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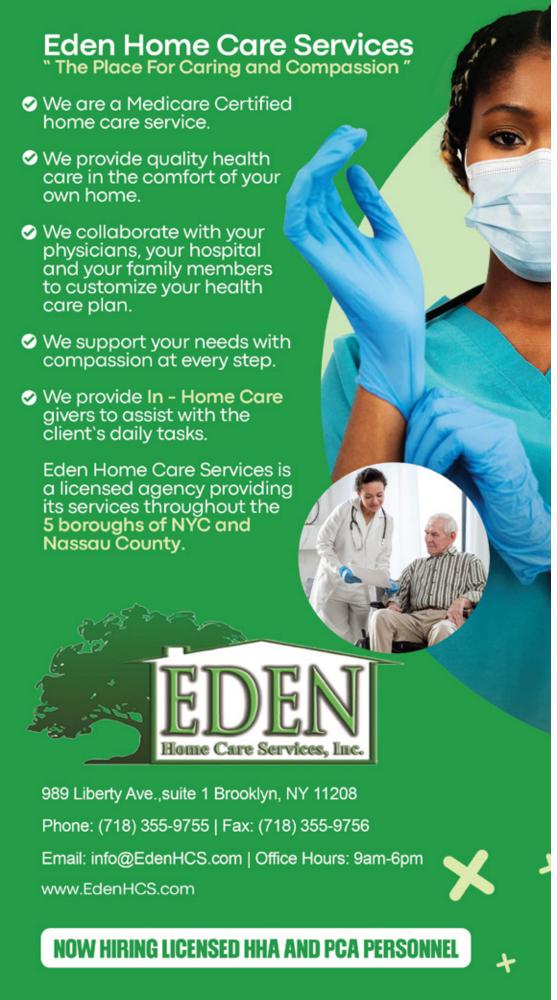


#### About Eden Home Care

Eden Home Care Services, Inc, is a Licensed Home Health Care Services Agency offering care to clients in the **5 boroughs of NYC** and Nassau Counties. We are locally owned and operated by qualified health care and legal professionals offering more than 25 years of experience in our respective fields of expertise. Our commitment to our clients, their families and our community allows us to provide excellent care with compassion and integrity"

#### Eden Home Care: Our Core Values

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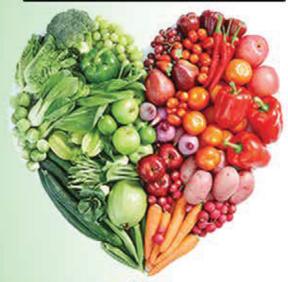
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**Reclaiming Our Collective Power, and our Neighborhoods! These are our Communities, Do Something!** 



#### My brothers, my sisters, my friends;

I see you. I see the tired eyes after long shifts, the quiet strength in raising families, the dreams you carry for a better tomorrow. We live in vibrant, resilient communities, stitched together by diverse cultures, languages, and histories. From the crowded streets of Queens, the busy streets of the Bronx, the bustling streets of Brooklyn, and the manic streets of Manhattan to every urban block where our stories unfold, we are the heartbeat!

And yet, sometimes, in the quieter moments, a shadow falls. We call it apathy, neglect, or even resignation. We see challenges mount - increasing crime, and other public safety concerns, the insidious creep of illicit drugs, one too many liquor stores, pollution of our air and water. All these mounting challenges makes us feel like we're shouting into the wind, or worse, that our voices are simply... tired.

The constant assault on our mental and physical lives become so exhausting, that we begin to go down the road of being cynical as we literally feel weighted down in frustration and discouragement. Does anyone really care, do our efforts even matter? This feeling isn't born of indifference; it's born of experience. It's a bitter fruit cultivated by broken promises, by systems that have too often overlooked, undervalued, or actively undermined our communities. When trust is repeatedly betrayed, when our hopes are met with indifference, a cynical weariness can set in. We become guarded, pulling back not because we don't care, but because we've learned, painfully, that caring can sometimes lead to deeper disappointment.

But I'm here to tell you that this suppressed feeling of neglect and resignation is not our destiny. It is a

temporary pause, an understandable breath taken before the next push forward. Because within each of us, and within the very fabric of our neighborhoods, there lies an undeniable, unstoppable power.

Think about it! We are the architects of culture, the innovators, the dreamers who have built lives from scratch, often against impossible odds. Our ancestors, who journeyed across oceans, or fought for freedom on these very shores,

understood what it meant to rely on one another. They understood that when the system failed them, community was the unbreakable bond, the true safety net, the engine of change.

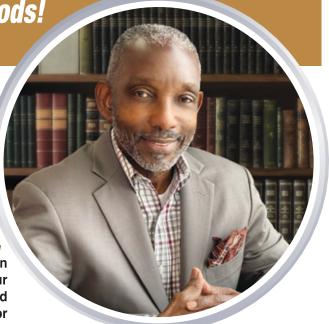
What if we reframed what we call "apathy"? What if we saw it not as a lack of caring, but as a deep, unspoken hunger for genuine change? A hunger that has been starved for too long. What if we understood that the quietness isn't indifference, but a gathering of strength, waiting for the right moment, the right spark, the right collective will to ignite?

That spark, my friends, is us! It's you!

Engagement isn't about fighting an abstract "system" every single day, though we must hold power accountable. It's about looking to our left, to our right, and seeing the potential in our neighbors. It's about recognizing that the solutions to many of our challenges lie within our own collective wisdom, our shared experiences, and our unified action.

#### Imagine the following:

- What if every block had a small group of com mitted neighbors who, once a month, discussed local safety issues, identified prob lem spots, and collaboratively approached their precinct council or local representatives?
- What if we actively supported our local Black and immigrant-owned businesses, not just with our dollars, but by amplifying their voices and helping them thrive, creating economic anchors that uplift everyone?
- What if we formed clean-up crews, neighbor us answer with our presence, our voices, hood watches, or community gardens, trans and our collective will to survive forming neglected spaces into vibrant hubs of and thrive!



Dr. Clive Williams BH(M) Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

#### connection and safety?

- What if we demanded clear, accessible informa tion about the products sold in our stores, the air we breathe, and the water we drink, and then leveraged our numbers to advocate for healthi er alternatives?
- What if we mentored our youth, not just teach ing them to survive, but equipping them to lead, to innovate, to demand a seat at every table where decisions about their future are being made?

This isn't about waiting for someone else to fix things. It's about activating the power that already resides within us. It's about reclaiming our narrative. It's about transforming that understandable weariness into a focused energy, channeled towards building the neighborhoods we truly deserve.

We don't need permission to care, to organize, or to demand better. Our presence here, our commitment to our families and our future, is the permission. Let us transform our quiet corners into spaces of dynamic action. Let us turn every shared grievance into a shared goal, every individual concern into a collective triumph!

The time for waiting is over. The time for whispering is past. Let us rise, together, and show the world the unstoppable power of our engaged, united communities. Our neighborhoods are calling. Let us answer with our presence, our voices, and our collective will to survive and thrive!

# Christopher Cumberbatch: From Scenic Painter to Visual Artist

By Nickie Robinson

Christopher Cumberbatch is an acclaimed scenic artist and designer whose work spans film, television, theater, and fine art. A graduate of both Art and Design High School and the prestigious Parsons School of Design, Chris has been a proud member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829 for over two decades. He is also the founder of a successful decorative painting company known for its bespoke artistry.

