



JUSTICE COLLAB NEWS

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POLICE KILLINGS WAR ON DRUGS MASS INCARCERATION

Critical Focus of the SOBWC IV

Calls for economic sanctions/boycotts for social justice to be discussed at the State of the Black World Conference IV

Speakers/Panelists



Ron E. Hampton



Atty. Nkechi Taifa



Dr. Divine Pryor

Recent police killings of Black people in Tulsa, Charlotte and Columbus, Ohio continue to contribute to the collective trauma of people of African descent, Black people in this country. Nearly a half century after Newark erupted in rebellion against police repression, economic inequality and political oppression, it is fortuitous that State of the Black World Conference IV will convene in this city November 16-20 — welcomed by Mayor Ras J. Baraka, the son of renowned poet, playwright and political activist Amiri Baraka, who was viciously assaulted during the rebellion. Nearly a half century after the Kerner Commission issued its Report noting that virtually every insurrection in America's "dark ghettos" had been precipitated by a police killing or act of misconduct, the world witnessed Charlotte explode non-violently and violently against the continuous, generations of senseless assaults on Black lives. When is enough, enough?

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Pittsburgh Justice Collaborative (PJC)

The Pittsburgh Justice Collaborative (PJC) continues to support the development of two diversion initiatives:

1 The first is the local homegrown model under the leadership of Ronell Guy and the Northside Coalition for Fair Housing (NSFH) a PJC member organization. The Northside Diversion Program (NSDP) is a voluntary “zone-based” pre-arrest/pre-booking program operated by the Northside Coalition for Fair Housing in collaboration with Zone 1 of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Since the summer the NSDP has hired a Diversion Director Jeff Williams, developed a brochure explaining the program, begin the search for case managers and recently had its first client. The NSDP program steering committee is comprised of staff, community residents, PJC members Darcel Madkins of the African American Leadership Coalition and Rick Adams Collaborative facilitator. The steering committee also has the President of the Buhl Foundation Diane Bucco and Michael Yonas Senior Program Officer, Social Innovation, Research and Special Initiatives of the Pittsburgh Foundation as members.



2 The second diversion initiative is the continuing research and discussion of the Seattle Washington based Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) model and its adaptation to a Pittsburgh neighborhood. The (NSDP) Diversion Director, the two Foundation representatives, a Zone 1 Police officer and two representatives the Fair Housing Coalition are planning a trip to Seattle to see the program for themselves before the year is out.

The PJC sponsored a meeting for Pittsburgh organizers to learn about the Victims of Crime Act, known as (VOCA), a federal law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1984, for the purpose of providing financial support to programs serving crime victims and survivors. The meeting explored opportunities to meet the needs of underserved crime victims. How they could apply and advocate for VOCA funding in Pennsylvania for victims of violent crime, young men of color, and victims on the margins of society whose needs often go unmet through traditional victim service providers.

Aswad Thomas, the National Organizer for the Californians Alliance for Safety and Justice, came from San Francisco to deliver the training. Representatives from the Mayor’s Office, the Victims of Violent Crime organization, Mad Dads.

Among those in attendance were Natalie Meade, Program Director for Amachi Pittsburgh, Valerie Dixon of Prevent Another Crime Today (P.A.C.T.), Eric Dykes of Greater Pittsburgh Mad Dads, Maria Bethel City of Pittsburgh Disruptive Property Coordinator and Ginger Underwood of Higher Purpose Learning Center. Upon learning of the state’s calendar for input and proposals the group agreed to organize to participate in the next funding round.

Ain't No Stopping Us Now

The District of Columbia Justice Collaborative: Educate, Advocate for Justice

The District of Columbia Justice Collaborative (DCJC) has been in the fore front of addressing the issues and concerns regarding the shooting of African-American men and women. We are witnessing a continue escalation of the killing of our Sisters and Brothers in ways never seen before in our country.

In an effort to confront this crime of violence in our community and the restructuring of the criminal justice system, the DCJC has been asked by several local advocates for social justice, to participate in a variety of community sessions and forums addressing the need for public policy reform. One of those policy reforms is the need to establish a system for Community Control of Law Enforcement.

The members of the DCJC and their allies strongly believe Community Control of Law Enforcement is one of the key components that is



needed, in order to begin to provide the necessary transparency and accountability. In addition, this will help ensure that the building of trust and confidence, as it relates to the proper public safety of our community and its residents is established. Additionally, we must have community control of the other institutions in our communities that meet at the intersection and are connected to public safety, schools, mental health, and housing, just to name a few.

