

The Weekly Press

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ALL FOUR OFFICERS Charged in George Floyd Death

Attorney General Keith Ellison Takes Over George Floyd Murder Case

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has taken over the prosecution of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed African American who died because of the actions of Chauvin and other officers.



Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

"It is with a large degree of humility and great seriousness, I accept for my office, the responsibility for leadership in this critical case involving the killing of George Floyd," Ellison said during a news conference in Minneapolis.

"We are going to bring to bear all the resources necessary to achieve justice in this case," he pronounced.

Ellison's appointment came following a telephone meeting between hip-hop icon Jay-Z and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

JAY-Z described the conversation as "very earnest" and thanked Governor Walz.

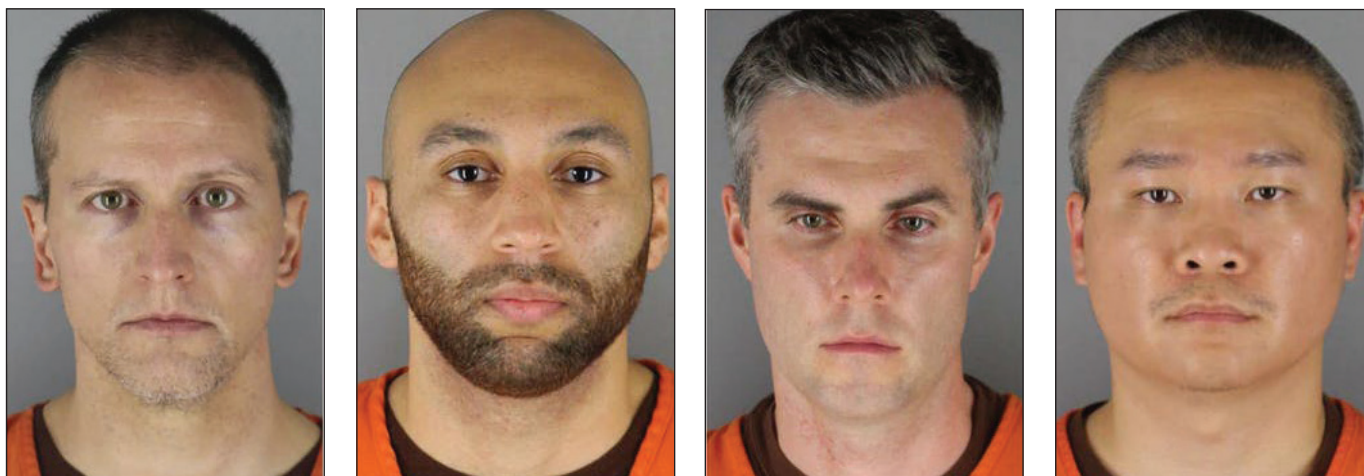
"Earlier today, Governor Walz mentioned having a human conversation with me - a dad and a black man in pain," Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, wrote in a statement.

"Yes, I am human, a father and a black man in pain, and I am not the only one. This is just a first step. I am more determined to fight for justice than any fight my would-be oppressors may have."

Walz noted that the icon came to him "not as an international performer, but dad, stressing to me that justice needs to be served."

This week, Jay-Z's superstar wife, Beyonce, also spoke out on

See CASE, on page 2



This combination of photos provided by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office shows Derek Chauvin, from left, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao.



George Floyd's son, Quincy Mason Floyd (C R) and family attorney Ben Crump (C L) pray on June 3, 2020, at the site where George Floyd died in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The former Minneapolis Police officer who pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck was charged on Wednesday with a new, more serious count of second-degree murder, and the three other officers on scene during his killing were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

"I strongly believe that these developments are in the interest of justice for Mr. Floyd, his family, our community and our state," Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said in announcing the charges.

The announcement came more than a

week after Floyd was killed while in police custody in Minneapolis, sparking nationwide protests that call for the end to police violence against black citizens.

Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, was previously charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. The new second-degree murder charge says he killed Floyd "without intent" in the course of committing assault in the third degree, according to an amended complaint.

Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng,

Thomas Lane and Tou Thao face charges in the death of George Floyd.

Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kueng, who helped restrain Floyd, and Tou Thao, who stood near the others, were not initially charged. Lane, 37, Kueng, 26, and Thao, 34, are now charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin, 44, was arrested last week and is being held at the Minnesota Department of Corrections facility in Oak Park. His bail was

See OFFICERS, on page 2

Gov. Edwards Signs Order Moving Louisiana to Phase Two of Reopening on Friday

Louisiana following White House plan for Opening Up America Again

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John Bel Edwards signed the order moving Louisiana to Phase Two of the White House plan for reopening, while cautioning members of the public and businesses to continue to take mitigation measures, like wearing masks when in public, to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 as more people will be interacting with each other.



Governor John Bel Edwards

"I continue to be very proud of the work the people of Louisiana and our health care heroes are doing to slow the spread of COVID-19 and getting us to the point where we can open more businesses and expand the occupancy of others this Friday. In addition, Louisiana has effectively ramped up testing and contact tracing to help identify prob-

See PHASE 2, on page 2

Mayor Waites Announce Formation Community Health Services Advisory Committee

BAKER, La — Mayor Waites is please to announce the formation of the Mayor's Community Health Services Advisory Committee.



Mayor Darnell Waites

"During the COVID pandemic we are finding out more than ever that basic wellness is a must to survive, that valid information is vital, nutrition is key and it is paramount that we as community leaders come together to help provide as many resources as possible to our residents to assist with promoting a healthy lifestyle. I have sought out leaders in each

See COMMITTEE, on page 2

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THE EBR PARISH PRISON REFORM COALITION



On Monday, June 8th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition (EBRPPRC) in partnership with our partners...See Page 3

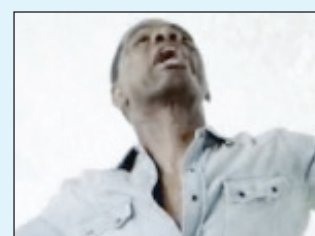
NATIONAL



OPRAH DONATES \$12 MILLION

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library will move into Phase 2 of its phased re-opening process starting Monday, June 1...See Page 3

RELIGION



KIRK FRANKLIN NEW VIDEO

Kirk Franklin unveiled the powerful video for his song "Strong God". The song is the latest single from Franklin's GRAMMY-winning, critically acclaimed album LONG LIVE LOVE...See Page 4

BUSINESS



CARES ACT GRANT FOR BATON ROUGE

Baton Rouge is receiving \$1,654,617 in a Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) CARES Act award to support homeless families and individuals who have been affected by COVID-19 in Baton Rouge...See Page 5

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Send your news to the news department at the Baton Rouge Weekly Press by emailing it to: brweeklypress@yahoo.com

INDEX

State & Local	2 - 3
Religion	4
Business	5
Classifieds	5

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STATE & LOCAL

OFFICERS from page 1

increased to \$1 million Wednesday, court documents show.

Lane, Kueng and Thao were taken into custody Wednesday and are being held on \$1 million bail, county jail records show.

Kueng's attorney, Tom Plunkett, said in a statement that his client "was asked to turn himself in to face charges" Wednesday afternoon and was in custody 15 minutes later.

Second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree murder are punishable by up to 40 years in prison. Manslaughter and aiding and abetting manslaughter are punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

This is a bittersweet moment. We are deeply gratified that (Ellison) took decisive action, arresting & charging ALL the officers involved in #GeorgeFloyd's death & upgrading the charge against Derek Chauvin to felony second-degree murder," he said.

Still, he said that he believes Chauvin should be charged with first-degree murder, which requires intent, and the charges only represent the first steps toward justice.

"We cannot celebrate because an arrest is not a conviction and we want justice," Crump told reporters on Wednesday. "We want whole justice."

Crump noted neither he or the family have reviewed the footage from the officers body cameras.

At the news conference, Ellison insisted that the protests did not influence the charges.

"I did not allow public pressure to impact our decision-making process," he said. "We made these decisions based on the facts that we gathered since this matter occurred and made these charges based on the law

that we think applies."

Ellison was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz to take over the case from Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman on Sunday.

A former Democratic congressman, Ellison had cautioned against a rush to judgment, citing the difficulty of prosecuting police officers.

Officers are rarely charged with crimes for violence against black men, and even in those rare cases, juries have repeatedly shown an unwillingness to convict. The list of such failed cases is long.

In 2017, for example, the Minnesota police officer who fatally shot Philando Castile was found not guilty of second-degree manslaughter and intentional discharge of firearm that endangers safety.

