

THE NEW

# MICHIGAN BULLETIN

SERVING FOR NEARLY 3 DECADES



Vol XXVII No. 23

February 1-15, 2022

## BLACK HISTORY SPECIAL EDITION

THE 411

**JANUARY 26-Feb 6, 2022**  
**“Frozen” Cobb Great Hall**  
 For Times and Ticket Information  
 Call 1-800-WHARTON

**FEBRUARY 10, 2022**  
**MSU College of Music Symphony Band, Cobb Great Hall 7:30pm**  
 For Ticket Information Call 517-353-5340

**FEBRUARY 12, 2022**  
**Lansing Symphony Orchestra, “Broadway Rocks” Cobb Great Hall 7:30pm**  
 For Ticket Information Call 517-487-5001

**FEBRUARY 19, 2022**  
**“Body Traffic” Cobb Great Hall 8:00PM**  
 For Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON

**FEBRUARY 20, 2022**  
**“So Percussion” Cobb Great Hall 3:00PM**  
 For Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON

**FEBRUARY 23, 2022**  
**“An Evening with Branford Marsalis” Cobb Great Hall 7:30PM**  
 For Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON

**MARCH 1-6, 2022**  
**“Mean Girls” Cobb Great Hall**  
 For Times and Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON-

### WHAT'S INSIDE

FRONT PAGE:
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
PAGE 2:
POETREE N MOTION
PAGE 3:
PASTOR PJ ANDERSON
MR PARTY'S BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS
PAGE 4:
NEW MUSIC VENUE DOWNTOWN
PAGE 5
FANNIE HAMMER, REELS OF JUSTICE
PAGE 6
SPORTS, CONGRESS TRIBUTE TO LEADERSHIP



In Chicago during the summer of 1915. An alumnus of the University of Chicago with many friends in the city, Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, D.C. to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands of African Americans travelled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery. Awarded a doctorate in Harvard three years earlier, Woodson joined the other exhibitors with a black history display. Despite being held at the Coliseum, the site of the 1912 Republican convention, an overflow crowd of six to twelve thousand waited outside for their turn to view the exhibits. Inspired by the three-week celebration, Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history before leaving town. On September 9th, Woodson met at the Wabash YMCA with A. L. Jackson and three others and formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

He hoped that others would popularize the findings that he and other black intellectuals would publish in *The Journal of Negro History*, which he established in 1916. As early as 1920, Woodson urged black civic organizations to promote the achievements that researchers were uncovering. A graduate member of Omega Psi Phi, he urged his fraternity brothers to take up the work. In 1924, they responded with the creation of Negro History and Literature Week, which they renamed Negro Achievement Week. Their outreach was significant, but Woodson desired greater impact. As he told an audience of Hampton Institute students, “We are going back to that beautiful history, and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements.” In 1925, he decided that the Association had to shoulder the responsibility. Going forward it would both create and popularize knowledge about the black past. He sent out a press release announcing Negro History Week in February 1926. Woodson chose February for reasons of tradition and reform. It is commonly said that Woodson selected February to encompass the birthdays of two great Americans who played a prominent role in shaping black history, namely Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, whose birthdays are the 12th and the 14th, respectively. More importantly, he chose them for reasons of tradition. Since Lincoln’s assassination in 1865, the black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President’s birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass’. Aware of the pre-existing celebrations, Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the black past. He was asking the public to extend their study of black history, not to create a new tradition. In doing so, he increased his chances for success.

Yet Woodson was up to something more than building on tradition. Without saying so, he aimed to reform it from the study of two great men to a great race. Though he admired both

men, Woodson had never been fond of the celebrations held in their honor. He railed against the “ignorant spellbinders” who addressed large, convivial gatherings and displayed their lack of knowledge about the men and their contributions to history. More importantly, Woodson believed that history was made by the people, not simply or primarily by great men. He envisioned the study and celebration of the Negro as a race, not simply as the producers of a great man. And Lincoln, however great, had not freed the slaves—the Union Army, including hundreds of thousands of black soldiers and sailors, had done that. Rather than focusing on two men, the black community, he believed, should focus on the countless black men and women who had contributed to the advance of human civilization.

From the beginning, Woodson was overwhelmed by the response to his call. Negro History Week appeared across the country in schools and before the public. The 1920s was the decade of the New Negro, a name given to the Post-War I generation because of its rising racial pride and consciousness. Urbanization and industrialization had brought over a million African Americans from the rural South into big cities of the nation. The expanding black middle class became participants in and consumers of black literature and culture. Black history clubs sprang up, teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils, and progressive whites stepped and endorsed the efforts.

Woodson and the Association scrambled to meet the demand. They set a theme for the annual celebration, and provided study materials—pictures, lessons for teachers, plays for historical performances, and posters of important dates and people. Provisioned with a steady flow of knowledge, high schools in progressive communities formed Negro History Clubs. To serve the desire of history buffs to participate in the re-education of black folks and the nation, ASNLH formed branches that stretched from coast to coast. In 1937, at the urging of Mary McLeod Bethune, Woodson established the Negro History Bulletin, which focused on the annual theme. As black populations grew, mayors issued Negro History Week proclamations, and in cities like Syracuse progressive whites joined Negro History Week with National Brotherhood Week. Like most ideas that resonate with the spirit of the times, Negro History Week proved to be more dynamic than Woodson or the Association could control. By the 1930s, Woodson complained about the intellectual charlatans, black and white, popping up everywhere seeking to take advantage of the public interest in black history. He warned teachers not to invite speakers who had less knowledge than the students themselves. Increasingly publishing houses that had previously ignored black topics and authors rushed to put books on the market and in the schools. Instant experts appeared everywhere, and non-scholarly works appeared from “mushroom presses.” In America, nothing popular escapes either commercialization or eventual trivialization, and so Woodson, the

constant reformer, had his hands full in promoting celebrations worthy of the people who had made the history.

