression of a long tradition of moral relativism and destructive in American culture; the belief in a hierarchy of valuations.

Angela Glover Blackwell

allowed to die in order to enrich those more fortunate. People of color have always had to navigate the world on the value ladder, no matter how much we contribute, earn, or achieve. In recent decades the nation has witnessed more White people being pushed to the bottom too, by an economy that places a premium on the wealth of a privileged few and disregards low-income people and working people. As long as the Dow climbed, inequality was allowed to skyrocket. Despite all that, inequality was faster even as it has been killing working-class White Americans, as surely as the novel coronavirus, left unchecked, will kill their grandparents. The staggering increase in drug and alcohol-related deaths and suicides among White adults without a college education is an example of what happens when whole populations are devalued.

Other examples may have been hidden in plain sight, but the march toward destruction also illustrates how devaluing some groups ultimately hurts all. Years of research have shown that Black people have much higher rates of chronic illness, yet the government has never seriously tackled the racial disparities in long disease, asthma, heart disease, cancer, hypertension, obesity, and diabetes — the very conditions that can make this virus so deadly. Hundreds of communities on tribal lands and the Southern border lack access to clean water no matter how often they are commanded to wash their hands. Shelter in place, another common-sense order to slow viral spread, is infinitely more difficult for the roughly half-million people experiencing homelessness.

Gail Christopher, a philosopher, futurist, and executive director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity, has been pushing the nation for years to come to grips with racism by acknowledging, and jettisoning, the hierarchy of human value. In thousands of personal ways, that may be starting to happen as we collectively face a virus that targets everyone regardless of size of someone’s investment portfolio, even if it is more so for the good of self and others continue now that the data reveal that people of color, especially African Americans, are being hit hardest.

The right thing to do in this moment is for government at all levels to figure out how to do this. Dedicated, caring advocates for the most vulnerable have been pushing for years to demonstrate that all people matter and prioritize those in greatest need — Black people, Native Americans, Latinos, vulnerable immigrants, elders, people with disabilities, and people struggling with poverty. Early signs offer hope it is working. Will the resolve to social distance for the good of self and others continue now that the data reveal that people of color, especially African Americans, are being hit hardest?

The call to sacrifice old people on the altar of prosperity is an expression of a long tradition of moral relativism and destructive in American culture; the belief in a hierarchy of valuations.

The mindset goes back to the nation’s origins, built from stolen land and human bondage. How else to justify genocide and slavery than by relegating Native and African people to the bottom of any hierarchy that placed White people on top? America has never reckoned with those sins or the foundational belief that certain groups have little or no value. They can be humanized, exploited, killed, or tossed away from being permitted, mass gatherings and crowded places, and social distancing, face coverings when outside, and the like. Whether we have the capacity to investigate all COVID-19 cases and trace all of their contacts, isolating those who test positive and quarantining the people who may have been exposed. The new order allows us to carefully monitor our progress while building the essential public health infrastructure that will support our gradual reopening, with a silver lining in this crisis, it’s the opportunity to transcend the injustices we have seen, including age, race, gender, class, income, ability, and citizenship. And it’s the chance to see the value in everybody.

Angela Glover Blackwell is the Founder in Residence and President of PolicyLink and host of the podcast Radical Imagination. Michael McAfee is the President and CEO of PolicyLink.

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As San Francisco embarks on this next phase, and hurt and hope is still circulating in the community, and there is still the need to support each other, it. Therefore, everyone must continue to practice social distancing, face coverings, and physical distancing as we pause to continue to fight for what we want.

The Bay Area regional approach to a similar program by Governor Newsom’s ongoing statewide Stay Home Order, and the Bay Area’s regional program to allow San Franciscans who choose to work to exercise while staying 6 feet from others and following other precautions. “For this next phase to be successful, it is essential that all San Franciscans and Bay Area residents continue to stay home as much as possible,” said Mayor Breed. “The small changes to some of our new orders are significant as they represent a renewed commitment to the health of our residents by our businesses that operate primarily outdoors, such as Bluestone nurseries, car washes, and flea markets, may reopen under San Francisco’s Order. Any employer of a business allowed to operate under the order can also receive childcare services that are allowed to operate. Some outdoor recreational facilities, like skate parks and golf courses, may reopen. The full text of the order and frequently asked questions will be posted at SF.gov. Consistent with the plan to reintroduce lower-risk activities.

Malik Senefo

hospital capacity to meet the needs of our residents; Whether there is an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for all health care workers; Whether we are meeting the need for testing, especially for persons in vulnerable populations or those in high-risk settings or occupations; and Whether we have the capacity to investigate all COVID-19 cases and trace all of their contacts, isolating those who test positive and quarantining the people who may have been exposed. The new order allows us to carefully monitor our progress while building the essential public health infrastructure that will support our gradual reopening, with a silver lining in this crisis, it’s the opportunity to transcend the injustices we have seen, including age, race, gender, class, income, ability, and citizenship. And it’s the chance to see the value in everybody.

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Have Questions About the Census?

Where can I find help?

Why do I count?

How do I fill it out?

Don’t Hesitate to Ask Online or By Phone!

Your right to know is just as important as your right to count. Take advantage of the Census hotline’s callback option by calling 844-330-2020 to get your questions answered. Then, complete the Census by phone or online at MY2020CENSUS.GOV.
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We want you out of Black neighborhoods, because our lives are worth more than your bottom line.

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The Communities You Are Trying to Erase

Fight back at WeAreNotProfit.org
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