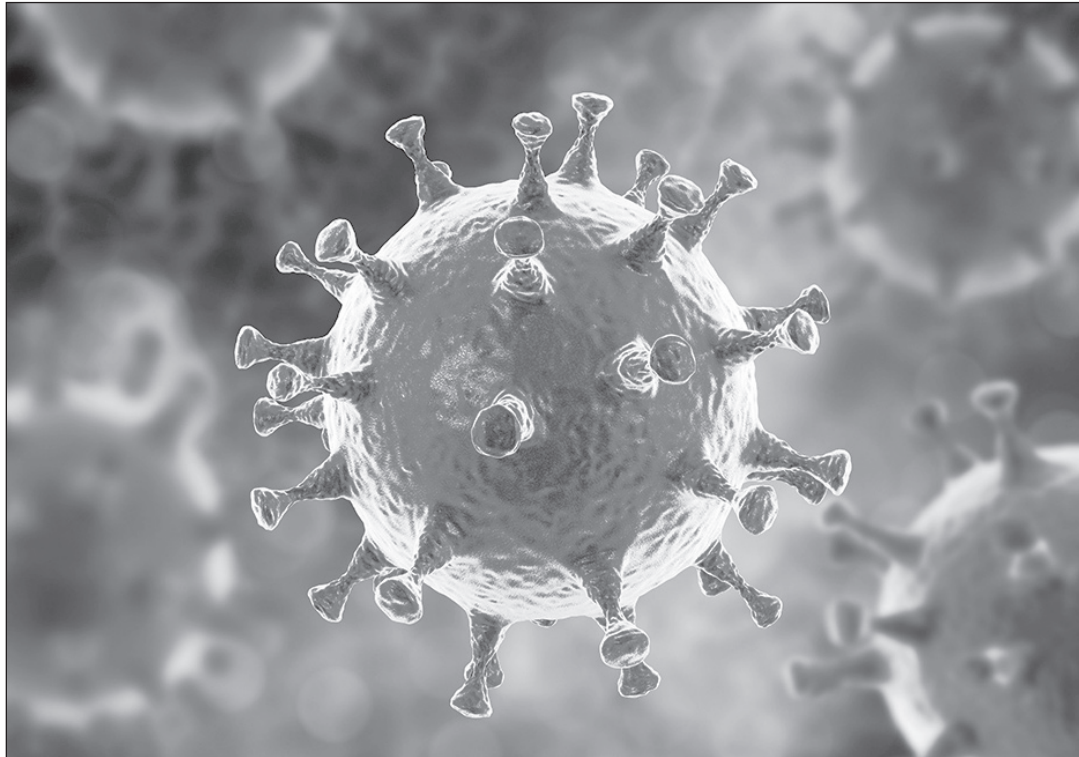
"We're confident in what we're doing, but history does show that there are clear challenges here," Ellison said.

Walz said in a statement that the new charges are a meaningful step.

"The charges announced by Attorney General Keith Ellison today are a meaningful step toward justice for George Floyd. But we must also recognize that the anguish driving protests around the world is about more than one tragic incident," he said.

"George Floyd's death is the symptom of a disease. We will not wake up one day and have the disease of systemic racism cured for us. This is on each of us to solve together, and we have hard work ahead. We owe that much to George Floyd, and we owe that much to each other."

Environmental Toxicology Professors Making Headway With COVID-19 Research



As the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise across the nation, two Southern University professors are working on research that could benefit millions. Babu Bassa, an environmental toxicology adjunct professor, and Rao Uppu, James and Ruth Smith Endowed professor of chemistry and environmental toxicology, have identified two blocks of amino acid sequences that are universally present in an identical form in 150 coronavirus isolates that cause severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The research is being performed in collaboration with Olen Brown, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri Dalton

Cardiovascular Research Center in Columbia, Missouri.

"A major contribution of the study to coronavirus research is that the alignment-free computer program developed by the SU-UM researchers, unlike most programs currently being used by others, can significantly aid in identifying sequence homologies between the novel SARS CoV-2 and the older SARS viruses," said Robert Miller, dean emeritus of sciences at Southern.

Uppu said the information is critical to addressing the present as well as probable future outbreaks of SARS. This includes COVID-19, the virus from the 2003 SARS out-

break, and other SARS-like strains. The work is ongoing to develop short- and long-term treatment options for COVID-19 through design and/or identification of therapeutic peptides and vaccine candidates.