Well before his death in 1950, Woodson believed that the weekly celebrations—not the study or celebration of black history—would eventually come to an end. In fact, Woodson never viewed black history as a one-week affair. He pressed for schools to use Negro History Week to demonstrate what students learned all year. In the same vein, he established a black studies extension program to reach adults throughout the year. It was in this sense that blacks would learn of their past daily that he looked forward to the time when an annual celebration would no longer be necessary. Generations before Morgan Freeman and other advocates of all-year commemorations, Woodson believed that black history was too important to America and the world to be crammed into a limited time frame. He spoke of a shift from Negro History Week to Negro History Year.

In the 1940s, efforts began slowly within the black community to expand the study of black history in the schools and black history celebrations before the public. In the South, black teachers often taught Negro History as a supplement to United States history. One early beneficiary of the movement reported that his teacher would hide Woodson’s textbook beneath his desk to avoid drawing the wrath of the principal. During the Civil Rights Movement in the South, the Freedom Schools incorporated black history into the curriculum to advance social change. The Negro History movement was an intellectual insurgency that was part of every larger effort to transform race relations.

The 1960s had a dramatic effect on the study and celebration of black history. Before the decade was over, Negro History Week would be well on its way to becoming Black History Month. The shift to a month-long celebration began even before Dr. Woodson’s death. As early as 1940s, blacks in West Virginia, a state where Woodson often spoke, began to celebrate February as Negro History Month. In Chicago, a now forgotten cultural activist, Fredrick H. Hammaurabi, started celebrating Negro History Month in the mid-1960s. Having taken an African name in the 1930s, Hammaurabi used his cultural center, the House of Knowledge, to fuse African consciousness with the study of the black past. By the late 1960s, as young blacks on college campuses became increasingly conscious of links with Africa, Black History Month replaced Negro History Week at a quickening pace. Within the Association, younger intellectuals, part of the awakening, prodded Woodson’s organization to change with the times. They succeeded. In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, the Association used its influence to institutionalize the shifts from a week to a month and from Negro history to black history. Since the mid-1970s, every American president, Democrat and Republican, has issued proclamations endorsing the Association’s annual theme. Article courtesy of Daryl Michael Scott.



## Lansing Community College congratulates Trustee Angela Mathews and Benita Duncan on their recent elections at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress

Trustee Mathews was elected Vice-Chair of the African American Community College Trustees Association (AACCTA). The AACCTA is a constituency group of the ACCT and serves as an organization committed to assessing the cumulative effects of higher education policy on African American students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Duncan was elected as President of The Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN). She becomes the first African American to ascend to the position of President for the Executive Committee of the ACCT PBSN. The PBSN is a national level resource for those who support governing boards or presidents of community colleges.



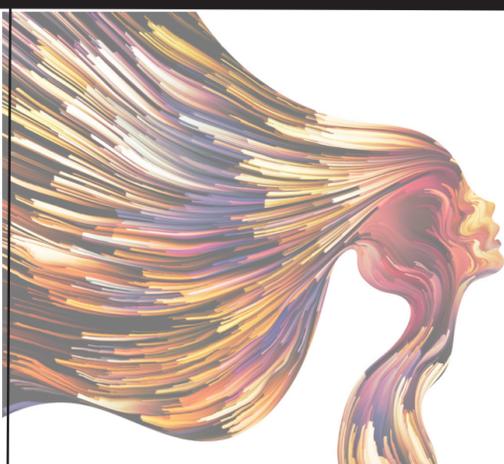
LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION/EMPLOYER.



**Trustee Angela Mathews**  
Vice-Chair LCC Board of Trustees



**Benita Duncan**  
Executive Assistant and Liaison to LCC Board of Trustees



## POETREE IN MOTION



*Dee Freeman*

It is time to dislodge these Institutionally designed  
Systemic racist and unjust policies  
Embedded as yet the law of the land

It is time to have a seat at the table  
Where only old white men gather to  
Decide our fate and future...  
Let's be in the room, speaking Truth for them to hear

It is time to have a change of narrative...  
A change in how we see the truth  
A change in how we hear the truth  
A change in how we feel the truth  
A change in how we tell the truth  
A change in how we walk the TRUE path

It is time to plant and cultivate  
The idea of Equity for all  
The idea of acknowledgment  
The idea of reconciliation  
The idea of strength in diversity  
The idea of equality

It is time the WHOLE of history gets an  
Intentional re-write...for our history is America's  
History...we want precise delineation  
Our history is indelibly intertwined  
Our contributions...coerced or not  
Browbeaten or not....Bludgeoned or not  
Bulldozed or not....Are integral parts of this nation's  
success

It is time to use CRT to dismantle the southern white-  
washed  
"Glorious time" of that vicious and horrendous time of  
Slavery  
It is time to debunk the myths and distorted facts  
Developed by sinister forces...religious Bigots and

### **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**

racists  
These were to reinforce repression, dehumanize and  
suppress  
It is time to set the record straight...  
It is time to place markers, monuments and  
Flags to commemorate and memorialize my people  
It is time to provide historical data of the extensive  
Contributions made by my people  
It is time to tell...  
The good, The bad, and The ugly!  
The blood drenched horrors  
The deep dark hatred  
The hard truths of yesteryear...Time is of the essence

It is time for us to stand up, speak up and open up!  
Open our minds, Open our hearts, Open our mouths!  
Open up to pay tribute to the ancestors  
Acknowledging their sacrifices of yesterday  
So that we might move forward today  
We extend gratitude to those...  
Who dreamed before us  
Who died before and for us...  
Making it possible for us to aspire life, liberty  
And the pursuit of happiness

Yet, In spite of it ALL...  
I am proud to say...we have made progress  
In spite of the TRAUMA  
In spite of the demeaning  
The FEAR tactics of...  
Beatings                      Burnings  
Bombings                    Castrations  
Chains                        Draggings  
Mobs                         Lynchings  
Separations                Shootings  
Slashings

We struggled through those racist injustices

Which tried to relegate us to the lowest station of life  
Yet, our ancestors held fast and purged through the  
past  
So we might survive to position ourselves in the present  
To pursue possibilities of the future

