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EVERYBODY'S NEW YORK

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Than Ever





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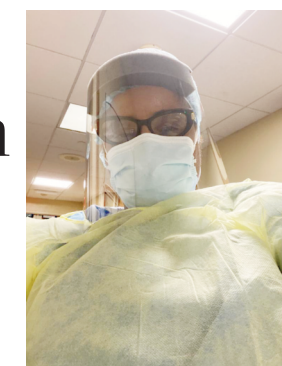
United States[®]
Census
2020

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NEW YORK

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READERSTIME

SOME JAMAICANS NOT HAPPY

Carole Joan Crawford – The then 20-year-old, five-foot three-inch beauty, took home the coveted Miss World crown for Jamaica in 1963, just months after the island became an independent nation. The first Jamaican woman to be crowned Miss World, she was the first woman of color to win the title. Now Mrs. Carole Merckens, she lives in Canada.

Regards,
Karlene Largie,
Jamaica Diaspora Northeast USA

You are dead wrong. Dead, dead wrong! The first black woman to win Miss World was not Jennifer Hosten in 1970, she was Carole Joan Crawford in 1963.

R...Sangster@....

On behalf of Expatriates of Spanish Town, we wish to enlighten you that Jennifer Hosten of Grenada was not the first black woman to win Miss World title. It was Carole Joan Crawford of Jamaica in 1963. She received a hero's welcome at the airport when she arrived in Jamaica following her triumph in London. We encourage your magazine to inform your readers of your gross error.

Winsome Grange,
Expatriates of Spanish Town
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Next time check your facts first before printing. The first black person to win Miss World Pageant was Joan Crawford in 1963 shortly after Jamaica won its independence in 1962.

Sk...mi@...

During the celebration of Jamaica's 50th anniversary of independence on August 6, 2012, Carole Joan Crawford was honored for the visibility she gave our nation in 1963 only months after we achieved nationhood in 1962. I understand she was the first Jamaican and first from the Caribbean to be judged the most beautiful woman on earth. Your magazine, I'm fond of, states the accolades belong to Jennifer Hosten of Grenada, the first black to win the title. I'm confused!

Hope Johnstone
College Park, Maryland

My mother says when Carole Joan Crawford became Miss World in 1963, the government of Jamaica issued a postage stamp of Miss World. Explain why your magazine is praising Jennifer Hosten and Grenada.

My...@...

I began reading your article, Miss World Pageant of 1970 and Jennifer Hosten of Grenada, when I realized I was being misinformed but I did enjoy your magazine's interview with her and appreciated her contributions to

her homeland and Caricom. 1970 was not the turning point; it was 1963 when Carole Crawford inspired us teenage girls by bringing The Miss World title to Jamaica.

Shar...@...

EDITOR'S REPLY

We received many more passionate letters, we assume from Jamaicans and persons of Jamaican heritage, claiming Carole Joan Crawford was the first black person to win The Miss World pageant.

We applaud Jamaicans for always projecting their nation as number one - first in everything positive. That's the spirit of Jamaicans we at EVERYBODY'S admire although the brazen Jamaican spirit from time to time frustrates people from other English-speaking Caribbean lands.

Sometimes we print trivial mail to show that as a people, we are still petty and divided.

From the above letters and those not published, senders are boldly implying that EVERYBODY'S was wrong in its Women's History Month edition when it referred to Jennifer Hosten as the first black person to win The Miss World title.

EVERYBODY'S Magazine did not make a mistake. The world media in 1970 acknowledged Miss Hosten as the first black to win the title and today's media says the same thing.

"Misbehaviour," a major motion picture that premiered in Europe on March 13, 2020 about The Miss World pageant of 1970, states Jennifer Hosten was the first black person to win the beauty pageant as it was then referred to – a beauty pageant.

In March 2020, the BBC released its TV documentary about the Women's Liberation Movement, Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa and their impact on Miss Universe Pageant of 1970. The producers and writers emphasized that all Miss World winners before 1970 were white.

When P.J. Patterson became prime minister of Jamaica, many progressive Jamaicans said Jamaica finally had its first black prime minister. For them, P.J. Patterson and Portia Simpson were the first persons of African ancestry to assume the leadership of the nation. They did not consider previous prime ministers, Sir Alexander Bustamante, Sir Donald Sangster, Michael Manley and Edward Seaga black.

Another example. Gerry Alexander, West Indies wicketkeeper who became captain (1958-60), was born in Jamaica and educated at Wolmer's Boys School. Yet, he is described as "the last white man to captain the West Indies." Sir Frank Worrell who succeeded Alexander is documented "as the first black captain of the West Indies cricket team."

Both were Jamaicans – one branded white, the other black.

The world of 2020 is radically different to the world of 1963. In 1963 and before, The Miss World pageant con-

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READERSTIME

tants were mainly white or passed as white. The world media of 1963 did not describe Carole Joan Crawford as a black woman. "She is the first winning delegate from both Jamaica and the Caribbean" the global press said.

The pageant of 1970 had two contestants from then apartheid South Africa, a Miss Black South African (Pearl Jansen) introduced as Miss Africa South and a Miss White South African (Jillian Jessup) announced as Miss South Africa.