Part of the researchers' work has been published this month in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, "Frontiers in Bioscience."

COMMITTEE from page 1

of their respective fields and asked them to participate in advising [the Mayor's office] on matters relating to policy development, legislation, maintenance, funding, and evaluation of community health services," said Mayor Waites.

The Committee kicked off their first meeting on June 4th and the members include:

- Dr. Annisa Stover
- Dr. Rodolfo Manalac
- Dr. Cordel Parris
- Dr. Keith Hodge
- Chef Celeste Gill

Certified Trainer Donald Washington

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5 PM

FRIDAYS

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CASE from page 1

Floyd's death on a social media post.

"We need justice for George Floyd," she uttered. "We all witnessed his murder in broad daylight. We're broken, and we're disgusted. We cannot normalize this pain."

Walz's selection of Ellison comes as uprisings are taking place around the country and abroad. It also comes as Floyd's

family and their attorney, Ben Crump, have demanded that the other three officers involved face charges.

The family remains outraged that Chauvin is the only officer arrested so far, and prosecutors have leveled just the relatively minor third-degree murder charge against the cop.

See **CASE**, on page 3

PHASE 2 from page 1

lem areas and contain the spread," Gov. Edwards said. "However, the public should not let its guard down. COVID-19 is still a real issue in our communities, and it is still necessary that people wear masks while in public, wash their hands frequently and maintain good social distancing so that we can prevent cases from spiking as we ease restrictions in Phase Two."

The Governor's order follows the White House plan for Opening Up America Again. Major changes in Phase Two include allowing churches, places of worship and many more businesses to operate at 50 percent capacity with social distancing, masks for public-facing employees and increased sanitization. In addition, the state strongly recommends that businesses consider offering temperature checks before a person can enter and posting the symptoms of COVID-19 outside with a request that symptomatic

individuals not enter.

A second order outlines extensions of legal deadlines and other administrative matters. Some Office of Motor Vehicles and other deadlines remain suspended until July 31. Other legal and administrative deadlines are suspended until June 15, including evictions and foreclosure procedures. Legal prescription remains suspended through July 5.

The State Fire Marshal's Office and the Louisiana Department of Health have issued guidance for churches and different types of businesses to help them enter Phase Two in a way that ensures they operate safely and at the maximum level allowed. Business owners and faith leaders can find information at OpenSafely.la.gov.

Phase Two in Louisiana will last at least 21 days. Because more businesses will be open to more patrons and because the CDC has

See **PHASE 2**, on page 3

READER INFORMATION

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The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2002

The Weekly Press

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PHASE 2 from page 2

clarified that the illness is most likely to spread through the air and not on surfaces, the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health strongly encourage individuals to wear masks whenever they are in public and recommend that people who enter businesses that are not taking proper precautions consider the risk to their health and their family in doing so.

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESSES THAT CAN OPEN ON FRIDAY, JUNE 5:

- Businesses that will be able to open at 50 percent occupancy include:
 - Restaurants, cafes and coffee shops
 - Shopping malls (including food courts, following restaurant guidance)
 - Gyms and fitness centers
 - Barber and beauty shops and nail salons
 - Movie theaters
 - Racetracks (with an approved plan from the Louisiana Racing Commission)
 - Museums (including children's museums), zoos, aquariums (no tactile exhibits)
 - Bars and breweries with LDH food permits
 - Massage establishments, spas, and tattoo establishments (under strict guidance from LDH), esthetician services (under strict guidance from the Cosmetology Board)
 - Pool halls, bowling alleys and skating rinks (children must be accompanied by an adult)
 - Event Centers and wedding venues
 - Outdoor playgrounds and play centers (children must be accompanied by an adult)
 - Casinos and video poker establishments may open at 50 percent occupancy, but limited to 75 percent of their gaming positions, with spacing to allow for social distancing and with enhanced sanitization. Plans must be submitted to the Gaming Control Board which will issue guidance to these facilities.
 - Bars and breweries that do not have LDH food permits will be able to open with social distancing requirements and patrons seated at 25 percent occupancy.
 - Additional guidance will be released relaxing some regulations for summer camps in Phase Two. Sleep-away camps are not allowed in Phase Two.

The following businesses remain closed: carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, fairs, contact sports, children's indoor play centers, arcades, trampoline parks, theme parks, concert and music halls, and other similar businesses. Live entertainment is not permitted inside any building or indoor function.

