



Volume 69 No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 27, 2021

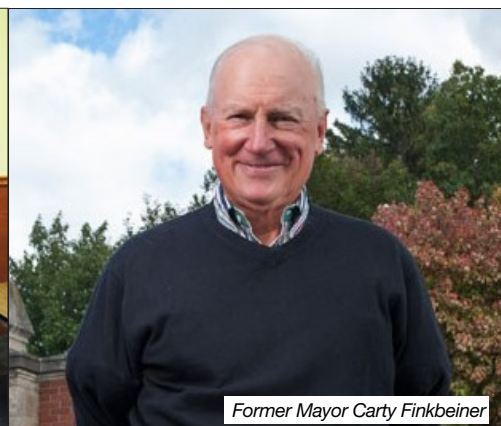
Election 2021 --- It's Time To Vote!



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Councilman Larry Sykes



Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Councilman Nick Komives



Councilwoman Katie Moline



Councilwoman Tiffany Preston
Whitman, EdD



George Sarantou



Michele Grim



Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson



Harvey Savage, Jr

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THANK YOU SOJOURNER'S TRUTH FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT!

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"... If there's one person who embodies the spirit of Toledo,
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"... The Sojourner's Truth feels that
(Carty's) time has indeed come ... again..."

"...In and out of office, Finkbeiner has used his passion for the city of Toledo to
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The Sojourner's Truth
September 1, 2021



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A Tale of Two Toledos

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor

Without stable shelter, everything else falls apart.

- Matthew Desmond



Cherry Street in Downtown Toledo reveals a troubling boundary between glistening prosperity and pathetic poverty.

On the "sunny" side of the street we see the golden possibilities of sustained economic investment and support: elite visitors from around the globe enjoying the lap of luxury in its chic hotels; pristine corporate headquarters where thousands work, a myriad of swanky restaurants, and fine dining options; a dazzling riverfront with a brand-spanking-new Metropark, a vibrant and peppy Warehouse District, a world-class minor league baseball park, and much more!

However, on the "cloudy" side of the street, in contrast, lies Greenbelt Place, a/k/a The Cherrywoods, an island of poor and mostly black low-income families who have been ignored and cut off from its mainstream neighbors. A victim of benign neglect and disinvestment, the dysfunctional housing project is where landlords profit, but tenants trapped in poverty navigate their fragile lives by attempting to get by on low-wage jobs or public assistance. Most live on \$2 or less per day after rent.

Landlords know that renters' precarious financial condition prevents them from consistently paying the full payment of rents on time. So, the Cherrywoods are decrepit and in chronic disrepair, with broken plumbing, inoperable furnaces and broken doors and windows. The unhealthy apartments overrun with mice, mold, roaches, and ants play a vital role in the nihilism that has led to 8,000 annual police calls, overdose deaths, gangs, domestic violence, child abuse and high incarceration rates in the neighborhood.

Unlike mainstream populations, a disproportionately large proportion of the adults here are unemployed (full time), lack a high school diploma or G.E.D., or don't have a driver's license.

For certain, a key component of social and economic inequality is housing policy. And, the lack of investment in housing and neighborhoods creates desperate and dysfunctional lives, the disturbing consequences of housing instability and housing quality.

Yet, federal, state, and local governments have seldom intervened. As a result, there has been minimal, if any, proactive enforcement of building code violations or support for affordable housing projects for the homeless.

Until now.

Grassroots action by a group of six to seven courageous residents who stared down threats to talk with Tina Butts of the Movement. Butts contacted Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken. Gerken approached Councilwoman Vanice Williams, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Roz Clemens from the City of Toledo. As a result, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge, fast-tracked an inspection that failed the project. The Apartments, somehow, had received passing grades under the previous Presidential administration.

How to address the generation of disinvestment is a question that the politicians are currently struggling with.

It is unlikely that the Cherrywood's owner, living in San Antonio, Texas, would find value in spending the \$6 million required to reinvest in the existing property. Indeed, it has been profitable to capitalize on people in poverty who cannot pay by refusing to provide upkeep and maintenance.

Neither is tearing down the project a reasonable option. Demolition would scatter residents across the city, where they would lose the necessary supports and kinship networks they have been using to survive. Further, there would be no place for the residents to move to. "Besides," says Gerken, "if it were pos-

sible to get 376 vouchers for the number of people there, or 176 for families, there's no housing stock to put them in. I don't have 176 landlords out there."

Nevertheless, The Movement and the YWCA have organized a blitz fair at the Greenbelt on October 30 to initiate a presence for social services. The groups will provide vaccinations. They will also give away flat-screen T.V.'s, laptop computers, cell phones, gift cards, and other complimentary items to establish a relationship with residents.

That is an admirable start. However, much more must be done.

Politicians must first understand that they cannot address social and economic inequality without expanding revitalization efforts from downtown to distressed neighborhoods.

Therefore, leaders must develop a legislative framework, drastically increase resources, and provide the infrastructure to solve critical housing needs of people of low to moderate-income.

Service providers must also authentically engage with low-income residents and provide the necessary services to improve the quality of their lives. These services must include intensive case management designed to counter the complex dynamics that shape families' lives and move them toward self-sufficiency.

Finally, most community leaders rightfully believe that residents don't have the education, finances, and family support to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps." Yet, we often ask too little of those we serve to help them develop

...continued on page 8

KATIE MOLINE DEMOCRAT

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- ★ Safe Neighborhoods
- ★ Fiscal Responsibility

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Community Calendar

October 30

Greenbelt Place: The Movement and the YWCA are collaborating to assist the residents of Greenbelt Place with a Blitz Fair: Vaccinations and a giveaway of household goods

November 5

Martin de Porres revival: 6:00 pm; Revivalist is Rev R. Tony Ricard of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; Sponsored by the Diocese of Toledo and a grant from the Black and Indian Fund. There will be a free-will offering; All are welcome

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The Candidates – In Their Own Words

There are two candidates for mayor – current Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

"The story is that Toledo, in general, is better off today than we were four years ago; there's no question about it.

