

# DETROIT

# NATIVE SUN

## Encomium for DABO and Vee's Boutique



By John Telford, PhD  
SUN COLUMNIST



Virginia Starkey, my WJZZ co-host Charlette Jones, and me--taken after the show).

Virginia (Ms. Vee) Starkey also appeared on the show to advertise her ladies' fine-clothing boutique and to seek Rev. Sheffield's help with his daughter Mary--President of the Detroit City Council--to get the broken water pipe repaired under the public sidewalk in front of her boutique on E. Warren at Outer Drive. The water has been turned off there for two years, and the city hadn't come to fix the pipe despite Ms. Vee's multiple requests, but Mayor Duggan and the Water Department's Public Affairs Director Bryan Peckinpaugh have now said they'll make it happen.

Rev. Sheffield is the president of DABO--the Detroit Association of Black Organizations, which fosters many beneficial programs, including an extensive literacy program. It was the first time in several years that Rev Sheffield had been on my show--and it's even longer ago since I've been on HIS show. His late sister--the brilliant LaVonne Sheffield, PhD--was my administrative colleague in the Detroit Public Schools during the Burnley Administration and a close friend of mine for many years. His daughter Mary--in whose district I reside in the River House at 8900 E. Jefferson where I'm running for the RH Board due to unmet resident concerns--courageously cast the Council's lone "no" vote against the District-Detroit Development that will benefit billionaires more than it will benefit grass-root Detroiters. We in Motown deserve better from our municipal government--and Ms. Vee deserves to have the water finally turned on in her boutique.

Contact Dr. Telford at (313) 460-8272 or at DrJohnTelfordEdd@aol.com. Hear his radio show live on WCHB AM1340 Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., re-playing on AM1340 Mondays at 9:30 p.m., on TV33 and Comcast Channel 90 (with pictures) Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., and on DETipTV.com 24/7 all week.

## Woman who slammed car into BLM protestors receives five hours of community service, avoids jail

By Stacy M. Brown  
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A New York City mother of three who slammed her BMW into Black Lives Matter protesters in New York received just five hours of community service for her crime. Kathleen Casillo, 53, walked free this week after striking a sweetheart plea deal.

She faced up to seven years in jail if she was found guilty of the December 2020 crime that injured six peaceful protesters.

The deal allows Casillo's record to show that she's guilty of the misdemeanor charge of reckless endangerment.

If she completes the light community service and stays out of trouble for six months, officials and her lawyer said, her record will only show a disorderly conduct charge.

Casillo had asserted that she accidentally hit her gas pedal because the protesters were behaving aggressively, but video surveillance appeared to refute these claims.

Victims, loved ones, and social media users lashed out following the light sentence.

## Michigan man sentenced to 10 months in Federal Prison for hate crimes targeting Black Lives Matter supporters

WASHINGTON - A Michigan man was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Ludington to 10 months in federal prison and one-year supervised release for a series of hate crimes he committed in June and July of 2020.

According to court records, Kenneth D. Pilon, 62, previously pleaded guilty to willfully intimidating and attempting to intimidate citizens from engaging in lawful speech and protests in support of Black Lives Matter. Specifically, Pilon admitted to calling nine Starbucks stores in mid and southeast Michigan and telling the employees answering his calls to tell Starbucks employees wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts that "the only good n\*\*\*er is a dead n\*\*\*er." Pilon also admitted to telling one employee, "I'm gonna go out and lynch me a n\*\*\*er." Additionally, over the course of the next month, Pilon left four nooses in parking lots and a fifth noose inside of a 7-Eleven store. Pilon attached each noose to a handwritten note, reading: "An accessory to be worn with your 'BLM' t-shirt. Happy protesting!"

"The nooses, the threat letters, and the calls to Starbucks were all intended to terrorize the targeted victims solely because of their race," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice

"You [messed] up lives. You're a criminal," one woman screamed at Casillo as she entered an elevator at Manhattan Supreme Court.

"They didn't do anything," the unidentified woman continued. "My husband's back was turned when you hit him and sent him flying into the air. His back was turned. How is that aggressive?"

While driving her BMW along 39th Street and Third Avenue with her 29-year-old daughter in the passenger seat on Dec. 11, 2020, Casillo hit the gas pedal and plowed into six protesters.

A video recording of the incident showed several victims hit so hard that they were hurled across the street.

Fortunately, no deaths occurred. Prosecutors initially charged Casillo with reckless endangerment and assault.

The Daily Mail reported that prosecutors ultimately agreed to the plea deal after several previous offers were turned down because Castillo had no criminal record.

They claimed she didn't intend to harm any of the protesters.

Department's Civil Rights Division. "The Civil Rights Division will always stand up to race-based threats of violence, which have no place in civilized society."

"A noose is a symbol of hatred that evokes the darkest days of our country's past. Its placement is meant to terrorize a part of our community, but we will not tolerate these race-based threats. Our office stands ready to vigorously investigate and prosecute criminal violations of our civil rights laws," said U.S. Attorney Dawn N. Ison for the Eastern District of Michigan.

"Pilon's hateful conduct, motivated by racial intolerance, was intended to intimidate the victims as well as create fear within the African-American community," said Special Agent in Charge James A. Tarasca of the FBI Detroit Field Office. "The FBI and our law enforcement partners will ensure that if a crime is motivated by bias, it will be investigated as a hate crime and the perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions."

The FBI Detroit Field Office investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Turkelson for the Eastern District of Michigan and Trial Attorney Tara Allison of the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section prosecuted the case.

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