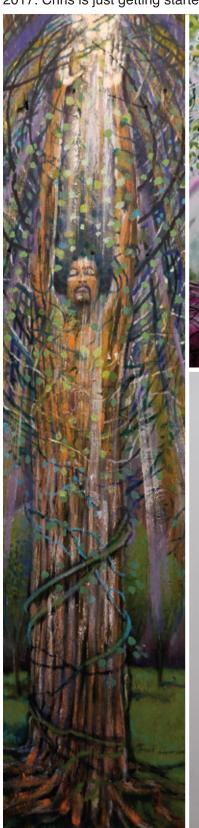
Chris's scenic expertise has shaped major productions, including serving as Charge Scenic Painter for the 2022 feature films *The TV Glows and The Best Man: The Final Chapters.* His recent television credits include Camera Scenic roles on Michael Che's *Comedy Show, Saturday Night Live, and Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens.* Additional work includes Netflix's Kevin James series *The Crew and Fox's Prodigal Son.* His film credits also include iconic titles such as Spike Lee's Malcolm X, Crooklyn, and A Bronx Tale directed by Robert De Niro, as well as Tonya Lewis Lee's Monster.

In the theater world, Chris designed the set for the 2022 National Black Theatre production of Gong Lum's Legacy and received multiple accolades for his work. His theatrical honors include six AUDELCO Awards for productions such as *Looking for Leroy (2019), Harriet's Return (2018), Black Wall Street* (2015), and others produced by Nuyorican Poets Café, National Black Theatre, and New Federal Theatre.

Beyond the stage and screen, Chris is also a fine artist. He has exhibited extensively, with solo shows including his 2006 exhibition at the Skylight Gallery at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza and his 2013 exhibition at The Poet's Den Theater and Gallery in New York. Most recently, his original paintings were featured at the 14th Caribbean Fine Art Barbados exhibitions in 2024 and 2025, and in Fall 2024's "The Living"

Forest" at the Dwyer Cultural Center.

In 2020, he was the poster designer for the documentary *Chicago: America's Hidden War.* In recognition of his lifelong contributions to the arts, Chris received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Black Theatre Festival in 2017. Chris is just getting started.













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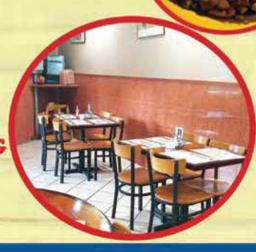
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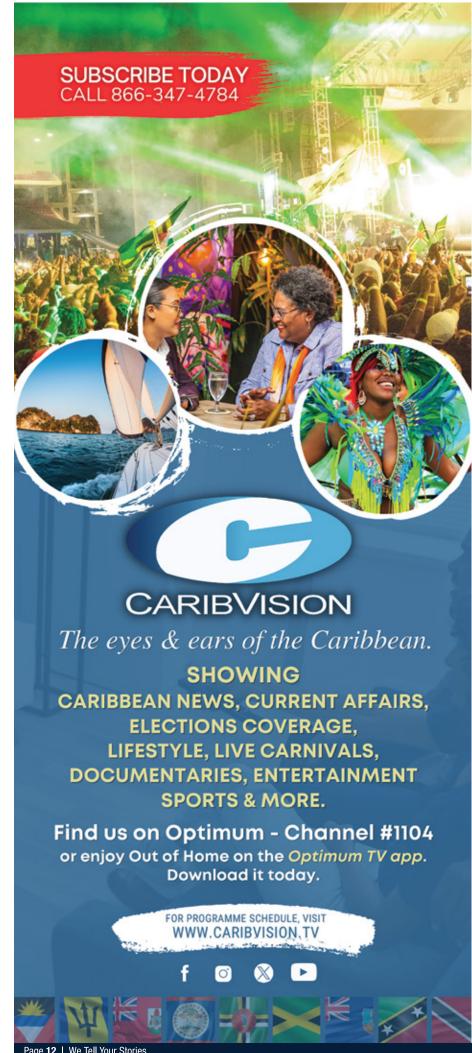
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#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service – Chi Ossé, NYC Council Member, District 36

Chi Ossé is the Council Member for New York City's 36th District, representing Bedford-Stuvvesant and North Crown Heights. He entered politics as an organizer and prominent figure in the Black Lives Matter movement. At 23 years old, Ossé was elected in 2021 as the youngest member of this Council and its only member hailing from Gen-Z.

Ossé is the co-Chair of the Brooklyn Delegation. His work is focused on implementing innovative and human-centered public safety solutions and investing in solving New York's housing crisis. More broadly, he recognizes the immense power of municipal spending and is an outspoken advocate for budget justice.

In his first term, he passed life-saving legislation to provide anti-overdose medication to bars and nightlife establishments across the city, and a legislative package to tackle Gotham's Public Enemy Number One: rats.

Caribbean Heritage: Haiti Chi Ossé NYC Council Member District 36

ends the exploitative practice of forcing tenants to New York City into a beacon of prosperity and pay broker fees for apartments they found without successful governance for the nation to follow. ever hiring a broker. It makes clear that whoever hires the broker, whether a landlord or a tenant, is To learn more about Council Member Ossé and the the one responsible for paying the fee.

Rental Expenses (FARE) Act. This landmark law represent the people of his district while building can contact his district office at 718-919-0740.

work he does for the communities he serves, visit He also won a protracted battle against the landlord Ossé recognizes local government as democracy in his website - https://council.nyc.gov/district-36/. If lobby to pass Intro 360, the Fairness in Apartment its most impactful form, and works to faithfully you reside in his district and need assistance you

#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service – Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President



Antonio Reynoso is Brooklyn's 20th Borough put down roots and have a fair shot at the life they **President.** The son of two Dominican immigrants. Antonio was born and raised in Los Sures, Williamsburg, just three blocks down from where he lives first Latino to hold the office in the borough, and the today with his wife and two sons. He grew up in Section 8 housing, relying on food stamps for family long way for a young family trying their hardest to Brooklyn's three public hospitals to build new and 718-802-3700.

want. In 2021, Antonio became the youngest Borough President elected to a four-year term, the first Dominican to be elected as a Borough President in NYC. As Borough President, he made histo-

state-of-the-art maternal health facilities. This marked the first time a Borough President had ever allocated an entire fiscal year's capital funding to one cause, and within one city organization. In Fall 2023, Antonio released The Comprehensive Plan for Brooklyn, the first borough-specific, large-scale planning effort ever in NYC and a model for planning citywide. Antonio previously served as Council Member for the 34th Council District, representing portions of Bushwick and Williamsburg in Brooklyn and Ridgewood in Queens. As a member of the City Council, he served as the Chair of Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. He led to passage the Commercial Waste Zones and Waste Equity bills, as well as the Right to Know Act. Antonio also championed the Bushwick Community Plan, a community-led rezoning to create affordable housing, preserve manufacturing space, and advance neighborhood needs that the de Blasio administration ultimately blocked from advancing.