However, any business that is directed to be closed in the Phase Two order may petition to reopen under a plan approved by the State Fire Marshal in consultation with LDH. The State Fire Marshal may approve this plan or offer guidance on how the business may reopen in Phase Three.

The Governor encourages businesses that can allow employees to work remotely to consider doing so, especially if an employee is at high risk for becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 or shares a household with a high risk person.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Business and faith leaders can visit OpenSafely.la.gov to receive guidance and updates from the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Louisiana Department of Health. Businesses that require approval of reopening plans will be notified by the State Fire Marshal's Office or the Louisiana Department of Health.

For a guide listing businesses that can be open at any given time, visit gov.louisiana.gov/page/can-this-business-open.

Members of the public can continue to get information from the Governor's office by visiting Coronavirus.la.gov and by texting LACOV1D to 67283.

Members of the public can continue to get information from the Department of Health by visiting ldh.la.gov/coronavirus.

People with general questions about COVID-19 in Louisiana can call 211.

Oprah Winfrey Donates \$12 Million for COVID-19 Relief in Five Cities

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia



Oprah Winfrey

During a recent virtual address to the class of 2020 college graduates, Oprah Winfrey spoke of the need to provide for those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"What this pandemic has done is made me think about giving differently. How I give and who's on the receiving end of that, and how do you do that in such a way that sustains people? I've ultimately always believed that you teach people to fish. But sometimes people just need fish and a piece of bread," the media mogul stated. "Sometimes you need some fish, OK? Sometimes you don't have time to learn to fish. I just need some fish today!"

Winfrey made sure that there was plenty of "fish" in the places she's called home. Through the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation, the OWN Network boss

announced she was donating \$12 million to organizations dedicated to helping underserved communities in Chicago, Baltimore, Nashville, Milwaukee and Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Born in Kosciusko, Winfrey has lived in each of the cities where she's donating money.

"This thing is not going away. Even when the virus is gone, the devastation left by people not being able to work for months who were holding on paycheck to paycheck, who have used up their savings — people are going to be in need,"

Winfrey told the Associated Press. "So, my thing is, look in your own neighborhood, in your own backyard to see how you can serve and where your service is most essential. That is the real essential work, I think, for people of means."

Of the \$12 million donations, Winfrey gave \$5 million to Live Healthy Chicago, which provides immediate support to seniors and high-risk residents affected by the coronavirus.

She gave \$2 million to Nashville Nurtures, a collaboration with Mount Zion Baptist Church and Tennessee State University (TSU). Winfrey graduated from TSU and began her career in Nashville. She later lived in Milwaukee, where she announced a \$100,000 gift to SaintA and the Nia Imani Family, Inc., which assists those in need of housing and mental health care.

In Baltimore, where she once worked, Winfrey is donating money to Living Classrooms Foundation and Center for Urban Families.

Winfrey also said she's giving \$115,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi.

"I want to be able to reach people who have been incarcerated and are coming out of prison," Winfrey noted.

"I want to reach mothers of domestic violence. I want to reach people. I want to feed people. I want to help people get access to testing."

BREC Announces Registration for Online and In-Person Summer Camps

BATON ROUGE, La. - This summer BREC will offer a variety of activities, experiences and camps to serve as many children as possible while following state and federal recommendations to ensure the safety of campers and camp staff. BREC will offer virtual-only camps from June 1-5, and both in-person summer camps and virtual experiences from June 8-July 31.

Registration will open Friday, May 22 at 9 a.m. for the first week of virtual camp. For weeks two through four, registration for virtual and in-person camps will open Tuesday, May 26 at 9 a.m. Available opportunities and registration details for the month of July are expected to be announced sometime in June as additional information becomes available from public health officials. BREC will host in-person camps and continue virtual experiences throughout the month of June. BREC's virtual camps will involve interactive streaming experiences with "Camp in a Bag" supplies that participants can retrieve at six different BREC park locations to provide accessibility across the parish.

CASE from page 2

Ellison, a former congressman from Minnesota who ran for chair of the Democratic National Committee in 2017, noted that he was accepting the lead on the case with "a large degree of humility and great seriousness."

