

WILSON 08/20/95 \*\*CHILL  
WILSON LIBRARY  
N C COLLECTION - UNC-CH  
P O BOX 8890  
CHAPEL HILL NC 27515-8890

Con  
2941

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 95 - NUMBER 10

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS

## A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People - L.E. Austin



**NCCU EAGLES VOTE** - Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP spoke to students at North Carolina Central University on Monday, March 7. The event recognized the 51st Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the Voting Rights March in Selma, Alabama in 1965. The march led by Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. and now Cong. John Lewis was met with viscous police brutality and attack to stop the march from proceeding. That failed and the Voting Rights Act was passed. Rev. Barber urged students to vote and continue the fight for voting equality. Students marched to vote on the campus. Rev. Barber center and Dr. Jarvis Hall, NCCU professor, were on hand to speak to students.

## Flint Water Crisis is Major Campaign Issue for Dems

By Ed White and Emily Swanson

**DETROIT (AP)** - When it comes to water, only about half of Americans are very confident in the safety of what's flowing from their tap, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll, which found that trust is even weaker among minorities and people with lower incomes.

The lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, has been in the headlines for months, and more than half of Americans believe it's a sign of widespread problems in the U.S. About seven in 10 drink tap water, but about half of them first run it through a filter.

"Of all the water systems in the nation, Flint can't be the only one that's faulty," said Elsbeth Jayne, 28, of Christiansburg, Virginia, who's very comfortable with her own tap water.

Joseph Johnson, 46, of Brooklyn, New York, said he only drinks bottled water, spending about \$8 a month on two cases. He's among the 30 percent of Americans choosing water off the shelf.

"I've always been under the assumption that water wasn't 100 percent clean. The Flint situation brought more of the story to the surface," he said March 4.

Flint, with a population of about 100,000, was drawing water from the Flint River for 18 months as a way to save money until a new pipeline to Lake Huron was ready. But the corrosive water leached lead from the city's old plumbing because certain treatments weren't added. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, whose administration repeatedly downplayed the lead threat, now calls it a "disaster."

No level of lead in the human body is considered safe, especially in children. The river water also may have been a source of Legionnaires' disease, which killed at least nine people in the region.

The poll found only 47 percent of Americans say they're

ater, spending about \$8 a month on two cases. He's among the 30 percent of Americans choosing water off the shelf.

"I've always been under the assumption that water wasn't 100 percent clean. The Flint situation brought more of the story

Flint, with a population of about 100,000, was drawing water from the Flint River for 18 months as a way to save money until a new pipeline to Lake Huron was ready. But the corrosive water leached lead from the city's old plumbing because

certain treatments weren't added. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, whose administration repeatedly downplayed the lead threat, now calls it a "disaster."

No level of lead in the human body is considered safe, especially in children. The river

water also may have been a source of Legionnaires' disease, which killed at least nine people in the region.

The poll found only 47 percent of Americans say they're extremely or very confident about the safety of their

drinking water, while 33 percent say they're moderately confident and 18 percent are not very confident or not at all.

Forty percent of African-Americans polled and 28 percent of Hispanics were less likely (Continued On Page 3)

## Ferguson mayor: With costs clarified, DOJ agreement near

By Jim Salter

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** - Ferguson city leaders could end a potentially costly lawsuit from the U.S. Department of Justice as early as this month, now that the federal agency has assured them its plan to overhaul the city's embattled police and court system won't create an unmanageable financial burden, the mayor said March 7.

City council members were concerned Ferguson might go bankrupt trying to implement changes outlined in the agreement, which stemmed from a scathing DOJ review of city operations that included allegations of routine civil rights violations against black residents. The investigation came after the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, whose death helped spark the Black Lives Matter movement.

In a letter to city leaders dated April 26, Vanita Gupta, head of Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, clarified financial details of the plan - including that the city wouldn't be required to provide pay raises to its police officers, a provision that could have cost nearly \$1 million. Gupta also said Ferguson could avoid litigation by signing the original agreement and notes the possibility of technical assistance and grant money for Ferguson.

