



# Acknowledging Black America in the Discussion for Sustainable Development Goals

Howard University Delegation- Movement Lawyering





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



# Overview of Cities

## Northeast

- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- New York, New York
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Newark, New Jersey

## Southeast

- Jackson, Mississippi
- Washington, District of Columbia
- Durham, North Carolina
- Miami, Florida

## Southwest

- Houston, Texas

## West

- Los Angeles, California
- Antioch, California

## Midwest

- Chicago, Illinois
- Omaha, Nebraska



# Northeast

# Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Charkera Ervin



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



# Is Pittsburgh the Worst US City for Black People?

## Health

Life Expectancy: 22 year gap between highest and lowest neighborhood life expectancy. On average, black life expectancy is eight years less than white life expectancy in Pittsburgh.

Infant Mortality: Pittsburg infant mortality rates worst than 92% of black cities.

Maternal Mortality Rate: Black women in Pittsburg have higher mortality rates than 97% of black women in similar cities.

Suicide Rates:

Gun Violence:

### WHAT'S DIFFERENT IN PITTSBURGH?

Nothing! Many of the phenomena observed in Pittsburgh have been documented nationwide: Gentrification, food deserts, housing discrimination, School-to-prison pipeline, Environmental Racism, Police Violence, High Infant & Maternal Mortality Rates. **ALL** of these conditions, which impose on human rights, exist with a high documented disparity here. Pittsburgh remains a snapshot of many of Black America's largest human rights challenges.



# Housing in Pittsburgh

- Decades long patterns and practices of displacing Black residents.
- Among top Gentrifying city, without economic boost.
- High eviction rates, without tenant protections
- Rising Rental rates in collegiate downtown neighborhoods contribute to student debt crisis.



The East Liberty neighborhood has been the site of multiple waves of urban development/gentrification, which displaced Black Pittsburgh residents

# A few other findings...

**Wage Gap:** White men make 5x more than black women in Pittsburgh

**Student Arrests:** South Allegheny district with a 6.86% enrollment rate of Black students had an 80-point difference in the arrest rates of Black and White students

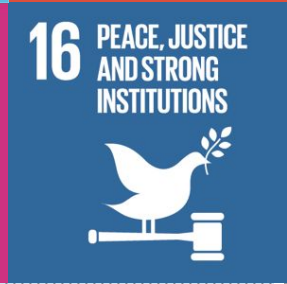
**Pollution:** Pittsburgh is recovering from a lead water crisis. Black residents more likely to live close to Steel Mills, increasing exposure to toxic air quality.



*"I do feel like they set us up to be a statistic at my age"* - 17yo girl explaining how she feels targeted by police in and outside of school.



**Antwon Rose**  
#sayhisname



*"If Black residents got up today and left and moved to the majority of any other cities in the U.S. ... their life expectancy would go up, their income would go up, their educational opportunities for their children would go up, as well as their employment."*



# New York City, New York

Shaq Al-Hijaz



1 NO  
POVERTY



# New York City, NY

One NYC 2050 is the city's strategy to build a “strong and fair city”

- Record-low unemployment / record-high jobs
- NY is on track to move 80,000 New Yorkers out of poverty by 2050.
- Minimum wage was raised to \$15/hr.
- However, poverty rates for Black and Hispanic children in 2019 were 1.2 and 1.3 times, respectively, that of other ethnic/racial categories combined.

OneNYC 2050, <https://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us/about/> (last accessed Sept. 10, 2022)



# New York City, NY

## Progress:

- NY is seeking to expand 3-k access
- Reading coaches in every NYC elementary school.
- School buildings renovations
- Increased diversity in schools.

## Ongoing challenges:

- School suspensions are still skewed against Black and Latinx students.

OUTCOME RATE FORMULA for <b>One</b> Racial/Ethnic Category	ASIAN OUTCOME RATE	BLACK OUTCOME RATE	HISPANIC OUTCOME RATE	WHITE OUTCOME RATE
$\frac{\text{Total Suspensions for One Racial/Ethnic Category}}{\text{Total Population for One Racial/Ethnic Category}} \times 1,000 = \text{Outcome Rate per 1,000}$	$\frac{397}{27,643} \times 1,000 = 14$	$\frac{2,615}{39,407} \times 1,000 = 66$	$\frac{2,376}{61,937} \times 1,000 = 38$	$\frac{659}{22,115} \times 1,000 = 30$
	<p><i>In this example, the total number of suspensions for Black and Hispanic high school students were similar (2,615 compared to 2,376) but there were many fewer total Black students (39,407) than there were total Hispanic students (61,937), so the rates are quite different (66 per 1,000 compared to 38 per 1,000).</i></p>			

