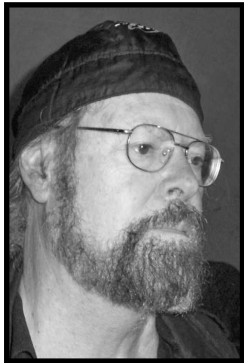


DETROIT

Stay mobilized and vigilant

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



Now that by God's grace and a mobilized Black vote, we thankfully have a Democrat in the White House again, we mustn't let our guard down. Never forget that American democracy still hangs precariously in the balance.

If anyone out there thinks it's all right just to COAST now that Trump blessedly lost, the stark reality remains that total catastrophe was averted only for now. We still have 137 neo-Nazi members of Congress and other neo-fascist factions out in the individual states that seek to reverse democratic voting outcomes and corrupt our institutions to use them for self-enrichment and to block societal progress. The mendacious media sources like Fox "News" from which millions of gullible Americans are getting their dangerous

misinformation are allied against the public good.

I'm one old journalist who in this monthly column and in my article in our fiercely independent Detroit Native Sun newspaper published by the courageous Valerie Lockhart--and on my radio show on WCHB AM1340 Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and on the JOHN TELFORD-DETROIT Show on WJZZ Cool TV Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. co-hosted by Dr. Sunanda Corrado, also streaming on Facebook, U-Tube, and Twitter, is FOR the public good. There need to be many, many more of us who will stand up for the public good on the local and national levels throughout our imperiled country. We need to remain mobilized for the time when we may well need to launch massive, sustained, non-violent protests in the streets of cities and towns all across America--protests that continue day after day and never stop until all of the oligarchic Re-TRUMPicans have been excised from seats of power once and

'The Turd That Hasn't Flushed'

God yet hasn't pushed the lever
On the traitor Trump forever.
When He /She does, the lever
will be that of the gas chamber
if justice is to be served.

for all.

John Telford, age 85, is a born-and-bred Detroit activist and a recent Superintendent of DPS. Since 2017, he has been the DPSCD Poet-in-Residence. Email him at DrJohnTelfordEdD@aol.com.

NATIVE SUN

Changes in law lift driver's license suspensions for thousands of Michiganders driver license

New laws taking effect this month lift license suspensions for approximately 73,000 Michiganders who failed to pay tickets or court fines or failed to appear in court for certain non-moving and other violations.

"By lifting suspensions for non-moving violations, we are enabling tens of thousands of Michiganders to drive to work, pick up their children from school, and more fully participate in their communities," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "We are proud to implement this new law in support of Michiganders across the state."

Of the over 73,000 drivers impacted, thousands will be able to use their existing license or get a new one immediately. Other drivers with additional infractions on their records, including additional suspensions or revocations, will need to address those issues before they can reinstate their license.

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) is mailing letters that should arrive in the first two weeks of October to all im-

pacted residents, explaining to them which category they fall in and if they need to take additional action before they can resume driving. Their letter will also be posted to their Secretary of State online account, where they can also purchase a copy of their driving record. Guidance is available at Michigan.gov/SOSClea Slate.

The new state law will impact driver's licenses suspended due to failing to comply with judgment, such as failing to pay a ticket, or failing to appear in court for certain violations. If a driver owes fees for their violations, they will still be responsible for paying those fees and/or appearing in court. Though qualifying suspensions will be marked as cleared and will no longer be in effect, they will still appear as entries on an individual's driving record.

MDOS will host a virtual event to answer drivers' questions and provide guidance in navigating the new law this fall. Information for the virtual session will be posted to Michigan.gov/SOSClea Slate in the coming weeks.

Over 36,000 renter households helped through CERA program

Lansing, Mich. - The state has surpassed the 65% obligation threshold set by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for \$622 million in rental relief sent to Michigan from the coronavirus aid package passed in December 2020.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) estimates \$425 million has been spent or obligated by the September 30 deadline through its COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program. This includes over \$235 million in rental and utilities assistance distributed to over 36,000 households and \$25 million in case management, legal services, and administrative costs.

"The CERA program has been a vital resource for individuals and families across the state, helping them maintain a high level of housing stability as they continue to navigate the impact of the pandemic on their lives," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "The state, its partners and local resource agencies have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of Michiganders, and exceeding this threshold ensures we can continue to provide much-needed aid to those who need it most."

Michigan had to obligate \$405 million to meet the 65% requirement outlined in the federal relief bill. Hitting the 65 percent threshold means the state -- which most recently ranked 12th in the nation in spending for emergency rental assistance -- could qualify for more rental relief funding.

Program expenditures have steadily climbed each month since the program launched:

- April: \$11 million
- May: \$28 million
- June: \$34 million
- July: \$42 million
- August: \$52 million
- September: \$63-65 million (projected)

Another \$20 million is currently being processed for payment and \$70 million has been obligated for future case management, legal services and administrative needs, as well as \$80 million committed for additional rent and utility assistance.

"At MSHDA, we've seen firsthand the positive difference housing stability can make on the lives of Michiganders from every walk of life across the state," said Kelly Rose, MSHDA's chief housing solutions officer. "CERA has and will continue to offer peace of mind for renters wondering whether they will have a roof over their head tomorrow, next week, or next month while also helping landlords make ends meet by recouping owed rent."

MSHDA launched CERA in March 2021 to serve renter households that have incomes less than 80% of Area Median. Renters or landlords can initiate the application process. Free legal aid is also available through the CERA program. For more information or to apply, visit www.michigan.gov/CERA.

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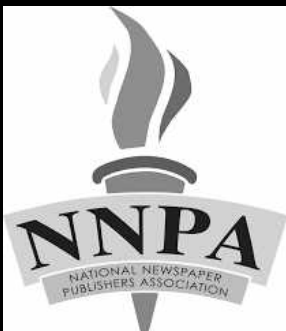
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