The EBR Parish Prison Reform Coalition, Partners Hosts Judges Forum



On Monday, June 8th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition (EBRPPRC) in partnership with our partners The Bail Project, VOTE Baton Rouge and A Bella La Femme Society is hosting a virtual Judges Forum for candidates running for the 19th JDC Divison M seat and Baton Rouge City Court Division C vacancies on Saturday, July 11, 2020. The Forum will be hosted on the Coalition's Facebook page EBRPPRC. The Coalition works collaboratively with the League of Women Voters

–Baton Rouge Chapter to insure a non-partisan educational forum.

This event is designed to allow the community an opportunity to learn about the role of the 19th JDC and Baton Rouge City

Court and those who seek to serve on those courts. The audience will be offered the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. All candidates have been invited to participate.

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RELIGION

Kirk Franklin Releases New Video for "Strong God"

"The government keep lying to me
Telling me that they come to set the people free
Cut the power phones when you catch us on our knees
Heaven please, we're in a state of emergency
See we need a strong god, yeah
We need the real god, yeah
The god with the resurrection power from the grave
To take away the hate, to heal the human race, yeah"



Kirk Franklin highlights the struggles of addiction, poverty, racism and the COVID-19 crisis in his music video for "Strong God" from his album "Long Live Love."

New York, NY – 16-time GRAMMY® winning artist, songwriter and producer Kirk Franklin unveiled the powerful video for his song "Strong God". The song is the latest single from Franklin's GRAMMY®-winning, critically acclaimed album LONG LIVE LOVE, which was released in 2019.

The video was directed by Joey Papa and shines a light on some of the most serious issues that the world is facing including, poverty, racism, drug addiction, domestic violence and the covid-19 pandemic. Portions of the thought-provoking video were inspired by a recent trip to the

Dominican Republic that Franklin took with the non-profit organization, *Compassion International*. He serves as a music artist ambassador for the charity, which provides holistic child development to children and families in impoverished communities all over the world through local churches. Franklin is using this song as an opportunity to raise funds for the charity's Covid-19 Disaster Relief. The "Strong God" video premiered on Franklin's YouTube / Vevo channel and BET Soul. Additionally, "Just For Me,"



another track from LONG LIVE LOVE, reached #1 at Gospel radio this week. And on Sunday, May

31st Franklin joined fellow Gospel artist Fred Hammond and Bishop T.D. Jakes for Veruz – The Healing, a special edition of the extremely popular Instagram live series produced by Swizz Beatz and Timbaland. With so much pain and devastation being experienced in the United States and across the globe right now, Franklin and Hammond came together to provide inspiration and encouragement through Gospel music. The two welcomed fellow gospel artists Tamela Mann and Marvin Sapp who blessed the live

audience, which reached as many as 275,000 people, with surprise performances. They also took time during the event to acknowledge victims of police violence and racially motivated murder including Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Trayvon Martin and to offer their support to Arbery's mother Wanda Cooper-Jones via phone. To connect with Kirk Franklin, also visit: Website: www.kirkfranklin.com. Facebook: Kirk Franklin. Instagram/Twitter: @KirkFranklin

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- Living Faith Christian Ctr.**
 Bishop Raymond Johnson
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 - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHSeRaHIS8ewCoFh-cYHGnQ>
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 Church Service 9:00am
 Communion Service 2nd Sunday 9:00am
 Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm
 Sister/Brotherhood Meeting 6:00pm

New Jerusalem Faith Fellowship

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 Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
 820 New Rafe Mayer Road
 Baton Rouge, LA 70807
 Phone: 225-775-9756
 Web Address: saintjohnbc.org

Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:

CrossWalk Classes: Sundays 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
 Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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 Bishop I. J. Payne, Pastor

'THE NEW LIFE' Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

SUNDAY WORSHIP
 Every Sunday at 11:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION
 Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.

HOOR OF POWER
 Every Friday at 12 NOON

Radio Broadcast 1st and 3rd Sunday WXOK at 8:00am

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
 Telephone: (225) 926-0246 • Facsimile: (225) 925-8022
 Toll Free: 888-700-6174
 Websites: www.newhopebr.com

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor

CHURCH SCHEDULE

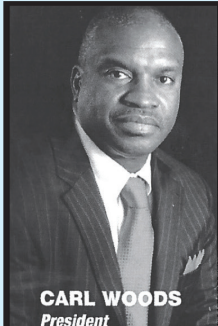
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 AM
 Lord's Supper 3rd Sundays
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Prayer Service Wed. @ 6:00 PM
 Bible Study Wed- @ 7:00 PM

