

# UPTOWN STANDARD

NOVEMBER 2020

FREE

## SEN. HAYWOOD'S SENATE BILL 1287 THREATENS PRISON TIME OR FINES FOR NOT WEARING A MASK



Senator Art Haywood introduced legislation which will make not wearing a face mask in public a 2nd degree misdemeanor. Senate Bill 1287, an Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of recklessly endangering another person. In Pennsylvania, a misdemeanor in the 2nd degree includes from 1 to 2 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

. His legislation was referred to the Judiciary Com-

mittee on September 8, 2020. He stated his reason for proposing the legislation was "It seemed to me that we needed the maximum compliance to prevent the spread," Sen. Haywood said. "That's what Dr. Fauci and the others were saying."

The Senator feels that his legislation is needed considering that a federal judge found the Governors restrictions be unconstitutional. "And so the need to have masks on now is even more pressing now than any other time since it looks like

there's going to be these large gatherings," Sen. Haywood said.

Senator Haywood sent out Senate Co-Sponsorship Memoranda to gain support for his proposed legislation that stated:

"The Commonwealth confirmed its first cases of COVID-19 in early March of this year. Today, we have over 101,000 positive cases and already lost over 7,000 family and friends to COVID-19. All Pennsylvanians have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. If we are going to stop the spread of this highly contagious and deadly disease, wearing face coverings in public must be enforceable."

"My legislation will add failing to adhere to the face

covering requirements of a declaration of disaster emergency to the crime of recklessly endangering another person, punishable as a misdemeanor of the second degree. Willfully exposing someone to another deadly disease already is a violation of our Crimes Code. Now is the time to act to protect those we love and those at risk from a senseless death."

Some legislation like State Senator John DiSanto believes the legislation is unconstitutional, government over-reach, and unrealistic. "It's government overreach at the worst," Republican State Senator John DiSanto, said. "I think it's unfair and unjust to ask the police to enforce an order that's really unenforceable," Sen. DiSanto said. "Ya know I believe we should be wearing our masks, and that it's the safe

thing to do," Sen. DiSanto said. "But at the same time I think that it is just ridiculous. I don't know how else to put it."

Sen. Haywood doesn't believe that most people will face up to 2 years in prison, but how can he be sure of this, after all sentencing is determined by Judges. At a time when we are having conversations about criminal justice reform, racial profiling, traffic stops, unfair sentencing, and police reform this legislation seems to be out of touch.

After all Senator Haywood district encompassed the 14th Police District of Philadelphia, were police target black drivers 3 times more than white drivers. Which is a clear sign of racial profiling, while City Councilman like Isiah Thomas is passing legislation to limit the police regarding to racially based stops. In a district that has seen officers arrested for illegal stops, it seems like Sen. Haywood is giving them another tool to profile Blacks in the 14th District.

"Just because there's some non-compliance because we can't catch every traffic violator, doesn't mean we should do away with the stop signs," Sen. Haywood said.

By Editorial Board  
Photo Courtesy of  
[senatorhaywood.com](http://senatorhaywood.com)

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# COUNCILWOMAN PARKER FIGHTS FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS



Councilwoman Cherelle Parker introduced Dr. Walter P. Lomax, JR Transparency in Business Act, a series of bills that would require any firm bidding for a City contract to disclose the race, ethnicity, salary range, titles, and gender of the members of their firm employees and leadership.

“Our father, Walter P. Lomax Jr., M.D., was a successful physician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist who loved Philadelphia deeply,” said Sara Lomax-Reese, daughter of Dr. Lomax and the CEO of WURD Radio. “He modeled integrity, creativity, and ingenuity in business and in life. And he understood that to achieve real equity, you need access to real economic opportunity.

Only then can we move towards true empowerment. This bill, named in our father’s honor, is a step in the right direction.” This legislation will require firms that are looking to garner city contracts to provide information regarding the firm’s business with the city in the last five years, if applicable. This criteria applies to contractors and subcontractors. Firms seeking to do business with the City would also be required to provide information regarding the firm’s prior business with the City in the previous five years, if applicable. “Have you ever wondered what’s the demography of the firms that reap significant benefits from doing business with the City?” Parker said. “Residents of Philadelphia have a right to

know who is benefitting and building wealth from doing business with their local government. This legislation would bring transparency to what has traditionally been an opaque bidding process. We should be intentional about that.” “Recently, we have seen local businesses make very public commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This legislation will help shine a light on the effectiveness of their goals and objectives.” City Council President Darrell L. Clarke (5th District) stated: “We’re glad to see the Dr. Walter P. Lomax Jr., Transparency in Business Act package of bills introduced today. As we seek to recover as a City from COVID19 and the ra-

cial and economic disparities revealed by this pandemic, it’s obvious we need to do much better at ensuring that the City is doing business with firms and businesses that employ people of color and provide genuine opportunity to them to succeed and prosper. Councilmember Parker’s legislation is a constructive, positive step in the right direction.” This legislation does set quotas for businesses looking for city contracts and doesn’t prevent any firms for bidding for city contracts. However, it does require them to be very transparent to secure a city contract. And the data obtained due to this legislation will not deny them the opportunity to bid for city contracts.

Considering that Philadelphia is a majority-minority city, meaning minorities are the majority of the population. The city has failed to award contracts in a manner that is reflective of the city’s population. Based on data from the City’s Office of Economic Opportunity, the City’s goal is the achieve 35 percent participation from minority, women, and disabled-owned enterprises (M/W/DSBs) on its contracts.

By Jimmy Will,  
Editor & Chief

Photo Courtesy of  
PHLCouncil.com



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# GOV. WOLF: LEGALIZATION OF ADULT-USE CANNABIS CAN LEAD TO ECONOMIC GAINS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR PENNSYLVANIANS



On October 13, 2020, Governor Wolf went to The Mountain Center in Tobyhanna, Monroe County to discuss some of the benefits of the legalization of adult-use cannabis. Wolf lets it be known that this isn't the first time he and Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman have requested the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to advance this legislation.

He expects this to be prioritized with intentions to "find ways to overcome the economic hardships of the

COVID-19 pandemic". He focuses mainly on two benefits of this legalization which are potential economic growth and needed restorative justice.

"This year, I again went to the General Assembly and asked them to make legalizing adult-use cannabis a priority for the fall as we work to find ways to overcome the economic hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic," Gov. Wolf said. "To date, there has been no movement to advance legislation. So,

I'm here today to ask again, and to focus on two particular benefits of legalization – potential economic growth and much-needed restorative justice."

Wolf believes that marijuana may have the same potential that the Hemp farm bill of 2018 did after it had been prohibited for decades. He's joined by Eric Titus White, a local hemp farmer, who talked about the economic opportunities that come with the Hemp bill and how he sees the same opportunities with marijuana.

"The cannabis plant is capable of stimulating our economy, healing our soil, and bringing the focus back to natural medicine and natural farming," White said.

Governor Wolf then brings up the point of how the pro-

hibition of marijuana has disproportionately targeted minorities. Marijuana use is not just punishable by jail time, but even after time is served people now have less access to jobs and certain housing because of their criminal records. He mentions the Clean Slate bill that he signed to seal the records of low-level offenders, ten years without an offense, to try to "reverse decades of injustice" though he knows much more has to be done to do so. Simply put, Governor Wolf is so adamant about legalizing marijuana because he believes the government of Pennsylvania should "stop ruining people's futures over something that's already legal in several states and something that most Pennsylvanians don't even think should be illegal."

"We are taking steps to re-

verse the injustices caused by marijuana criminalization," Gov. Wolf said. "In 2018, I signed the Clean Slate bill, which allows for the sealing of records for certain low-level offenses if a person has been free from convictions for ten years. That law can be applied to certain marijuana-related offenses, and the Board of Pardons has expedited pardons for low-level marijuana offenses. But there is much more that needs to be done to reverse decades of injustice. And we need to start by decriminalizing cannabis and legalizing it for adult use."

By Blair Knuckle,  
Correspondent  
Photo Courtesy of PA.Gov



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# BISHOP McDEVITT RUNNERS ADVANCES TO PIAA CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



The PIAA District 12 Cross Country Championships were held at Belmont Plateau on October 29th. Even though the course was muddy from the heavy raining that occurred all day, the race still took place. Many district cancelled their races

due to the weather conditions, but the PCL teams decided to face the elements.

Due to Covid the rules were a little different than normal. There was only two teams running at a time, therefore the meet started at 11am and concluded at 3pm. There were no spectators allowed and the teams had to depart immediately after their race, and was only permitted to arrive an hour before their races.

With the Public League Schools not competing in Fall Sports the meet only featured Philadelphia Catholic League teams. The Catholic League had started decided to have Fall Sports in July but in August decided not to compete in Fall Sports, only to decide to restart in September.