"Earlier this year, we won the Site Selection Magazine Governor's Cup Award as number one nationally for economic development. That is significant.

"Also, we finally developed a plan to fix our roads once and for all. We created a new revenue stream that never existed before, and as a result, we're fixing 15 times the number of roads this year than we did last year. Last year, we fixed seven residential roads; this year we're fixing 109.

"Additionally, our budget is in a much better position. Our budget wasn't balanced when I became mayor. Today, we have the largest rainy-day fund in the City's history, literally 10 times larger than it was five years ago.

"The promises I made four years ago, I've kept them. I said we're going to grow the size of the police force, get the regional water deal done, and get the budget in order. We did all of these. So, looking at the big picture, there's no question we're better off than we were four years ago."



The Challenger – Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner

"What if you could have a mayor who had done some of the following things?

"I brought a new Jeep plant to Toledo, Ohio.

"Then, the very first month on the job, the CEO of Owens Corning Fiberglass told me they were moving to Granville, Ohio where they have a development plant. They bought land in Monclova Township and liked the site where they have permanently built their new



world headquarters. I happened to live in that site, but this was January, and they said by May 30th, you have to have acquired that land from those living down there and not easy to deal with.

"So, we got a new world headquarters for Owens Corning and a new Jeep plant in my first four years.

"Then we built the Docks restaurants. People forget we used to store our salt piles right directly across the river from downtown Toledo. Well, we removed those salt piles and got five restaurants over there, plus volleyball courts. Of course, people made fun of those volleyball courts, but every night of the week I can watch volleyball being played from down there.

"And also, during my final term, we laid the foundation of the Marina District. We took down the old smokestacks, towers, and blighted buildings that were on Front Street. I built a road through that district, and many councilmembers made fun, calling it the "road to nowhere." Well, the road to nowhere now has a restaurant and a whole bunch of things, including a Metro Park and a bunch of apartments. Got money for it.

Toledo City Council At-Large Seats

There are six seats to be decided and 12 candidates are on the ballot. Among the 12 are four incumbents, one incumbent who is suspended and seven others vying to finish in the top half. Here are the words of some of those on the ballot.

Councilwoman Katie Moline

"I think we really need to start thinking about some creative ideas between administration with council and the mayor. I know that some initiatives have been presented that we can start, and I encourage that because you don't know until you try. So, what can we do? I think we need to support the safety forces to do their job to help the violence. Finally, I think, again going back to money, which is my wheelhouse, is increasing investments in neighborhoods where the violence is happening. People need to know that they have opportunities and outlets other than crime or wrongdoing, that people care about them, there's a job to go to, and that there's something that they could lose by engaging in violent or criminal activity."



Councilman Nick Komives

"I couldn't be more proud to see our area housing advocates continuing to push the envelope in affordable, sustainable housing," said Toledo City Councilmember Komives. "The AFFH ordinance will allow us to monitor ourselves and provide valuable data and insight into the state of housing in our city. Toledo deserves nothing less than a city that cares for all of its residents."



...continued on page 5

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—Brian Tracey

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*The Candidates... continued from page 4***Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson**

"I'm meeting mostly officials and directors. I have talked to landlords, mostly white landlords, expressing their concerns with Section 8 vouchers and not agreeing with how it's coming down. I do understand where they're coming from.

I struggle with decisions that are maybe good for some, but not good for all. That's when I have to take some quiet time and pray for direction because I want to do my best for all of Toledo citizens, understanding that often the decisions that you make are not going to be popular with some of the people."

**Councilwoman Tiffany Whitman-Preston**

"My specific areas of focus are wellness, especially for women and children. Wellness comes out of both my direct experiences and my community experiences as well. The second issue is youth investment. We need better infrastructure to ensure that our youth and young adults can thrive.

"Another issue is economic opportunity, and that's across the board, not just with the black community. Obviously, with the recent announcement with Chrysler's expansion, that's big. But I would like to see more, across the board, whether we're talking about black, white, Latinx, communities; more middleclass families, and individuals with low to moderate income, they all need to be included in these economic expansion opportunities. Those are my three specific areas beyond the City's immediate focus."

**Challenger Michele Grim**

"I want to accomplish a couple of things. A lot of my campaign has been about reducing gun violence in Toledo. I put out a 10-point gun violence reduction plan that has a lot of evidence-based approaches. Also, I want to put public health at the forefront of city government.

My most meaningful initiatives look at health in every aspect of public policy. That includes affordable housing, making sure that people have roofs over their heads, green space, or just making sure that we take care of the health and well-being of our constituents.

"I would like to approach companies and negotiate lower prices and bring a grocery store here. That's a big issue in the central city and other pockets of Toledo. We need to make sure that we do have affordable food choices.

"I don't think a lot of people understand what supportive housing is. I worked at a community health center where we had 10 supportive housing sites. They really do make a difference for people who are chronically homeless. These projects help homeless persons stay in their apartments, so I think that's something that we critically need here."

**Challenger and Former Councilman George Sarantou**

"As chairman for 11 of my 12 years on city council, I was the longest-serving chairman of the finance committee. We had some tough financial years, especially under Mayor Ford and Mayor Finkbeiner, where the budgets were very tight.

"I'm most proud of that I was able to work with mayors of all different political persuasions, and I worked with them to do what's best for the city. I never had a political agenda or tried to make a name for myself by arguing at council or taking on the mayor. I always felt my job was to make sure we balanced the budget and had enough revenue to pay our bills. And, when we got into challenging financial times to bite the bullet and make the reductions we had to make.

"I have a record of success in working with people of both political parties and independents. I have the financial background, which is very important in the city, but I also served on the Public Safety Committee for many years of council.

"Right now, we have a very high crime rate, and that's unacceptable.