Time is of the essence!!  
It is time! For transformation  
Of this Nation  
Time to Rise higher  
Time to reach further  
Time to live up to its creed  
Time to build on the glimmer of hope  
Time to straighten the arc of justice  
Time to heal this brotherly divide  
Time for restoration

It is time:  
To eliminate the gridlocks  
To amend the constitution  
To be a full human being... Not just 3/5.  
To foster brotherly love...  
In our mind... In our heart...in our actions

It is time:  
To get the True God... the Creator back:  
Into our lives, our purpose for living,  
Into our schools and education  
Into our marriages...at the dinner table  
Into our finances  
Into our living room!  
Into the board room  
On the congressional board  
On the Supreme Court Bench  
In the Oval Office...into the world  
Time to swell that thin sliver  
Of justice into a broadband network of love

**SOUL II SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS: LOOKING FOR A CROP OF JUSTICE** 01242022



Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pj) Anderson, DMin.  
Soul II Soul Spiritual Fitness Couch  
Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps  
Certified Peer Support Specialist



**BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK**

<sup>7b</sup>"He (The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies) looked for a crop of justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, cry for help. Isaiah 5:7b New King James

**WOE TO THOSE WHO CALL  
EVIL GOOD  
&  
GOOD EVIL.  
WOE TO THOSE WHO  
ACQUIT THE GUILTY  
FOR BRIBES & DEPRIVE  
THE INNOCENT OF JUSTICE.**

Dearest of All, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, to lift a common practice within our politics, allow me to quote Malcolm X. He reminds us of one of the tricks of those hindering a crop of justice. "Whenever a black man stands up and says something that white people don't like, then the first thing that white man does is run around to try and find somebody to say something to offset

what has just been saying." When I watch the people greatly oppressed – Black, Brown, and poor people – by the Empire, by an unjust System, by voter suppression legislation, standing for and rooting on behalf of the Oppressor, to Whom shall Justice Warriors turn?

Even in the "Church," many uphold homogenous (standardized, regular, same) irrelevant traditions despite the dwindling membership. Where are the faith-based organizers willing to speak truth to power, to Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona – overwhelmingly supported by people of color, and Senator Joe Mansion of West Virginia, who opposed carving voting rights issues out of the filibuster to overcome GOP opposition?

When the God-of-the-Angel-Armies come looking for a crop of justice, he will find Joe Madison, Sirius XM 106 Joe Madison Show, who fasted over 70 days. He will recognize young advocates who marched in support of Voter Rights. He will acknowledge the Honorable Joyce M. Beatty, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus since 2021. She was arrested along with others in protest of the hold-up in the Senate. He will realize the thirty-plus pastors nationwide who have joined Dr. Madison on a hunger strike since January 6.

We used to sing a little song in my hometown church, and the chorus went, "When He calls me, I want to answer...I'll be somewhere working on my soul's salvation, listening for my name." My answer is yes, I heard my name, I answered the call. I'm working on my soul's salvation and with the souls of our Justice Warriors.

Is the question "will God find you among the crop of justice?"

Please join us and subscribe on: YOUTUBE and Twitter @ drpjanderson  
Also, on FACEBOOK @ sfgwithoutwalls & Chaplain Pj