# Baltimore, Maryland

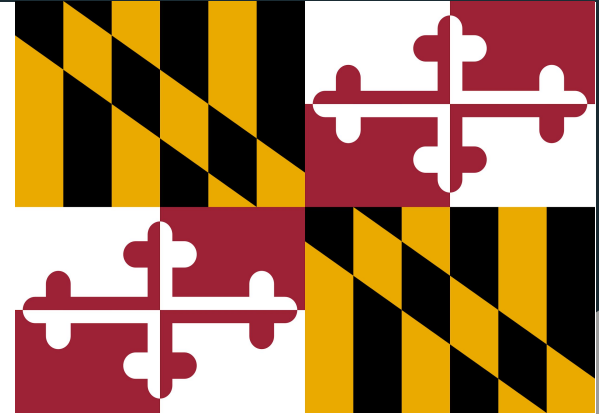
Kierra Booker





# Baltimore City Statistics

- Population: 585,708
  - Black Population: 62.4%
- Black Population in schools:
  - 89% minorities
  - 75.7% of them are Black students
- Math Proficiency:
  - Baltimore Students: 19%
  - Maryland Average: 38%
- Reading Proficiency:
  - Baltimore Students: 25%
  - Maryland Average: 46%
- In 2021 41% of students in Baltimore Public Schools earned a GPA below 1.0



# Education in Baltimore City



## The Problem:

- Decades of underfunding
- The teachers and staff don't reflect the race of the students
- Higher suspension rates for Black students
- The implementation of stricter requirements making it harder for there to be Black teachers

## Recommendations:

- The problem with education in Baltimore bleeds into the problems they have with other SDG's and vice versa.
  - Poverty, Unemployment, etc.
- Need more funding going directly to schools

**BALTIMORE CITY**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# Newark, New Jersey

Amma Boateng





# Newark, New Jersey

## High School Math NJSLA, Percentage Meeting or Exceeding Expectations\*\*

District Name	2015		
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II
Newark District	18.3	4.5	5.5
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	36.5	25	N/A
People's Preparatory Charter School	4.8	1.4	7.4
Philip's Academy Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEAD Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	13.7	0.7	1.3
North Star Academy Charter School	69.4	65.5	71.4
Team Academy Charter School	11.3	7.6	4.3
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	100	N/A	N/A
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A

District Name	2019		
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II
Newark District	20.8	13.6	43.6
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	33.5	50.0	*
People's Preparatory Charter School	8.4	3.8	*
Philip's Academy Charter School	77.3	N/A	N/A
LEAD Charter School	0	*	N/A
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	1.9	*	0
North Star Academy Charter School	57.1	41.7	62.6
Team Academy Charter School	32.4	18.7	66.7
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	93.3	N/A	N/A
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	43.9	N/A	N/A

High school graduation rates for residents over age 25:

- **91%** across New Jersey
- **76.5%** in Newark

Bachelor's degree or higher:

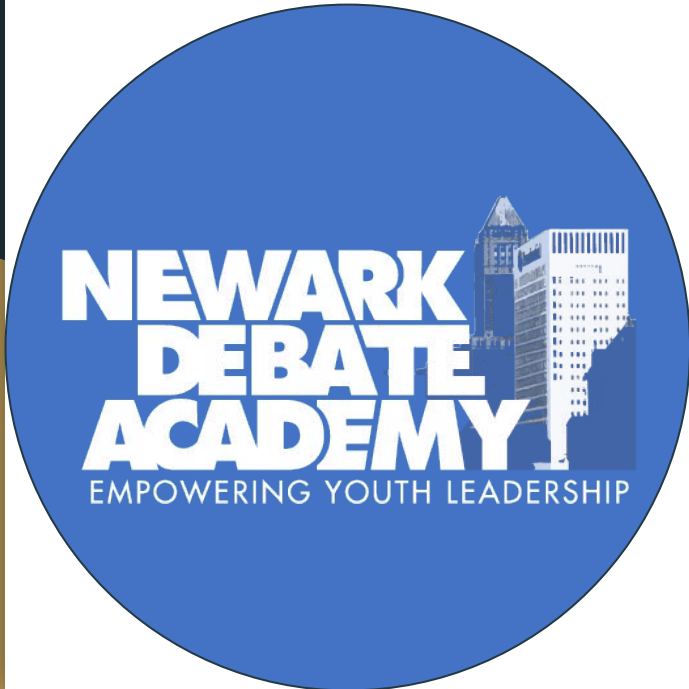
- **41%** across New Jersey
- **15.5%** in Newark vs

