

# Caribbean American Weekly

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## Exploiting Violence in the Black Community

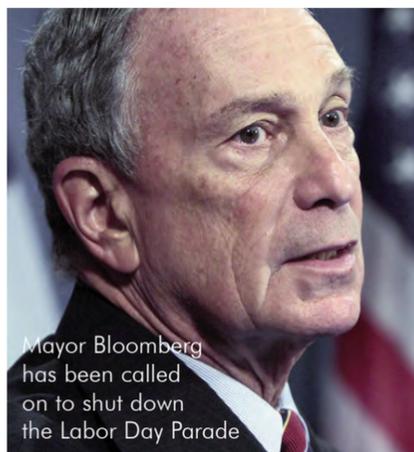
BY COLIN A. MOORE, SENIOR EDITOR

*“Oh what a tangled web we weave,  
When first we practice to deceive”*  
—Sir Walter Scott in “Marmion”

The main theme usually coming out of the Labor Day Weekend, is the conversation about “bacchanal pon de parkway.” This year, however, the main headline coming from the tabloid media is about “gunfire pon de parkway.” On Tuesday morning after the Labor Day Weekend, the tabloid media came out with its melodramatic and inflammatory headlines — “Two Cops Shot in Weekend Violence.” “Gun Violence Mars Labor Day

Parade,” “West Indian Day Parade Marred by Violence.” “Mayhem! 47 Shot in Holiday Weekend of Violence.” “The Number of Shot People Had Risen to 43, after Violence Started at the Annual West Indian Parade in Brooklyn.” “2 Cops among 67 Shot in Weekend Violence; Teen and 56-year-old Bystander Killed.” “The Latest Shooting Left Police Officer Wounded and a Civilian Dead just a Few Blocks off the Route Where Revelers Had Earlier Filled the Streets in Colorful Costumes.”

These headlines have been created and disseminated by the tabloid media, both during and after, the Labor Day Weekend. The chief protagonists in this journalistic drama have been the *Daily News* and the



Mayor Bloomberg has been called on to shut down the Labor Day Parade

*New York Post* who have been shouting frantically about “violence in the black community.” As usual, they have used these sensational headlines as a weapon

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## Obama’s Jobs Plan Heartens Frustrated Blacks

BY ERRIN HAINES

President Barack Obama’s jobs pitch is already playing well with blacks, who had grown plenty irked with him over what they perceived as his indifference to their needs.

A day after Obama laid out before Congress his plan to kick-start job growth, many blacks hoped it would translate into reduced misery for them over the coming months. While the country’s unemployment rate stands at 9.1 percent, black

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**President Obama’s Very Legal Move on Immigration ...see page 11**

## It’s a State of Excuse

BY DR. GLENVILLE ASHBY

New York — In a T&T Guardian exclusive, general secretary of the People’s National Movement (PNM) Ashton Ford, blasted the ruling People’s Partnership for its handling of the recent crime wave on the Caribbean island. In New York at the invitation of PNM International, Ford called the imposition of a state of emergency unconstitutional and challenged the government to review its policies. Accompanied by deputy leader Joan Yuille-Williams, he derided the emergency measure, referring to it as a “state of excuse.” He said: “It is becoming clearer that the Government had no justification in taking such an action. The Constitution allows for this



PM Kamla

drastic measure only when the country is threatened as it was in 1970 and 1990.” Ford, who assumed the position as general secretary last March, questioned why the crime problem could not have been

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## It's a State of Excuse

effectively addressed with existing laws. "What is now being heard is that the emergency was implemented because of a possible outbreak of gang warfare between Colombian and Trinidad gangs over a seized shipment of cocaine. "If that's the case, law enforcement should know who these gang members are and take action." When asked about popular support for the curfew and emergency measures, he conceded that many would welcome any action that would relieve an untenable situation. However, he outlined existing laws, such as the anti-gang law that could have been employed without violating the Constitution. "This law has sufficient teeth to clean up this mess," he added.

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He touted the anti-kidnapping law that was fully employed by his party with remarkable results. He said: "People forget that when we left office, kidnapping was practically non-existent, down from 100 a year to under five. We accomplished this by using the laws on the books." Ford viewed the strategic location of Trinidad as the main reason for the burgeoning drug trade and questioned why areas such as Icacos, Moruga, Cedros and Toco were not designated "hot spots." He said: "We, like other islands, are a transit point for illegal activity. That is why when we were in office we spent money on patrol vessels." Strangely, the government discontinued the program, only to place an ad recently for information in order

to purchase these very boats.

"There is no logic or explanation for these policies. They are unsustainable. In fact, the damage to our image worldwide is done by the emergency." Everyone is suffering — from the small worker to the country — in terms of investment. We have lost on every level, he added. Ford also raised the issue of civil liberties, stating that hundreds were arbitrarily arrested, even inhumanely treated. He said: "Innocent people are being caught up in this dragnet." "People are being thrown into the back of vans and handcuffed. Mothers don't have information on the whereabouts of their children." "Civil rights are being violated here but we have a team of lawyers who are working to ensure that everyone will be treated equitably." ●

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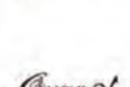
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# Important Tips for Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen is not easy, but it is possible if you do your homework and carefully follow the rules. In the past 10 years, more than 500,000 people became naturalized citizens of the United States, obtaining numerous rights, benefits and privileges, including the opportunity to vote in U.S. local, state and federal elections.

If you are here legally and would like to become a U.S. citizen, it's important to know that the process can take years. If you are living in the United States illegally (often referred to as being an "illegal alien"), the path to citizenship is much, much more difficult.

In both cases, seeking legal help from an experienced attorney who specializes in immigration law is critical because of numerous changes being proposed to immigration laws in statehouses across the country.

## Here are some tips on how to become a naturalized U.S. citizen:

**Paths to citizenship.** A person can become a U.S. citizen at birth or after birth, by applying for "acquired" citizenship through parents or naturalization. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, naturalization is the process by which a foreign citizen is

granted U.S. citizenship after fulfilling certain requirements set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**Meet basic requirements.** According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the basic requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen through naturalization include being at least 18 years old; being a permanent resident for five years (or less in some situations); being a person of good moral character (i.e., no legal trouble); having a basic knowledge of U.S. history and government; and being able to read, write and speak basic English (with several exceptions to this last rule).

**Here legally; want to stay.** If you are from another country and are living in the U.S. legally, first and foremost, you must obtain and maintain your green card (also known as a permanent resident card), which allows you to live permanently in the United States, to work in the United States and travel abroad for a certain period of time. As a green card holder, the opportunity to apply for U.S. citizenship will be granted after you have established a permanent residence for at least five years (three years if you're married to a U.S. citizen).

**What happens to your old citizenship?** You do not lose your citizenship in your native country when you become a

U.S. citizen. A person who becomes a U.S. citizen through naturalization may keep his or her original citizenship. It is important to consider the decision to apply for U.S. citizenship carefully. While dual citizenship does have some advantages, it can also raise difficult issues since you will have legal rights and obligations in two countries.

**If you're here illegally.** If you entered the United States without proper documentation, or did not enter through a valid U.S. Customs checkpoint, you are living in the United States illegally, making it next to impossible to be eligible for citizenship. The key is to return to your country of citizenship and start the process to becoming a U.S. citizen there. If you have been illegally in the U.S. for more than 180 days, and you leave to pursue legal status and try to re-enter, you may be barred from returning for three years. If you have been in the U.S. illegally for over one year and then leave, you may not be able to return for 10 years. There are a few very narrow exceptions to the general rule that you must return to your home country and start the process there, and this is where you should get the help of an experienced immigration attorney.

**Get legal help.** If you're an immigrant in the United States, and are in search of



legal help, contact an organization such as The Immigrant's Journal Legal & Educational Fund, Inc, a non-profit organization that can assist immigrants with the following legal issues: deportation/removal defense, family-based petitions, naturalization applications, change of status, VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) self-petitions, appeals, employment/workplace issues and youth representation.

**Avoid scams.** Each year, the U.S. Department of State conducts a lottery to make diversity visas (DVs) available to 50,000 immigrants who have legally entered the United States. Through the Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery program, immigrants from under-represented countries have the opportunity to obtain a green card and establish permanent residence. Unfortunately, online scammers often target people who apply for this program through fraudulent websites and emails, so beware. ● (ARA)

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# An Open Letter to Governor Cuomo

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses, yearning  
to breathe free  
The wretched refuse of  
your teeming shore.  
Send these, the tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door"*  
-Emma Lazarus

Dear Governor Cuomo:

In your speech at the West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) Labor Day breakfast on Eastern Parkway, you wryly observed that there were no pilgrims with the name of Cuomo on the Mayflower, or at Plymouth Rock. However, the Cuomo family was part of the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," who accepted the invitation of Emma Lazarus and entered the "golden door" at Ellis Island. I was impressed by the fact that you chose not to identify with the nativist sentiment that is so popular among governors in the United States today, but that you chose to embrace your immigrant heritage. Your embrace of your immigrant heritage is part of a well-settled Cuomo tradition of identification with the immigrant experience that was first established by your illustrious father Mario Cuomo. In fact, whenever the Caribbean leaders met with Governor Mario Cuomo in the 1960's, the elder Cuomo would always remind us that his grandfather was an Italian immigrant who landed at Ellis Island, in the 19th Century, and could not speak a word of English. Governor Mario Cuomo was committed to immigration reform. He not only "talked the talk," but he also "walked the walk." He supported the Simpson-Mazzoli bill in 1986, which granted permanent legal status for over two million undocumented immigrants. He also provided the Caribbean leadership with funding to establish a Caribbean Cultural Center in Brooklyn.

In your brief tenure as governor, you have shown an inclination to continue the Cuomo tradition of immigration reform. In June of this year, you announced a decision to rescind the New York State agreement to participate in the Secure Communities Immigration Enforcement Program. Under this program, immigrants arrested by the New York City or New York State police would have their fingerprints sent to the FBI, which would screen them for any fugitive warrants or criminal records. The FBI, in turn, would share the prints with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to scrutinize them for any immigration violations. Under this program, thousands of immigrants who might have had immigration detainers, but no criminal records, were placed in removal proceeding and deported from the United States. Under pressure from Representatives Jose Serrano, Nydia Velazquez, and immigration advocacy groups, you took the unpre-



cedented step of rescinding the memorandum of understanding with the DHS. New York became the second state in the nation to implement this initiative. Your initiative may also have persuaded other states such as Massachusetts, to do the same. It may also have persuaded President Obama to implement an executive order, suspending the deportation of non-criminal immigrants.

I would give you a grade of B+ for your initiative on immigration reform. Well done Governor Cuomo, so far, but there is much more to be done. I would like to see you implement Governor David Patterson's policy of using the executive power in Albany, to grant full pardons to immigrants who face deportation proceedings, who have been convicted of non-violent criminal offenses, but who have demonstrated significant evidence of rehabilitation. I would also like you to replicate the New Mexico model of granting motor vehicle licenses to undocumented immigrants. This would not only provide undocumented immigrants with the ability to operate motor vehicles legally and to obtain insurance coverage in the event of accidents, but it would also provide them with the necessary identification to open bank accounts, and to transact business. I would also like you to support the concept of granting voting rights to legal permanent residents throughout New York State. Voting rights were traditionally granted to legal permanent residents during the 18th and 19th centuries, and it was only curtailed when the complexion of the immigrants changed. I would also like to see you bring to fruition your father's policy of providing funding to establish a Caribbean Cultural Center in Brooklyn. Finally, Governor Cuomo, I would like you to establish a State Commission on Immigrant Affairs in Albany to deal exclusively with the many problems facing the immigrant community in New York State. Comprehensive Immigration reform has stalled in Washington because of partisan bickering. You don't have that problem in Albany. We can achieve significant immigration reform in the state of Emma Lazarus. ●

*Yours sincerely,  
Colin A. Moore  
Senior Editor*

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## Rihanna to Strip for Emporio Armani

The luxe label decided to head down the social media route to launch the ads with the superstar, who replaced Megan Fox as its headliner. Shot in moody monochrome by Steven Klein, the blonde, wigged-up singer stands, legs akimbo, against a backdrop of an old-school car.

Rather surprisingly, the star dons a rather sober outfit of jeans (natch) and jumper. Admittedly, the denim is of the spray-on, hug-your-tush variety, and the cropped jumper does reveal an expanse of toned tum, but, given Ri-Ri's propensity to flash the flesh, the lack on show is kind of refreshing.

Maybe she's saving the sauce for Emporio Armani Underwear, of which she is also the face. Tantalisingly, Armani's Facebook page promises "more to come..." •



## Former Miss Jamaica Calls for Unconditional Love

A number of organizations have partnered to launch an advertising campaign urging Jamaicans to love and accept their gay relatives.

The campaign dubbed "Unconditional Love" was launched on August 1 and features former Miss Jamaica World and Miss Jamaica Universe Christine Straw, and her brother Matthew Straw.

In the ad, Christine declares her unending love for Matthew, who is gay, while calling for Jamaicans to love their family members and friends who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

UNAIDS Representative in Jamaica, Dr. Pierre Somse, insists Jamaica must keep pace with the rest of the world and get rid of anything that might retard the gains made in reducing the spread of HIV over the years.

According to him, homophobia is a major stumbling block to effective HIV



interventions.

Dr. Somse said the entire population is at risk if it does not guarantee the human rights of homosexuals. •

## Caribbean-American Artists Nominated for BET Hip Hop Awards

BET announces the 2011 nominees for the sixth annual BET Hip Hop Awards.

Amongst the nominees are Jamaican American Rapper Busta Rhymes along with Barbados' Rihanna and Trinidad & Tobago's Nicki Minaj.

Rhymes is up for Best Hip Hop Video Collaboration with Chris Brown and Lil Wayne. Rihanna is also nominated in this category twice — for Love The Way You



Lie with Eminem and All of The Lights with Kanye West.

Rhymes is also nominated for Best Live Performer, and Nicki Minaj is nominated for Lyricist of the Year, MVP of the Year, CD of the Year, and Hustler of the Year with Lil Wayne.

Rapper Lil Wayne leads the pack of contenders with a

record-breaking 18 nominations, followed by Kanye West and Wiz Khalifa tied with 9 nods each and Rick Ross with 8 nods.

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## Miss Universe's Secrets to Hiding Veins, Cellulite, and Marks



You don't have to be in a bikini or on a catwalk to want to hide birthmarks, spider veins, scars, brown spots, and other skin and body flaws. But when it comes to learning how to do it, we went straight to the official makeup artist for the 2009 Miss Universe contest, Darac, of Darac Beauty, who did the makeup for the faces and bodies of all 51 contestants.

First, know your enemy. *"All skin issues are unique, so choose your products carefully,"* says Darac. *"You can't use the same concealer over every skin flaw. It just doesn't work."* The most important product, he says, is the first one you apply to your skin, the one that will neutralize your skin condition. Some basics in choosing a color:

- If you're covering red veins, you need a green-tinted concealer.
- If you're covering blue veins, you need an ochre-tinted concealer.
- If you're hiding freckles, you need a neutralizer that will either bring down the color of your freckles to match your base skin zone or bring up your base skin tone to match the shade of your freckles.

Learn about the skin flaw you are covering, and read the labels of products in the color-correction section of your local store. By reading package labels about tinted neutralizers, you'll learn a lot about which shades neutralize which skin flaws.

Cover spider veins on legs, brown spots on chest, and red splotches on legs or back. This technique works on almost all other skin imperfections:

1. Lightly dab on tinted concealer using the shade that will neutralize your skin issue.
2. Softly and gingerly apply translucent powder to help hold the concealer in place.
3. Using a dabbing technique, apply another concealer, but this time you'll

want one that matches your skin tone or is slightly lighter. Don't worry about covering every speck of skin; it looks more natural when makeup has a multi-toned effect (as long as the differentiation in color is subtle!).

4. Spray on a makeup fixative to help keep the makeup in place.

Sculpt your arms with self-tanner. To minimize heavy arms and diminish the appearance of wiggly arms, Darac recommends applying self-tanner underneath the arms between elbow and shoulder. Let that dry. Then apply another layer all over the arms. The darker shade inside the arms is slimming.

Sharpen your jawline with self-tanner. Similarly, he says, you can sharpen your jawline and diminish a double chin by applying a light shade of self-tanner down the front of your neck — from the back of your jawbone to your throat — in the shape of a V. After that dries, put self-tanner all over your face and neck.

Diminish the look of cellulite with self-tanner. Apply light or medium self-tanner all over your legs and buttocks, and let that dry. Next, pour self-tanning lotion onto a dry, porous sea sponge and gently dab the sponge onto the cellulite area, evenly and gently. Let that dry. The differentiation in color, says Darac, *"gives you an interplay of light and shadow that makes your skin look slimmer and smoother."*

Make earring holes disappear. *"People often forget about their ears,"* says Darac. *"Some women have really bad earring holes that distract you from their face when they don't wear earrings."* To "fill" the holes, Darac uses Stick 'Em candle adhesive. *"Take a teeny bit of wax and soften in your fingers,"* he says. *"Put it in the hole and apply concealer and powder over it."* ●

## HOROSCOPE

**Madame Greene**  
By Astrology House  
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**Aries:** Time to give your home environment a facelift. Time to take a trip and relax, or plan a romantic date outdoors with a new or existing love. You may not feel a physical attraction now but enjoy the companionship. Communication with family matters.

**Taurus:** This is a busy time for you. Take some time out for family. A weekend getaway will help you relax. Any issues can be solved with ease. Be open to receive gifts from others; you are supported.

**Gemini:** Turn your joy into your career. Don't fear change; trust your instincts; it's your time to get rich. This is time to give attention to what's important to you. It's the little things in life that matter.

**Cancer:** Time to have fun and forgive old friends and family members. Your health is important so eat well. Be sure not to overwork. Watch your finances; this is not the time to spend money. Don't give into an old love that has not changed.

**Leo:** You are able to bring resolution to some unresolved issues with people from the past. It is important to express how you feel. If you cannot do it verbally, write it down; either way, get out what you've been holding inside. Make some enhancements to your appearance; it will make you feel better.

**Virgo:** Take advantage of your creative energy right now; what you do now will pay off later. This is not the time to be busy at work but it's time to focus on new matters on the rise. Stay away from the courthouse this week; reschedule important issues involving the law.

**Libra:** You are charming to the public right now, your co-workers may be amazed at your new attitude that can lead to offers that you can't refuse. You will enjoy taking up some classes to explore anything that is new. Time to apply for a new position if you are looking for new employment; or this is also a great time to get promoted if you enjoy what you are doing at work.

**Scorpio:** One-on-one relationships improve during this time. Time to make money; people are listening to your big ideas. Your romantic partner is giving you much attention. If you are single someone may want to connect with you on a personal or professional level. A small trip is needed to relax from hard work you put in lately. You could be popular now; enjoy it all.

**Sagittarius:** Your pocketbook is about to increase. Past work pays off. You are enjoying personal relationships on a serious level. You may receive an inheritance or receive other people's money with ease so be responsible. Take a business vacation this year and watch out for little details.

**Capricorn:** Time to get up and out to make your dreams come true. Do some volunteer work to increase your opportunities to feel better about life, if you are feeling down about something. Try not to work so hard. Worrying won't get you anywhere. Focus on an intimate partner; this is needed to help you make decisions.

**Aquarius:** Although it's good to work hard sometimes, all work and no joy serves you nothing. Time to organize your time so your co-workers and partners can help you get things done. Don't take on too much if not necessary.

**Pisces:** Time to get promoted for work activities. Get out and network; be spontaneous. Don't blame the children for keeping you from a wonderful love life. Plan time with the family but make time for love. ●

# Newlyweds: Learning to Cook for Two

**S**o you've just tied the knot, or will soon wed, and you realize that mealtime (among other things) is about to change. If you have any jitters about cooking for two, rest assured that setting up a kitchen and cooking delicious meals — no matter what your budget or time constraints — are well within reach.

### Essential Kitchen Tools

If you're lucky, you received most of what you need to set up a kitchen as wedding or shower gifts. Here's a rundown of the very basics. You can add to your supplies down the road, once you see what kind of cooking you most enjoy (a wok if you rely on stir fry, and a crepe pan if you fancy crepes for Sunday breakfast, for example).

For now, you can tackle just about any recipe if you have:

- ✓ A couple of basic pots (one large enough to make pasta and a medium-size one for sauces and steaming veggies)
- ✓ A skillet
- ✓ A casserole dish
- ✓ Measuring cups and spoons
- ✓ One large and one small mixing bowl
- ✓ Wooden spoons, a good can opener, a slotted spoon, a ladle, rubber spatulas and a metal spatula
- ✓ A cutting board and a good chef's knife, a paring knife, a vegetable peeler and a grater
- ✓ Baking pans: one 9-by-13-inch, two round cake pans, a pie pan, a couple of cookie sheets, a pizza pan and a loaf pan
- ✓ Storage containers and recycling bins

### The Spice Rack

It needn't be a rack, of course, but a solid collection of spices will be necessary for cooking from recipes and can help you transform ordinary fare into very special — even signature — dishes. Stock a handful of basics, then build your selection. Store them away from heat and light (not over your stove).

A good start would be: basil, bay leaves, cayenne, chives, cinnamon, cumin, garlic powder, marjoram, oregano, paprika, parsley, pepper, rosemary, sage, tarragon, thyme, turmeric and, of course, salt and black pepper.

If you have an ongoing gift registry, you might add Simply Organic's Spice Rack with Spices. It provides 16 basic spices, including Daily Grind Black Peppercorns and Grind to a Salt blend.

For convenience (and reliability), stock plenty of ready-to-use spice blends, too, such as all-purpose seasoning, chili powder, curry powder, Italian seasoning, Mexican seasoning, and pumpkin pie spice.

### Take Shortcuts

Speaking of mixes and blends, if you haven't noticed, they're not just for dessert anymore. You'll find convenient, healthful mixes and blends for everything from sauces and dips to main dishes, side dishes and, yes, desserts. If you don't have the time and inclination to spend hours in the kitchen mastering recipes, it's mixes and blends to the rescue. Even if you enjoy spending time in the kitchen, mixes are great when you need a dish done faster. ● (ARA)

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# So Jazzy! So Brooklyn! SoCo!