When Jennifer Hosten won and Pearl Jansen announced as runner-up, they were described as the first two black women to dominate the pageant. Both attended the 50th anniversary in March.

In 1963, the press and the organizers did not acknowledge Carole Joan Crawford a black woman.

White people are born and live in the Caribbean. (See COVID-19 letter). In 2020 more white immigrants are purchasing lands in most islands and becoming citizens. Not because they are Caribbean nationals mean they are black or colored.

For readers who sent letters such as Ms. Karlene Largie, President of Jamaica Diaspora Northeast USA, a powerful organization representing other organizations and thousands of Jamaicans, you may be encouraging us to rewrite history or distort the fact.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

After reading your article, specifically - Quoting you quoting Cuomo: The black population includes people of

Caribbean ancestry. - I'm sort of wondering, as a white Grenadian, were I to die of COVID-19, would I be included in the "Caribbean-Canadian count"? I understand definitions might be different for Canada where I now live. George A Soltysik

so...@...

EDITOR'S REPLY

Since you are "a white Grenadian" living in Canada, your question is for Canadians to answer. Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York did not say, "the black population includes people of Caribbean ancestry." In his news conference of April 8, the governor said "in New York City, 34% of deaths from coronavirus are Hispanic while 28% of deaths are black." EVERYBODY'S Magazine stated, "The black population includes people of Caribbean ancestry." The 2010 U.S. census and before asked for a person's race and color. Caribbean-New Yorkers most of whom are of African ancestry are included in the overall black or African-American category. Most black New Yorkers, especially in New York City, are of Caribbean heritage. Since on April 8, 28% of those who died were blacks it was easy to surmise at least half of the 28% were Caribbean-New Yorkers.

Letters to the editor are always appreciated. No phone calls please. We do not publish what is posted on the magazine's social media pages. Email preferred. editor@everybodysmag.com

Census Bureau Extends Campaign

By Wendy Gomez

It is your civic duty to respond to the questionnaire online or mail it.



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio urges all New Yorkers to be counted in the census. To his left, under umbrella with color of Barbados' flag is Chirlane Irene McCray, his wife, at the 2019 West Indian Carnival.

In spite COVID-19, the US. 2020 Census is underway but most deadlines have been extended by two weeks such as the Non-Responses Follow-Up-Operation. That operation using an enumerator to visit a household or leave a note encouraging the household to respond was scheduled to end on July 31 but it has been extended to mid-August. It may change again depending on when life returns to normal.

However, this traditional Follow-Up-Operation of knocking on household door although extended to mid-August has been suspended due to COVID-19. Don't expect a census team to knock on your door.

It is your civic duty to respond to the questionnaire online or mail it.

Deadline for submitting census questionnaire online has been extended to August 14, 2020.

With millions of Americans at home, many are answering the questionnaire on their computers and smart phones. They can do so online at www.my2020census.gov

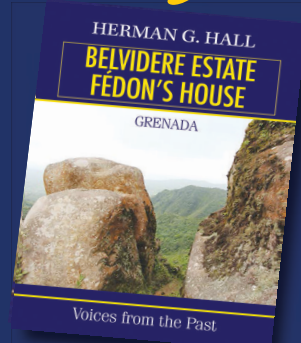
using a unique 12-digit code that was sent to each household by mail in March.

In preparation for this article, EVERYBODY'S contacted 15 Caribbean-New Yorkers including a Haitian Creole speaking person. They all said they completed the questionnaire in less than 15 minutes.

COVID-19 has curtailed the Census Bureau ability of accepting and returning phone calls. A release states "following guidance from federal, state, and local health officials, the Bureau has implemented social distancing measures and staffing adjustments to help protect the health and safety of 2020 Census call center employees. As a result, callers may be experiencing increased call wait times."

A call back option is available in several languages English, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese and Tagalog.

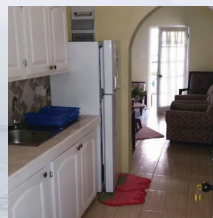
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What has not been extended is the date the Census Bureau is required by law to submit its report to the Congress and president of the U.S. For the 2020 Census, it is December 31. That may change depending on when COVID-19 becomes controllable.

March 31, 2021 is a very important day for all Americans. Decisions will begin to be made from that day based on the 2020 Census statistics. The data will be used by government, business and most institutions for the next ten years. On or before March 31, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to the states. This information will be used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes and amount of money the federal government allocates to states, cities and communities.

"That's a reason," says Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate, "why the five minutes spent filling out the form will determine the next ten years of representation and resource allocation for New Yorkers, and it's critical to overcome the obstacles to an accurate count. We need an extended deadline, but also a new strategy that focuses on remote organizing, reaching hard-to-count populations, and ensuring that we all get counted."

Since redistricting and allocation of funds are based on census data, other political and civic leaders representing minority communities such as African Americans, Hispanic and immigrants are urging their constituents to be counted in the census.

The leaders stress that one does not have to be an American citizen to be counted. Everyone living in America must be counted and the data cannot be given to law enforcement to seek undocumented immigrants for deportation.