**Celebration  
Announcements  
by  
The Ambassador of  
Celebration**

**Birthdays in February**

- Ms. Kimberly Jones celebrates her 40th birthday on February 2nd.
- Mr. K. C. Big Thangs celebrates his birthday on February 2nd.
- Ms. Nikki Skipper celebrates her birthday on February 2nd.
- Ms. Tina Fellows celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Tina, you are THE BEST big sister in the world; I love you so much! Love always and forever, Tracy G.
- Ms. Christina Tubbs celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Ms. Tammy Ruiz celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Ms. Ashley Erickson celebrates her 32nd birthday on February 4th.
- Ms. Rebecca Lea Patterson celebrates her birthday on February 4th with family and friends. "Becca, happy 26th birthday! Enjoy your day! I love you! Love Mom!"
- Ms. Shari M. Townsley celebrates her birthday on February 5th.
- Mrs. Juel Darden celebrates her birthday on February 5th.
- Ms. Mandy Schafer celebrates her 37th birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. April L. Clark celebrates her birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Georgette Sneed celebrates her 69th birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Maria Herrera celebrates her 47th birthday on February 7th.
- Mr. DeMarice Hall celebrates his 34th birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Mandi Schafer celebrates her birthday on February 7th. "Singing my way to stardom"
- Mr. Arthur Andrews celebrated his 70th birthday on February 7th getting well!
- Brother Bill sends you Love.
- Mrs. Barbara M. Rouse-Tate celebrates her birthday on February 8th with family.
- Mrs. Flora Boles celebrates her birthday on February 8th.
- Ms. Lisa D. Tate-Jackson celebrates her birthday on February 9th with family. Mr. Martin Luther King celebrates his birthday on February 9th.
- Mr. Nate Carlisle celebrates his 55th birthday on February 9th. "I pray that GOD blesses everybody!"
- Ms. Jazmine Gierke celebrates her 16th birthday on February 10th with her baby brother Damian and family.
- Ms. Betty McGrew celebrates her birthday on February 10th.
- Ms. Brandy Gonzales celebrates her 32nd birthday February 10th.
- Mr. Freddie Lewis celebrates his birth on February 10th.
- Ms. Jaylenn Shannon celebrates her 17th birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Phyllis Colthorp celebrates her birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Sheavan Mizori celebrates her 36th birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Michelle M. Mireles celebrates her 54th birthday on February 11th.
- Mr. Charles Husby celebrates his birthday on February 11th, with family and friends.
- Mr. James E. Garvie celebrates his 35th birthday on February 12th with friends.
- Ms. Kelly Kilpatrick celebrates her birthday on February 12th.
- Mr. Clyde Martin celebrates his 35th birthday on February 12th.
- Mr. Josiah Nathaniel Dixon celebrates his 12th birthday on February 12th with family! Pastor Nathan, Lady Rolanda and big sister Makenzie Carrington.
- Mr. RJ Johnson celebrated his birthday on February 16th with friends and family.
- Ms. Chrissy Gomez celebrates her 36th birthday on February 13th.
- Ms. Patty Oehmke celebrates her birthday on February 14th, Valentine's Day, sharing much love.
- Mr. Walter "Gator" Gierke celebrates his 39th birthday on February 14th with friends and family. "Mama's Valentine's Day Gift from your Dad in 1982!" We love you always!
- Mr. Fredrick Crockett celebrates his 56th birthday on February 14th, with a shout out: "Happy Birthday to the rest of my cupid Babies!"
- Ms. Madeline Brown celebrates her 64th year of life on February 14th, "Valentine's Day"
- Ms. Vicki Helman celebrates her birthday on February 14th.
- Ms. Angela P. Baltimore celebrates her birthday on February 15th.
- Mr. Chavis Walker celebrates his birthday on February 15th.
- Ms. Teonie Dobbs celebrates her birthday on February 15th.
- Mr. Charles M. Flores celebrates his 51st birthday on February 15th.
- Miss. Bella Jobson celebrates her 12th birthday on February 16th.
- Ms. Betty Thomas celebrates her birthday on February 16th.
- Ms. Michelle Ireland celebrates her birthday February 16th with her family and friends.
- Mr. Kirk A. Branson Sr. celebrates his birthday on February 16th with his loving wife April, family and friends.
- Ms. Jessica Baker celebrates her 42nd birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Danyell Reaper celebrates her 43rd birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Kendall M. Jackson celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Cheron L. Mans celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Katia F. Outlaw celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Miss. Kaydence Elise Walsh celebrates her 11th birthday on February 18th. "Daddy and Mommy Love you!!!"
- Mr. Miles R. Barren celebrates his birthday on February 18th.
- Mr. Issac Peter Reis celebrates his birthday on February 18th.
- Ms. Kimberly E. Harps celebrates her birthday on February 19th.
- Mrs. Lucrita Winfree, born on February 20th, will enjoy her celebration with her husband.
- Ms. Melanie Miller celebrates her birthday on February 19th.
- Mrs. Jimmie L. Springs celebrates her birthday on February 19th. She was born in the year 1918: 103 years!!!
- Mr. Desmond Murphy celebrates his 17th birthday on February 20th.
- Mr. Luther William Brown, Jr. will celebrate his 49th birthday on February 20th, with his loving wife Amy, daughters: Isabella, Idyana, Taylor, his Son Jordan Luther.
- Ms. Rose M. Watson celebrates her birthday on February 20th.
- Ms. Jennifer and Justina Ellsworth celebrate their 36th birthday on February 20th.
- Ms. Betty Fry, born February 20th, celebrates her 61th birthday, being sober since January 1st, 2018.
- Ms. Tasha Eaton celebrates her 40th birthday on February 21st.
- Ms. Felicia Clark celebrates her birthday on February 21st.
- Ms. Lindsay Voss celebrates her birthday on February 22nd.
- Ms. Nanette L. Reynolds celebrates her birthday on February 22nd.
- Ms. Anita Buffington celebrates her 46th birthday on February 22nd.
- Mr. Bila'l Scott celebrates his birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Jackie Evens enjoys her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mr. Willis Dennis celebrates his birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Bethany Coins celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mrs. Sara Gordon celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Sandra Williams celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mr. Sal Rivera celebrates his 51th birthday February 23rd.
- Mr. Michael Jennings Jr. will celebrate his birth on February 23rd.
- Ms. Amanda Wenk celebrates her birthday on February 24th.
- Ms. Cecilia Sena celebrates her 40th birthday on February 24th.
- Mr. Bradford Hugueuly celebrates his birthday on February 25th.
- Ms. Marion Peatross celebrates her birthday on February 25th.
- Ms. Gristle McMichaels celebrates her 34th birthday on February 25th.
- Mr. Felipe Gonzales celebrates his 60th birthday on February 26th, with family and friends at his son's place! "Love from your Son", Juan.
- Ms. Dawn, "as a new day", celebrates her 49th birthday on February 26th.
- Ms. Alicia Perez celebrates her birthday on February 26th.
- Mr. Charles "Bull" Lane celebrates 75 years of life on February 26th.
- Ms. Maya Kelly celebrates her 11th birthday on February 27th. "Love you lots... Mom and Dad!"
- Ms. Alicia Perez celebrates her 43rd birthday on February 27th.
- Ms. Angelica Brown celebrates her 31th birthday on February 27th.
- Mr. LaDon H. Nixon will enjoy his birthday on February 28th.
- Mr. Larry Martin celebrates his birthday on February 28th.
- Ms. Tanek Samaria Davis will celebrate her birthday on February 28th.
- \*Anniversaries
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Cordray McConnell celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on February 3rd.
- Mr. & Mrs. David, (RIP), and Linda-Walker-Cole, (RIP 1-9-2020); We celebrate their 22st wedding anniversary on February 14th.
- Mr. & Mrs. Myron & Dee Freeman celebrate their 34nd wedding anniversary on February 14th
- Mr. & Mrs. Al and Irma Cooper will celebrate their 71th wedding anniversary on February 23rd. Thank You for the Lesson that helped me to Be: The Substance Of A Man!!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**The 2022 Lansing Juneteenth Celebration**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
Interfaith/Ecumenical Virtual Prayer/Praise & Day of Giving Program  
**FEBRUARY 27 TO APRIL 23**  
The Dr. Eva L. Evans Juneteenth Essay & Scholarship Competition  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**  
The Commemorative Ballgame/Tribute to the Negro Leagues  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 16**  
The Capital City Kick-Off Ceremony/Essay Contest & Scholarship Awards  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 18**  
African American Parade & Juneteenth Freedom Festival  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 19**  
Juneteenth Day Recognition

