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CITY COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS IS FOR THE PEOPLE



Covid limitations have forced City Council members like Councilman Thomas to take their public service into the community since City Hall is closed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

“This is far from the freshman year I expected. I enjoy working with my colleagues and my team which, similar to most office settings, was disrupted by the need to socially distance and work remotely. I am appreciative that we live in the digital age so the majority of our work such as Council hearings and town halls can still happen but it has been a difficult adjustment.”

Outside of politics Councilman Thomas is also a basketball coach at an Afro centered studies Charter School in Kensington, Sankofa Academy. In 2018 his team won the PIAA Basketball State Championship.

Thomas believes that the energy that the youth have has the ability to spark the change in this city. “The youth must lead the movement.” 11-years ago Thomas started the basketball team as well as many other sports opportunities for Sankofa high school located in West Kensington. In addition, he has held an annual free basketball camp for a

A West Oak Lane resident, City Councilman At-Large Isaiah Thomas was elected in 2019, after two unsuccessful attempts in 2011 and 2015. After losing in 2015 he took a position working for the City Controller's Office adding the experience that he needed working in city government to prepare him for the seat that he currently holds. So when people say they are ready to start on day one after getting elected Councilman Thomas surely fits that description. “After my 2015 campaign, I reflected on where I had come up short. An aspect of that reflection led me to work in the Controller’s office to gain more government experience and really understand Philadelphia from a revenue standpoint.” So many who know his story were not surprised when he signed on with other Black elected officials to take part in the Police Reform

Working Group. “The Police Reform Working Group is a group of advocates and elected officials at the City and State level with the common goal of making long-overdue changes to the way police operate in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. This group is not anti-police, it’s anti-police brutality. I campaigned on police reform such as an end to stop-and-frisk, not expecting for these to be things I could work on so early in my term. But when you are approached with a moment for change, you have to make the most of it.” And he has been hard at work with his colleagues and thus far they have been successful in taking the beginning steps in reforming the PPD. He and his colleagues has worked diligently to reallocate funds normally given to the PPD and redistributed them where the

funds can be used best to serve Philadelphians; Body cameras for police officers, Implicit bias training for police, Mental health professionals for police-assisted diversion, Equity Manager for the police force, Transfer funding for crossing guards (\$12.3 million) and public safety enforcement officers (\$1.9 million) to Managing Director’s Office (MDO), A Deputy Inspector General for police-related investigations (in OIG), Fund a Police Oversight Commission

(\$400,000 to MDO), and additional funding for the Public Defender (\$1.2 million) “City Council rejected a proposed increase to the police budget in addition to moving Crossing Guards and Public Safety Officers from the police department to the Managing Director’s Office. I still think that 15% of the City’s operating budget is too much for the police budget but change is a process and takes time. I’m proud of the first steps we’ve made.”

INSIDE:
NAACP PRESIDENT MINISTER RODNEY MUHAMMAD CONDEMED BY BLACK LEADERS
REP. RABB BILL PASSES BANNING POLICE FROM HAVING SEX WITH PEOPLE IN CUSTODY
FOP LODGE NO. 5 TAILGATE WITH HATE GROUP
THE PROUD BOYS BEFORE VP PENCE VISIT
ST. RAYMONDS FATHER CHRIS WALSH DOCUMENTRY WINS EMMY

CITY COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS IS FOR THE PEOPLE (CONT)



couple years running as a way to give back to the community, as the co-founder of the Thomas and Woods Foundation. “Besides my personal passion for basketball, I believe that athletics and the arts are great ways to keep our young people safe and engaged in a world of uncertainty. As someone who has been stopped-and-frisked, even as a Council candidate, I worry about my players

and the young people. There is a trauma that comes with this type of interaction and we must reimagine even the term “public safety.” When I talk about Act 111 reforms and changes to the arbitration process, I am thinking of the young people in my life and how I can try and make their futures brighter.” In our conversation about voting in November, we discussed comments made by Philadelphia 76er’s star forward Thibbos Harris. When asked by reporters about his opinion on the demonstrations by his NBA brothers, Harris’ response shocked the room but inspired others. In a room full of reporters Har-