Several pro-immigration organizations are assisting such as the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. "It is a racial and migrant rights organization which engages in organizing, education, advocacy, and cross-cultural alliance building in order to end the racism, criminalization, and economic disenfranchisement of Black immigrants, refugees, and African American communities," says a spokesperson.

The Black Alliance for Just Immigration demanded ICE to release immigrants from detention when NY and NJ became the epicenter of COVID-19. "We know that for folks in jails, prisons and detention centers are oftentimes the last ones taken care of, repeatedly neglected by ICE," the Alliance emphasized.

"The 2020 Census is a crucial opportunity to stand up and be heard, to ensure that our voices and numbers are represented by our government," says Jumaane Williams. "The Big Apple is historically undercounted, and the current public health crisis increases the risk of New Yorkers being left out - unless we take individual and systemic action to prevent it. The COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures make it all the more essential to prevent the need for future in-person operations by filling out the census online at my2020census.gov while staying at home."

Yvette Clarke who represents Brooklyn's 9th Congressional District, and other members of New York Con-



Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

gressional delegation, in a letter to United States Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, whose jurisdiction includes the Census Bureau, urged him to extend the data-gathering period to September. The letter states "the best practices necessary to effectively respond to the Coronavirus outbreak actively impede a Census count."

The letter continues, "we write you today to impress upon you the necessity of extending the enumeration period for the 2020 Census due to the social disruption caused by COVID-19. The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 a global pandemic and civil society has responded accordingly with institutions across the country beginning to close down non-essential operations in order to slow the spread of the virus. [1] As states and local jurisdictions continue to dedicate resources to expanding their capacity to respond to this outbreak, there will be diminishing state capacity to administer the Census coupled with pragmatic challenges caused by the outbreak itself. Any count done under these circumstances would not only fail to properly account for the current American population, but it could also have more targeted negative impacts on communities historically disadvantaged by the state and the census process."

"Unfortunately, the best practices necessary to effectively respond to the coronavirus outbreak actively impede an effective census count. Medical professionals have recommended all individuals practice social distancing to mitigate the risks of spreading the virus. Put simply, social distancing describes actions taken by public health and government officials to stop or slow down the spread of contagious disease by limiting the points of public contact."

"Taken together, the necessary response to COVID-19 demands a set of social actions that create substantial pragmatic barriers to a complete count for the 2020 Census. We urge that the Census Bureau extends the enumeration period at least through September 2020 to allow for further outreach after the immediate response to the virus subsides. As the Supreme Court and legal scholars have made clear for centuries, the Constitution is not a suicide pact. In full understanding of the weight of this moment, we implore you to follow the dictates of our Founding Fathers and extend the Census enumeration window."

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When Earth Became Smaller

By Herman Hall



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (holding box) accepts 250,000 masks as a gift from the United Nations. UN headquarters is in the Borough of Manhattan.

On the afternoon of March 12, I left the Williamsburg Public Library in Brooklyn after it was announced that due to the approaching COVID-19, all public libraries would be closed. As I drove from Williamsburg to Flatbush, I couldn't believe what conservative talk radio personality Mark Levin was saying. He and his guest, a medical doctor, were downplaying the virus. Arguing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was created to assist in times of hurricanes, floods, snowstorms and tornadoes and not for a health pandemic such as COVID-19, they maintained that there was no reason why President Trump should request FEMA to get involved.

Incredulously they claimed that a virus couldn't be a disaster. They accused Democrats and the media of pressuring the president to declare a State of Emergency when there was none. Similar arguments were presented by other conservative radio personalities Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and others.

That same day American liberal voices such as Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio in NY were warning that thousands will die if COVID-19 is taken slightly.

If it was not abundantly clear before, novel coronavirus made most people realize how deeply divided America is, not only over politics, race and truth, even on public health issues.

So that's one of the first lessons COVID-19 taught: Americans are more divided than ever.

While President Trump was listening to his rightwing friends and not to medical experts, the rest of the world was preparing for the onslaught of the virus and began to prepare and sought assistance.

Virtually no nation turned to the U.S. for help. Lesson two: The U.S. lost stature.

Caribbean nations eyed Cuba for guidance and within a short time even leaders such as Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who appeared to have been allowing the Trump administration to divide Caricom over America's warlike posture toward

Regardless to one's view about Cuba's system of government, one cannot deny that Cuba is the "healthbasket" of the world and its internationalist response to the novel coronavirus pandemic underscores this contention.

Venezuela, were heaping praises on Cuba for its prompt help.

From January 1, 1959, the day Fidel Castro and Che Guevara overthrew Batista, the US backed dictator, the U.S. has been trying to dislodge the Cuban government. The U.S. forged peace with Vietnam and other former adversaries but not with Cuba. Regardless to one's view about Cuba's system of government, one cannot deny that Cuba is the "healthbasket" of the world and its internationalist response to the novel coronavirus pandemic underscores this contention. Why can't the U.S. and Cuba collaborate on health research when Cuba is acknowledged for its contributions in curbing various diseases?