That's the best way to describe Clinton Hill's original Southern Fused cuisine restaurant. SoCo is making its mark on the Brooklyn dining scene with sensational "Southern Comfort" from the food to the ambience and aura. SoCo's Executive Chef Kingsley John (Charlie Trotter's, Chicago; Oya, Washington DC; Aquavit, NYC) has created a menu that encompasses Cajun/Creole, barbecue and soul food, ready to be paired with Mixologist, or Humble Barkeep George Duval's innovative bar program. SoCo is certain to be a game changer in the Brooklyn dining scene, bringing a new level of cuisine to the up-and-coming Myrtle Avenue neighborhood.

SoCo's menu, while staying true to the flavors of southern food, breaks all misconceptions about the genre.

Unique appetizers include BBQ Shrimp Gumbo with Andouille sausage, seasonal vegetables and spicy seafood broth (\$9); SoCo Baby Back Ribs with Asian BBQ Sauce (\$11); and Nola's Steamed Mussels with Habanero cream (\$9). For the main course, John offers delicious Buttermilk Fried Chicken with red velvet waffle (\$16); Lobster, Shrimp and Grits with spicy tomato broth and country creamy white cheddar grits (\$22); and Blackened Salmon with roasted plantain and smoked asparagus (\$18). Savory Sides include Mac and Cheese (\$7) and Smoked Corn on the

Cob (\$4). For dessert, guests can choose between sweets, such as Chocolate Cherry Bread Pudding with hot caramel sauce (\$7), and Warm Sweet Potato Pie with homemade vanilla bean ice cream (\$7).

Duval's exciting bar program takes a modern approach to classic cocktails, and includes an outstanding Absinthe program using flavored sugar cubes and water substitutes, such as Aloe Vera and Coconut Water. His Specialty Cocktails include Basil Bourbon Julep (\$10); Apple Cider Mimosa (\$10); and SoCo Caramel Martini (\$10) with vanilla infused vodka, Bailey's caramel and toasted marshmallow. So good! SoCo also has a select wine program (\$8-14/glass; \$28-54/bottle) and boasts an extensive beer list (\$4 tap \$5 bottle) featuring over twenty brews from different American micro-breweries, as well as Boylan's Cane Soda on tap.

SoCo is equally a cocktail bar as a restaurant with outdoor seating, as well as a live music venue. Upon entering, guests are met with a twenty foot bar anchored by structural beams used to support the six-floor story building. The space has a modern rustic look, consisting of casual wood dining tables, dark gray banquetts, a caged liquor bottle display, Edison light bulbs, and a large frosted glass window illuminating images from the kitchen. In the back, an elevated banquet doubles as a performance stage for bands, playing



everything from Jazz to R&B to classics, and upfront, a heightened DJ booth entertains SoCo's guests. The designer Andres Aladin describes

SoCo as "the Brooklyn Bridge turned into a restaurant." He aimed to play off of the design cues of the space and the industrial history of the neighborhood, sourcing a lot of local materials, such as hard steel. Aladin used these elements to balance between the warm walnut walls and charming exposed brick, giving the place an intimate, yet sexy feel.

SoCo is open every day for dinner, and lunch Friday through Sunday. and is located at 509 Myrtle Avenue, between Grand Avenue and Ryerson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11205. For reservations, call 718.783.1963; or for more information, log on to [www.socobk.com](http://www.socobk.com).

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# President Obama's Very Legal Move on Immigration

BY MARY GIOVAGNOLI

DHS's recent announcement on enforcement priorities suggests that the agency, along with the Department of Justice, is serious about trying to target those persons who pose a threat to public safety. Unfortunately, there has been little official communication from either agency about the initiatives underway to review current immigration court cases or to issue broader guidance within DHS on prosecutorial discretion, both follow ups to guidelines issued in a June memo from ICE Director John Morton. To fill the void, immigration advocacy groups have attempted to explain what these initiatives are not: NOT an amnesty, NOT a blanket deferral of removal program for all DREAMERS or anyone else, and NOT an abandonment of the deportation laws. But because there has been little official guidance, Administration opponents and immigration restrictionists are doing their best to reshape the policy into all of these things and more.

In a recent Washington Post editorial, "Obama's Illegal Move on Immigration," two former government officials argue that while the Executive Branch has broad authority to exercise discretion and set priorities, President Obama has overstepped

his authority by prioritizing enforcement resources on undocumented immigrants who have criminal records:

This goes far beyond merely prioritizing the use of limited immigration enforcement resources. And it exceeds the president's constitutional authority by, in effect, suspending operation of the immigration laws with respect to a very large and identifiable class of offenders.

These claims might be worrisome if they were even remotely accurate. At best, the administration has offered a temporary reprieve to persons who are in the lowest priority categories. No laws are being suspended. No case currently on the books is being erased. If the administration follows through on its announcement, the impact will be that some individuals who pose no threat to society will not face imminent deportation.

Furthermore, the administration has explicitly rejected any kind of categorical approach to ending removals. Thus, while we can hope that DHS and DOJ will act judiciously and reduce backlogs by temporarily moving some people out of the deportation process, it is hardly the case that the Obama administration is acting in defiance of the Constitution.

In the same Washington Post editorial, the authors conjure up images of an imperial presidency through references to King

James II's attempt to suspend the laws of England — imagery which seems like overkill when talking about immigration policy. They seem to recognize that they may be overreaching, concluding by hedging their bets:

Obama has not declared his intent to dispense with immigration law, and the point at which permissible executive enforcement discretion becomes suspension of statutory requirements often is one of degree. In this case, however, there is little question that the line has been crossed. The president is entitled to establish enforcement priorities, but the ultimate goal must always be implementation of the law as enacted by Congress. If the president disagrees with that law, he must persuade Congress to change it.

The relevant argument here appears to be that "the ultimate goal must always be implementation of the law as enacted by Congress." With close to 400,000 deportations annually under President Obama, a stubborn commitment to enforcement programs like Secure Communities, and



Photo by whitehouse.gov

repeated efforts to push Congress to work with him on immigration reform, it is extremely difficult to understand exactly what the authors are incensed about.

The Obama administration has repeatedly made it clear that it intends to enforce the laws Congress enacted. This issue is squarely about prosecutorial discretion and executive authority, concepts even the authors of the editorial heartily endorse. Given the lack of analysis of the actual announcement or the guidelines, this editorial reads more like a boilerplate complaint about Obama's politics than an actual analysis of the policy underlying the new immigration guidelines. ●

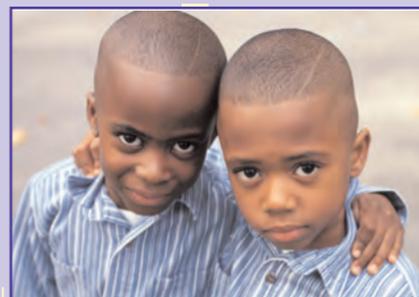
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## Obama's Jobs Plan Heartens Frustrated Blacks

*continued from page 1*

unemployment has hit 16.7 percent, the highest since 1984. Unemployment among male blacks is at 18 percent, and black teens are unemployed at a rate of 46.5 percent.

The early signs of their reaction were positive.

Social media sites were abuzz with highlights from the president's plan. Amid the comments were excited responses to the proposal, especially from the black community. Twitter was full of similar bursts of excitement over the plan, with some black Tweeters defending the president and applauding his message. One user tweeted: "Taking a sharp tone 'cause the Numbers Don't Lie! Pass this bill and put America back to work."

Prominent African-Americans like Kenneth Chenault, chairman and CEO of American Express, and Michael Nutter, mayor of Philadelphia, quickly applauded

the plan. Rep. Maxine Waters, (D-Calif.), has been one of the most vocal advocates for dealing more effectively with black unemployment, but she was enthusiastic. For the president, it was a welcome change in tone after a steady drumbeat of criticism from members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who held their own job fairs and town hall meetings while protesting that Obama's jobs tour across America last month bypassed black communities.

The caucus's urban blitz cleared a path for the country's first black president to act, Waters said.

"I can see that our handprint is all over it," Waters said of Obama's plan. "We upped the ante a little bit by pushing, being a bit more vocal. This was not done in a way to threaten the president but to make it easier for him. We think we helped him to be able to formulate a response."

The jobs plan was praised by Ralph Everett, president and chief executive of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonpartisan black think tank.

Although the president did not specifically mention high unemployment among blacks, black people "are sophisticated enough to understand" how their communities will benefit, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk said Friday.

"Obviously there is a debate raging, saying that we should come out and say this expressly for the black and Latino community," Kirk said. "But this president got elected spectacularly on his premise that we are not a black America, a brown America, a white America. We are one America."

The White House moved quickly to capitalize politically on the goodwill, emailing an extraordinary blast of support-

ive statements from elected officials, union leaders and interest groups within minutes after Obama spoke Thursday night.

On Friday, while the president pushed his American Jobs Act in Richmond, Va., his aides promoted targeted relief to Hispanics, teachers, police officers, construction workers, small businesses and others.

Administration officials said the plan would extend unemployment benefits and provide support for 1.4 million blacks who have been unemployed six months or longer. It also would provide summer and subsidized jobs for youth, help boost the paychecks of 20 million black workers through an extension and expansion of the payroll tax, and benefit, in some way, more than 100,000 black-owned small businesses.

"With over 16 percent of African-Americans out of work and over 1 million African-Americans out of work over six months, I think the president believes this is a serious problem and the onus is on us to do everything we can to tackle this," Danielle Gray, deputy director of the National Economic Council, told reporters.

White House adviser Valerie Jarrett promoted Obama's plan on Steve Harvey's syndicated morning radio show, saying it would help "every part of our country, but particularly those who are the most vulnerable, who have been struggling the hardest, who have been trying to make ends meet and all they need is a little help from their government."

A factor in the early enthusiasm in Obama's plan with blacks is that most accept that, as the country's first black president, there are limits to what he can do about their specific problems — especially as he heads into the 2012 campaign.

"Do I think he's doing everything he can? Yes, of course," said Tonia Thomas, 44, a divorced Atlanta mother who was unemployed for more than a year before taking a \$30,000 pay cut to work as a hotel clerk. "A lot of what's going on is being used to exclude people of color in general. I don't know what he can do."

The president has to be careful in targeting his efforts, some say.

"The more he talks about race, the more votes he loses," said Randall Kennedy, author of a new book exploring racial politics and the Obama presidency. "Barack Obama had to overcome his blackness to become president ... and he's going to have to overcome it to be re-elected."

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, an Obama supporter who engaged in damage control for the president this week, said black Americans "need to burst this false notion" that the president should put black unemployment on par with overall unemployment.

"If leaders in our community want to push him to lay out a black agenda, I believe that will end up disserving the black community and help elect people who certainly don't have a past history about caring about the interests of the African-American community," Reed said after Obama's speech. "This debate is weakening the president and puts him in a political position where he has to do something to confirm his blackness." ●

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## Exploiting Violence in the Black Community

continued from page 1

and degrade two venerable and respected institutions in the Caribbean-American community — The Labor Day Carnival, and its sponsor, The West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA).

As the Yankee philosopher, Yogi Berra, once said, "It's like déjà vu, all over again." I have vivid memories of how the tabloid media launched a vicious attack against young black kids in Harlem, some 21 years ago, accusing them of having raped the Central Park jogger. The tabloid media used the same strategy, highlighting the same theme of "violence in the black community" to link these innocent young people to a particularly vicious crime in Central Park.

It is clear that the tabloid media was not only commenting on the state of violence in the black community citywide, but they were also seeking to establish a causal nexus between black violence citywide and the Labor Day Parade. This nexus is not only false and prejudicial. It is an accusation that is not supported by the impartial and objective evidence.

Firstly, there were between 48 and 52 incidents of violence citywide, during the Labor Day Weekend. These incidences of violence did not all occur in Central Brooklyn. They occurred in the South Bronx, Upper Manhattan, South Jamaica and Southeast Queens. By lumping them all together, the media created the false impression that all of these acts of violence

occurred on Eastern Parkway along the parade route. Secondly, there was one fatal shooting that occurred in Central Brooklyn. This was the shooting of 56 year old of Denise Gay. This shooting did not occur on the parade route on Eastern Parkway. It took place on Park Place, some five blocks away. Thirdly, it occurred at 9pm on Monday night, some three hours after the parade had concluded, when most of the revelers and police officers had already left the scene. Fourthly, the shooter Leroy Webster was a career criminal, who had absolutely no connection to the West Indian Labor Day parade. He was not a masquerader, he was not a reveler, he was not even a spectator. His only connection to the parade is the fact that he lived in an apartment building, some five blocks away from the parade. The shooting involved a domestic dispute between Mr. Webster and another gentleman, Mr. Eusi Johnson. Ms Denise Gay was an innocent bystander who was shot as she sat on her stoop with her daughter.

It is clear that the secret agenda of the tabloid media in New York City is to shut down the Labor Day parade and eliminate it as a significant cultural event in Brooklyn. A journalist from the *Huffington Post*, a white "expert on the black community" stated inaccurately that "gun violence shocked the festivities to a stop in spots." This journalist made the comment that after the bloodshed, some in New York

City questioned whether the West Indian Day parade should continue. The Daily News published an interview in which Barbara Gay the sister of the decedent Denise Gay, allegedly called on Mayor Bloomberg to "put the kibosh" on the West Indian American Carnival Day Parade. She claimed that, "The parade is out of control. It is too many people, and too many guns."

The proposition that the parade, by attracting thousands of people to low-income neighborhoods, created a climate of violence, it's an argument that is often touted by the journalists in the tabloid media. However, it is a proposition that is not supported by the empirical data. Sociological research conducted in carnival cities such as New Orleans, Port of Spain and Rio de Janeiro, conclusively established that carnival events led to a reduction, not to an increase in crimes of violence in low-income neighborhoods, during the carnival weekend. This is because the carnival events create a climate of euphoria, revelry and jubilation that reduces feelings of anger and hostility among individuals in the community. It also creates an emotional outlet for young people by allowing them to participate in carnival activities such as J'ouvert, Dimanche Gras, steel band panorama and Mardi Gras. In fact, carnival-related activities have provided many talented young

people with lucrative contracts in the performing arts, as calypsonians, soca artistes reggae singers, steel band players and masquerade designers.

There is clearly a double standard in the media reaction to the incidents of violence during the Labor Day Parade. When there are incidents of violence during the Columbus Day Parade and St. Patrick Day Parade, there are no sensational calls by the media to shut down these parades. These acts of violence are usually portrayed by the media as the isolated actions of a few intoxicated individuals. However, when these acts occur at the West Indian Day Parade, the entire organization is blamed, and there are frantic appeals to the mayor to shut down the parade. If we were to be consistent and to demand that every parade be shut down because of the isolated acts of a few dysfunctional people, then there will be no parades in New York City. There will be no Columbus Day Parade, no St. Patrick's Day Parade, no Puerto Rican Day Parade, and no Dominican Day Parade. Let us be consistent and apply the same standard to every parade. Let us either shut down all parades or else place the blame where it should be rightfully placed — on the dysfunctional individuals who continue to commit anti-social acts or on the City, State and Federal authorities who continue to turn a blind eye to the underlying socio-economic conditions that have fostered criminal behavior in the black community. ●



President Barack Obama with community leaders: left, Gerry Hopkins and far right, Brian Figeroux, at an exclusive meeting where the Mighty Sparrow (second left) presented a CD with a song "Barack the Magnificent" written especially for the President.

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## NACC to be Launched in Queens

Do you want to become a successful business owner in 2011 and ensure the financial prosperity of your family for generations to come? If your answer is an emphatic yes, then October 13, 2011 is an important date to remember. That represents the launch of the New American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) in the Borough of Queens.

Established in Brooklyn in October 2005 to advance, promote and facilitate the success of new American businesses, NACC is a membership organization with professionals in many areas working to promote and advance a healthy, vital business environment. Our businesses and individual members are building one of New York City's most valuable collaborative organizations.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy and NACC can help to bring to fruition, the American Dream of entrepreneurship. The launch presents a great opportunity to meet and mingle with elected officials who are genuinely concerned about the problems that plague small businesses that they know are the backbone of the economy. It's also an opportunity to learn about procurement opportunities within city government



agencies and how to navigate its complexities as well as the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) small business financing. Attendees also can take advantage of free small business legal consultations.

The launch will take place at the United Hindu Cultural Center, 118-09 Sutter Avenue, off Lefferts Boulevard in South Ozone Park. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, please call 718-322-3190 or email [info@mynacc.org](mailto:info@mynacc.org). For more information about the Chamber, please visit [www.mynacc.org](http://www.mynacc.org). ●

## Marketing Your Small Business

Let's say you have a great product, and you're ready to fill orders. You might be missing a crucial business aspect: marketing – or telling people why they need your great product in the first place. Marketing takes time, money, and lots of preparation. One of the best ways to prepare yourself is to develop a solid marketing plan. A strong marketing plan will ensure you're not only sticking to your schedule, but that you're spending your marketing funds wisely and appropriately.

A marketing plan includes everything from understanding your target market and your competitive position in that market, to how you intend to reach that market (your tactics) and differentiate yourself from your competition in order to make a sale.

Your small business marketing budget should be a component of your marketing plan. Essentially, it will outline the costs of how you are going to achieve your marketing goals within a certain time frame.

If you don't have the funds to hire a marketing firm or even staff a position in-house, there are resources available to guide you through the process of writing a marketing plan and developing a market budget.

### Bend Your Budget When Necessary and Keep an Eye on ROI

Once you have developed your marketing budget, it doesn't mean that it's set in stone. There may be times when you need to throw in another unplanned marketing tactic — such as hosting an event or creating a newspaper ad — to help you reach your market more effectively.

Ultimately, it's more important to determine whether sticking to your budget is

helping you achieve your marketing goals and bringing you a return on investment (ROI) than to adhere to a rigid and fixed budget.

That's why it's important to include a plan for measuring your spend. Consider what impact certain marketing activities have had on your revenues during a fixed period, such as a business quarter, compared to another time period when you focused your efforts on other tactics. Consider the tactics that worked as well as those that didn't work. You don't have to cut the tactics that didn't work, but you should assess whether you need to give them more time to work or whether the funds are best redirected elsewhere.

Granted, some tactics are hard to measure — such as the efficacy of print collateral (brochures, sales sheets, etc.), but you need to consider the impact of not having these branding staples in your market tool kit before you reign in your graphic design and print funds.

Marketing plans should be maintained on an annual basis, at a minimum. But if you launch a new product or service, take time to revisit your original plan or develop a separate campaign plan that you can add to your main plan as an addendum.

At the end of the day, the time spent developing your marketing plan, is time well spent because it defines how you connect with your customers. And that's an investment worth making. ●

Source: [sba.gov](http://sba.gov)

For a FREE, no obligation, marketing consultation, call 718-771-0988 ext 112.

## SAVE THE DATE

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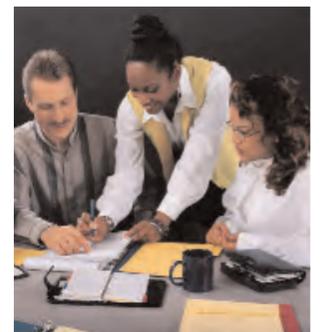
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# Feeling Sluggish? Rules To Maintain Energy Throughout The Day

Whether you're a busy parent, a career go-getter or both, modern life has never been more hectic. Busy days can leave even the most energetic people tired and drained. If you want to live a more healthful, energized life, some simple choices can help you make each day dramatically different.

Kathy Kaehler, author, celebrity trainer and mother of three, has devoted her life to helping people live happy, productive and healthy lives. Working with celebrities like Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and Kim Kardashian, Kaehler knows how simple tricks can help keep you staying fit and energized. She suggests incorporating these three rules into your daily routine to begin feeling better every day:

**Rule 1: Exercise Anytime**

Exercise isn't just for the gym. The day is filled with moments where you can work your muscles and help energize your body. For example, almost everyone's day includes time at the office and time in the car.

At the office: A great way to grab some energy and get through the afternoon lull is to do a simple, yet effective exercise. Using a sturdy, non-rolling desk chair, practice standing up and then sitting

back down. Focusing on your legs and keeping your arms to your side, this easy exercise is fast, effective and great for the lower body. Not only will it elevate your heart rate and increase your breathing, but you are sure to feel its overall energizing effects throughout the day. Complete two sets of 15 repetitions to provide the burn you need to feel good.

In the car: All the minutes wasted stuck in traffic or waiting in the carpool line at school are perfect opportunities to flex some muscle power. While seated, squeeze your glutes (buttock muscles) as hard as you can. This will cause your body to rise and fall a few inches. After a set of eight to 10 reps, repeat the exercise, but this time focus on one side at a time. No matter where your day takes you, always remember to keep some fresh water or 100 percent fruit juice and healthy snacks with you in the car. It will keep you fueled and hydrated and prevent you from loading up on carbs and fat at the nearest fast food restaurant.

**Rule 2: Snack Healthy**

It's important to keep your body fueled, but with the right kinds of foods, so skip the soda and chips. Instead, look for healthy foods that will keep you energized throughout the day. Pretzels, like

Pretzel Crisps are a great low-fat, low-calorie snack packed full of flavor and crunch, leaving you satisfied and ready to move on with your day. The flat-baked pretzel crackers have no trans fats, saturated fat or cholesterol, making it the perfect snack for at work or at home.

You can even add some pizzazz to your Pretzel Crisps and increase the nutritional value by pairing it with some healthy toppings and low-fat dips. Combine your favorite flavor with fresh-sliced cucumbers, rich hummus, zesty salsa, crisp apples or sliced cheese. Don't be afraid to challenge your taste buds and get creative with your pairings. The sky's the limit when it comes to this satisfying, better-for-you snack. For additional pairing ideas and dip recipes, visit the company's website at [www.pretzel-crisps.com](http://www.pretzel-crisps.com) and look for this tasty snack in the deli section of your local grocery store.

**Rule 3: Prioritize Sleep**

Sixty-three percent of Americans say their sleep needs are not being met during the week, according to a 2011 poll by the National Sleep Foundation. For many people, sleep is the first thing to get cut when their day gets too busy.

Getting enough sleep is crucial to losing weight, reducing stress levels and



being more alert. Make time for at least seven hours of sleep each night. Don't delay sleep by watching TV or playing on the computer. Turn everything off an hour before your bedtime. Practice deep breathing, meditation or do some light reading. Skip food and any drinks that contain caffeine. Water is your best bet, but the majority of your liquid intake should be kept to during the day.

These healthy, better-for-you snack ideas and other tips will help you maintain your energy throughout the day, allowing you to feel your best and live each day to the fullest. ●(ARA)

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 ■ MARKETING MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE  
 ■ BRAND BUILDING / ENDORSEMENT & More

Sept 23, 2011  
 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
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