"We feel like we're going to be in that cost range that we can afford," Mayor James Knowles III said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We now have in writing from the DOJ that they will take very seriously these cost issues with us."

Knowles said the City Council met March 1 to tentatively approve the agreement. A final vote is expected March 22. The DOJ declined to comment.

The Ferguson City Council rejected the agreement after a city analysis indicated the cost could reach nearly \$4 million in the first year alone. Instead, the council approved an amended agreement that included seven provisions aimed mostly at keeping costs in check. Attorney General Loretta Lynch filed suit a day later, saying the vote amounted to a rejection of a settlement that had been negotiated for months with a team from Ferguson.

The agency began investigating Ferguson amid the fallout after Brown, who was black and unarmed, was fatally shot by a white Ferguson police officer in August 2014. The officer, Darren Wilson, was cleared of wrongdoing and resigned in November 2014. The Justice Department issued its report four months later, and within days the city's police chief, municipal judge and city manager had resigned. (Continued On Page 3)

## In Boston, an incomplete picture of police searches, frisks

By Philip Marcelo

**BOSTON (AP)** - Boston police say they're narrowing the gap between how often black residents are subjected to stops, searches and frisks as compared with whites and other ethnic groups. But an Associated Press review of recently released police data suggests the improvement is more modest than the department claims.

Information that could shed light on whether the stops were appropriate in the first place also hasn't been made public, nearly two months after the initial release of nearly 150,000 "Field Interrogation, Observation, Frisk and/or Search" reports.

More information is forthcoming, and the department stands by its initial assessment of the numbers, said police spokesman Lt. Michael McCarthy.

"We're trying to make the

best interpretation of the data that's available," he said.

Researchers from Columbia and Rutgers universities are working on a deeper study of the raw data that will factor things police haven't provided in the information so far made public, such as neighborhood crime statistics and a subject's prior arrests and gang affiliations, McCarthy added.

Darnell Williams, CEO of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, said he has concerns and will wait to see what else the department provides.

"I want the stats and the rhetoric to match up," he says. "I believe police are open and listening to our concerns, but the stats haven't caught up to where their intentions are. And that's not a criticism. That's an observation."

When Boston police posted

the raw data on police-civilian encounters in January, it touted the release as a major victory for transparency and accountability - and as proof it was making progress on racial disparities in the stops.

According to the department's initial analysis, blacks accounted for about 58.5 percent of all stops that did not result in an arrest from 2011 to 2015, down from about 63 percent in the period covering 2007 to 2010, which had been the subject of a previous study commissioned by police.

But when looked at year by year, the numbers show the rate at which blacks were stopped between 2011 and 2015 held fairly steady at nearly 60 percent annually, the AP's review found.

Whites, by way of comparison, accounted for roughly 22 percent and Hispanics about 13

percent of police-civilian encounters during those years.

And the racial disparity could be higher. Of the nearly 150,000 incidents, close to 7,000 don't contain any information about race.

"The percentages speak for themselves," says Shea Cronin, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Boston University. "It's gone down a little and it seems to be moving in the right direction, but I wouldn't describe that as a major change in the demographics."

Jack McDevitt, director of Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice, said further data analysis controlling for gang behavior and other factors is a critical piece of the puzzle because Boston police are using field interrogations, observations, frisks and searches largely to crack down on gang

activity.

"The goal would be to see whether that number of stops that aren't explained by gang activity has gone down," McDevitt said.

The AP's review also found that, in a majority of cases, there is little to no detail provided about why police engaged with civilians in the first place, why a person was subsequently subjected to a search or frisk, and what the outcome of the encounters was.

In over 32 percent of all stops, for example, no reason appears to have been provided; in another 32 percent of incidents, officers simply marked down "investigative."

Among the search and frisks incidents, 77 percent don't mention a basis for the police action. Over 14 percent cite probable cause, and other 8 percent cite reasonable suspicion.