... continued on page 8



COUNCILMAN LARRY SYKES

★★★ A RECORD OF ★★★

LEADERSHIP, TRANSPARENCY, INTEGRITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**LEADERSHIP**

- Current Member of City Council
- Chair, City Council Finance Committee
- Secured additional \$300K funding in the State Budget for removal of Lead Based Paint
- Secured 50% of ProMedica Downtown Construction Project to local businesses
- Help expand the scope and influence of the Ohio Minority Development Council
- Worked to change the Civil Service Rules to expand the qualifying age for recruitment of safety forces

TRANSPARENCY

- Cut wasteful spending of tax payer dollars
- Improve City Services without raising taxes
- Publish city expenditure and income reports

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Supported the redevelopment of the new Renaissance Hotel, now a 4-star Marriott Property in downtown Toledo
- Supported the sale and redevelopment of the former Erie Street Market adding to the city's tax revenue and saving an annual \$300K in city expenses
- Supported the Hensville Project which completed \$21M in public/private partnerships to renovate several downtown Toledo properties
- Supported the establishment of Middlegrounds Metro Park, a new 28 acre metropark in downtown Toledo
- Supported FIAT Chrysler resulting in \$700M to the Toledo North Assembly Plant and the creation of 700 new jobs
- Supported Mercy Health Care Plan of \$1B investment in current facilities which will maintain employment of 2700 Toledoans with an annual average salary of \$64.7K

INTEGRITY

- Improving Neighborhood Safety & Stability
- Expanding Safety Forces
- Sponsored the Ordinance passed by City Council for Responsible Banking Practices holding banks accountable to tax payers regarding loans and payday lending
- Proposed the TARTA supported sales tax that reduces the amount of property taxes paid by Toledo homeowners while increasing funding for TARTA to continue providing services to Toledoans and TPS students
- Worked with single mothers facing eviction from unfair housing companies to implement new policies to help them keep and buy their homes
- As Chair of City Council Finance Committee, helped to oversee back-to-back certification and award for outstanding budgetary management



Paid for by the committee to elect Larry Sykes, Verma Prude, Treasurer, 2368 Valley Brook Dr., Toledo, OH 43615

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Issue 2: Imagination Station Seeks a Replacement Levy

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Imagination Station has a small request of the voters in Lucas County, a small request indeed. The science learning center is asking voters to replace a .17 mil property tax levy with a .1975 tax levy, the smallest request on this year's ballot. For the owner of a house valued at \$100,000, this means that he or she will be paying \$6.91 to support a learning experience that impacts thousands of families.

That is \$6.91 per year. An increase of one dollar per year for such a homeowner, an increase that will help to enable Imagination Station to continue to entertain, teach and delight its 200,000 visitors a year.

The .17 mil tax was initially sought and passed by voters in 2008 with the intent of raising \$1.5 million for the science center, says Executive Director Lori Hauser, who has been with Imagination Station (originally COSI) for almost 20 years.

That original levy fell far short of expectations as it came at a time when the Great Recession was taking hold and home values were plummeting. It has never generated the income it was expected to in the years since, says Hauser. Generally, the center sees about \$1.1 to \$1.2 million a year from the levy.

"We are asking to get back to that dollar figure that was approved in 2008," says Hauser.

Those levy monies are used to fund the cost of exhibits, maintenance of exhibits, traveling exhibits and building operations.

The funds brought in from the property tax are only a fraction of the total cost of upkeep for Imagination Station. The annual budget is around \$4 million and is a result of a public/private partnership, says Hauser. The staff actively reaches out for private funding for the non-profit. "We want to make sure we keep it balanced," says Hauser.

The science center also charges for admission to help with costs. However, increased public funding will help keep admission prices at a minimum and allow Imagination Station to continue to admit Lucas County children on Saturdays without charge.

As a result of private fundraising, for example, the science center expanded its facility during the pandemic and built a movie theatre that shows visitors of all ages 3D films such as "Hidden Pacific" about underwater life and "Superpower Dogs," about animals trained to help in all kinds of crisis situations.

"We are making sure we are servicing the community," says Hauser.





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Will Bennett, Treasurer

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Issue 12: TARTA Hopes to Replace Outmoded Property Tax with Sales Tax

The Toledo area, alone among the Ohio large metropolitan areas, still relies on a property tax to fund its mass transit system.

In this general election, the Toledo Area Rapid Transit Authority is asking voters to make the change and allow the public transportation system to obtain its local funding from a more reliable source – a source that will permit it to operate more efficiently and to put monies into infrastructure improvements.

Issue 12 will repeal the property tax and transition TARTA's funding model to a sales tax. It is estimated that the .05 sales tax will raise about \$32 million for TARTA's operating expenses and the investment in sorely needed equipment, particularly to its outdated fleet, says Board Member Kendra Smith, Mercy Hospital's vice president of Community Health for Ohio and Kentucky.

The additional funds, says Smith, "will fund operating expenses with greater efficiency and accountability and help with road improvements along with adding new and improved service."

Currently TARTA receives about \$13 million annually from the 2.5 mil property tax the system relies on, "not the most stable stream of income," notes Smith.

"The industry standard has been proven time and time again," she says. "An effective funding model according to that standard has been set to elevate the system and provide quality service."

Indeed, the TARTA fleet is the oldest one in Ohio, Smith adds.

However, the transition from property tax to sales tax means more than simply improving the public transportation service. There are economic benefits for the region.

It presents an opportunity for the region to:

Empower people to connect to jobs, education, health and educational opportunities over more hours of the day

Provide more hours of service, benefiting Lucas County businesses and thereby grow the Toledo region's economy.

TARTA had attempted on five previous occasions to include a new funding issue on the ballot only to be stymied by member communities. Those member communities include Toledo, Ottawa Hills, Maumee, Rossford, Waterville, Sylvania and Sylvania Township – plus the Lucas County Commissioners.

A majority of members had to pass resolutions approving the placement of the issue on the ballot. Six of the seven passed the resolution with Maumee agreeing under its own resolution.

Lucas County voters now have the opportunity to approve the measure and increase transit funding enabling the system to restore Sunday service, match federal grants to replace an outdated fleet and establish countywide bus service.



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The Candidates... continued from page 5

So, we need to have more cooperation, not just with various law enforcement agencies like the Toledo Police, the Lucas County Sheriff, but also the State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. We can all work together... "

Challenger Harvey Savage

"I can make a difference. I have a wealth of knowledge of our community. I possess management skills that would enhance city council's role in our community. I've worked a couple of decades in the nonprofit world and have been successful. I am involved with the Department of Neighborhoods and their programming, and I understand the management of federal funds.

"I'm able to look at an issue and peel it down to the root cause. We have many things in our community that we need to be working on the root causes and not just the symptoms. I did 13 years as a Human Research manager, and worked with people that had felonies. I also worked with halfway houses, so I understand what is going on right now in the community."

**Councilman Larry Sykes**

"Why wouldn't I run again? I'm not term limited. I still have a lot to do.

"All the good work I've done in my life – with TPS, for example – establishing scholarships, increasing enrollment and graduation rates, hiring two Black superintendents ...

"There were the 40 homes in Oakwood that those women were going to lose, I met with them and the banks; they were able to buy the houses outright.

"The police reform measures: Abolishing the 'no knock' practice, eliminating chokeholds, requiring body cameras and requiring officers to report fellow officers for violations against the public.

"The first in Ohio lead ordinance ...

"We invited the mayor, JoJuan Armour, the police chief, the fire chief ... and no one came," he says of the Kent Branch Library session.

"Solve the rampant homicide problem by getting everyone involved – the whole community. Go to TPS, to LMH, the court system, the unions ... , look at kids who are delinquent, who are truants. Track those kids, put them in a diversionary program.

"Black men – get them to wake up, to clean up, to stand up – you know who the shooters are. The community has to take responsibility. Parents do you know where your children are?

"We don't need that ARP money [180 million] to go to parks and roads, there is sufficient money in the budget for that ... put it into social services



with a history of success.

"Pathway's Avis Files' Brothers United program ... You can sustain such a program for the next 20 years and changes lives.

"I've served this community through some tough times. I've always been responsive, been open, been approachable. I hope voters know my commitment to this community and elect me again."

Perryman... continued from page 3

the assurance, determination, and skills needed to become self-sufficient. Yet, charity will not remedy social inequality. Instead, social equity requires setting high standards, such as holding non-disabled tenants responsible for finding work or community service opportunities.

Will that help us turn the corner on social inequality, at last?

"I don't know," says Gerken. "But it's time to recognize the cost of disinvestment. The whole north end is neglected, and I'm guilty of it too. We're all responsible. Yeah, we can say we probably should've woke up earlier, but you wake up when you wake up sometimes. It's better than not waking up at all. We built up downtown, but we've not had a serious investment in the most profound poverty segments.

At the center of this disinvestment happens to be for the last decade, the Cherrywood. It's everybody's sin," Gerken laments.

Commissioner Gerken is correct. And, like all sin, it's not only those who live in islands of deteriorated and unstable housing who are affected. All of us suffer when society fails to revitalize distressed neighborhoods situated in the shadow of so much success and prosperity.

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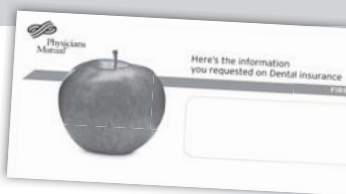
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The Eddie M. Cole Scholarship Luncheon Celebrates the Legend Himself

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The members of the Thurgood Marshall Law Association held their annual Eddie M. Cole Scholarship Luncheon on Oct 19 at the Toledo Club. The organization awarded five law students with scholarships to a packed hall Tuesday afternoon.

The welcome was presented by Magistrate Carmille Akande, president of the Thurgood Marshall Law Association. Her address was followed by an invocation and acknowledgements by Vallie Bowman-English, Toledo Clerk of Court.

Monica J.D Yvonne led a tribute to Eddie Cole, the namesake of the scholarship and a trailblazer in the Toledo law and African-American community.

Cole, who turned 101 on October 1, was in attendance with his son, Edwin Cole.

Cole was born in 1920 in Belzoni, Mississippi. He graduated as the valedictorian of his high school class in Greenwood, MS in 1940. After receiving a competitive scholarship, he studied at Tougaloo College and served in the United States Army from 1943- 1946 where he traveled the world. In 1946, he relocated to Toledo, Ohio and, 70 years ago, in 1951, graduated from The University of Toledo College of Law.

He and his late wife, Edrene Benson Cole, had two children, Edwin and Elecia. Eddie Cole retired from law in 2011.

Cole practiced over 60 years in law in the community in private practice and in government positions where he was a staunch advocate of social justice.

Yvonne detailed the events that Cole has lived through as centenarian including the Great Depression, numerous wars, civil rights and now a global pandemic.

"When I get discouraged. I often [take] pause", said Yvonne. "If he can do it. I can do it. We do it on the shoulders of Mr. Cole." She reflected on Cole's experience practicing as an attorney of color seventy years ago and her experiences today, giving praise to Cole's endurance and grace and the impact he has had on her life and to the community.

"In closing I want to say thank you and we love you." Yvonne hugged Cole as he received a standing ovation from the legal community he helped to foster. Yvonne ensured that the scholarship will remain a permanent tribute to the life and legacy of Eddie Cole.

Raina Dawson (University of Toledo Law c/o '20) presented the Eddie M. Cole scholarships to Sarah Smidi (2L), Gabrielle Guilana (2L), Maria McGabe (3L), Hussein Kazwini (2L) and the Honorable Myron C. Duhart and Nicole Duhart Scholarship to Abagale McCurdy (3L). The introduction of the Keynote Speaker was given by Ashley Futrell.