Another lesson of COVID-19: During the peak of the virus there was no such thing as big nations and small nations, rich nations and poor nations. It was every nation to itself. Little Barbados accused the U.S. of keeping medical equipment air bound for Barbados via Miami. "Those ventilators were actually stopped in the United States, the exportation of those 20 ventilators," lamented the Barbadian Health Minister Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bostic.

There may never be peace on earth as wars will continue because even in this pandemic the global powers are seeking ways to win advantages over each other. Nevertheless, there were moments of goodwill such as Russia sending one of its largest cargo planes fill with medical supplies to New York and the UN giving New York City 250,000 face masks.

What leaders such as Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, W.E. Dubois,

Dr. Martin Luther King and others of the 19th and 20th century said about America is even more relevant today. Yes, the nation helped other people in times of disaster; yes, America once showed mercy. But these visionaries also spoke of the weaknesses and hypocrisy of America. Trump's new America is in regression. For, in the midst of this pandemic the Trump administration through the US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) deported undocumented immigrants including Haitians, Mexicans and other Central and South Americans.

The fact that within months COVID-19 spread rapidly around the world is a wakeup call. COVID-19 reminds us how small and fragile the earth really is; how a virus, if not controlled, can easily destroy civilization and how civilization is destroying the earth through mankind's selfishness. The scientists warn of global warming. The ultraconservatives say it is a hoax. However, those who accept global warming as true are not doing enough to control it.

Yes, in the past, mankind experienced epidemics and endemics but transportation from one region to another was infrequent and difficult, therefore the entire world did not experience them concurrently. Only 200 years ago, it took months to cross the Atlantic Ocean or to travel from the Eastern coast of Africa to Asia. Today, one can fly from continent to continent in hours thereby bringing and spreading diseases and increasing the likelihood of pandemics.

The last major pandemic was in 1918 just over one hundred years

ago. As a result of technology, easy means of transportation and communication, the next pandemic may not be 100 years from now; it may well be much sooner if leaders don't learn from today.

A reader may ask what lessons have novel corona imparted to the Anglophone Caribbean? Though it's too early to answer conclusively, Caribbean leaders did listen to the World Health Organization. As a result, COVID-19 deaths in the region remain miniscule. The small population is another reason - approximately 100,000 or less in most islands, Barbados-300,000, Guyana-800,000, Trinidad & Tobago-1.3 million and Jamaica-three million. The virus was mainly transmitted into the region by tourists and expatriates.

When addressing their respective nations and at media conferences, most leaders lament about the destruction of the tourism industry; how hotels are empty; how their first priority is to fund the hospitality industry. No leader is focusing about developing alternate industries so their economies will not be totally dependent on tourism.

Probably, novel coronavirus did not teach them a lesson.

More Caribbean people residing in cities such as New York, London and Toronto are perishing than people in the region. EVERYBODY'S Magazine projects more than 1,500 Caribbean-New Yorkers from the English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti will succumb to COVID-19. That's only in New York State.

New York City The Epicenter

Photography by
Leonard McKenzie



*When McKenzie unselfishly captured these memorable images
for EVERYBODY'S Magazine in spite of risking his health ...*

We thank him for his bravery and dedication



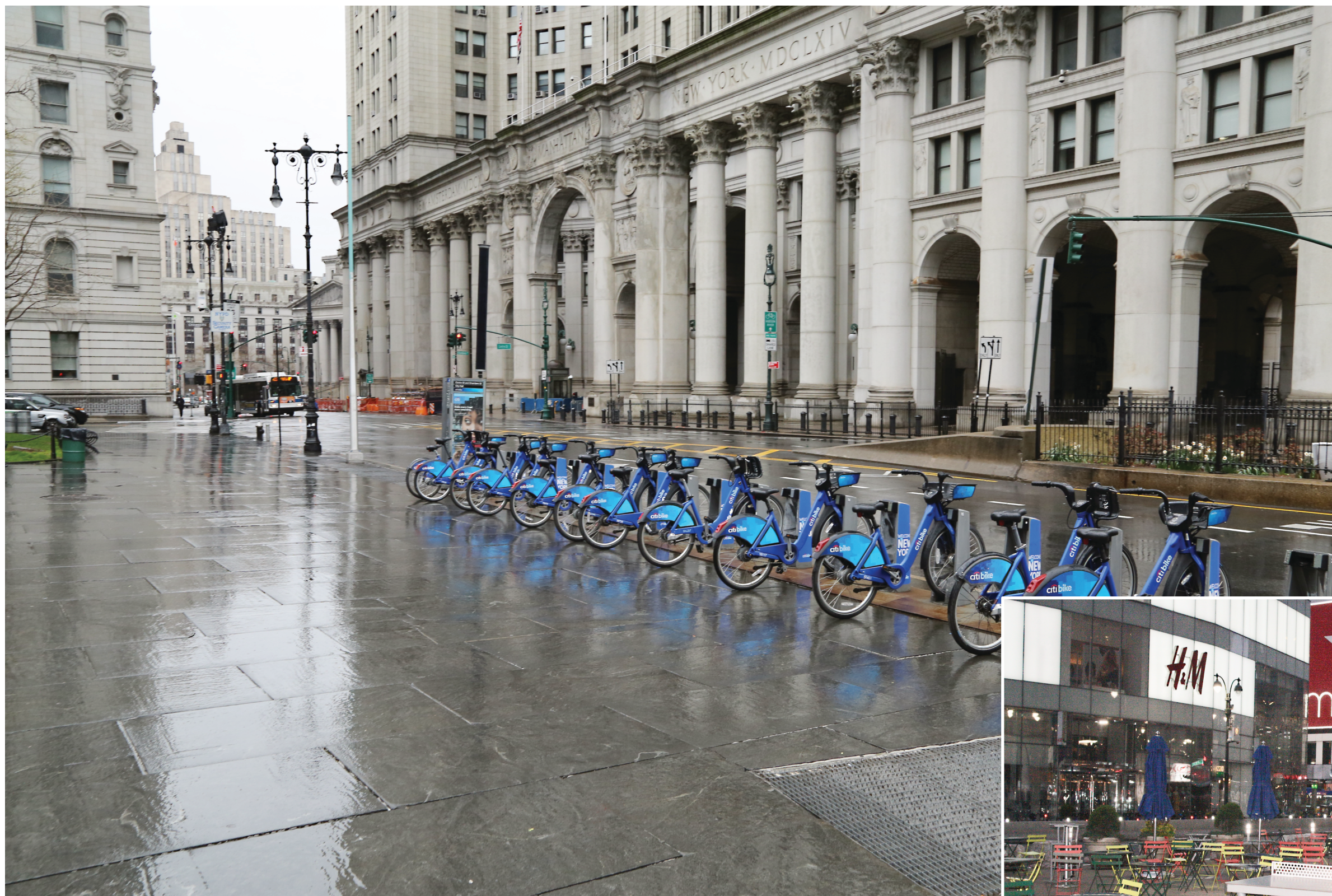
Eastern Parkway @ Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, is a bustling crossroad for many Caribbean nationals going to and coming from work. It is the start point for New York's West Indian Carnival on Labor Day where leaders such as former First Lady Hillary Clinton, Ret. General Colin Powell, governors of New York, mayors of New York City and Caribbean prime ministers have assembled on carnival morning. The intersection was a backwater during the reign of COVID-19.

Photo taken on April 2, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



The intersection of Utica and Church Avenues is the heart of Caribbean-Brooklyn. Vendors sell everything Caribbean from sugarcane and soursop to breadfruit and mauby; one can listen to preachers, digest the ideology of Marcus Garvey and enjoy the latest gossip. The area was almost empty of humans during March and April.

Photo taken on April 2, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



Historic City Hall Park, Lower Manhattan – City Hall (mayor and council members office building) and David Dinkins Building (municipal building) near New York State Supreme Court where some of the most sensational cases are tried such as the recent Harvey Weinstein trial - is usually filled with vendors, civil servants, lawyers and politicians on any weekday. With almost everything shutdown on March 26, the area was as quiet as a graveyard.

Photo taken on March 26, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie

Herald Square, Manhattan, where the young and the restless normally congregate. During the weeks of social distancing, few people were visible and fewer together.

Photo taken on April 4, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



“Among the one million essential workers who are on the front-lines of the COVID-19 pandemic—delivery workers, EMS staff, drivers, health care personnel, and more—half are immigrants.”

www.moia.nyc.gov

For Comfort, the U.S. Naval Hospital ship, to dock at Pier 90 on the Hudson River in New York City, the biggest challenge was dredging the slip, or deepening the area for the ship to berth. Large tourist ships dock at Pier 90 but depth was not suitable for Comfort. Beginning on March 27, round the clock dredging was done to ensure sufficient depth for Com-

*fort's arrival on March 30. The huge naval hospital, with 1,000 beds and 12 operating rooms, was expected to ease the coronavirus crunch in hospitals by treating non-COVID 19 patients. With no more room in hospitals for COVID-19 patients, the Comfort was turned into a COVID-19 hospital. -
Photo taken on March 30, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie*





On the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan, one can see the new World Trade Center and other skyscrapers (left). During social distancing very few promenaded over the bridge. Photo taken on April 2, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



On May 24, 2020, the Brooklyn Bridge connecting Brooklyn and Manhattan islands will be 137 years old. Normally 130,000 cars, 9,000 pedestrians, and 4,000 bicyclists cross the Brooklyn Bridge daily but traffic was a mere trickle when New York City became the epicenter of novel coronavirus.

Photo taken on April 2, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie

Radio City Music Hall is where calypsonians and calypso musicians of the 1930s and 1940s such as Gerald Clark helped break racial barriers by performing at the famed venue. During the dreadful weeks of COVID-19, the lights of Radio City Music Hall illuminated a deserted 6th Avenue, normally the hub of activity. Photo taken on April 6, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie





Using the Westside Highway along the Hudson River in Manhattan to enter the Holland Tunnel for New Jersey and then to any part of the U.S. and Canada is a driver's nightmare but not at the height of the novel corona pandemic.

Photo taken on March 31, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



Before novel coronavirus invaded New York City, the esplanade at the National September 11th Memorial, popularly known as the 9/11 Memorial -- World Trade Center Memorial, the Ground Zero Memorial, or the Twin Towers Memorial -- was filled with American and foreign tourists, one couldn't even see the pavement from afar. With the outbreak of corona, the 9/11 Memorial had to be closed.

Photo taken on March 31, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



COMMENTARY

When Heart and Mind collide

By Collis DeCoteau

Isn't it sad and unfortunate that Bill Withers left us just as his song "Lean on Me" emerged as most appropriate in this time of self-isolation?

Few times ever required leaning on each other as it is now. But who would you want to lean on in this time of coronavirus?

That's the dilemma we all face today. What resolution is there when the two worlds within us collide? How do you deal with heartfelt self-preservation in its myriads of forms and yet try to hold on to the dictates of what the brain is telling you is the right thing to do?

This dichotomy is taking on even more heart-wrenching significance as we are in the middle of COVID-19 crisis or coronavirus as popularly called. How do you isolate yourself from a victim whom you dearly love? Must a mom or dad stay in complete isolation and watch their baby go through all by him/herself the devastation and oftentimes resulting death brought on by the virus? How can a spouse console him/herself

knowing that they can't and shouldn't lift a finger to help, much less try to save their loved one?

A friend of mine called to tell me that a woman he regarded since childhood as his sister, had succumbed to the virus. They were living within a few blocks of each other in Queens, NY. Stricken with a severe case of lupus, she was a sitting duck for COVID-19 to strike her. He recounted how she was taken to the hospital as she began to feel worse. Within days she died. Through it all, neither he nor any other relative could be at her side. Difficult as it was, they agreed to cremate the body.

Who would have ever guessed that those two conflicting emotions of heart versus mind/brain would have been brought home so vividly at the same time to so many throughout the world?

Who knows, maybe the coronavirus is what it is taking for all peoples regardless of race, nationality, gender or ethnicity to understand and appreciate the basic humanity that lies in every one of us.

*Collis DeCoteau is the author of *A Place Called Gonyave*

NEW YORKERS: STAY HOME TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

New Yorkers working together and staying home can slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City. When you go out for essential needs, work or to get fresh air, keep distance between yourself and others and take the following precautions.



PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.



IF YOU ARE SICK

- Stay home.
- If you have a cough, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat and do not feel better after 3-4 days, consult with your doctor.
- If you need help getting medical care, call 311.
- NYC will provide care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.



PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

- Stay home if you have lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system.
- Stay home and call, video chat or text with family or friends who have one of these conditions.



REDUCE OVERCROWDING

- Stay home.
- Telecommute if possible.
- If you do go out:**
 - Stagger work hours away from peak travel times.
 - Walk or bike.
 - Do not gather in crowds.

Text COVID to 692-692 for real-time updates or visit nyc.gov/coronavirus.

Call 311 to report harassment or discrimination. Call 888-NYC-WELL, text "WELL" to 65173 or chat online at nyc.gov/nycwell to connect with a counselor.

*Messages and data rates may apply. Check your wireless provider plan for details.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner



COMMENTARY

Caribbean Frontline Soldiers In The Pandemic Wars

By Martin P. Felix

The biblical parable of the stone that the builder refused is quite applicable in the present COVID-19 crisis in regards to Caribbean immigrants. It is a cruel paradox that in a moment of xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments stroked from Washington, D.C. and London, immigrants are proverbial front-line soldiers engaged in the pandemic wars.

Caribbean immigrants and their counterparts from around the world have historically been the backbone of the health service industry in the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom. In the US, people from the Caribbean and Latin American are second only

Caribbean immigrants... have historically been the backbone of the health service industry

to Asians (with upwards of 34 percent) as the leading region of birth of foreign-born workers employed in health. And according to the Washing-based Migration Policy Institute, one in ten nursing, psychiatric and home health aides are Caribbean and Central America-born.

Many of these workers are women and at greater risk than the general population, providing medical care, deep cleaning buildings, and delivering food and groceries to our front doors. These health care workers are also more likely to work in direct care, in low wage jobs, and are more likely to have lower access to health insurance. But the share of the immigrant health care workforce is highest in both the highly skilled, such as physicians and surgeons, and least skilled workforce such as nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides.

This reality is as true in US cities as it is in other centers, such as London and Toronto where Caribbean immigrants have settled for decades, as part of the Caribbean's health-care brain drain. In the UK, the so-

called "Windrush Generation" – West Indians migrants who were primarily recruited there in the post-WW2 era in part to help fill the huge labor shortage in the National Health Service – have likewise created a legacy of distinguished representation in the health sector in London and other UK cities. Ironically, with the recent heightened nativist trend in British politics, many currently face denial of health care, racist harassment, violations of their civil rights, housing and employment discrimination, and even deportation.

Global projections indicate that the worst is yet to come. The numbers are growing exponentially, especially in the USA and the UK. High Caribbean concentration NYC zip codes are coincidentally heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, according to the NYC Department of Health data. NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio is on record pointing out that NYC's communities of color are hit the hardest, citing data that the largest percentage of deaths in the city is among Hispanics and African-Americans. Many of these districts have test positive rates of above 50% percent.

Expressions of gratitude are being posted around hospitals recognizing the sacrifices of health care providers on the frontline in hospitals, adult care centers, drivers of emergency vehicles, etc. But we should also not forget that these workers are part of families that are also affected by the crisis. After their extended hours, many health care workers go home to their anxiety-stricken families in social isolation. Their geographically extended families are also on their minds. The COVID-19 pandemic has now spread to every country in the Caribbean region, with Anguilla becoming the last country to confirm a case.

Like the frontline position that Caribbean health care professional workers are faced with, the Caribbean nation of Cuba has readily heeded the call of countries around the world with its 'army of white coats'. According to Monthly Review Press, 45 countries have asked

Cuba for support in the face of the COVID-19 epidemic, bringing to mind Bob Marley's biblical borrowing that the stone that the builder refused will always be the head "corner stone".

Dr. Melissa Barber, a Cuban-trained medical doctor mobilizing to combat the pandemic in the South Bronx, points to the existence of health and education as fundamental rights guaranteed in Cuba's Constitution as the logical extension of the country's now famous internationalism in healthcare relief and training. She points out that, in this sense, Cuba believes it is its brother and sister's keeper.

Unfortunately, a necessary casualty of this growing crisis is the reality that carnivals, home and abroad, as well as many upcoming music festivals, and the sleuth of 2020 sporting events are already slated to be postponed until at least 2021. The importance of these events is not superficial frolic or a series of competitive feats. Carnivals, for example, have always had functional, healing, and rejuvenating roles in our societies.

Moments like these are precisely when events such as the annual Caribbean carnival are necessary more than ever. Such releases of pent-up stress, frustration, and energy have been recognized by behavior scientists as mass therapy. Even on an individual level, there are currently quite a few news stories highlighting the power of Caribbean music in coming to terms with COVID-19. For example, there is a story of a mother and daughter comforting a dying dad with Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds."

As we wrestle with this devastating crisis at home and throughout their diaspora, the head cornerstone of our indigenous culture should not be relegated to the fabled stone that the builder refused. In fact, it is precisely at this moment that Caribbean culture and the arts should be appreciated more than ever.

The following may be of good therapeutic value if delivered in liberal portions:

Sparrow's "Man Will Survive", Jimmy Cliff's, "Many Rivers to Cross" and "Sitting in Limbo", King Austin's, "Progress", King Short Shirt's, "We are Human", Rita Marley's "My Kind of War" and Peter Tosh's, "Pick Myself Up".

Please remain safe!

Martin P. Felix is a visual artist and educator living in New York City. He is co-editor of Big Drum Nation, a Caribbean journal of arts and culture.

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COLLEGE STUDENT – HISTORY MAJOR CREDITS EARNED

For Summer '20, Herman Hall is seeking an enthusiastic history student to perform the roles of (1) research assistant (2) read and highlight scanned 18th century handwritten (mainly 1750-1799) documents (3) evaluate (already written) chapters for an upcoming easy reading history book.

Student must consult his/her history department and have the professor or dean call Herman Hall to determine if through the internship the student will obtain college credits.

Contact: Herman Hall (the author)

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COVID-19 slowed boisterous Times Square. COVID showed the famous square what solitude is like. Times Square @ Broadway never deserted even during New York City blackouts.

Photo taken on March 27, 2020 – Leonard McKenzie



Times Square where millions see the ball drop at midnight on December 31. Time Square never slept until Novel Coronavirus came marching-in. The always densely congregated, 24 hours-a-day, five-block entertainment area known as Broadway, from 42nd Street to 47th street between 7th Ave and Broadway, stands in the shadow of its brightly glowing neon lights almost totally absent of any movement as the coronavirus pandemic stripped it of the usual trampling feet and gawking eyes.

Photo taken on March 27, 2020 – Leonard Mckenzie

New York City Immigrant Report

Summarized by Rosa Edwards

The “State of Our Immigrant City” is a ten-year data analysis of the demographic characteristics of immigrant New Yorkers. It was prepared by the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA). Some data used by MOIA derived from the Census Bureau.

“This report comes at a moment in which our national conversation about immigration tends to fall into extreme, diametrically opposed narratives. Yet, here in New York City, our bold history as a beacon of hope and opportunity is fundamentally reliant on the principle that we are a global, resilient city, and the diversity and drive of our communities is what propels us forward,” says Bitta Mostofi, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. “Our work, through critical cross-agency, intergovernmental, multi-city, and community partner collaborations, show the City operating as one coordinated body in response to the ever-shifting immigration landscape. We will continue to challenge ourselves to think bigger and to build alongside all our partners and resilient communities as we work together towards a fairer and more just New York City for all.”