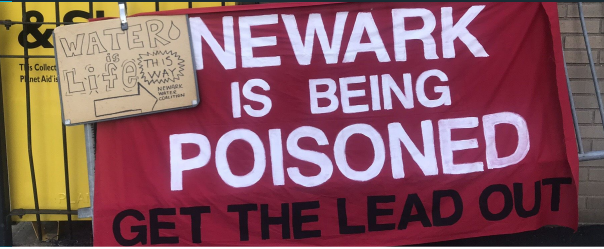




## Debate as an educational tool

- Exposes students to the world
  - Teaches independence
  - Expands worldview
  - Builds confidence





# Newark, New Jersey

Newark has undertaken one of the largest lead pipe replacement initiatives in the city's history. After 6 months of action, the lead levels had dropped significantly and showed promising signs of improvement with continued intervention by the city.

## Newark Water Testing for Lead, 2019\*\*

	Total # of Samples Tested	# of Samples $\geq 15$ ppb*	% of Sample $\geq 15$ ppb
January-June	359	164	46
July-December	471	130	28

\*Parts per billion

\*\*Data accessed as of January 3, 2020



Southeast

# Jackson, Mississippi

Precious Patterson



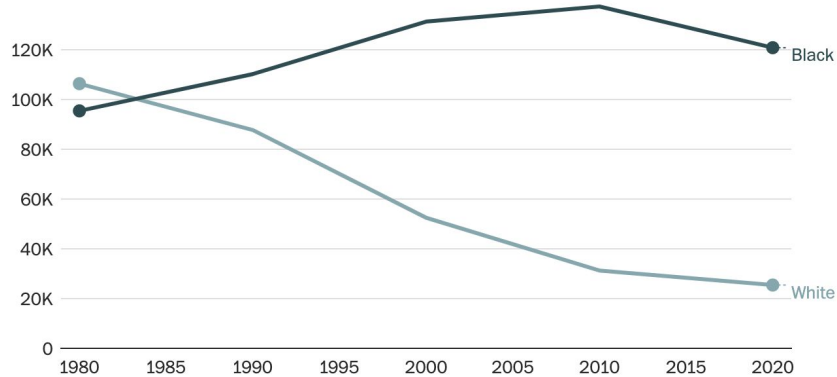
## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### Setting the Stage for Jackson, Mississippi:

- One of the Blackest cities in the United States.
- Roughly 83% Black population.<sup>1</sup>
- White Flight.
- The water crisis is not new. It's been decades in the making.
- In 2021 alone, Jackson had dozens of boil water alerts.<sup>2</sup>

Jackson's population has drastically changed since its peak in 1980 at about 200,000



Source: US Census

THE WASHINGTON POST

“What we are dealing with is the same kind of tactics used in foreign countries when they destroy an economic base to take control of a foreign country.” - Mac Epps; Member of Mississippi M.O.V.E.

1. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncitymississippi/BZA115220>

2. <https://time.com/6209710/jackson-mississippi-water-crisis/>



# The Jackson Water Crisis: Decades in the Making

“segregated drinking fountains

colored water

Jim Crow fountains

the message being that **substandard access to water  
was all that Black people deserved to have...**”

- W. Ralph Eubanks



Clarion Ledger

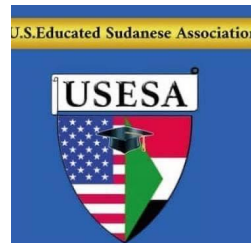


# Washington, District of Columbia

Sam Jeffrey



# Participating Organizations





17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Racial Inequities in Community Development and Social Services

- Greatest wealth gap in the US!
- DC's white community held 81 times the wealth of its Black community BEFORE recent gentrification.
- Barriers = Social services economy and social disconnect in policy-making.
- Solutions = Cooperative companies and social entrepreneurship for economic development, and harm reduction and preventative youth development to improve behavioral health.