**JUNETEENTH SINCE 1993 Lansing, Michigan**

**LansingJuneteenthCelebration.Org**  
**Info@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.Org**

**JUNETEENTH INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL VIRTUAL PRAYER/PRAISE & DAY OF GIVING SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022, 3PM**

**MESSENGER**  
**Rev. Lila R. Martin,**  
**Pastor of Trinity**  
**AME Church**

**Rev. Adrian Swanigan**  
**Host Pastor**  
**(313) 575-6169**  
**maskcme@yahoo.com**

**Zoom Meeting ID 992 2441 1810**  
**Phone: 1-312-626-6799**  
**ID 99224411810**

**Theme: Beyond Emancipation Continuing Toward Empowerment**  
**www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org/donate**  
**Donations will benefit the Juneteenth Educational Division**

**Announcements**

**Please let us know if you have anyone to celebrate**

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/mrpartycev](http://www.facebook.com/mrpartycev)

Celebration Gram – A Class Act: Have your special message delivered by Mr. Party for that special someone or special occasion! Call 517-391-4849 or Email: [mrpartycev@aol.com](mailto:mrpartycev@aol.com)

Please send the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life: Celebration Announcements



# Mayor Schor Unveils New Music & Arts Venue in Downtown Lansing

(LANSING) - Mayor Andy Schor today unveiled plans for a new state-of-the-art live music and arts venue in downtown Lansing. The planned center will be built at the southwest corner of South Washington Square and Lenawee Street.

“For decades, Lansing has needed a concert and performing arts venue. I am tremendously excited and proud that my team has been able to make this a reality for our citizens here in Lansing and for the entire region. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to bring concerts, community events, educational opportunities, speeches, comedy, and so many other live performances together in a new, state-of-the-art venue. I am thrilled that we have been able to come together and start the process to make this happen for Lansing,” Mayor Schor stated. “Bringing thousands of people to downtown Lansing for concerts and other events throughout the year will have such an incredible impact on our small businesses here. This amazing venue will truly be transformational for Lansing.”

Current plans call for a flexible performance space that can be transformed depending on the needs of who is using the space. The main features of this venue include:

- Two-story main stage and balcony with a total capacity of 2,025 for a single performance

- A main floor that will hold 1,200 seated or 1,500 standing alone

- A second-story balcony overlooking the main stage featuring 250 seated or 400 standing

- A private party room with a balcony overlooking the main stage that can hold 80 seated or 125 standing

- A second, smaller performance area located in the lobby

- Multi-purpose community rooms used by local nonprofits, school groups, community event rentals, and more

- Office and studio space for the Lansing Public Media Center and project partners

- Retail spaces available along South Washington Square

- Forty artist lofts (live-work spaces) on the third and fourth floors

The total cost for the project, if fully built out with all 40 live-work space studios, would be an estimated maximum cost of \$21 million.

The City of Lansing has already secured \$2 million from the State of Michigan and another \$8 million in dedicated public access fees.

The additional \$10 million in needed funding would come through a combination of private donors, sponsorships, grants, and, if needed, a bank loan on the housing and workspace lofts component.

The performing arts center comes after a professional, comprehensive community feasibility study performed by AMS Research & Planning, conducted in 2019. AMS specializes in defining, refining, and developing ventures in the arts and culture sector. They conducted local surveys, stakeholder interviews, and a competitive analysis that shows a great need for a space like this in Lansing. 87% of Lansing residents polled support the creation of a new music venue. Studies also show that this would attract audiences across 302 zip codes, covering more than 2.7 million people.

Studies also show that this will have an effect and boost the downtown Lansing economy. The venue is expected to have a transformative return on investment, increase tourism, amplify local businesses, and attract young people to live and work in the surrounding area. It also has the potential to spark spin-off development and raise real estate values