To learn more about Borough President Antonio Reynoso and the work he does for all of Brooklyn, visit his website - https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/. meals and scholarships for education opportunities. ry when he allocated the entirety of his Fiscal Year If you are a Brooklyn resident and need assistance He experienced firsthand how a little help can go a 2023 capital budget - a total of \$45 million - to you can contact the Borough President's office at



#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics &** Public Service - Chantel Jackson, NYS Assembly Member, 79th Assembly District



Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, LMSW, After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology stands at the forefront of progressive change, from City College and a master's from Adelphi representing District 79 with unwavering dedica- University, she spent nine years helping low-intion and a tireless commitment to her constitu- come, first-generation students navigate college ents. Serving the neighborhoods of Concourse admissions and financial aid. She later served as Belmont, and East Tremont, she has become a four years, supporting students' mental and Her unwavering dedication to her role is rooted in beacon of hope and empowerment for the physical well-being. diverse communities she serves.

of six siblings, Chantel Jackson's path to public constituents. She has championed comprehenservice was shaped by deep community roots sive gun safety legislation including the passage and strong family values. Her mother, an immigrant from Belize, taught her resilience and perseverance, while her father, a successful for mental health services and small business entrepreneur and CEO, modeled the power of support programs, and led the development of and the work she does for the communities she economic independence and service. Inspired by local initiatives focused on wellness, entrepretheir example, Chantel has committed her career neurship, and community development. Her work gov/mem/Chantel-Jackson/. If you reside in her to advancing social justice and economic is grounded in the belief that systemic change district and need assistance you can contact her empowerment.

Melrose, Morrisania, Claremont, a social worker in NYC public high schools for

Born in Harlem and raised in a close-knit family strong voice on issues that matter most to her of a bill requiring a license to purchase or possess a semiautomatic rifle, secured funding begins at the community level.

Since 2021, Chantel has distributed more than \$2,018,000 in funding to local organizations and community partners. These funds have supported a wide range of initiatives across key focus areas such as the arts, education, social justice, community development, youth empowerment, and health equity. Her strategic investments have helped drive meaningful impact and foster sustainable growth within historically underserved communities.

A leader with a deep commitment to equity and empowerment, Chantel currently serves as Chair of both the New York State Legislative Women's Caucus and the New York Legislative Black Task Force-positions that reflect her ongoing efforts to elevate underrepresented voices and promote inclusive policy solutions. In addition. Chantel sits on the Committees of Cities, Education, Housing, Mental Health, Small Business, and Subcommittee on Micro Business.

Continuing her fifth year in office, Chantel believes that true leadership means being present, listening intently, and showing up for the people she serves. Whether attending neighborhood events, visiting local businesses and schools, or sitting down with constituents to hear their concerns, she remains deeply hands-on and engaged in the community. She sees herself not just as a representative, but as a catalyst for lasting change.

her lived experience—as a licensed social worker, college professor, published author, and, Now in her second term, Chantel has been a most proudly, a devoted mother to her daughter, Skye, and son, TJ. These roles shape her mission and fuel her tireless pursuit of health, wellness, education, and generational wealth for families across the Bronx and beyond.

> To learn more about Assembly Member Jackson serves, visit her website - https://nyassemblydistrict office at 718-538-3829.

#### Voices of Power: Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public Service - Kevin Riley, NYC Council Member, District 12



Kevin Christopher Riley is the New York City tion of diversity, inclusion, anti-discrimination and Council Member representing the 12th Coun- anti-harassment training. Council Member Riley, cil District, covering the neighborhoods of prime sponsor of Intro. 552-A and Intro. 553-A, Williamsbridge-Olinville, Bronxwood, Eastches- further supports this goal through annual demoter-Edenwald-Baychester, ton-Parkside, Baychester, The Valley, and Co-op City.

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises and the Co-Chair of the Black, Latino and Asian proud member of Butler United Methodist Church Caucus, which is the largest caucus in the New where he met many of the people he is proud to York City Council. As Chair, he serves to prioritize creating equal opportunity and access for Mount Saint Michael Academy, he attended the communities of color within New York City SUNY College at Old Westbury to pursue his B.A through the legislative, oversight, and budgetary in Politics, Economics and Law and obtained his powers of the Council. He has worked to ensure M.P.A in Public Affairs and Administration from that our infrastructure empowers marginalized Metropolitan College of New York. communities and addresses the housing crisis with initiatives for affordable housing and home- While pursuing his undergraduate degree, Kevin ownership. For nearly the past year, the Council became involved with several student activities has approved 40 land use applications that will result in over 12,000 projected new housing Association and the Divine Nine Greek Council. units, of which over 63 percent are affordable.

Under Council Member Kevin C. Riley's leadership as Co-Chair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, the caucus has passed the historic Kevin believed that giving back, spreading joy, FDNY Diversity bill package. Signed into law, the bills aim to address true equity in recruitment and the most important goal. retention of underrepresented groups within the department, as well as requiring the implementa- After working alongside the Speaker of the New

Wakefield, Aller- graphics reporting and ongoing training for all fire department employees— opening clear measures for transparency and accountability.

Council Member Kevin Riley is the Chair of the Kevin C. Riley was born and raised in the Northeast Bronx, where he continues to reside. He is a call mentors today. Following his graduation from

> such as the Student Council, Residential Life He was the president of the Mu Omicron chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., and was even awarded with the Fraternity Man of the Year Award. Although his undertakings were vast, and illustrating the meaning of community was

York State Assembly Carl E. Heastie for over a decade, Riley's passion for public service and his love for his community fueled his dedication to run and win his election for the New York City Council representing the home that raised him. Since assuming office on January 6, 2021, Council Member Kevin C. Riley has never lost sight of uplifting his community and its people: investing \$97 million in capital improvements for his district, enriching the quality of life through youth and senior services, groundbreaking NYC Public School improvements and advocating for \$79.4 million to expand the Summer Youth employment Program to 100,000 slots for youth across the

As a firm believer in representation and being the change you want to see, Kevin personally understands the impact of mentorship and positive reinforcements in the well-being and success of our youth and community. He dedicates his time to generate positive relationships with the youth in the community and has developed a Young Men's Mentorship program with the Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship— exposing them to college readiness, how to dress for success, internship opportunities and more. In conjunction with his Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity brothers, he is a founding member of a nationwide organization called The Dad Gang. The Dad Gang is an organization that works toward eliminating the stereotypes surrounding black fatherhood, and dispelling the narrative that black dads are not a part of their children's lives.

As a direct product of his community, Council Member Kevin C. Riley is a leader who is committed to partnering with his neighbors, listening to their needs and making his district better for future generations. Above all, his greatest accomplishment still remains being a husband and father to his three beautiful children.

To learn more about Council Member Riley and the work he does for the communities he serves, visit his website - https://council.nyc.gov/district-12/. If you reside in his district and need assistance you can contact his Gun Hill Road district office at 718-684-5509 or his Co-op City district office at 347-326-8652.

### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public Service – Mercedes Narcisse, NYC Council Member, District 46**



**Council Member Mercedes Narcisse** is a registered worked as a registered nurse and was a small business nurse who represents the 46th Council District in owner. Brooklyn, covering the neighborhoods of Bergen Beach, Canarsie, Flatlands, Georgetown, Gerritsen In her first term as a Member of the New York City To learn more about Council Member Narcisse and the Beach, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Mill Island, Sheeps- Council, Mercedes built a reputation as a fierce advo- work she does for the communities she serves, visit her head Bay. Council Member Narcisse is Chair of the cate for her community with a tireless work ethic. Her website - https://council.nyc.gov/district-46/. If you New York City Council's Committee on Hospitals and community office has notably become one of the reside in her district and need assistance you can serves on the Committees on Health, Education, Parks highest in serving constituents in NYC, demonstrating contact her district office at 718-241-9330.

Transportation and Infrastructure, Crimi-Subcommittee COVID and Resiliency.

and migrated to the Brooklyn. CUNY Prior to her election her constituents.