# Durham, North Carolina

Ashley Washaya

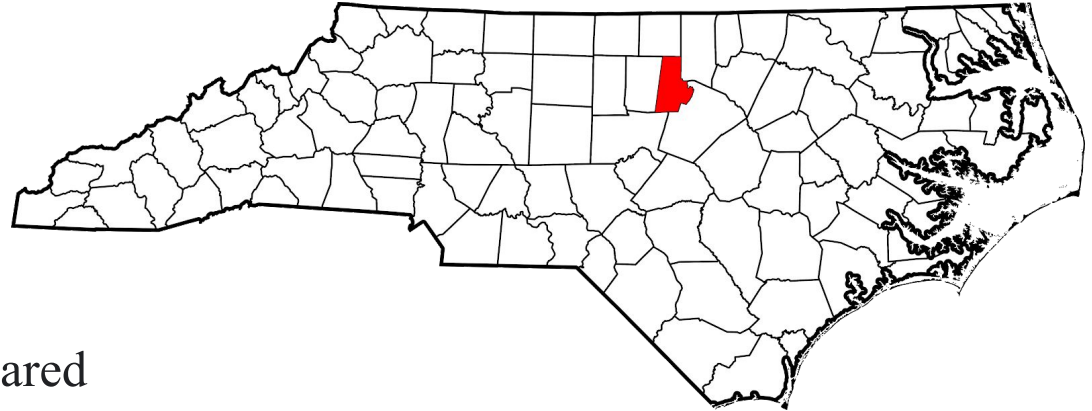


# Background Information

10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



- Population of Durham
  - 285,527
- Black Population
  - 103,580
- Fourth Largest City
- Almost a third of African American and Hispanic households have zero or negative net worth, compared to 14% of white households



# Housing Issues

- One of the biggest problems facing the Black residents of Durham is lack of access to housing due to increases in rent and housing costs
  - Average rent in Durham increased 36.4% between Feb. 2011 and Feb. 2017
  - Median home sale prices rose 15.7% between April 2017 and April 2018
  - Currently a housing shortage
- Existing affordable housing continues to dwindle
- Potential Solution
  - The ability to require affordable housing to be apart of any multi-unit housing developments
  - The Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program in Washington, DC requires that some new residential developments include affordable homes
    - As housing continues to develop in Durham Black people can still have access to the city



# Miami, Florida

Kayla Gardner



# Miami, FL

## *Reduced Inequalities*

4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



- Miami metropolitan area: Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties
- Trouble in paradise: public narrative does not reflect the struggle for civil rights Black people have endured
- Diverse culture represents divergent attitudes on racial justice
- Severe inequity based on class/income zoning leads to disparities in funding for public resources, schooling facilities
- Disparities in Black neighborhoods leads to public health concerns
- Language is a serious barrier in economic opportunities



# Miami, FL

## *Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions*

- Mistrust of many public leaders, elected officials
  - Lack of mobility, stagnant systems
  - Politicians are looking for a “quick-fix” to systemic problems, like slapping a band-aid on a bursting pipe
  - Corruption in public offices dating back to the ‘80s
- Community organizations are doing the work
  - Providing resources overlooked due to class/income
  - Supporting the vibrant and visible LGBT+ community
- The United Nations should be used to hold elected officials and government departments accountable in uplifting equitable and transparent practices





# Southwest



# Houston, Texas

Jy'Mir Starks





# Houston, Texas

## The Bayou City



# Houston–The Bayou City

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



One of the biggest problems facing the Black Houstonians is flooding, a disastrous effect of Harris County's (i.e., Houston) increasing floodplain resulting from hyper-commercial development.

- **In formulaic terms:** Increasing the amount of impervious paving in city land development projects → increases surface area of 100 Year Flood Zone (i.e., the Harris County floodplain) → increases the amount of rain and stormwater runoff → resulting in exacerbated flooding.
- In Harris County, the floodplain has increased by 65 square miles (168.3 sq kilometers) between 1996 and 2007.



## Potential Solutions

- **Updating the city's floodplain regulations and city planning scheme to include new standards, like:**
  - Expanding where flood-ready standards apply from properties within the 100-year floodplain to properties falling within the 500-year floodplain.
  - Investment in restoration and preservation projects—like **Project Brays**—in predominate-black Houston communities like Kashmere Gardens, Alief, Brays Oaks, and Sunnyside, protecting bayou erosion, watersheds, and floodplains from commercial over-development.
    - **Project Brays** widened 21 miles of Brays Bayou, improved 32 bridges, and dug four basins just south of downtown, which can hold 3.5 billion gallons of stormwater in total. The project reduced flood risk for over 15,000 structures in the Brays Bayou Watershed.