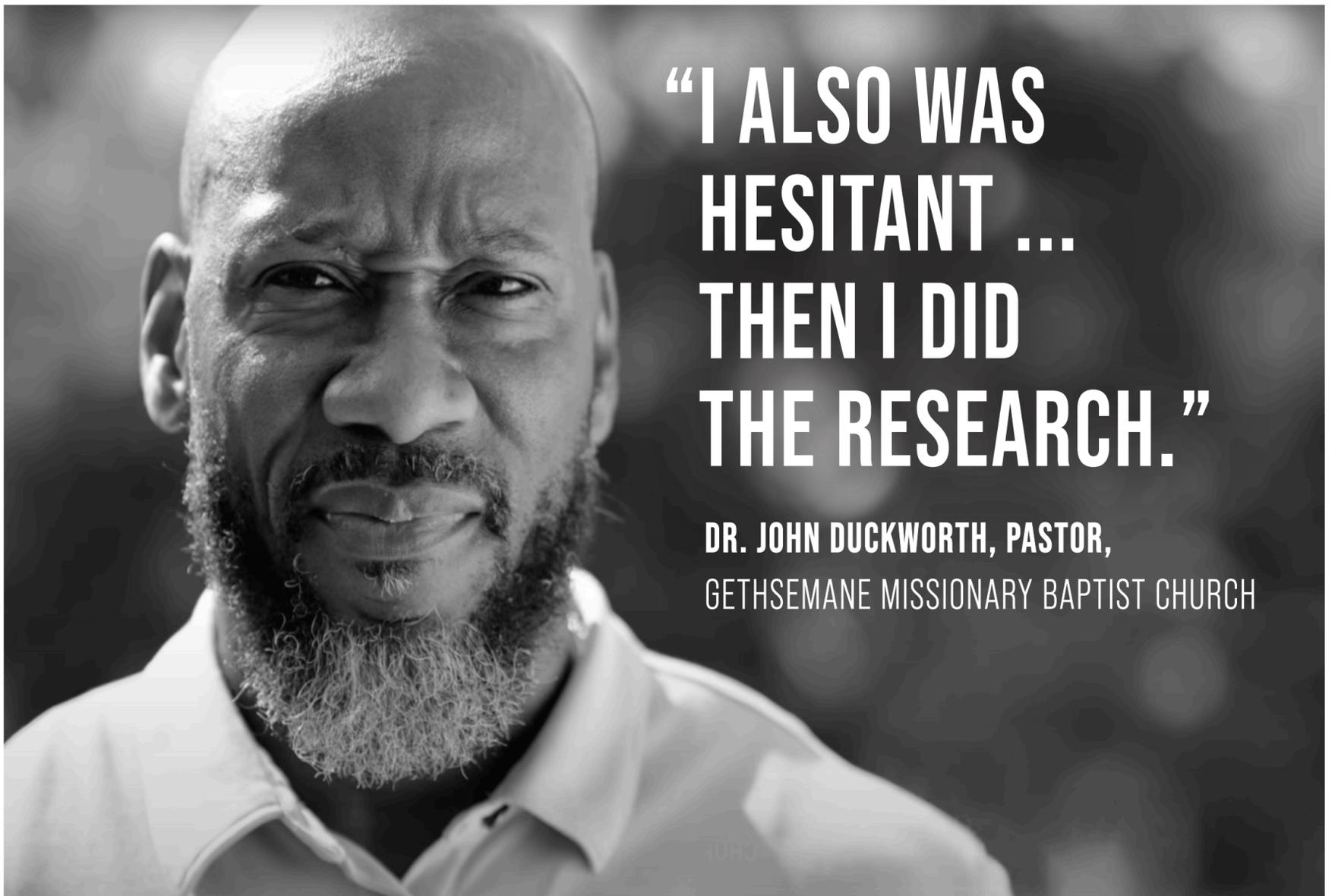


downtown.

Furthermore, these studies show that the venue would see total attendance at 190,000 per year with total estimated audience spending at \$5.3 million. That is in addition to construction jobs and spending and resident and worker spending from the studio lofts.

Capitol Fundraising Associates, founded by Rebecca Bahar-Cook, has been retained to plan and finalize fundraising for the remaining balance. Several organizations, community groups, and corporations have shown interest in being involved at various levels of sponsorship. The City hopes to make major announcements in the future on additional investments into this project. The construction project is being managed by Dymaxion Development.

The City is now moving into the final fundraising and planning stages of the process. We expect to receive additional valuable input from the public during the City Council process as we move toward a groundbreaking later in 2022.



**Research shows COVID vaccines are safe. Get the facts, then get vaccinated.**

Like many in his community and congregation, Dr. Duckworth questioned the COVID vaccines at first. Would they be safe? Could they be trusted? But he didn't rely on rumors or social media for answers. He spoke to people who had received the vaccine. He looked to medical experts. And then he got vaccinated to protect himself and others.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors. But it's okay to have questions. Do your homework and get answers, like Dr. Duckworth.

**To find your vaccine: Visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine), call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.**





## Governmental Immunity



by Ayana McNeal

Qualified Immunity is a legal defense for governmental agencies and its employees in a negligence lawsuit. Under Michigan law a governmental agency is immune from tort liability if the governmental agency is engaged in the exercise or discharge of a governmental function.

There are two types of immunity. Qualified and absolute immunity. Qualified immunity applies to government employees while in the course of their employment if:

(a) The officer, employee, member, or volunteer is acting or reasonably believes he or she is acting within the scope of his or her authority.

# REELS OF JUSTICE

(b) The governmental agency is engaged in the exercise or discharge of a governmental function.

(c) The officer's, employee's, member's, or volunteer's conduct does not amount to gross negligence that is the proximate cause of the injury or damage. Qualified immunity does have exceptions. Qualified immunity shall not apply to actions to recover for bodily injury or property damage arising out of the performance of a proprietary function as defined in this section. If a person is injured while the government is engaged in one of these exceptions the person can sue the government to recover for their injuries:

Public building defects, sidewalk defects, the failure to maintain and repair public highways, negligent operation of a government owned motor vehicle, sewage disposal event and a few others.

Qualified immunity allows government employees to work without worrying about being sued for their actions or decisions.

Absolute immunity applies to judges, legislators and other high-ranking officials. Absolute immu-

nity only applies to acts committed in the scope of the official's duties. Thus, these officials cannot be sued in tort as long as the act occurred within the scope of that official's duty.

Immunity makes it easier for the government to make decisions because immunity protects the government from lawsuits. The Governmental Tort Liability Act is contained in chapter 691 of Michigan Compiled Laws. So, who is held accountable when the government messes up? The answer to that question is often complicated. But what is not is that citizen taxpayers don't want to bear the burden of having to pay every time the government messes up.

\*Disclaimer & legal information: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any agency, organization, employer, this newspaper or anyone else. This article is for informational purposes only not for the purpose of providing medical advice.

# ANONYMOUS DONOR SEEDS FANNIE LOU HAMER SCHOLARSHIP IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UM

A generous gift from an anonymous donor will provide the University of Mississippi African American studies program with an endowed scholarship that honors a Mississippi civil rights leader.

The \$100,000 gift establishes the Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Endowment to help students who are pursuing an education in African American studies through the UM College of Liberal Arts.

"As Mississippi's flagship university, one of our core missions is to provide opportunities to the students of this state, and scholarships are a crucial component in maintaining and exceeding that ongoing goal," said Lee Cohen, UM liberal arts dean.

"We are truly grateful for this gift establishing a scholarship endowment in honor of the late Ms. Hamer. It will open doors for our students here at the University of Mississippi and provide for future generations for years to come, while commemorating past generations that laid the foundation for progress and change."

Hamer, a Mississippi Delta native who co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, was instrumental in the fight for voting equality and women's rights.

"Ms. Hamer was vital to the progression of African Americans in Mississippi and nationally, and her work really began at the grassroots level and the struggle for voting rights," said Derrick Harriell, interim director of African American studies.

"Naming the scholarship after Ms. Hamer, the Mississippi civil rights activist giant, will provide our students with the incentive to work harder and reach for higher goals while honoring Hamer's important legacy."