Recreation, her effectiveness and dedication.

As a member of the Council's Budget and Negotiation nal Justice and the Team, Mercedes has delivered unprecedented victoon ries for District 46. She secured millions of dollars in Recovery city funding to upgrade and renovate parks, libraries and schools across the district. Mercedes also secured the funding needed to operate after-school programs, Mercedes was born senior centers, and other community initiatives, greatly in Saint Marc, Haiti benefiting local residents.

United States as a In 2023, she championed strong legislation, notably a teenager, settling in bill to enhance health outcomes for those with sickle She cell disease and another to train NYPD officers in attended public high identifying and interacting with New Yorkers with school in Brooklyn autism. These initiatives reflect her commitment to and is a proud addressing both health and social challenges, further graduate. cementing her reputation as a relentless advocate for

to the City Council in Mercedes is a loving mother of four and a proud November, 2021, she resident of the 46th district in Brooklyn. In November, 2023 she was re-elected to serve another two-year term beginning January 1, 2024.

### Voices of Power: *Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public Service – Rita Joseph, NYC Council Member, District 40*

New York City Council Member Rita Joseph was elect- other successes, Ms. Joseph ed in 2021 to represent Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts was able to provide for her Gardens, Kensington, Ditmas Park, and Southern school financially, securing Crown Heights. Before serving in the City Council, Ms. hundreds of thousands of Joseph was a public school teacher, a community dollars for technological activist, and a proud union member.

After immigrating to the U.S. from Haiti in her youth, receive a better education, Ms. Joseph began her life of advocacy. At just 19 years old, she organized her first rally with a group she founded, Haitian Enforcement Against Racism, in Eric Adams, Senator Kevin order to protest the FDA's discriminatory "bad blood" rules that prevented people of Haitian descent from Rodneyse Bichotte, and donating blood. The rally succeeded in its mission, then-Council and the FDA rescinded the racist rule.

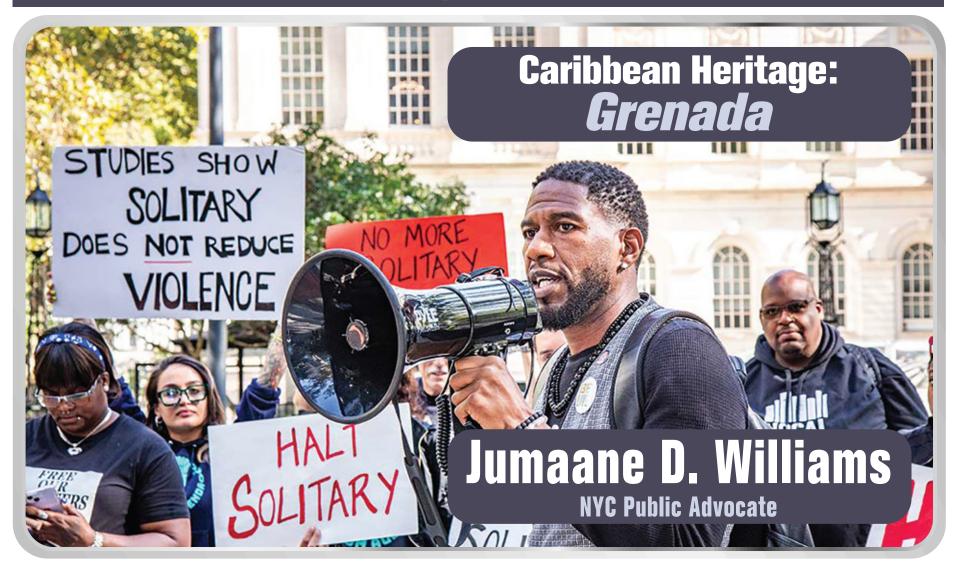
Since organizing the rally, which had more than was appointed by State 150,000 people participate, Ms. Joseph hasn't looked Senator Kevin Parker to back with her activism. Despite being a teen mom who serve as Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Board To learn more about Council Member Joseph and the was only able to attend college because of a full tuition and has been a part of the Citywide Participatory work she does for the communities she serves, visit scholarship, Ms. Joseph spent her twenties raising her Budgeting Committee, thanks to an appointment by her website - https://council.nyc.gov/district-40/. If you children while organizing protests against police then-Council Speaker Corey Johnson. Council reside in her district and need assistance you can brutality and cuts to student transit discounts, even Member Joseph is focused on improving public contact her office at **718-287-8762**. The district office while working a full-time job. Since then, she hasn't schools, fighting for affordable housing, combatting is available for both appointments and walk-ins, stopped working for her neighbors, both as a teacher the climate crisis, and achieving real criminal and Monday-Thursday. at PS6 and as a community activist. Among many social justice reform for New Yorkers.

improvements that help thousands of children including funding from then-Borough President Parker, Assemblymember Member Matthieu Eugene. Additionally, Ms. Joseph





#### Voices of Power: Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public Service – Jumaane D. Williams, Public Advocate of the City of New York



Jumaane D. Williams is the Public Advocate of munity Safety Act, reforming the City's Police ency and accountability in City government. As the City of New York. Previously, he served on Department to address the abuse of Stop, Ques- Public Advocate, Jumaane continues to be an the NYC Council representing the 45th District. tion & Frisk in communities of color and creating activist-elected official who brings the voices of Jumaane is a first-generation Brooklynite of the NYPD's Office of Inspector General to inves- everyday New Yorkers to City government and Grenadian heritage. He graduated from the tigate unlawful & unethical behavior. As former makes New York a truly progressive beacon for public school system, overcoming the difficulties Co-Chair of the Council's Task Force to Combat all. of Tourette's and ADHD to earn a Master's Gun Violence, he helped create New York's Degree from Brooklyn College. He began his Crisis Management System, which funds Cure To learn more about Public Advocate Jumaane career as a community organizer at the Greater Executive Director of NYS Tenants & Neighbors. There, he fought for truly affordable, income-tar- gun violence prevention, and as Public Advocate City and need assistance you can contact the geted housing across New York City and State.

In the NYC Council, Jumaane championed land-

he continues to work for its expansion and Public Advocate's office at 212-669-7250. improvement today.

mark legislation that fundamentally transformed Jumaane has led the fight for better policing and policing in NYC. Jumaane sponsored the Com- safer streets, affordable housing, and transpar-

Violence Groups that work to reduce shootings Williams and the work he does for New York City Flatbush Beacon School and later served as the through a multi-pronged approach. The program residents, visit his website - https://advofundamentally transformed the city's approach to cate.nyc.gov/. If you are a resident of New York

#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public Ser**vice – Yvette D. Clarke, Congresswoman, New York's 9th District



Yvette Diane Clarke feels honored to represent and the Uterine Cancer Study Act. As a trailblazthe community that raised her. She is the proud daughter of Jamaican immigrants. She takes her meaningful policy in the Age of Al, she also intropassion for her Caribbean heritage to Congress, duced first-of-its-kind legislation to stop the where she co-chairs the Congressional Caribbean Caucus and works to foster relationships FAKES Accountability Act and increase transparbetween the United States and the Caribbean ency surrounding political Al-generated adver-Community. Clarke is a Senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. has consistently stood against the rising tide of Clarke has been a member of the Congressional mis- and disinformation in traditional and new Black Caucus since coming to Congress in 2007 media spaces, and she is committed to ensuring and today serves as its Chair.