**West**

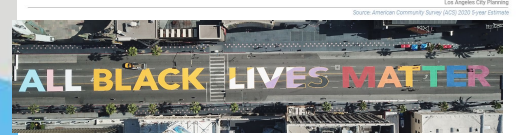
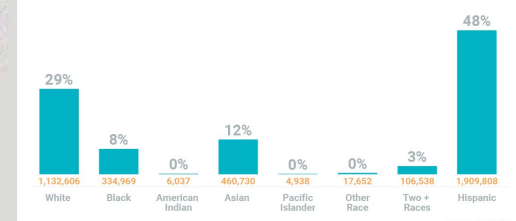
# Los Angeles, California

David Carter



# Los Angeles: General Overview

- Los Angeles is the second largest city in the United States with a population size of approx. 4 million people.
  - Black Population Size: ~ 335,000 (8%)
- Since 2019 African Americans living in LA have continued to identify the following as their Top 3 topics as issues of concern
  - Homelessness/ Affordable Housing
  - Transportation
  - Education



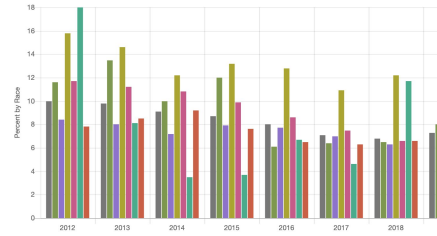
# Affordability, Opportunity, and Development

## Problem

- Two major issues are housing shortages and transportation
- COVID-19 has played a role in magnifying the effects and tolls of poverty for communities in LA
  - Black Angelenos represent a disproportionate size of the city's population living under the poverty line.
  - They also represent a significant portion of the city's urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (~37 percent).

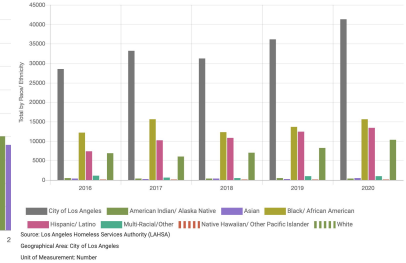


Proportion of population earning less than 50 percent of the poverty level



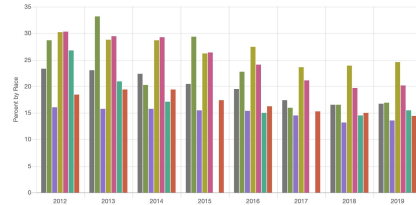
Source: United States Census Bureau  
Geographical Area: City of Los Angeles  
Unit of Measurement: Percentage

Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

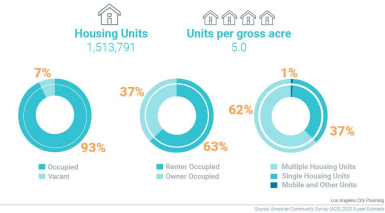


Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)  
Geographical Area: City of Los Angeles  
Unit of Measurement: Number

Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age



Source: United States Census Bureau  
Geographical Area: City of Los Angeles  
Unit of Measurement: Percentage







# Quality of Education and Outcomes

## Background

- Los Angeles holds the second largest public school system in the United States with 437,358 students currently enrolled.

## The Problem

- According recent studies Black Students in LA continue to face a variety of barriers to an equitable education including concentrated poverty, high suspension rates, housing insecurity, and critical resources to ensure access to quality education.
- Around 89% of Black students in California perform at a basic or below basic level in reading and math mathematics with one of the lowest literacy rates in the country.
- Public data does not reflect how the target goals are being fulfilled along racial lines.

## Current Actions Being taken

- LA Unified has committed to diverting \$25 Million in funds from its school police force to support Black student.
- Providing Additional Teachers and Teacher's Aides to low achieving Elementary Schools.
- Additional resources to schools with a higher population of Black students.

## Recommended Action

- Continued Investment in Black youth.
- Developing Pilot programs the seek to tackle Food and Housing Insecurity at all levels of education.



# Antioch, California

Dominique Hall



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



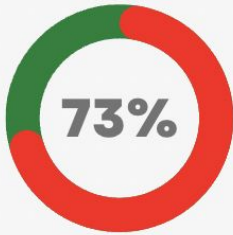
# How Education influences Health In Antioch California

Antioch is a suburban city located in the San Francisco Bay Area.