Hamer, a renowned orator, spoke at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, giving a speech that resonated with the scholarship's founder.

"She worked so hard for the state of Mississippi and is a folk hero," the donor said. "I hope she continues to be an inspiration to students and that this scholarship can provide the financial support to help them achieve their goals."

The African American studies program seeks to develop and coordinate an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on the African American experience in the United States, especially in Mississippi and the South.

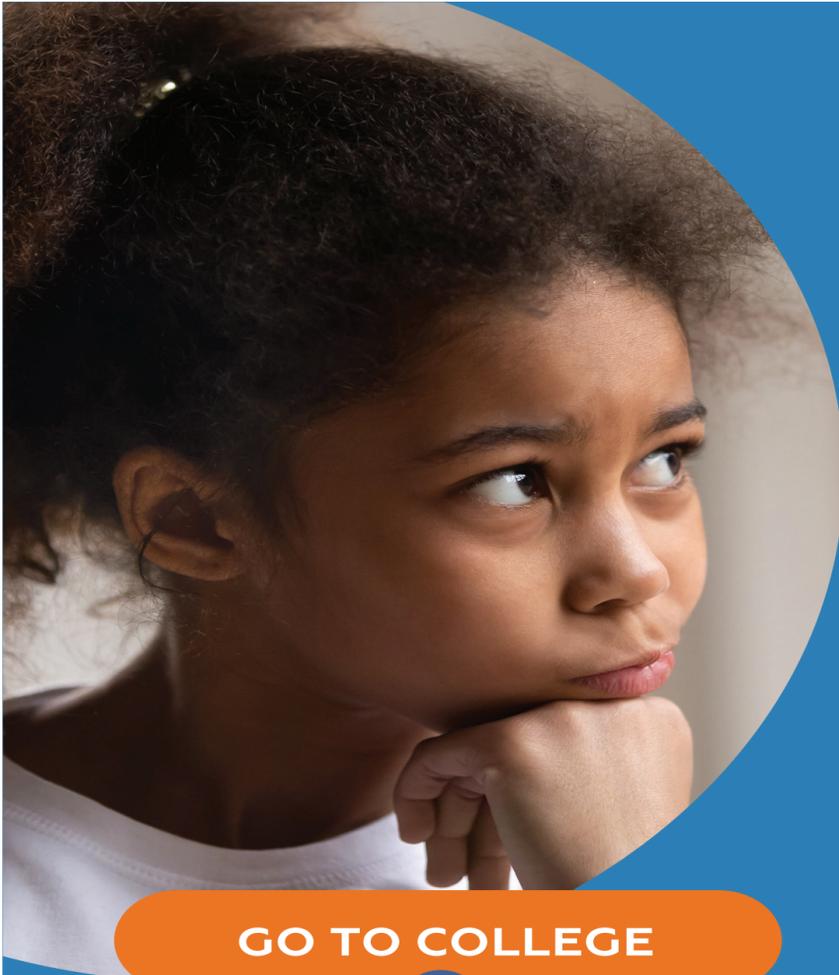
The program provides students with an interdisciplinary understanding of Black history, culture, politics and society while preparing them for professional careers in relevant areas.

"We are hoping to grow our majors and our program and continue to be active on campus and in the surrounding community, in Mississippi and across the nation," Harriell said.

"To do so requires dynamic faculty and, more importantly, dynamic students who are at the heart of what we hope to represent as a program. These scholarships will assist in this mission, and we are grateful for the support."

The Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Endowment is open to support from businesses and individuals. Gifts can be made by sending a check, with the fund's name noted on the memo line, to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655 or by visiting <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

For more information on ways to support the African American studies program, contact Rob Jolly, managing director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, at [jolly@olemiss.edu](mailto:jolly@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3085. Article courtesy of Mary Stanton Knight of the Yazoo Herald



## You can't predict their future, but you sure can prepare for it.

With a MET prepaid education savings program, you have a flexible plan for the future. It's a safe and secure way to save for a child's future education.

- ✔ Pay for future education at today's price.
- ✔ If your child doesn't use the money, you get back what you put in, often more.
- ✔ Transfer to any immediate family member.
- ✔ Use at any accredited college or trade school in the U.S.
- ✔ Pay as you go for as little as \$25 per contribution (after purchasing at least one credit hour).

GO TO COLLEGE

OR

START A BUSINESS



Start saving today at [SETwithMET.com](http://SETwithMET.com)

# FORMER DOLPHINS COACH BRIAN FLORES SUES NFL AND ITS TEAMS ALLEGING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Brian Flores, who was fired last month as coach of the Miami Dolphins, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the National Football League and its teams, accusing them of discriminating against Black coaches in their hiring practices and denying them equal opportunity and pay compared with their White counterparts.

The lawsuit is a stinging public rebuke by a prominent Black coach of the NFL, which for years has said hiring more Black candidates to senior coaching and executive positions was a major goal for a league in which approximately 70 percent of the players are Black. The NFL's own senior executives have lamented the lack of diversity among the coaching ranks, and Flores's charges come as diversity and equitable hiring practices have become a hot-button issue across the country.

Flores says in the complaint that he was subjected to "sham" interviews as teams sought to satisfy league rules to interview minority candidates before making hires. This offseason, the league has had nine head coaching vacancies. So far, four have been filled — all by White candidates.

"Even when Black candidates get hired for Head Coaching positions, a rarity, they are discriminated against in connection with the terms and conditions of their employment and compensation and terminated even as far less successful white Head Coaches are retained," the lawsuit states. "Moreover, Black Head Coaches are far less likely than white Head Coaches to receive second chances even as white Head Coaches are routinely hired by Teams even after they fail elsewhere."

Flores's decision to go to court is an extraordinary action, as NFL coaches rarely publicly criticize the league's mixed diversity record. Flores acknowledged it could jeopardize his future in a game "that I love and has done much for my family and me."