On the Boys side LaSalle High School dominated the Boys AAA race, placing all seven runners in the top 10, in route to winning the district championship for their classification. LaSalle is always a favorite to win the PIAA state Championship, and usually wins the district title so there dominance was no surprise to anyone.

But the surprise came in the Boys A race, with Bishop McDevitt's Kendall White one of the top 400m runners in the state took 7th place, qualifying for the PIAA Cross Country State Championship. McDevitt is not known for fielding strong Cross Country teams. They're usually known for their Track & Field teams, in 2019 they were District 12 AA Outdoor Track & Field Champions.

Kendall White, will be

joined at the State Championship by his McDevitt teammate sophomore Kyon White, a resident of West Oak Lane.

"I expected Kendall to qualify for states he is one of the top runners in the state, and one of the few athletes to earn all Catholic honors in the 60m dash, 400m, 4x400 relay, 4x200 relay, and Cross Country. Kendall has most major colleges recruiting him and has been offered a full scholarship to the Naval Academy. But Kyon was a pleasant surprise this was his first cross country race and he handled it like a seasoned runner. The sky is the limit with this kid and I expect many big races from him in the upcoming years" said McDevitt Head Coach James Williams.

McDevitt did not field a

complete team, due to the unrest in the city and the weather Coach Williams gave the runners and their families the option to compete. "I felt that with everything going on in the city at the time with Walter Wallace death, I felt that there are more important things going on in the community from which the majority of my runners come from than a Cross Country meet. But I'm excited to have our kids compete in the state championship."

The PIAA State Cross Country Championship will take place in Hershey on Nov 7.

By Brandon Brown, Sports Editor  
Photo Courtesy of Bishop McDevitt HS

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# HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL BACK IN ACTION IN THE PCL



While the Philadelphia Public league sits out, the Philadelphia Catholic league was back in action.

St. Joesph's Prep continued to show its dominance early in the season beating La Salle 38-14. They also

knocked off 5A defending State Champion Archbishop Wood this past weekend by a score of 52-6. Senior QB and Ohio State Commit Kyle McCord threw four touchdowns passes and senior Jeremiah Trotter Jr. returned an interception for

another score in a the victory over Wood this past weekend.

Bishop McDevitt secured the 2A Philadelphia catholic crown this weekend with its 14-0 win over Connell Egan. The Lancer defense,

led by star Semaj Bridgemen, struggled in a lost to Wood in week one allowing 35 points, but since has only allowed 6 points in its last two games. They will face Dunmore next week before heading off to the state playoffs.

Bonner- Prendergast has been a surprise early on in their wins against Roman Catholic (21-0) and Archbishop Ryan 42-7. The defense will need to stay hot if they are going to beat a 4-1 Upper Moreland team this week.

By Brandon Brown,  
Sports Editor  
Photo Courtesy of  
Bishop McDevitt HS

## Uptown Standard's Monthly City Top 5

1. St. Joesph's Prep:  
Next Opponent  
(@Roman Catholic Sat. 7pm)
2. La Salle: Next Opponent (Archbishop Wood Sat. 7pm)
3. Archbishop Wood:  
Next Opponent (La Salle Sat. 7pm)
4. Neumann-Goretti:  
Next Opponent (State Playoffs vs New Hope)
5. Bishop McDevitt  
Next Opponent (State Playoffs vs Dunmore)

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# GOV. WOLF URGES GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

In late October Governor Wolf pressed the State House of Representatives to act rapidly on funding small businesses during the pandemic.

“Small businesses have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Gov. Wolf. “The Small Business Assistance Program has seen immense success, but further support is needed to support our small businesses and strengthen the economy. I am calling on the General Assembly to approve additional funds to support our small businesses. We cannot let another week go by without addressing this need.”

The Governor requested that the state House provide an additional \$225 million in Cares Act funding in the form of loans. These funds would be provided through the COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Assistance Program.

The Governor also proposed an additional \$100 million in forgivable loans and grants for the hospitality, leisure and service industries, this funding would also be available for restau-

rants and bars, salons and barber shops.

These funds are available due to a partnership with state lawmakers and are allocated through the state budget. This includes \$2.6 million in Cares Act Funding, of which \$225 million was earmarked for relief for small businesses, including historically disadvantaged businesses. Over 10,000

businesses have been approved for \$192 million in grants through the COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Assistance Program

“So many of Pennsylvania’s small businesses have taken on additional work and costs to do the right thing and keep their employees and customers safe since

reopening,” Gov. Wolf said. “They are doing everything right, and they need our help to continue to make ends meet.

“We held back a portion of Pennsylvania’s CARES Act funding so that we could address the commonwealth’s needs this fall. There is a need for additional funding for Pennsylva-

nia’s small businesses right now, and I implore the General Assembly to take action without delay to support our small business community.”

By Jimmy Will,  
Editor & Chief



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# OP ED: INSTITUTIONAL RACISM EXPOSED

There is a lot going on in the United States today. However, there is a topic that has never come to light the way it has in this period of history. Institutional Racism. It has always been the elephant in the room that was discussed behind closed doors. However, if you brought it to the light, and you were a public figure, you would most likely end up in a coffin. It is a new day, For some reason the execution of Mr. George Floyd in broad daylight has put a shining light on what has plagued the great old USA for centuries, white supremacy.

The United States of America will never be the same. Executions like Mr. Floyd's are not new. It is the history of this county to murder black people with no justice. The marches and demonstrations are not new. These protests, however, are different, lasting for months, not days or weeks. What is new is what was done in the dark is finally coming to the LIGHT, and the LIGHT is shining bright! The public saw an execution with their own eyes. People of all races are coming together to say the behavior of institutional racism in the United States of America has got to stop! This time it's different. Can you feel the difference this time? I do.

White privilege is being tampered with, in a way it's never been tampered with before. That is why we are hearing "Make America Great Again". To make something great again means something is wrong now, and we have to return to something. What era do you want to return to? When was this era of

greatness? What is this "Make America Great Again all about? Nobody to date has explained what this slogan means. They have hats, stickers, all kinds of paraphernalia, but that's as far as it goes.

The sense of entitlement that white people have enjoyed whether consciously or unconsciously is being called out. Some want to know what all the commotion is about. What's all the complaining about? Aren't you happy black people? Aren't you happy you're free! You should appreciate what this country has done for you! So what if in this country black people and people of color are an afterthought. You should be happy if you're thought of at all. So what if your blood, sweat, and tears built this country and no acknowledgement was ever given. Just be quiet, things are fine. Don't rock the boat of white supremacy.

If you find it normal to be first, and being white gives you that privilege, it's an illusion that has been created through indoctrination. It's the same for black people and people of color to think it is normal to be last, even though deep inside they know it isn't right. It's an illusion created through indoctrination. Illusions are not real.

However, institutional racism has reigned supreme as the norm in the United States of America, and have made these illusions real. It is the culture of this country. However, it's now being exposed in a way never done before. The phone recording of Mr. Floyd's execution made us watch something ugly about this coun-

try that still exists. If not for that recording, it would be another black man dead with a totally different explanation concerning his death. This Nation needs healing.

The times we are now going through are difficult but

necessary. However, there are glimmers of hope in this madness. The true history of this country is being revealed, and lies exposed. People of all races are openly admitting to the sickness of institutional racism, and doing work to change it. They have the common goal

of making America a Great Nation for all people and an example to the World! Dividend we'll sink or together we'll swim!

By Beverly



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# OP ED: NATURE'S CURRENCY- SILVER AND GOLD



Now that Halloween is over, we are now going into the season of giving. It's the season of sales, inventory checks and seeing if you can make yearend expectations. We all know 2020 was a tough year, world-wide, but we all have to make the best of it-and hope (and pray) that 2021 will be a better year. Can it actually get worse?

Yes it can. Worst I ever saw in my lifetime is the Great

Recession, but it wasn't as bad as the great recession. After seeing all the damage Covid19 caused around the world with death, job losses and food shortages, something worse than 2020 is actually imaginable. So there's no wonder food, firearms AND Gold/Silver prices skyrocketed this year.

We are going to focus on just Gold/Silver. There are two metals that presidential candidate William Bryan wanted to back the US Dollar, and that's Gold and Silver. And eventually the dollar was backed by gold until the 1970's, when President Nixon took it off the gold standard. That was when you could exchange your

dollars for gold- mainly by central banks. And the USA held a whopping 70% of gold reserves. Nixon ended due to a gold run (almost like a bank run when a bank is insolvent) because of US deficits and US inflation on its currency.

Hmmmm.... Does it sound like the USA (and its USD) is going through this event right now? We had a Cares act back in March 2020 of \$2.2 Trillion, which was printed by the US Treasury.

So what happened when we got our \$1,200? The USD value declined versus all the currencies because we added \$2.2T of USD in circulation. And like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer said:

*"Silver and gold, silver and gold Everyone wishes for silver and gold. How do you measure its worth? Just by the pleasure it gives here on earth"*

It's the Earths currency, and you should be buying into. One Gold or Silver bullion or coin or bar (if you got money like that) would be a great gift that would last a lifetime. Or at least, it would hedge against inflation. All that means is that Gold and Silver is to protect the decreased purchasing power of your money. So if another stimulus is passed (Hero's Act?) then prices will go up once more and so will the price of gold and silver. Basically,

this will be the gift that keeps you afloat financially if hell breaks loose on Earth.

Whether your 20 or 60, a new transfer of wealth is upon the horizon. This isn't just the USA going through a change. The whole world is... It won't be easy, but you never know until to try. Oh, and don't forget to follow me on IG or YouTube at @TheGetMoneyShow. Believe in yourself, believe in your dreams, and always remember money a'int just green.

By R.S. Broker



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## Restaurants

Victoria's Kitchen  
7304 Ogontz Ave

Uptown Seafood  
6255 Limekiln Pk

Sister Muhammad's  
Kitchen Bakery  
4441 Germantown Ave

Nonna's Pizza Tavern  
7200 Germantown Ave

Mi Puebla Mexican  
Restaurant  
7157 Germantown Ave

Paradise Jamaican  
Restaurant  
1530 E. Wadsworth Ave.

AGAPE Christian Café  
1605 E. Wadsworth Ave

Metropolis Restaurant  
8460 Limekiln Pk

AJ Diner  
8152 Ogontz Ave

Lincoln  
Chicken & Burger  
801 E. Cheltenham Ave

Vernie's Soul Food  
1800 Eleanor St

The Nile Cafe  
6800 Germantown Ave

Mr Hook  
Fish & Chicken Halal  
5625 Germantown Ave

Tasties  
5241 Germantown Ave

Food from The Heart  
8010 Ogontz Ave

O Sunny Side Breakfast  
7706 Ogontz Ave

Silver Star Kitchen  
1453 Vernon Rd

All The Way Live  
6108 Germantown Ave

Green Garden  
1556 Wadsworth Ave

Mt. Airy Deli  
7200 Devon St

## Markets

Day & Night  
Food Market  
7722 Ogontz Ave

Choo's Quick Stop  
6709 Chew Ave

NRC Mini Market  
1532 67th Ave

Rodriguez Mini Mart  
6731 Ogontz Ave

Town Supermarket  
5031 Germantown Ave

Heems 1 Stop Shop  
200 W. Clapier St

Lee's Market  
8014 Ogontz Ave

Stop One Food  
Market & Deli  
6510 N 21st St.

Pat's Caribbean  
1527 Wadsworth Ave

Sam Meats  
1524 Wadsworth Ave

M&F Supermarket  
1431 E. Vernon Rd

Crab & Claw  
7801 Ogontz Ave

## Salons

RDB'S Unisex Salon  
6900 Ogontz Ave

Michael's Unisex Salon  
8008 Ogontz Ave

Allure Hair Designs Inc  
8006 Ogontz Ave

Hair Culture  
7909 Ogontz Ave

Golden Comb  
7614 Ogontz Ave

Cuts Correct  
1447 E. Vernon Rd

Savvy Salon  
1443 E. Vernon Rd

## Service

Nickens Agency  
1550 Wadsworth Ave

ML Community  
Health Care  
610 Old York Rd #400

Nutrition & Herbs Center  
5601 N. 10th St

Cleaners & Laundry  
7222 Ogontz Ave

M Lawton & Associates  
7167 Ogontz Ave # A

215 Wireless  
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R.E. Amstead Real Estate  
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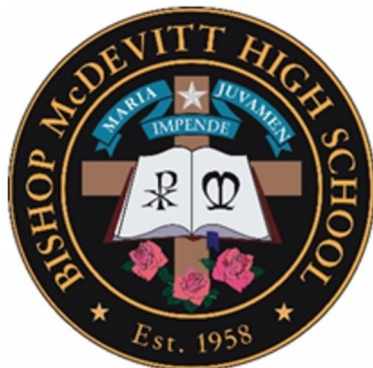
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