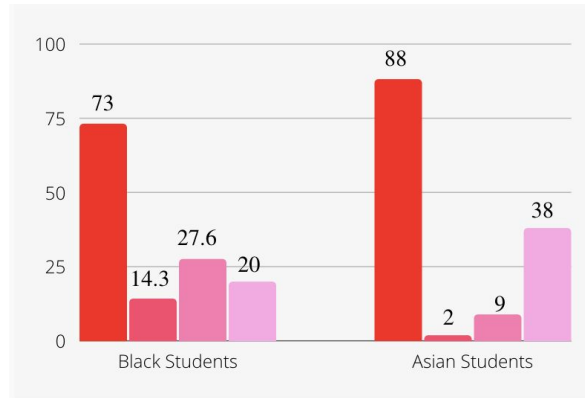
**Overall Population 118,000; Black Population: 23,600 (20%)**

## Life Expectancy

Black People in  
Antioch have a life  
expectancy of 73  
years old



Asian's in Antioch  
have a life  
expectancy of 86  
years old



**Grad, Suspension, Absenteeism, and Bachelor's Degree**

**National Library of Medicine:**  
Adults with higher educational  
attainment live healthier and longer  
lives compared to their less educated  
peers.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



# Reasons and Recommendations

What can be done to create healthy and well educated Black communities?

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**We need to fix structural racism: hire more black education professionals, eliminate school to prison pipeline, more mentorship**

48.5 black people out of 1000 go to the hospital in Antioch, for preventable hospital events.

“When it comes to suspension, you have to talk about structural racism.” VP of Antioch’s Board of Education

**Research Shows: those with degrees and higher paying jobs regularly get checkups and have adequate insurance to prevent/take care of illness**



Midwest

# Chicago, Illinois

Jarrius Adams



# The Windy City of Chicago

- Public Education
- Gender Equity





# Chicago Education



- Chicago Public School District is the 3rd largest school district in the United States with a 7 billion dollar budget. The District has 649 schools serving 342,000 students with a 90% minority enrollment.
- Graduation rate is up - the data shows that they are going in the right direction but not fast enough.
  - 8th graders are graduating a half grade behind in math.
  - 70 percent of kids don't go to their neighborhood high school. (Concerns around the system of choice)
  - Schools like Manley Career Academy High School went from 1,200 students to 108 students.
- School leadership reflects student population.





# Black Women In Chicago



- As of July 1, 2022, the City of Chicago has passed the Paid Sick Leave ordinance that mandates all Chicago businesses to provide paid sick leave to employees. Huge win for workers, specifically women with small children.
- Lack of paid family medical leave not just in Chicago but in the United States.
  - Women are choosing between taking care of their child and keeping their jobs.
- During COVID, Black women saw the largest unemployment

# Omaha, Nebraska

Jessa Royer





# How Omaha, NE is damaging black bodies through environmental injustice

By: Jessa Royer

7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



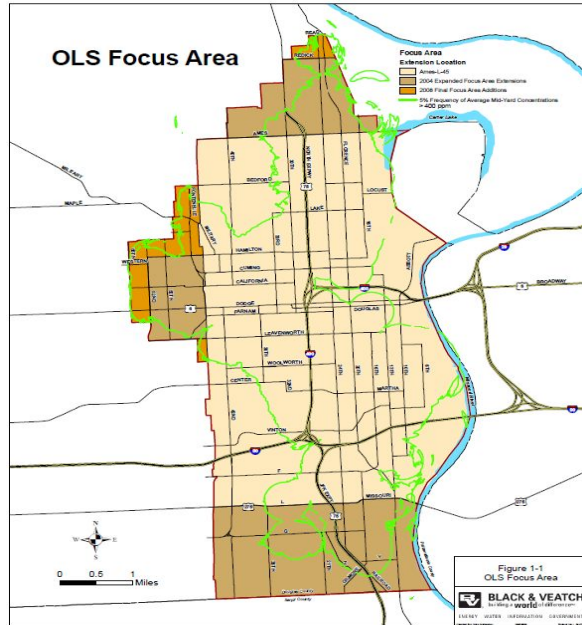
10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



# Omaha's Lead Superfund Site



A majority of the black community in Omaha was determined to be a lead superfund site in 1995 by the EPA due to the the operation of a lead refinery and a battery recycling facility.

7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



## A Coal Factory in the middle of a majority black community

Omaha Public Power District has operated a coal factory in North Omaha since 1954. There were plans to discontinue the factory, but the board voted to extend the lease for at least another 3 years in 2022.