Another focus of the DCJC has been on ensuring that victims of crime get their issues addressed. In that regard, each of the three JC as organized by IBW, participated in a day-long training session, facilitated by Californians for Safety and Justice. Over 20 survivor groups and community advocates from the District of Columbia and Baltimore areas attended the VOCA training as led by the Brother Aswad Thomas, National Organizer for Californians for Safety and Justice. The main goal of this training involves organizing individuals and groups which provide services indirect or direct to victims of crime. The training also provided information and education on how to access funds to underwrite their work.



Ronald E. Hampton
Co-convenor,
DC Justice Collaborative

Philadelphia Regional Justice Collaborative Planning Youth Conference

Identifying youth in the community that are in need of mentoring

PRJC participated in the VOCA training that took place on July 23, at Mothers in Charge Executive office. Aswad Thomas from California was the trainer. We had several different representatives from agencies participate and come together to learn more about available funds that can be applied for in order to assist victims of crime.

PRJC and Akoma Rites of Passage will be working together to have a two day youth conference next year which will include a town hall meeting. The groups discussed seeking funding from corporate sponsors and local politicians to support the costs and help with securing a location.

PRJC members discussed the upcoming IBW SOBW conference. The decision was made to purchase shirts to represent the PRJC at the conference. PRJC will be working Mothers in Charge Inc. to help register those who would like to attend the conference and assist with transportation to and from the conference. PRJC currently has 10 members attending.

One of the other activities of the PRJC is the Black Male Leadership Initiative. This program will be starting the next session of identifying youth in the community that are in need of mentoring. BMLI has begun the next Jazz series on Friday nights and this is held at the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) house.

Akoma Rites of Passage will be holding a fundraising gala December 10th, 2016 from 6-10 at Fran Lee caterer. Tickets are 25.00 and are on sale now. ABSW will be holding its annual conference at Christian Stronghold Baptist Church on Friday October 21st from 8:30am-4:30pm.

Police Killings, War on Drugs, Mass Incarceration Critical Focus of the SOBWC IV

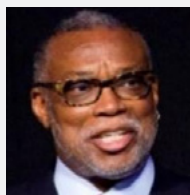
Calls for economic sanctions/boycotts for social justice to be discussed at the State of the Black World Conference IV

Recent police killings of Black people in Tulsa, Charlotte and Columbus, Ohio continue to contribute to the collective trauma of people of African descent, Black people in this country. Nearly a half century after Newark erupted in rebellion against police repression, economic inequality and political oppression, it is fortuitous that **State of the Black World Conference IV will convene in this city November 16-20** — welcomed by Mayor Ras J. Baraka, the son of renowned poet, playwright and political activist Amiri Baraka, who was viciously assaulted during the rebellion. Nearly a half century after the Kerner Commission issued its Report noting that virtually every insurrection in America's "dark ghettos" had been precipitated by a police killing or act of misconduct, the world witnessed Charlotte explode non-violently and violently against the continuous, generations of senseless assaults on Black lives. When is enough, enough?

Of necessity, this question will be front and center at SOBWC IV as a major focus for deliberation and collective action. A Plenary and Working Sessions will be devoted to ending the War on Drugs, advancing strategies for police reform and accountability, dismantling the prison-jail industrial complex and creating pathways for the successful reentry of hundreds of thousands of formerly incarcerated persons. IBW has assembled a powerful line-up of dedicated activists, scholars and analysts to address the issues at hand, share knowledge and experiences and recommend strategies for action.

The Plenary Session, Friday, November 18, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM will feature presentations by Dr. Divine Pryor, Executive Director, Center for Nu Leadership on Urban Solutions, NYC; Ron Hampton, former Executive Director, National Black Police Association and Chairman of IBW's Police Reform and Accountability Task Force, Washington, D.C.; Brandi Fisher, Executive Director, Alliance for Police Accountability, Pittsburgh; Tamika Malloory, Co-Chair, Justice League, NYC; Atty. Andrea James,

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Executive Director, Families for Justice and Healing, Boston; Deborah Peterson Small, Executive Director, Break the Chains, Berkeley, CA; Aswad Thomas, National Organizer, Californians for Safety and Justice, Sacramento, CA; Charles Thornton, Former Executive Director, Office of Returning Citizens, Washington, D.C.; Tyrone Parker, Executive Director, Alliance of Concerned Men, Washington, D.C. and Zelli Imani, Educator and Social Justice Activist, Newark. Atty. Nkechi Taifa, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Foundations, will serve as Moderator.

As Black people absorb the pain of yet another series of police killings, leaders from Charlotte joined a growing national crescendo calling for the use of economic sanctions/boycotts to, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "redistribute the pain" to achieve racial, social and economic justice. The growing demand for economic sanctions/boycotts will be one of the critical issues explored during the Economic Empowerment Working Sessions facilitated by Dr. George Fraser, President of Fraser Net, Rev. Dennis Dillon, leader of the Rise Up Black America Campaign and Nataki Kambon, Spokesperson for Let's Buy Black 365 Initiative.