ris demanded justice for Brianna Taylor asking simply to make an arrest and convict her killers. “Sports bring people together and people look up to athletes - especially in Philadelphia. When an elected official talks about police reform, people feel a certain way about government and politics. When someone like Tobias Harris calls for the arrest of the officers that murdered Breonna Taylor, people listen and respond differently. It’s amazing that we live in a time when City Council and the Sixers can have such similar messages - I think it makes clear that whether you engage with

the government or your favorite sports team, you hear this call for justice and equality.” In his first term Councilman Thomas has taken on a huge task with his colleagues tackling police reform and it seems as if they are in the right place at the right time. But let us not forget Councilman Thomas, the son of an educator and a former teacher himself, so we can expect within the near future for the Councilman to have a clear voice in the future of education as a member of City Council’s Education Committee. “One of my main focuses is that our young people have

adequate out-of-school time programming. I believe that when young people have something they’re passionate about, whether it’s the arts or athletics or something else, they stay out of trouble and are able to really thrive. I also would love to see these calls for antiracism and racial justice translate to changes in curriculum that focus on inclusivity and equity.” By Andre Brown
Photo Courtesy of Isiah Thomas



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SUNDAY TO SUNDAY WINS EMMY FOR DOCUMENTRY ON ST RAYMONDS FATHER CHRIS WALSH



The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences SF/Northern CA Chapter has recognized Sunday to Sunday, an online and cable TV program that uses cinematic storytelling to highlight the most gifted preachers in America, with a 2020 Emmy award for Outstanding Interview Program. The Sunday to Sunday team, led by Roman Catho-

lic priest, retired college professor, and television producer, Father Mike Russo, along with CutFocus director, Carlos Torres, were announced winners on June 6 for their production of the episode "Father Chris Walsh". The episode explores the Philadelphia based priest's work ministering to an African American congregation at Saint

Raymond of Penafort, something Father Walsh recognizes is critical as cities grow in diversity. "Going back to the time of slavery, where Sunday was a day away from the experience of the oppression of slavery, they were often spending the day together and their true identity was being lived out," says Father Chris Walsh. "I think as we

minister, not only to an increasingly non-white church but also a church that has very different experiences as far as socio-economics and political experiences, what the church has done when it's been its best throughout history is to meet people where they are." Since founding this non-profit just three years ago, Sunday to Sunday has focused its efforts in applying contemporary cinematic production to highlight unique aspects of Catholic ministry, stimulate conversation and bring to light the word of God. Father Russo is a longtime television producer having begun his career at CBS News, beginning in 1969 as a production assistant for Walter Cronkite's broadcast of the "Man on the Moon, the Epic Journey of Apollo 11." "We're thrilled about this honor from the Academy," says Father Mike Russo.

"It's truly a culmination of the hard work and support from many and a sign that our work is having an impact." Father Russo recognizes the impact storytelling can have on the Church, preaching and evangelization. He is among the very few Roman Catholic priests to win an Emmy; and last year, the program garnered the Gabriel Award from the Catholic Press Association for the "Best TV Series & Storytelling."

Available at:
<https://www.sundaytosunday.net/episode-cris>

Courtesy of Religious News Service

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REP RABB: BANNING POLICE OFFICERS FROM ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH PEOPLE IN THEIR CUSTODY SIGNED INTO LAW



On July 7, State Rep. Chris Rabb introduced H.B. 1807 with the goal of closing a loophole that has allowed police who sexually assault a person while in custody, to use consent as a defense. This was also amended to H.B. 256

which is relative to correctional institutions.

“This is another victory for Pennsylvanians who took to the streets across our commonwealth demanding real police accountability,” Rabb said. “While we have a long way to go in order to change the system and right the wrongs of the past and present, we must commit ourselves to destroying its toolbox, tool by treacherous tool.”

This is one of many measures that State Legislators are working on as part of their move for Police Re-

form in the Commonwealth.

“Police officers are supposed to use their authoritative power to protect the public, not prey on the innocent or simply move to another precinct when they’re caught betraying the public’s trust,” Rabb said. “It was ludicrous that this major oversight in our legal system has received such minor attention. Correcting this wrong brings us another step closer to correcting all wrongs and offering long-overdue justice for those who have been abused by the system for far too long.”

On July 23, HB 1807 was signed into law.

“It is unconscionable that we needed a law to prevent police officers from sexually assaulting people in their custody,” Rabb said. “But as we are seeing more clearly today than ever before, substantial reforms are needed to protect people who come into contact with police officers, and we cannot take that fact for granted.”

HR 1807 was pushed to the State Senate due to the advocacy of Senator Kaite

Muth. Rep Rabb gives credit to community members for the Police Reform advocacy that has taking place in recent weeks.

“None of these important police reforms would be possible if it weren’t for the mobilization of thousands of protestors across the state, which inspired the creation of the Police Reform Working Group that’s led local and state efforts on this front,” Rabb said.

By Uptown Standard Staff
Photo Courtesy Rep Rabb

HEALTH OP ED: THESE FOODS ARE KILLING PEOPLE

Have you ever looked at or thought about your body? I mean really deeply thought about or looked at how wonderfully made you are? I do, and I'm in awe about it every single time. When I think about it, there are really no words to describe it. However, I'm going to humbly give it a try.

First of all, we're not of this world. We're in this world having our experiences, however, not of this world. We're like the animals, the sun, the trees, the wind, the rain, the grass. I could go on and on. Even science doesn't know where we come from. The best they can tell us is the sperm and the egg. But, where does the sperm and egg come from? Where does the wind, the rain, the sun, natural plants, come from? There are many names, however, I will cover them all by saying our CREATOR.

heart beating, your fingers moving, your joints bend, your ears hearing, your mind thinking. I could go on and on about the wonders of the body, however, space does not permit. Artificial body parts have been made, however, never to come close to the original.

What do you do with any work of art? You take care of it the best way you know how. However, we were never really educated about the care of our bodies. Education was basically reading, writing, math, and other subjects, A science course probably taught you about the anatomy of the body, however, not how to take care of the body.

Today is a new day. We're experiencing things we never have before. Today we are ordered to wear a mask before entering public places.

cal body, and your divine mind.

Make a commitment today to start somewhere on the road to self discovery. If you have already started, look for ways to improve.

For your physical body, exercise, learning to eat better than you are eating right now. I can tell you for a fact there's too much meat

eating, sugar eating, and starch eating going on. These foods are killing people. To many dead animals being eaten, not enough fresh salads and fruits. You can't build life from death.

For your divine mind, meditate and pray for answers. Stop rushing, learn patience. You'll have to calm your mind in order to

have success with changing bad habits of the body. You have tools today, the internet, books, etc. Seek and you will definitely find.

By Beverly
All The Way Live

We came into this life with this body, this beautiful work of art that cannot be replicated. Not even an eyelash or toenail can be duplicated. Pay attention to your eye blinking, your

Law enforcement for the first time is being held accountable for killing black people. Now is the perfect time to start loving yourself, taking care of your physi-

Dan Jenkins Photography

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UPTOWNS OWN TIFFANY GAY LAUNCHES BINSPIRED APPAREL



“Binspired” a unisex brand that started as a testimony to surviving many hardships has launched. “I was in a bad place,” says Gay who was inspired by her daughter to create the brand. “London was the driving force and my reason to be inspired.”

And what more inspiration does a mother needs than her daughter. And the fact that she is entering the fashion industry at the best possible time imaginable.

The Fashion and Apparel Industry Report paints a bright portrait with worldwide revenue expected to rise from \$481.2 billion in 2018 to \$712.9 billion by 2022. And this is attributed to many different factors; Expanding global markets outside the West, Increasing online access and smartphone penetration, Emerging worldwide middle-classes with disposable income, and Fashion consumers will also have more buying power.

And Tiffany hopes that Binspired can grow into a global brand. The brand currently offers Hats, pen, tees, and more.

While faith is sometimes an overall theme of inspiration it’s often the struggle that makes the story what it becomes. Ms.Gay remembers her mentor who warned “Your why should make you cry.”

There is something for everyone in the line of merchandise that continues to grow. While be inspired has only been in existence for less then 2 months it has already copied its tag line.

It has inspired and will continue to do so for generations.

By Andre Brown
Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Gay



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MINISTER RODNEY MUHUMMAD COMES CONDEMNATION FROM BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR ANTI-SEMITIC FACEBOOK POST



The NAACP Philadelphia Chapter President Rodney Muhammad has come under strong criticism, due to a recent post he made on his Facebook page. The post the was misattributed to the philosopher Francois Voltaire, however the image has been used heavily in Alt-Right and White Supremacy circles. He has apologized for the post:

“Earlier this week, I shared a post on social media in an attempt to start a dialogue around criticism and understanding.”

Although, he has removed the post and apologized many local black leaders has come out to condemn Minister Muhammad, for his anti-Semitic post.

City Councilwomen Cherelle Parker posted the following comments on her Instagram page:

“As a little girl, I vividly remember my Grandparents and Aunt Vi teaching a very simple lesson. They would often state, “What is wrong is wrong,” and “What is right is right.” and “What Minister Rodney Muhammad posted on social media was WRONG! And my objection to it - is RIGHT!” and “May we learn and heal from what should be an irrefutable teachable moment for generations to come. I know that I will be sharing this unfortunate incident with my 8-year-old son. “

And State Senator Sharif Street posted the following comments on his official government Facebook page:

“Our view of prejudice is often shaped by the most extreme examples of bigotry. But expressions of intolerance and cultural stereotypes are insidious and equally as dangerous. We cannot allow attacks on the Jewish community, to be met with the sanction of silence. It is deeply disappointing that Minister Rodney Muhammad, President of the Philadelphia NAACP, has posted such powerfully offensive images especially during a historic opportunity for systemic and structural changes for racial equity. Pennsylvania’s strength lies in the diversity and growth of its people. We are strongest when our divergent interests are focused to find common ground and when we embrace the commonality of our humanity.”

While many leaders of the Jewish community is calling for the Minister to step down as the NAACP Philadelphia Chapter President. There has not been calls for him to resign from the black community that he represents as NAACP President. Minister Muhammad and the

NAACP has issued an official formal apology:

“The NAACP strongly condemns any offensive language or imagery and stands against all forms of hate speech and anti-Semitism.” and “I stand with all members of the Jewish faith in the fight for social justice, and I intend to use this opportunity for thoughtful conversations with both the Black and Jewish communities.”

Hopefully our elected officials and Minister Mahammad will use this as a learning and uniting moment to unite the two communities in Philadelphia to stand together to fight against the systemic racism that exist in Philadelphia. Minister Muhammad has been a strong voice for black Philadelphia, and we hope that he will continue to lead the NAACP.

By Uptown Standard Staff
Photo Courtesy of NAACP

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FOP LODGE NO. 5 TAILGATE WITH HATE GROUP THE PROUD BOYS BEFORE VP PENCE VISIT

The Police Reform Working Group release a strong statement against Vice President Pence visiting FOP Lodge No. 5 last month.