The speaker for the afternoon was Charles Jake, vice president and general counsel of the University of Toledo. Jake, a Chicago native, is an alumnus of The University of Cincinnati College of Law and former

...continued on page 14



Edwin and Eddie Cole



Raina Dawson (Toledo Law Alum) presents scholarships to law students Sarah Smidi (2L) and Hussein Kazwini (2L)



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The Toledo NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner Truth's Reporter

The Stranahan Theater and Great Hall event room was filled as members and officers of the Toledo Unit NAACP celebrated the 106th Freedom Fund Dinner on Saturday, October 23. The theme this year was, "Fighting Forward Towards Justice Equity & Change."

Live entertainment by Sax B serenaded guests as they were escorted to their tables and dined on the buffet-style menu with options catered by We Are Ribs. Kristian Brown, the local 13abc news anchor served as mistress of ceremonies and Tonielle Barton led the Negro National Anthem, "Life Ev'ry Voice and Sing." Toledo NAACP President Rev. Willie Perryman officially welcomed the attendees.

"Thank you to our executive committee, Jerusalem Church, and my wife Monica Perryman. On behalf of the Toledo branch of NAACP, we're pleased to have you join us. Hope you enjoy this evening," shared Perryman.

The banquet recognized two local individuals, Will Lucas and Oshae Jones. Lucas, an entrepreneur and content creator is involved in different ventures including: the CEO and founder of Creadio, a marketing technology and production agency; TolHouse, a private social club, AfroTech and Black Tech Green Money, which is connected to brand strategies.

In addition to his businesses, Lucas has served on several statewide and national leadership roles including: co-chairman of President Obama's Ohio Small Business Committee in 2012 and has served on the Ohio Casino Control Commission since 2013.

Jones, the second honoree, earned the Bronze Medal in the women's welterweight boxing event during the 2021 Summer Olympics.

"I've been blessed to use the talents that God has given to me. So many people have poured into me. I appreciate and love you guys. Thank you," shared Lucas.

... continued on page 11



NAACP Executive Board Toledo and Guests



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Micheal Alexander, Ray Wood and Rev. Willie Perryman

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NAACP... continued from page 10

"I want to thank the community for supporting my daughter and I'm honored to accept this for her. She's excited, that she is able to still inspire girls," shared Demetria Blackshear, Jones' mother.

Traditionally the banquet welcomes a featured speaker, however this year past Toledo NAACP president Ray Wood. Wood graduated from Macomber in 1972, served in the Air Force and initially worked as a forklift driver for Bostwick-Braun Co. He later started at General Motors' Toledo Powertrain as a line worker, joined the UAW, took on leadership roles within the union and eventually became president of UAW Local 14 in 2006.

Wood retired in 2017. He served as first vice president of Toledo NAACP until becoming president in 2013 and retired seven years later. Wood serves as a deacon at United Vision Baptist Church and serves on several local boards, including: Toledo Community Coalition, Black and Brown Coalition and Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union.

"We started out doing exactly what Ms. WilliAnn Moore said. I stand on the shoulders of Theresa Gabriel too and so many others," Wood mentioned during opening comments. "Just because you're retired doesn't mean that you're done. There is still work too do. My message is plain and simple. Keep fighting the good fight. I never want to be told that we didn't do enough."

The 2021 Freedom Fund committee: Michael Alexander, chair; Anita Madison, co-chair; Rev. W.L. Perryman and Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, members. The 2021 Toledo Branch officers: Rev. Willie Perryman, president; Michael Alexander, first vice-president; Jasmine White, second vice-president; WilliAnn Moore, third vice-president; Frances Amison, treasurer; Erika White, assistant treasurer; Rev. Perry Harris III, secretary; and Kandice Saulsberry, assistant secretary.

The 2021 Executive Committee Chairs: Anita Madison, Criminal Justice; Calvin Brown, Economic Development; Clarence Gaffaney, Veteran Affairs; Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, Legal Redress; Doris Roberts, Youth Council Advisor; Erika White, Health; Pastor Jerry Boose, Religious Affairs; Pete Miller, Labor; Lenette Holden, Membership; Kim Penn, Historian; Sena Mourad Friedman, Housing; Sharon Roach, WIN; Terry Crosby,

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John Rudley Finally Enters the UT Athletic Hall of Fame

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Finally!

After more than a half century of being overlooked, ignored and passed over, and pointedly so, former University of Toledo basketball star John Rudley was granted permission by his alma mater to enter the Varsity T Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Friday night, October 22 at the Perysburg Hilton Garden Inn.

Rudley, accompanied by family, many old friends, fraternity brothers and local supporters who had endlessly petitioned UToledo to forgive the perceived transgressions and to honor an outstanding student-athlete, accepted the long overdue induction with grace and entered the Hall of Fame alongside six other outstanding student-athletes, all of whom are generations younger than he is.

Rudley also paid homage to those in attendance such as former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner (a sports assistant at UT during Rudley's years there), fellow fraternity brother Vince Davis and African American Legacy Project Director Robert Smith, all of whom led the effort to ensure his induction.

Six other former student athletes were inducted:

- Kate Bean McCauley, a volleyball athlete from 2003 to 2006, dominates the Toledo volleyball record book and led the team to its first ever semifinals in the MAC tournament. McCauley is the only Rocket volleyball player to be named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team graduating with a 3.978 grade point average. She is a nurse in Louisville.
- Jeremiah Detmer was a kicker with the football team from 2011 to 2014 and was the 2013 MAC Special Teams Player of the Year. That season he connected on 19 of 20 field goals and 44 of 45 extra points. He was a three-time Academic All-MAC selection and is currently complet-



Rudley, seated right, and his Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers



John Rudley



Former Mayor Mike Bell, far right, who received a Special Award during the ceremony, with friends and his father Norman Bell, center



Rudley, with yellow boutonniere, and friends

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John Rudley... continued from page 12

ing his training to be a Toledo firefighter.

- Greg Manz, an offensive lineman, played football from 2010 to 2014, was named first team All-MAC in his senior year and was named a second-team All-American by the Football Writers Association of America – the first Rocket offensive lineman to be so honored since Dan Bukovich in 1934. Manz was an Academic All-MAC selection four times. He played for six seasons with the NFL's Houston Texans and is currently on the Miami Dolphins' team.

- Jessica Popiel Stone, a golfer, was a member of the very first Rockets' women's team – from 1996 to 1999. She was the MAC Player of the Year in 1999, as well as a WGCA All-American Scholar in 1997 and 1998. Stone was the first Rocket to compete in an LPGA Tour event, playing in the Jamie Farr Classic in 1999.

- Chris Wallace played quarterback for the Rockets from 1995 to 1998 leading the team to division titles his last two seasons during which he threw for 44 touchdowns, 5,454 yards. His athletic exploits led to a No. 18 ranking for the Rockets in the AP poll. After UT, Wallace played 18 seasons of professional arena football setting league records in career touchdowns and passes completed.

- Inma Zanoguera, 2011 to 2015, played was a three time All-MAC honoree who played for women's basketball teams that won an average of 22 games per season. She earned first team All-MAC honors as a senior and led the team in scoring, rebounding and assists. And was selected as one of 30 NCAA women's basketball nominees for the 2014-2015 Senior CLASS Award. She was twice an Academic All-MAC selectee. She played professional basketball in Italy after graduation and recently won the Sahara Marathon in his first attempt at the 26.2 mile event.

But John Rudley was the star of the evening. The point guard for Toledo from 1965 to 1969, who had been shut out by the university for over five decades received a welcome home and the long-time grudge was forgotten or, at least, overlooked.

The University of Toledo's grudge against John Rudley, started in the 1960's.

It was a trying time for athletes – the second half of the 1960s. When Muhammad Ali spoke up, became a member of the Nation of Islam and denounced racism and the Vietnam War, a standard of behavior was set. A symbol of heroism has been accepted, almost universally.

Within a few years, Ali regained the chance to continue fighting, gained and reclaimed the heavyweight crown and earned plaudits as an American hero.

Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in the air on the Olympic podium when the U.S. National Anthem was being played. As the decades have passed, that symbol of protest against racism has become an iconic portrait of two heroes' decision to sacrifice everything for a cause much larger than their personal ambitions.

Football's Jim Brown and basketball's Bill Russell spoke out against oppression, injustice and racism and spent time with protesters, such as Ali, seconding his calls for change. Years later, Russell and Brown, both in their pro sports' Halls of Fame, are remembered fondly for their athletic exploits as well as their involvement in various causes.

However, for John Rudley and his teammates, who formed the core of a University of Toledo basketball team that would go 23-2 in 1966-67 and win the MAC Championship, no such future athletic plaudits were forthcoming. Indeed that 1966-67 team, during Rudley's sophomore year, has been called the best team that has ever taken the court at UT and, for so many at the university, until this weekend, it's as if they never existed.

Rudley, a point guard and team captain, and one of his teammates, sat out a game in 1969, his senior year, to protest the actions of their coach, Bob Nichols, who suspended a teammate, Bob Miller, for missing class. Nichols was white and had been struggling for several years with that team, Rudley recalled later, trying to balance the playing time of his white and black players – a very tricky proposition in the 60's.

For Nichols the dilemma was particularly poignant because he was the one who recruited Rudley and the other black players and then tried over time, as the black players saw it, to minimize their playing time, catering to the sensibilities of the time.

... continued on page 14

Black history is an essential part of the history of our nation, our communities and our company. Black associates have been key members of the Rudolph Libbe Group team since our earliest years. In a series of articles this year, we are celebrating the contributions of current associates and retirees, and expressing our gratitude to them for being a part of the Rudolph Libbe Group.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

A desire to be an advocate and a voice for others led Heather Hagans to a career in human resources.

"I've always wanted to help people and to me, Human Resources is customer service for employees."

Heather joined GEM Inc. as a human resources generalist in May 2021, after working as a recruiter for substitute teachers.

"I'm learning my role and the construction lingo. I am a part of an amazing HR team, a knowledgeable group of women. They exemplify our company culture to the fullest. And so far, there has not been a situation where I couldn't express how I feel or had to wonder if I was being heard," she said.

With her family's support, she recently earned a bachelor's degree in business, with HR certification. With Rudolph Libbe Group's support, she is pursuing certification as a Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)-Certified Professional. Ultimately, she wants to specialize in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Last year, a college friend asked Heather to help create an organization focused on serving the homeless. A Happy Smile: The Hope Foundation, while still in its developmental stage, will provide food, shelter and other services to those in need. Heather also volunteers with My Sister's House for Girls in Toledo, a mentorship program.

"I was blown away my first week here at Rudolph Libbe Group. I was asked what my career goals were and what tools I needed to be successful. I've never experienced that with any other company."

In too many workplaces, a Black woman will be labeled "angry" for being assertive, straightforward or just expressing an opinion. It's a world where, when she was once stopped by the police, she was so frightened that she couldn't immediately find her license, registration and proof of insurance. "All I kept thinking was, 'What will happen to my three kids sitting in the backseat if something happens to me?'"

A single mom of three, Heather hopes to raise strong daughters who will be seen as assertive, not "bossy." She has deeper concerns for her son.

"My hope for my son is that he doesn't have a target on his back. When does my son stop being cute and when does he become a threat? And he's only three. There's a stereotype for Black men. It's a mother's worst nightmare to learn that her son had Skittles in his pocket and was shot dead."

Awareness is the first step toward a better world, she said. "Once you become aware, you have a responsibility to learn how to be the best ally—by actively listening. Not to receive a response, but to learn."



John Rudley... continued from page 13

Nichols had brought in Rudley, an outstanding point guard from Benton Harbor who had led his team to two undefeated seasons and two Michigan state championships; John Brisker, from Detroit, who would go on to play professionally with the ABA along with a brief stint in the NBA; Calvin Lawshe from Macomber; Bob Miller from upstate New York and Steve Mix, a standout at Toledo's Rogers High School who would eventually play in the NBA for 14 seasons, including on some championship teams. All but Mix were black.

Those Super Sophs, when they won that championship in 66-67, frayed a bit by the time they were seniors. Brisker, a volatile mix at best with Nichols, says Rudley, had left the team. Lawshe had suffered a serious knee injury and his career was over. In early 1969, the coach learned that Bob Miller had been skipping classes, confronted him on that fact, ordered him to start attending and suspended him from the team when he learned that Miller had skipped again.

Rudley joined protesters at mid court before the next game – several dozen black students and teammate Jim Miller – and walked out of the gym, missing one game. The team finished in the doldrums – 13-11 and fifth in the MAC.

Rudley went on to graduate school, a career as a certified public accountant, a second stellar career in academia as the interim president of the University of Houston and then an eight-and-a-half-year tenure as president of Texas Southern University, retiring three years ago.

Bob Miller did not graduate – deprived as he was of about two dozen credits; Rudley, despite his outstanding years as team leader, point guard, impressive scorer and assist leader, ("one of the best point guards I ever had a chance to play with," said Mix), never made the UT Hall of Fame

– a Hall with about 300 members – and the 1966-67 teams did not even have its photograph posted.

After Rudley left Toledo, diploma in hand, he didn't return for decades and didn't speak with Nichols for over 30 years. Reconciliation did arrive in the early 2,000s, and the pair stayed in touch. The Nichols family became champions of Rudley's induction into the Hall.

On Friday evening, as Rudley acknowledged, all was forgiven. Steve Mix, among others, sat in attendance as Rudley received the honor he has so long deserved and an appreciative audience welcomed home the former point guard/retired university president.

Eddie M. Cole... continued from page 9

Assistant General Counsel at the University of Cincinnati from 2005 to 2014.

"There is definitely adversity that you have to overcome," said Jake, "and I would just encourage anyone who is going through adversity

whether it's in your personal life or in your career to not let it derail what you're trying to do and to continue to work through it." Jake expressed the importance of paying what is given forward signifying that legacy of the scholarship luncheon and its namesake continues.

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Things We Couldn't Say by Jay Coles

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You'd like an explanation, please.

Why something is done or not, why permission is denied, you'd like to hear a simple reason. You've been asking "Why?" since you were two years old but now the older you get, the more urgent is the need to know – although, in the new book *Things We Couldn't Say* by Jay Coles, there could be a dozen because.

Sometimes, mostly when he didn't need it to happen, Giovanni Zucker's birth mother took over his thoughts.

It wasn't as though she was the only thing he had to think about. Gio was an important part of the basketball team at Ben Davis High School; in fact, when he thought about college, he hoped for a basketball scholarship. He had classes to study for, two best friends he wanted to hang out with, a little brother who was his reason to get up in the morning, and a father who was always pushing for help at the church he ran. As for his romantic life, there wasn't much to report: Gio dated girls and he'd dated guys and he was kinda feeling like he liked guys more.

So no, he didn't want to think about his birth mother. The woman who walked out on the family when Gio was a little kid didn't deserve his consideration at all. There was just no time for the first woman who broke his heart.

It was nice to have distractions from his thoughts. Gio's best friends had his back. He knew pretty much everybody in his Indianapolis neighborhood. And the guy who moved across the street, a fellow baller named David, was becoming a good friend.

A very good friend.

David was bi-sexual, too.

But just as their relationship was beginning, the unthinkable hap-

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pened: Gio's birth mother reached out, emailed him, wanted to meet with him, and he was torn. She said she had "reasons" for abandoning him all those years ago, and her truth was not what he'd imagined...

There are a lot of pleasant surprises inside *Things We Couldn't Say*.

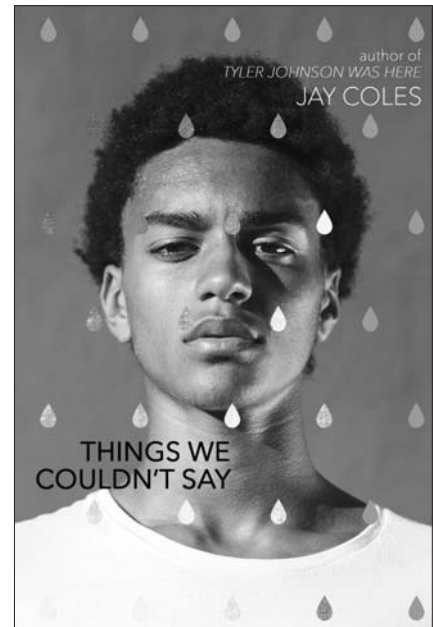
From the start, author Jay Coles gives his main character a great support system, and that's an uniquely good thing. Gio enjoys the company of people who want the best for him, and it's refreshing that even the ones who are villains do heroic things.

Everyone in this book, in fact, has heart, and that softens the drama that Coles adds – which leads to another nice surprise: there's no overload of screeching drama here. Overwrought teen conflict is all but absent; even potential angsts that Gio might notice in his urban neighborhood are mentioned but not belabored. This helps keep readers focused on a fine, relatable, and very realistic coming-of-age story line.

This book is aimed at readers ages 12-and-up, but beware that there are a few gently explicit, but responsibly written, pages that might not be appropriate for kids in the lower target range. For older kids and adults, though, *Things We Couldn't Say* offers plenty of reasons to love it.