As the Representative of the Ninth Congressio- can trust it is accurate. nal District of New York, Congresswoman Clarke has dedicated herself to continuing the legacy of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke visits Caribbeexcellence established by the late Honorable an nations with Congressional Delegation Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman and Clarke is a leader in the tech and media policy Menopause Research Equity Act, the Stephanie advancements are made. Clarke formed the

Hailing from central Brooklyn, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid and Education Act, ing leader guiding Congressional efforts to enact spread of malicious deepfakes with her DEEPtisements with her REAL Political Ads Act. She Americans across the nation not only have access to the information they need but that they

Caribbean American elected to Congress. In the space as co-chair of the Smart Cities Caucus 118th Congress, Congresswoman Clarke intro- and co-chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus. duced landmark legislation to advance the priori- She believes smart technology will make comties closest to her heart and at the top of her munities more sustainable, resilient, and livable constituent's minds. She has led critical legisla- and works hard to ensure communities of color tion to support the health of women, including the are not left behind while these technological

Multicultural Media Caucus to address diversity and inclusion issues in the media, telecom, and tech industries. As a driving force in Congress to preserve and expand the Affordable Connectivity Program, a vital initiative that provides reliable and affordable broadband to Americans across the country, Congresswoman Clarke understands that internet access is essential in a modern nation and will bridge the digital divide. She is also one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, which develops programs to support the aspirations of Black women of all ages. Congresswoman Clarke is also the co-chair of the Medicare for All Caucus, where she fights for the right to universal health care.

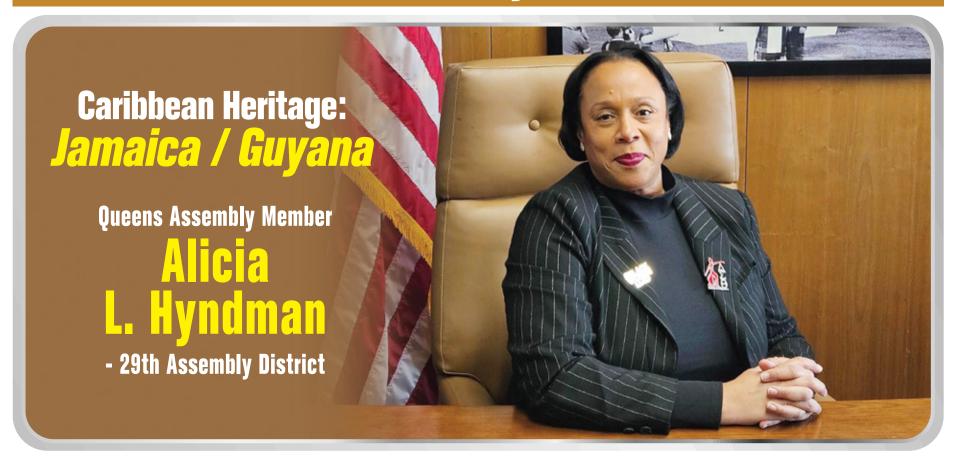
Congresswoman Clarke holds a press conference on women's health legislative package Before being elected to the United States House of Representatives, Congresswoman Clarke served on New York's City Council, representing the 40th District. She succeeded her pioneering mother, former City Council Member Dr. Una S. T. Clarke, making them the first mother-daughter succession in the City Council's history. She cosponsored City Council resolutions that opposed the war in Iraq, criticized the federal USA PATRIOT Act, and called for a national moratorium on the death penalty.

Congresswoman Clarke is a graduate of Oberlin College and was a recipient of the prestigious APPAM/Sloan Fellowship in Public Policy and Policy Analysis. She received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa from the University of Technology, Jamaica, and the Honorary Doctorate of Public Policy from the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Congresswoman Clarke currently resides in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn, where she grew up. She is a proud active member of the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

To learn more about Congresswoman Clarke and the work she does for the communities she serves, visit her website - https://clarke.house.gov/. If you reside in her district and need assistance you can contact her district office at 718-287-1142



#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service - Alicia L. Hyndman, NYS Assembly Member, 29th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman was ground rehabilitation and other amenities to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. She has elected to the New York State Assembly on enhance the quality of education for students. November 3rd, 2015, in the 29th AD, encompassing the neighborhoods of Laurelton, Assemblywoman Hyndman's professional career Rosedale, St. Albans, Addisleigh Park, Hollis, spans over fifteen years with the NYS Depart-Springfield Gardens, and Jamaica. The daughter ment of Education as a Senior Professional Con- Assemblywoman Hyndman holds a Bachelor of J.H.S. 226 & John Adams High School.

Assemblywoman Hyndman serves as the Chair the New York State Education Department Office of the Standing Committee on Higher Education. Prior to being elected to the State Assembly, Ms. education is exemplified by bills she has brought. To learn more about Assembly Member Hynd-Hyndman served on the NYC Department of forth in the New York State Assembly. Education's Community District Education Counas President. Leading advocacy for the 36 elementary and middle schools in the district, ing educational opportunities for the Queens contact her district office at 718-723-5412. through collaborative leadership, she was able to community through the redevelopment of John F. bring in \$30 million in capital funding for technol- Kennedy International Airport, growing small

of Higher Education. Her dedication to career

ogy upgrades, facilities improvements, play- businesses, and providing access to living-wage

continued her advocacy by authoring the landmark legislation of Juneteenth day in New York State, which is now observed statewide.

of Caribbean immigrants, Assemblywoman duct Investigator, overseeing adult trade and Arts Degree from the State University of New Hyndman emigrated to the U.S. from London, vocational schools. She previously held many York at New Paltz and a Master's Degree in England, as a young child. She spent her forma- positions in the field of education, including but Public Administration from Framingham State tive years growing up in Hollis & South Ozone not limited to: Counselor for the Brooklyn College College in Massachusetts. She is a member of Park attending public schools P.S. 34, I.S. 109, Educational Talent Search Program; Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a member Minority Affairs at the New York College of the Queens Chapter of Jack & Jill. She Osteopathic Medicine of NYIT: and Assistant with currently resides in Laurelton. Queens with her family.

man and the work she does for the communities she serves, visit her website - https://assemblycil 29 (CEC29) for ten years, the last four years As a longtime education advocate, Assembly- .state.ny.us/mem/Alicia-Hyndman/. If you reside woman Hyndman has focused heavily on creat- in her district and need assistance you can



### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service - Clyde Vanel, NYS Assembly Member, 33rd Assembly District



of the Banks Committee, Chairs the Subcommittee on Internet and New Technology. He has five years. Vanel works to expose the next gener- Farmingdale State College, where he served as sponsored numerous landmark bills, such as ation to STEM careers. Vanel is also the founder the Student Government President. legislation to create a robotics, automation and of the New York Metro chapter of the Black Pilots intelligence commission; high-risk AI systems; and create a cryptocurren- exposes the community and youth to the field of District of New York since November 8, 2016, his cy and blockchain study task force. He is focused aviation. on emerging technologies and works to close the digital divide among marginalized communities.

Law Firm, P.C., where he practices intellectual policy, and intellectual property. property and business law. Vanel is also an internet entrepreneur operating entrepreneurial extensive

Forum and frequently lectures and presents on Heights, New York, with nine siblings, Vanel is a Vanel is an attorney, entrepreneur, and pilot from issues including artificial intelligence, cryptocur- member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Queens. He is the owner and operator of Vanel rency and blockchain technology, international

experience, nology Law. He holds a Bachelor of Science in his district office at 718-479-2333.