At The Vice Presidents visit was met with resistance from Black Lives Matter protesters and with applause from members of FOP Lodge No. 5 and members of the Al-Right hate group the Proud Boys. Who tailgated with FOP members and their families and then also attended the after party with the FOP members and their families. The Police Reform Working Group

“As members of the Police Reform Working Group, we believe that the path to achieving community safety and racial justice in Pennsylvania must be two-fold. First, we must improve our current system of policing through accountability, oversight, and tangible policy changes that will diminish instances of police brutality against all citizens, but especially against the Black community. Second, we must work with communities to transform and re-envision policing itself through bold systemic changes that center around those most impacted by police violence and structural racism.”

The FOP Lodge No. 5 and their President John McNesby stands in working groups path towards the reforms that they seek.

“In both instances, this work is made difficult, if not impossible, by roadblocks within the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge No. 5. The FOP holds an unchecked amount of power in the City of Philadelphia and has not done enough to address deep-seated racism and violence. Vice President Mike Pence will visit FOP Lodge No. 5. We see this visit as yet another demonstration of bad faith between the union tasked with repre-

sending the Philadelphia Police Department and the people of Philadelphia.

As protest are breaking out all around Philadelphia for police reform, the Vice Presidents choice of venue was a clear demonstration of what side of this issue the Trump is on.

“During the past month, Philadelphia has erupted in protests over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many before them lost to racist police violence. People are crying out in rage, anger, and frustration, and calling for real change. Meanwhile, the President of the FOP, John McNesby, and over one hundred police officers have been rallying in support of Joseph Bologna, an officer who faced assault charges

for violently beating a protestor.

One of the main reasons Philadelphia elected District Attorney Larry Krasner was because of his strong resentment towards the FOP and their refusal to change the culture of policing in Philadelphia.

“The FOP has a history of defending its officers against accusations of violence, abuse, and harassment, while doing little to address its root causes. Through the arbitration process outlined in the City of Philadelphia’s contract with the FOP, they have advocated for officers that have been fired due to domestic abuse, stalking, assaulting a juvenile, and sexual assault. They stood by, and in some cases encouraged, armed

white vigilante groups who were patrolling the neighborhood of Fishtown past curfew. They have historically ignored or downplayed racial discrimination.”

As the Black Lives Matter movement is gaining momentum around the country, the Trump Administration has made it clear that their are not fond of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

“Vice President Mike Pence’s words and actions have demonstrated that he does not think that Black lives matter. The FOP, in their decision to host him, is signaling the same.”

As the group has gained traction legislatively to truly be effective they will need to fight for change within the FOP. Without the FOP

accepting the change in police culture that the majority of Philadelphians seek.

“We can’t tackle structural racism and violence when it is actively upheld by the FOP. Rather than stoking the flames of tension between protestors and police officers, the FOP should be listening to their demands and working to improve their relationships with the communities they are sworn to protect. As elected officials committed to reforming and transforming policing, we stand together in demanding better from the FOP.”

By Uptown Standard Staff

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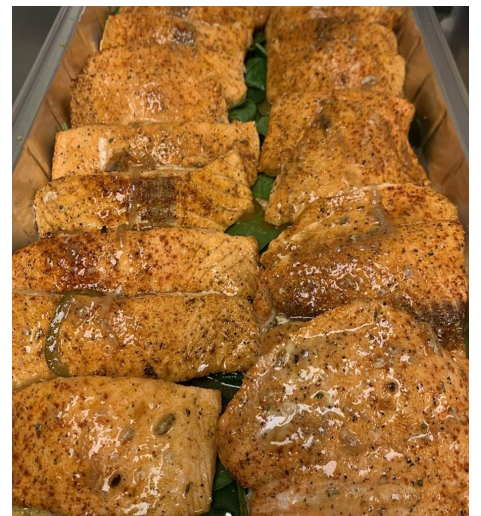
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We understand the spread of the COVID-19 virus has made getting your favorite Victoria's Kitchen platters a lot more difficult. We're here to help. Along with our online delivery options, our in-house delivery services will bring your favorite foods to the front door.

- All orders must be paid by credit card before delivery.
- 3 mile limit on all deliveries.