Steven Banks, Department of Social Services Commissioner, states, “As the Trump administration continues to incite fear and promote hateful rhetoric targeting our immigrant neighbors, New York City is proud to provide a sanctuary that anyone can call home, regardless of immigration status. We are committed to building upon the progress we’ve already achieved with MOIA and our other partner agencies, as we continue to make sure New York City is the most inclusive and equitable city for all, particularly in these unprecedented times.”

Excerpts from the report:

“As the City agency devoted to promoting the well-being and full inclusion of over 3.1 million immigrant New Yorkers in the City’s civic, economic, and cultural life, MOIA has continued its work—through initiatives with City agencies, elected officials, community-based organizations, and other partners—to ensure the City is safe, equitable, and just for all of its residents, regardless of immigration status.

“Given the current climate, it is more important than ever to understand the barriers and challenges that immigrants face, given their particular vulnerability in this time of crisis. The report includes new and updated data on the demographic characteristics of immigrant New Yorkers. Notably, this year’s Annual Report analyzes trends and shifts in these demographic characteristics over the last decade—from 2008 to 2018.



THANK YOU IMMIGRANT NEW YORK

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE WEEK 2020

“Among the one million essential workers who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic—delivery workers, EMS staff, drivers, health care personnel, and more—half are immigrants.”

www.moia.nyc.gov

“MOIA’s new Annual Report also outlines 2019 activities and programming in detail. It includes mobilizing rapid response efforts to quickly combat anti-immigrant proposals and policies from the Trump administration; institutionalizing free, safe immigration legal services; and ensuring community members and stakeholders have timely, critical information about their rights and available City services.”

Titbits from the report.

NEW YORKERS BY IMMIGRATION STATUS

- 63% U.S.-born citizens - of immigrant parents
- 21% Naturalized citizens
- 11% Green card holders or other status
- 6% Undocumented

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH FOR IMMIGRANT NEW YORKERS

Dominican Republic
China, Mexico
Jamaica
Guyana
Ecuador
Bangladesh
Haiti
India
Colombia

TOP 10 LANGUAGES OF IMMIGRANT NEW YORKERS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Spanish
Chinese
Russian
Bengali
Haitian Creole
Korean
Arabic
French
Polish
Urdu

IMMIGRANT POPULATION BY BOROUGH

BRONX
33.9% - Green Card Holders & Other Status
18.5% - Undocumented
47.6% - Naturalized Citizens
BROOKLYN
26.4% - Green Card Holders & Other Status
12.6% - Undocumented
60.9% - Naturalized Citizens
MANHATTAN
35.7% - Green Card Holders & Other Status
14.1% - Undocumented
50.2% - Naturalized Citizens
QUEENS
26.7% - Green Card Holders & Other Status
16.9% - Undocumented
56.3% - Naturalized Citizens
STATEN ISLAND
21.0% - Green Card Holders & Other Status
12.5% - Undocumented
66.5% - Naturalized Citizens

IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTIONS - ECONOMY

- 25% of New York City GDP - \$232 billion – comes from immigrant New Yorkers.
- 75% of undocumented immigrants (age 16 and older) are in the labor force, compared to 64% of all New Yorkers.

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS WITH IMMIGRANTS

- 60% of New Yorkers live in family households with at least one immigrant.

- 1,000,000 New Yorkers live in mixed-status households. One undocumented person lives with other persons who have legal status.
- 265,500 are children of mixed-status households.
- 80% of immigrant children were born in U.S.

POVERTY RATE

The poverty rate among immigrant New Yorkers is higher than for New Yorkers born in the U.S.

- 28.8% Undocumented immigrants live in poverty.
- 25.6% Green card holders and immigrants with other statuses live in poverty.
- Lowest NYC poverty rate are U.S.-born citizens and naturalized citizens.

DECLINE OF IMMIGRANTS

- A decline of about 75,000 immigrant residents in 2018.
- 10% decline since 2008 of non-citizen population living in NYC.

HEALTH

- 12% of immigrant New Yorkers lack health insurance.
- 45% of undocumented New Yorkers lack health insurance.
- 11 % of undocumented children (under age 19) in NYC lack health insurance. Universal coverage is available to all children regardless of immigration status in New York State.

"Every issue is an immigration issue, and this annual report continues to demonstrate that. I look forward to reviewing it in full and seeing how the City Council can use the data and information it contains to develop policies that show the City is fully committed to that ideal," expresses Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the Immigration Committee.

Council Member Margaret S. Chin explains, "MOIA's latest report is an unequivocal reminder that we need to continue to advocate for our immigrant communities, and that the work we're doing to expand access to healthcare, language capacity and interpretation, and labor protections is more critical than ever. I thank MOIA for breaking down the data we need to continue to strengthen protections for immigrant New Yorkers."

"Arts and culture provide powerful ways for New Yorkers of all backgrounds to connect, be inspired, and express themselves," states Acting Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Kathleen Hughes. "Our partners at MOIA have a keen understanding of this, and you can see it in their remarkable programs. From IDNYC's cultural benefits, which open doors to our cultural partners all over the city through free memberships, to their partnership with the People's Theater Project, using multilingual theater performances to build bridges between immigrant communities and public services - we applaud MOIA for their leadership on integrating culture into their core mission of serving immigrant New Yorkers."

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