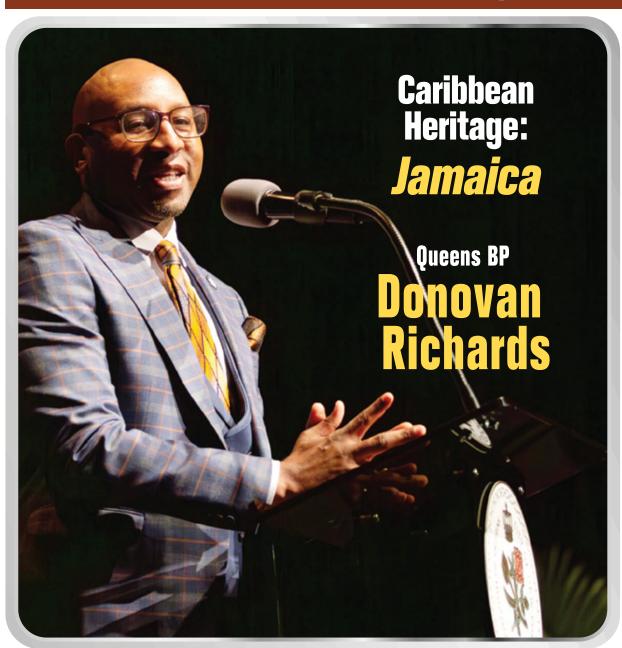
Assemblyman Clyde Vanel serves as the Chair including owning and operating a restaurant and Aviation Administration and an Associate of lounge, Vanel on First, in Lower Manhattan for Applied Science in Aerospace Technology from

> license of America, Inc. The organization trains and Serving as the Assembly Member for the 33rd district includes Cambria Heights, St. Albans, Hollis, Queens Village, Bellerose, and parts of Vanel serves as a member of the MIT Al Policy Floral Park. Vanel was raised in Cambria

To learn more about Assembly Member Vanel and the work he does for the communities he Trade- Vanel earned a Juris Doctor from Boston Univer- serves, visit his website - https://assemblymarkReady.com, a service focused on trademark sity School of Law, where he was the .state.ny.us/mem/Clyde-Vanel/. If you reside in filings and intellectual property protection. Vanel Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Science & Tech- his district and need assistance you can contact



#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service – Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President



later.

As a child, he attended Jamaica High School and Elmhurst.

his teenage years, the Borough President got and water infrastructure to alleviate chronic 718-286-3000.

Southeast Queens, was elected Borough Presi- gun violence, holding numerous positions in the vation Challenge and Borough Hall on Your dent in November 2020 and sworn in one month City Council before being elected in 2013 to Block, as well as task forces to support the comrepresent District 31, serving Southeast Queens munities of Corona and College Point. and the eastern Rockaway Peninsula.

Redemption Christian Academy before studying As a Council Member, he chaired influential com- with his wife, Tameeka, and his son, Donovan III. communications, radio, and TV at Nyack mittees on Environmental Protection and Public College. He later received a degree in Aviation Safety, while also leading the Subcommittee on To learn more about Borough President Donovan Management from Vaughn College in East Zoning and Franchises, resulting in historic Richards and the work he does for all of Queens, Following the tragic killing of a close friend during — including a \$2 billion investment in new sewer you can contact the Borough President's office at

flooding issues across Southeast Queens.

As Queens Borough President, he has been a tireless advocate for The World's Borough. Over the course of his administration, Borough President Richards has allocated more than \$220 million in capital dollars across Queens' schools, cultural institutions, hospitals, libraries, parks and more.

In the wake of Hurricane Ida, the Borough President formed Operation Urban Sustainability to combat climate change, while continuing to push for the installation of new grey and green infrastructure to make Queens a more resilient borough.

To better support the more than 1 million immigrants who call The World's Borough home, he created the Immigrant Welcome Center at Queens Borough Hall in 2021, which has served hundreds of individuals over its first two years.

To help rebuild the Queens economy, Borough President Richards created the Queens Small Business Grant program to connect Queens entrepreneurs impacted by COVID-19 with more than \$15 million in no-strings grants, while also securing a commitment from JetBlue to keep its headquarters in Queens and overseeing the massive redevelopments of both LaGuardia and Kennedy airports.

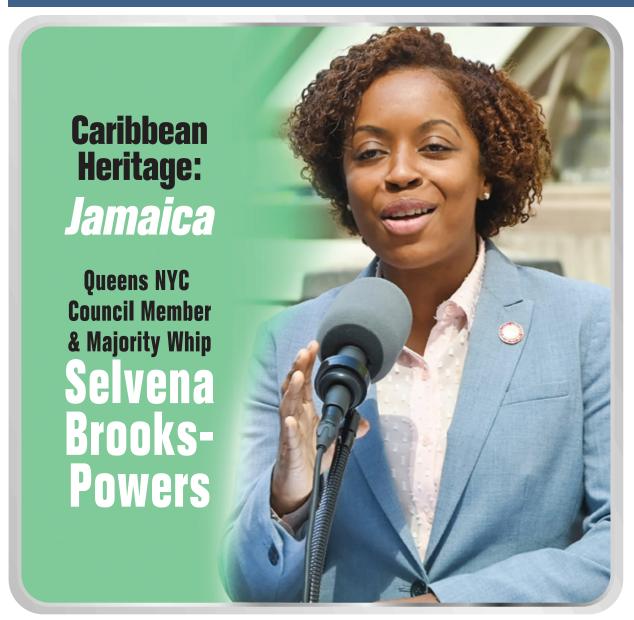
The Borough President has also empowered numerous historically disadvantaged communities through initiatives such as the Youth and Young Adult Council, Downtown Jamaica Donovan Richards Jr., a lifelong resident of involved in his community and the fight against Improvement Council, the Queens Tech + Inno-

Borough President Richards lives in Rosedale

citywide investments in affordable housing, visit his website - https://www.queensbp.nyc.gov/. police oversight, clean energy and infrastructure If you are a Queens resident and need assistance



#### **Voices of Power – Caribbean-Americans in Politics & Public** Service – Selvena Brooks-Powers, NYC Council Member, District 31



to serve as Majority Whip of the City Council as funding for the 116th Precinct, and continues husband, their daughter, and dog. well as Chair of its Committee on Transportation to advocate for the construction of certified and Infrastructure.

infrastructure and community-based programs in organizer, Selvena drove high-impact initiatives 718-527-4356.

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers represents the her district, including for schools, parks, firehous-31st City Council District, which includes the es, and so much more. She continues to fight for trauma center on the Rockaway Peninsula.

on critical issues, including education, voting rights and empowerment, racial and economic justice, relief efforts post-Hurricane Katrina, M/WBE opportunities, and workers' rights.

Immediately prior to elected office, Selvena was a manager for M/WBE compliance, external affairs and community outreach on the \$13 billion International Airport Redevelopment Program. Previously, Selvena worked for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) family as a communications director for various campaigns, including the Fight for \$15 campaign across numerous states, and on one of the tightest Congressional races to win back the majority in the U.S. Congress. Selvena also helped mobilize and ultimately unionized co-workers under the United Media Guild of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), where she was unanimously elected delegate for the northeast

Selvena's prior experiences in government range from the New York State Senate Majority Conference Leader to the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence to even the first New York City Public Advocate's Office, where she volunteered as a teen.

Selvena has always been committed to service throughout Queens. She served as an advisor to the NAACP Jamaica Youth Branch, chair to a number of committees within the Queens Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Board Member to the Ocean Breeze Condominiums and Martin de Porres Youth and Family. A proud HBCU alumna, Selvena is a graduate of Wilberforce University, the first privately owned and communities of Arverne, Brookville, Edgemere, resources for a community that has been too operated HBCU. She also holds a M.S. in Inter-Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Rosedale, and long underserved by the city. She worked, for national Law from New York University. Selvena Far Rockaway. She is the first-ever Black woman example, to secure \$95 million in restoration is a homeowner in Rockaway Beach with her

To learn more about Council Member Brooks-Powers and the work she does for the Selvena has devoted her time at the Council to A dedicated public servant for 20 years and communities she serves, visit her website ensuring Southeast Queens and the eastern end lifelong resident of Southeast Queens, Selvena https://council.nyc.gov/district-31/. If you reside of the Rockaway Peninsula have equitable Brooks-Powers is the proud daughter of immi- in her district and need assistance you can access to city resources. She has directed tens grant parents and devoted to fighting for what's contact her district office in Rockaway at of millions of capital and discretionary toward right and delivering results. As a community 718-471-7014 or her district office in Laurelton at



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tavern-one of the oldest in the United States. A Tavern Way." proud Jamaican-American, Mr. Gordon stepped in resilience and historic preservation.

including the Queens Chamber of Commerce Mag- cy-through strategic partnerships, he helps Conquers All' azine. The tavern has been honored twice in the provide meals to over 10,000 families annually in United States Congressional Record, featured on Queens to combat food insecurity.

was days from closure, despite having no prior leadership, including being named Business Person campaign has already yielded multiple joint experience in the restaurant industry. Over the past of the Year. In 2022, Neir's Tavern was recognized ventures and secured two licensing deals to open 15 years, he has led the restoration, revitalization, by the New York State Beef Council as one of the Neir's Tavern-branded restaurants in JFK Internaand resurgence of Neir's Tavern, transforming it into top ten burgers in the state. It later went on to win tional Airport—a move aimed at ensuring the a nationally recognized symbol of community Best Burger and Best Restaurant in Queens in tayern's financial strength for future generations. 2025.

Loycent Gordon is the CEO and owner of the Histor- the official Monopoly: Queens Edition board, and Appearing on the Front Cover of Queens Chamber ic Neir's Tavern, established in 1829 and recognized became one of the few taverns in the country to Of Commerce Magazine in December 2022, Mr. as New York City's oldest continuously operating have a street co-named in its honor—"Neir's Gordon officially launched the "Neir's Tavern Road to 200" campaign, a long-term resiliency and brand expansion initiative designed to prepare the estabto save the beloved local institution in 2009, when it Mr. Gordon has earned multiple accolades for his lishment for its 200th anniversary in 2029. The

Mr. Gordon's inspiring journey—from a Jamaican Under his visionary leadership. Neir's Tavern has As an Executive Board Member of the New York immigrant who overcame illiteracy to become a civic received continuous local and national media cover- City Hospitality Alliance, Mr. Gordon represents leader, entrepreneur, and cultural preservationage, with features in The New York Times, CNN, thousands of small business owners, advocating for ist—serves as a powerful testament to the values of ABC News, NBC, Harvard Business Review, and more inclusive and sustainable restaurant policies. perseverance, purpose, and community that is multiple front-page stories in Queens publications His commitment to service extends beyond advoca- embodied in his philosophy "Together, Community

# From Epiphany to Empire: The Journey of Edwin Holmes

By Nickie Robinson

With over 25 years of remarkable success in the hip-hop and entertainment industry, Edwin Holmes has carved out a legacy as a visionary talent manager and cultural force. From managing superstar Nelly and platinum-certified producers to playing a role in multiple Grammy-winning projects, Holmes' influence is undeniable.

His journey began with a transformative moment during his junior year at Howard University. While attending a live concert by The Notorious B.I.G., Holmes was swept up by the electric energy of the crowd and the raw power of the music. That night sparked a revelation - one that shifted his career trajectory toward artist management and the business of hip-hop.

Fueled by his passion for culture and sound, Holmes quickly became known for his keen eye for talent. He was instrumental in launching the careers of Grammy Award-winning artists and multi-platinum producers, including Nelly, the St. Lunatics, and producer Jason "Jay-E" Epperson. Under Holmes' management, these artists helped secure a multimillion-dollar recording deal with Universal Music Group, resulting in global album sales surpassing 30 million.

Holmes also managed renowned producer Rich Harrison, the creative force behind iconic hits like Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love" and Amerie's "1 Thing." His network and contributions span collaborations with music legends including Mary J. Blige, Nas, and The Notorious B.I.G.

Inspired by trailblazers like Russell Simmons and Andre Harrell, Holmes has consistently embraced innovation and cultural relevance throughout his career.

But as he reflects on his journey, Holmes acknowledges a deeply personal and often overlooked chapter. For the past 12 years, he has wholly dedicated himself to fatherhood - raising

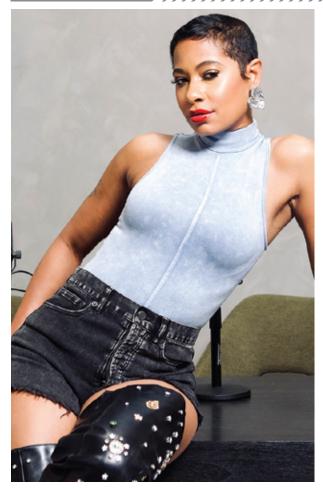


his son - and more recently, to caregiving, as Now, Holmes is focused on building the next he now cares full-time for his mother living with dementia.

This chapter, while outside the spotlight, has Future, he aims to continue discovering and profoundly shaped his perspective. It's also fueled his passion for estate planning and education, particularly within the Black community. Holmes is now a vocal advocate for building generational wealth, having tough but necessary conversations, and ensuring that our families and legacies are protected.

chapter: RetroFuture Entertainment - a next-generation cultural brand that merges music, film, fashion, and live events. With Retroelevating emerging talent, while developing impactful storytelling across multiple platforms.

Edwin Holmes' legacy is not just in the charts it's in the culture, the community, and the lives he's touched along the way. And he's only getting started.



#### **Cheris Monique**

- a certified Family Life Educator, confidence coach, and seasoned entrepreneur

**Learning Center**, a longstanding institution serving the Wilmington, Delaware, community for over 30 years. The center focuses on instilling confidence cousin, the latter of whom was a successful model and self-belief in struggling with self-doubt and has and sparked Cheris's own journey into the fashion been recognized by the Wilmington City Council for its exceptional commitment to children and families.

In addition, Cheris is the founder of Rebuild Your Life, a company dedicated to empowering women and entrepreneurs to pivot, grow, and thrive through personal development and strategic business guidance.

A published author and the host of Steel Toes to Stilettos on YouTube, Cheris inspires millions with her motivational content, sharing stories of resilience and transformation.

Her ability to reinvent herself across industries from modeling and construction to entrepreneurship is Life, new podcast

She is the owner and director of Jumping Jacks grounded in a powerful belief: it's never too late to start over. She draws inspiration from the hardworking women in her life-especially her mother and and entertainment industries.

> Cheris has appeared in TV shows such as One Life to Live and Law & Order, walked in New York Fashion Week, and even shared the screen with America's Next Top Model winner Eva Pigford. She is looking forward to continuing her career in the commercial space.

> Today. Cheris remains focused on expanding her impact-growing her audience and using her platforms to mentor, uplift, and inspire others through confidence-building and entrepreneurship.

> Tags: Cheris Monique, Steel Toes to Stilettos, Jumping Jacks Learning Center, Rebuild Your

#### Activism Can Be Artistic

By Nickie Robinson

A proud graduate of SUNY Buffalo State, she major earned her bachelor's degree in political science including Vogue and Elle magazines. before beginning her career in the NYC child welfare system, where she served as a supervisor for a hard-to-place group home. In that leadthat prioritized family reunification.

In 2019, Keris joined the National Women's March artist table, coordinating artists across the country. That same year, she played a key role in Bronx and was instrumental in statewide efforts to reform campaign finance and bail laws. She also curated her first art and activism gallery with social justice.

In 2020, Keris co-founded NNLB, a Black-led tion forward for communities of color. organization committed to Black liberation, direct

Keris Lové is a dynamic artist, writer, and policy reparations, abolition, and the decriminalization advocate hailing from the Bronx, New York City. of poverty. Her work has been recognized by

A celebrated singer and songwriter, Keris is the voice behind "I Believe," a movement anthem ership role. Keris introduced structural reforms featuring Harry Belafonte, fellow activists, and her mentor Carmen Perez-Jordan. The song reflects her lifelong dedication to justice, rooted in her heritage as the granddaughter of Jim Crow survivors and civil rights activists.

advancing historic housing legislation in the Keris has received four New York State proclamations, is a Women of Excellence honoree recognized by Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network and has been nominated for exhibition in SoHo, blending creative expression songwriting awards. Through every medium she touches—be it policy, music, or art—Keris Lové remains devoted to carrying the legacy of libera-





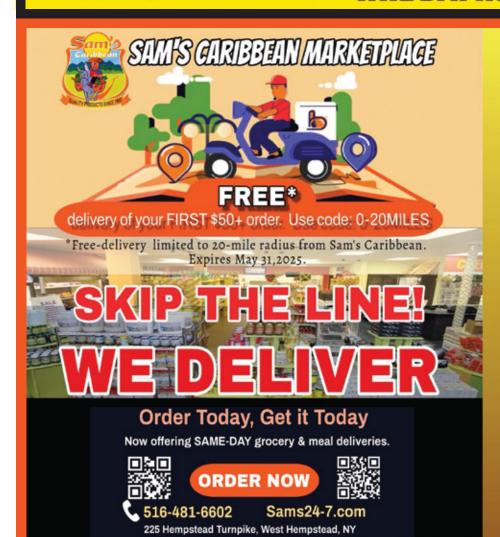
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#### Jamaican Prime Minister Returns to **Power Amid Reduction in Violent Crime**

By Jose Amalendu Misra, Professor of International Politics, Lancaster University (Originally published for TheConversation.com)



Jamaicans voted Andrew Holness, the leader of the centre-right Jamaica Labour party (JLP), into power for a third consecutive term on September 3. Holness beat Mark Golding of the People's National party (PNP) in a tight election, with the JLP winning 34 seats and the gangs known as "posses". These groups have in the PNP 29.

feat in a participatory democracy. There are several factors that have contributed to Holness's enduring appeal before the voters.

Jamaica's economy has improved since Holness first took office in 2016. Public debt fell from more than the World Bank expects the economy to grow by 1.7% in 2025.

At the same time. Holness has sought to upgrade and improve public access to beaches across Jamaica. Most of the country's beaches are gated and held in the hands of hoteliers, expats and private companies.

The Holness government introduced an initiative in 2024 to create new "beach parks" for ordinary Jamaicans. It also strengthened regulations to prevent private developments from blocking public access to beaches.

But what is likely to have contributed most to Holness's Responsive governance



Mark Brown / EPA

been reeling under gang violence for the past 25 years. down is widely attributed as having brought down rates As recently as 2023, Jamaica had the second-highest of violence across Jamaica. rate of homicide in the Caribbean region - behind only

murder rate since then. There was an 18.7% decline in His critics often cite human rights violations associated homicides in Jamaica from 2023 to 2024, while the island registered an even greater drop of 43% between the capital Kingston and 14 other parishes in 2022. The 2024 and 2025

Like in nearby gang-infested Haiti, criminality and violence has long thrived in Jamaica owing to political Holness justified the move by saying gang violence patronage. Most homicides there are carried out by had forced Jamaicans "to hide under their beds, hide past been linked to major Jamaican political parties.

A head of state winning a third straight term is a rare The JLP and PNP both fostered the development of posses in inner-cities and deprived areas by providing them with weapons and a free hand to run protection rackets in exchange for political support. Jamaican politicians have on occasion also allegedly paid gangsters to carry out crimes for political gain.

140% of GDP in 2013 to 73.4% by 2024, while In the 2010s, an article in the Irish Independent accused Bruce Golding, the then-Jamaican JLP prime minister, of openly using the powerful "Shower Posse" gang to intimidate opposition voters in elections three years earlier. Shower Posse was led by Christopher "Dudus" Coke, a convicted drug kingpin who is now jailed in the US.

> Golding "categorically denied" the claims at the time, and called them part of a conspiracy to undermine his criminality and spiralling violence.

Holness's success in fighting crime rests on three pillars: fighting urban poverty, clamping down on the drugs trade and putting tight restrictions on the importation of firearms.

One of his main focuses has been enhancing social programmes to reduce the allure of gang membership. His government has put in place a social pension, while also raising the minimum wage. These policies contributed to the national poverty rate falling to 8.2% in 2023 - its lowest level since measurements began in 1989.

the police and military more power to combat criminali-finishing line.

ty and was followed by the launch of an anti-gang task force in 2022. The task force oversaw direct combat with national and transnational gangs operating within Jamaica.

That same year, Holness launched his "Get Every Illegal Gun" campaign. This initiative was accompanied by severe penalties for those found in possession of victory are his crime-busting policies. Jamaica has illegal weapons. The countrywide illegal firearms crack-

However, while Holness's zero tolerance stance towards criminality has successfully tackled crime Holness has overseen a steady decline in the country's rates, there are some concerns about his approach. with the introduction of a state of emergency in parts of measure enabled the authorities to arrest people and search buildings without a warrant.

> their daughters, can't go to church, and they see their sons and their boyfriends and husbands killed. That's the reality".



government. However, regardless of the accuracy of The election of Holness for a third time is by no means these specific allegations, collusion between criminals a guarantee that Jamaica will complete its transition and political elites turned Jamaica into a hotbed of from rampant violence to peace. His populist economic promises, such as lowering income tax rate from 25% to 15% earned him much-needed votes. But it is unlikely that such promises can be sustained in the long run.

> Jamaican society has also not been completely freed from the ravages of its violent past. Parts of the country, such as Tivoli Gardens, Grants Pen and Trench Town in Kingston, Rose Heights, Flankers and Norwood in the city of Montego Bay, and the most of Spanish Town (colloquially known as the valley of death), still reel from vendetta violence.

It is these lingering fears that may have motivated a voter turnout of just 39.5% in the recent election - a turnout far lower than when Jamaicans last went to the Holness also amended Jamaica's 2014 Gang Suppres-polls in 2020. Holness's vision of "a stronger, safer, sion Act in 2021, a year into his second term. This gave more prosperous Jamaica" is still a long way from the

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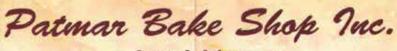


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