Author Jay Coles courtesy Victoria Ruth Photography



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Toledo Miscellaneous Trail Paving, Lucas County Ohio** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, November 12, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of asphalt resurfacing of select trails and maintenance drives within four Metropark Toledo locations in Lucas County. General construction includes pavement repairs, pavement planing, asphalt paving, curb ramp, catch basin adjustment, and topsoil, seed & mulch. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$15 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Director

PROJECT MANAGER/ENGINEER

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Project Manager/ Engineer. Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or construction-related field required; Experience in civil engineering, project management, construction management, with working knowledge of construction, project management, design and engineering. Professional engineer required. Full-time with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to review job description and apply. Applicants must submit an online application and resume. EOE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP21-R034 ROOFING SERVICES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Roofing Services. Received in accordance with law until November 19, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R033 FIRE SYSTEMS TESTING, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Fire Systems Testing, Inspection, and Maintenance Services. Received in accordance with law until November 16, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



CHILD CARE/HOUSE CLEANER URGENTLY NEEDED

This is a part time job, live-out position from Tuesday to Friday, \$850 weekly. Must be able to interact with children Speak English, and non smoker MUST HAVE REFERENCES, If interested you can reach *Mrs Claudia* at claudiapredacoop1960@gmail.com

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project #5004-21-1871
UMC Emergency Power
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, November 16, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract
Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,200,000.00
Alternate #E-1 Directional Boring	\$30,000.00
Alternate #E-2 Remove 8 th Floor Generators	\$100,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: November 2, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 1135 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled immediately following Pre-bid meeting.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: Project contact: Roger DeBelly, JDRM Engineering, Phone: 419-824-2400, E-mail: rdebelly@jdrm.com

Happy Halloween!!

I'm extremely excited!! This is my absolutely my favorite time --- fall. Falling multicolored leaves, rain, cooler temperatures and warm cider and cinnamon donuts --- yummy, yummy, yummy!

My grandkids are so happy helping Grandma decorating my She Shed for this Halloween. Enjoy, people, and be safe when you mask up!

From my home to yours

Mary Mary!!



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- 21 YRS OLD BY THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT
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Carty Finkbeiner Attacks Administration's Record on Violence

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On the eve of the election, mayoral candidate Carty Finkbeiner, former mayor of Toledo, once again took Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz to task for his administration's record on violence, particularly the rate of homicides, which is on track to set another record in this 2021 calendar year – currently at 56 for the year.

"There were at least three more shootings this weekend," said Finkbeiner at a press conference he held at his campaign headquarters in south Toledo, at the corner of Glendale and Byrne.

"Two here in south Toledo not far from where we are today and one in the 3300 block of Lagrange."

Finkbeiner recalled the opening year of his third term when murders skyrocketed to 35 and his response to that wave of violence.

"I remember being amazed and shocked to hear of three murders in a month," he said.

At that time, he said pointing to his current 10-point plan to stop the surge in violence, he brought in the Lucas County Sheriff's Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to collaborate with the Toledo Police Department.

The result, he noted, was immediate. "We went 89 days without a murder when we collaborated. The city finished the year with 13 homicides.

"When I left office I wasn't pleased with the 33 homicides [in his last year of 2009]. But right now it's at 56 and over 2,000 bullets have been discharged into about 750 living units this year. The culture has dramatically changed."

Finkbeiner specifically pointed to the failure of the current mayor (Kapszukiewicz), the safety director (Karen Poore) and the chief of police (George Kral) whom he faulted for a failure to devise a plan to "deal with the situation."

"Citizens are reluctant to open their doors, we need a city where it is okay to open your front door. It's got to stop. We have a plan. We will get back to be able to enjoy life and not hiding behind our front doors."

Letter to The Editor

At the publication of your newspaper, we have only six days until the general election, Tuesday, November 2. With voter suppression looming over the African American communities, it is time to sound the alarm that we would like a renaissance in Toledo's central city.

In the past four years, not one project has been implemented in our community of any significance.

Hats off to Alicia Smith and her Junction Coalition for her effort, however, we need a number of projects and a lot more accomplished.

There has been too much neglect; crime and murder has gotten out of control, too many young people have died and the kids need facilities such as a skating rink, go karts, putt putt golf and a bowling alley and we do have enough facilities throughout our community. Imagine the jobs we can create!

On November 2, we will elect a mayor and six members to Toledo city council. There is no time for apathy when we do have the right to vote. It is up to us. My endorsement for mayor is personal, but it will create an awareness of the importance of our community, and who is paying attention.

It is time to have the kind of leadership that encompasses our community and propels it to a higher level.

Carty Finkbeiner, a three-term mayor is running again because he too has seen the continued neglect in our neighborhoods. When he was mayor, so many people have told me how "clean" the streets were, and how he made an effort to offer jobs to gang members or anyone who wanted to work, and did not exclude or cast off our people as not a factor in economic development.

If we are to move forward in this dark time of fear and disgust, consider voting for Carty Finkbeiner in mass numbers, senior citizens, millennials, residents young and old who are interested in Real leadership in the mayor's office; let our voices be heard.

June Boyd



Carty Finkbeiner points to the photos of this year's homicide victims

Finkbeiner reviewed his 10-point plan, emphasizing the need for such measures and the success he has experienced in the past with: collaboration with other law enforcement forces, rebuilding the Block Watch program, gun buybacks, creating jobs for youth, drop boxes for information.

"We need to deal with lawbreakers directly and respectfully and put youth to work," he said.

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David Fleetwood
Business Manager

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THE POLLS!*

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**FOR
MAYOR:**

WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ

City of Toledo Mayor

✓ Wade Kapszukiewicz

Toledo City Council

✓ Tony Dia

✓ Cerssandra McPherson

✓ Katie Moline

✓ George Sarantou

✓ Harvey Savage, Jr.

✓ Tiffany Preston Whitman

Toledo City Schools Board of Education

✓ Polly Taylor-Gerken

✓ Christine Varwig

✓ Bob Vasquez

Washington Local Schools Board of Education

✓ Mark R. K. Hughes

VOTE
YES

ON ISSUES:

☒ **ISSUE #2**
IMAGINATION STATION

☒ **ISSUE #3**
TOLEDO ZOO