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word

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BUSINESS

\$1.6 Million CARES Act Grant for Baton Rouge



WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Garret Graves (South Louisiana) announced that Baton Rouge is receiving \$1,654,617 in a Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) CARES Act award to support homeless families and individuals who have been affected by COVID-19 in Baton Rouge. This federal support is available because of the CARES Act relief package, which Graves supported, and is administered by

the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Louisiana's total share of ESG funding is \$20,923,237, broken down as follows:

CPD COVID19 Recovery Formula Grants:

- Baton Rouge – \$1,654,617
- New Orleans – \$4,594,009
- Shreveport – \$1,055,184
- Jefferson Parish – \$1,593,050
- Louisiana State Balance – \$12,026,377

Description: These ESG-CV funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance. The state balance is funding that will go to the state governments for distribution. The funds will also support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The allocation of \$2.96 billion uses a formula targeted toward communities with high fractions of homeless – both sheltered and unsheltered – and those at the most risk for homelessness. It also takes into account economic and housing market conditions by making a modest adjustment for jurisdictions with very high market rents.

Graves previously announced a \$955,859.00 ESG Cares Act award to help the City of Baton Rouge provide essential services and shelter for the homeless.



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BBB Warns: Beware of Scams During, After a Disaster

Natural disasters often bring out the best in people, as strangers reach out to help others in need. Unfortunately, the aftermath of a crisis also brings out those who take advantage of people who have already been victimized. In case of possible flooding or storm damage due to the current weather predictions, the BBB is warning consumers about the most common "after-disaster" scams involving home repairs, clean-up efforts, as well as charitable donations requests.



BBB offers tips for wise giving during a disaster:

- Beware of charities that spring up overnight. Investigate before you donate. Check out a charity at www.bbb.org/charity
- Do not be pressured into making a donation right away. Legitimate charities will take your donation today, tomorrow, or next month.
- Don't provide personal or financial information, like your Social Security number, bank account numbers, or credit card information to just anyone who solicits a donation. Make sure they are reputable first.
- Don't give cash. For security and tax record purposes, contribute by check or credit card or another way that provides documentation of the gift.

The BBB offers tips for home repairs after a disaster:

1. Check with your insurance company about your coverage and their specific filing requirements.
2. Although anxious to get things back to normal, avoid acting in haste. Don't be pressured into signing a long-term contract. Make temporary repairs if necessary.
3. For major repairs, shop around for contractors, get competitive bids, and check references.
4. Be wary of door-to-door workers. Check with your city or parish to find out about door to door rules and company licensing.
5. If possible, get more than one bid – bids should be in writing and should detail the work to be done, the materials to be used, and the price breakdown for labor and materials.
6. Review any written agreement carefully before signing and keep a copy.
7. Never pay in cash and never pay a substantial amount of the bid up-front.
8. Never pay in full until all supplies & subcontractors are paid eliminating a possible lien on your property.

For additional information or to check a company's record, call the Better Business Bureau at 225-346-5222 or go to www.bbb.org

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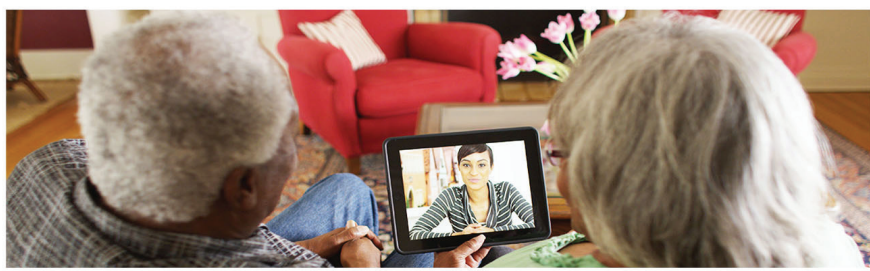
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Request for Proposals
Microtransit Pilot Program
Solicitation #2020-Microtransit-001

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Offers for **Microtransit**. Sealed offers are due to CATS Procurement Department by **March 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM (local time)** at 350 N. Don-moor, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. A copy of this RFP can be found on CATS website at: <https://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Written questions will be accepted through February 19, 2020 via email at: catsprocurement@brcats.com. Offerors are reminded to check CATS website often for addenda and other important dates in reference to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Louisiana,

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BUT DON'T YOU FORGET COVID-19 IS STILL HERE.**



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