"My sincere hope is that by standing up against systemic racism in the NFL, others will join me to ensure that positive change is made for generations to come," Flores said in a statement released by his attorneys.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, cites the New York Giants, Denver Broncos and Dolphins but also lists the 29 other "John Doe teams" as potential defendants.

"As described throughout this Class Action Complaint, the NFL remains rife with racism, particularly when it comes to the hiring and retention of Black Head Coaches, Coordinators and General Managers," the lawsuit says. "Over the years, the NFL and its 32-member organizations ... have been given every chance to do the right thing. Rules have been implemented, promises made — but nothing has changed. In fact, the racial discrimination has only been made worse by the NFL's disingenuous commitment to social equity."

The NFL and the teams named in the lawsuit denied the allegations.

"The NFL and our clubs are deeply committed to ensuring equitable employment practices and continue to make progress in providing equitable opportunities



throughout our organizations," the league said in a statement. "Diversity is core to everything we do, and there are few issues on which our clubs and our internal leadership team spend more time. We will defend against these claims, which are without merit." Article courtesy of Jhabvala and Maske of the Washington Post.

Flores was a candidate for the Giants' coaching job, but they instead hired Buffalo Bills offensive coordinator Brian Daboll, who is White, for the job last week. In the complaint, Flores says the Giants put him through a "sham interview" process "that was held for no reason other than for the Giants to demonstrate falsely ... that [they were] in compliance with the Rooney Rule," a league directive that requires teams to interview minority candidates for all senior vacancies.

Three days before Flores's scheduled interview with the Giants on Jan. 27, the complaint states, he inadvertently received a text message from New England Patriots Coach Bill Belichick that seemed to indicate the Giants had already settled on Daboll. "Sorry--I [messed] this up. I double checked and misread the text. I think they are naming Brian Daboll. I'm sorry about that. BB," the message read, according to the complaint. Flores and Daboll are former Patriots assistants.

The Giants said in a statement: "The fact of the matter is, Brian Flores was in the conversation to be our head coach until the eleventh hour. Ultimately, we hired the individual we felt was most qualified to be our next head coach."

Flores was fired Jan. 10 by the Dolphins after his second straight winning season. He was one of three Black head coaches in the NFL this season. There is now one, the Pittsburgh Steelers' Mike Tomlin, after the firings of Flores by the Dolphins and David Culley by the Houston Texans.

The lawsuit alleges Flores refused a "directive" from Dolphins owner Stephen Ross to "tank" — or lose games on purpose — during the 2019 season in a bid to secure the top pick in the draft. Ross offered to pay

Flores \$100,000 per defeat, according to the lawsuit. Flores also balked at Ross's efforts to influence him to recruit a "prominent quarterback" from another team, in violation of NFL tampering rules, following the 2019 season, the lawsuit alleges, adding that Ross invited Flores to lunch on a yacht and tried to arrange for a meeting with the quarterback at the marina. Flores "was ostracized" after that, the lawsuit says, while adding: "He was subsequently defamed throughout the media and the League as he was labeled by the Dolphins brass as someone who was difficult to work with. This is reflective of an all too familiar 'angry black man' stigma that is often casted upon Black men who are strong in their morals and convictions while white men are coined as passionate for those very same attributes."

The Dolphins said they "vehemently deny any allegations of racial discrimination and are proud of the diversity and inclusion throughout our organization. The implication that we acted in a manner inconsistent with the integrity of the game is incorrect."

The lawsuit alleges that in a 2019 interview with the Broncos, team executives, including John Elway and Joe Ellis, arrived an hour late and "looked completely disheveled," making it "obvious that they had been drinking heavily the night before." It was clear, the lawsuit says, that Flores "was interviewed only because of the Rooney Rule, and that the Broncos never had any intention to consider him as a legitimate candidate for the job." Denver ultimately hired Vic Fangio, who was fired last month after three seasons.

The Broncos called Flores's assertions "blatantly false." Their January 2019 interview with him "began promptly at the scheduled time," the Broncos said, adding, "Our process was thorough and fair to determine the most qualified candidate for our head coaching position." Flores, 40, was raised in New York; his parents were from Honduras. He played football at Boston College and joined the Patriots in 2004 as a scouting assistant. He worked his way up to being Belichick's de facto defensive coordinator before being hired by the Dolphins as their head coach in 2019. The Dolphins had a 5-11 record in Flores's first season but went 10-6 and then 9-8 in the past two seasons. They won seven straight games following a 1-7 start this season but missed the playoffs for a third straight year under Flores.

Flores's lawsuit says it is a proposed class action for Black coaches and it seeks injunctive relief to increase the diversity within the league.

"On the first day of Black History Month, it is our great privilege to represent Brian Flores in his class action complaint against the NFL," Flores's attorneys, Douglas H. Wigdor and John Eleftherakis, said in a statement. "This case seeks to level the playing field in the hope that future owners and coaches will be representative of the athletes who are playing this great game. We fully expect coaches and players of all races to support Brian as he embarks on his journey to create positive change."

*A Night OF*  
**VALENTINE'S**  
*Love*

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL  
*with* **PEABO BRYSON**

**VALENTINE'S WEEKEND**  
**SAT. FEBRUARY 12**

SPEND AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH PEABO BRYSON AND special guest **BETH GRIFFITH-MANLEY**

*Andiamo*  
CELEBRITY SHOWROOM  
7096 E. 14 Mile Warren, MI 48092

Tickets @ Ticketmaster, Order Tickets by phone Call: (586) 268-3200  
Make Dinner Reservations Prior to showtime.

**THE BIG Comedy Show**

**SATURDAY FEB 26**

STARRING MTV'S WILD N OUT  
**DC YOUNG FLY KARLOUS MILLER**  
**CHICO BEAN RIP MICHAELS**

SHOW STARTS AT 7:30PM

**DEVOS PLACE**  
300 MONROE AVE NW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

SPONSORED BY **State Farm** Crystal Robertson

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **ticketmaster**

SPONSORED BY **ONAACP** GREATER GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH