

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community

Shalanda Young getting strong, bipartisan support for top OMB post

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

Shalanda Young, a native of Baton Rouge, La., who serves as clerk and staff director for the House Appropriations Committee, appears the likely choice to replace Neera Tanden as President Joe Biden's choice to lead the Office of Management and Budget.

Reportedly, multiple Congressional Black Caucus members are pushing for the experienced Young to get the job. Several Republicans, who have otherwise shredded, demeaned, and denigrated some of the president's minority picks, have indicated they would confirm Young. As staff director, Young already oversees \$1.3 trillion in annual appropriations bills.

She moved to Washington 20 years ago to serve as a Presidential Management Fellow at the National Institute of Health. Young, who holds a master's degree from Tulane University and a bachelor of arts degree from Loyola University New Orleans, had voiced support for Tanden.

Tanden came under repeated fire over controversial tweets she's posted in the past.

"You saw Neera Tanden apologize profusely about the tweets. I think what you also saw is an expansive knowledge of various policy areas," Young told lawmakers. "I do think we both bring some skill sets in different areas where we'd make a great team if both of us were confirmed," she continued.

During Young's confirmation hearing as OMB deputy director, Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.) vowed his support.

"You'll get my support. Maybe for both jobs," Sen. Graham declared.

"I think our country would be served well by Shalanda Young," offered Congresswoman Rashida Talib (D-Michigan).

After removing Tanden from consideration, the White House said the president was still considering his options.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) have thrown their support behind Young for OMB's top job. In a joint statement, Pelosi and Clyburn noted that they take great pride in recommending Young as OMB director as longtime members of the Appropriations Committee.

"We have worked closely with her for several years and highly recommend her for her intellect, her deep expertise on the federal budget, and her determination to ensure that our budget reflects our values as a nation," the pair wrote. "Her legislative prowess, extensive knowledge of federal agencies, incisive strategic mind, and proven track record will be a tremendous asset to the Biden-Harris administration."

The statement continued: "Her leadership at OMB would be historic and would send a strong message that this administration is eager to work in close coordination with Members of Congress to craft budgets that meet the challenges of our time and can secure broad, bipartisan support."

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"The measure of any society is how it treats its women and girls."

First Lady Michelle Obama
October 13, 2016



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for a non-discrimination ordinance

To The Editor:

We often say we want equality (and equity) for all ... but do our communities truly provide for this? Not if members of our community can still be discriminated against for being LGBTQ, wearing a natural hair style, being pregnant, having a disability, and more.

This is why Winston-Salem needs to provide expanded protection by issuing a non-discrimination ordinance. Many other municipalities in North Carolina have already done so ... and more are working on theirs as we speak. The sunset of HB142 (which replaced the infamous "Bathroom Bill") late last year has now created opportunities for local communities to pass ordinances

to provide protections that the state government would not previously allow. But we need to make sure that our city, as it considers an ordinance, thinks about protecting ALL groups who currently fall through the cracks under existing laws and ordinances.

Let's push our council to not only adopt this quickly ... but use this opportunity to protect from discrimination the LGBTQ community and many others who face discrimination every day through employment, healthcare, and other public accommodations. Winston-Salem is an inclusive city ... and our non-discrimination ordinance should be inclusive too.

I encourage everyone to learn more about what's being proposed at ndocoalition.com.

Angela Levine
Winston-Salem

The biggest lie



Oscar H.
Blayton

Guest
Columnist

The American news media constantly reminds us that the false narrative by Donald Trump and his supporters claiming that Joe Biden did not fairly win the 2020 presidential election is "The Big Lie." But The Biggest Lie, which much of the American news media continues to perpetuate, is "This is not who we are," whenever the notion of white supremacy produces a horrific act of violence or destruction.

There were those who said, "This is not who we are," when neo-Nazis marched through Charlottesville, Va., with tiki torches, spewing vile racist and anti-Semitic chants.

There were those who said, "This is not who we are," when armed white rioters stormed the Michigan state capitol while white supremacists plotted to abduct and possibly execute that state's governor.

There are those who continue to say, "This is not who we are," each time another unarmed person of color is murdered by a police officer intoxicated by a militarist law enforce-

ment culture.

And there were those who said, "This is not who we are," when predominantly white insurrectionists invaded the U.S. Capitol to disrupt democracy in the United States by voiding the free and fair election of Joe Biden as the 46th President of this nation.

How much more murder, mayhem and raw hatred must be put on full display before Americans finally admit this IS who we are?

As much as America tries to sugarcoat its shameful history, the truth of our history has been written in indelible bloodstains over many centuries and from sea to sea. Before America was even America, the extermination of Native Americans by European settlers set the tone for the destruction of people and land in the name of civilization and progress.

This has always been a civilization backed up by lethal force, under the guise of law and order, that punishes and executes anyone who appears to be a threat to white supremacy. In the minds of many whites, because Black people were brought here to build and maintain a white Christian country, we are allowed to remain here only as long as we serve their needs.

To claim that this characterization is far-fetched is to deny the bones of our ancestors at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean and scattered across every inch of this land. This nation was founded upon rape and murder and there are those who wish it to continue this way. The death of George Floyd speaks clearly to this point.

Every murdered innocent testifies to the fact that this is who we are. Every individual of the First Nations who dies for lack of proper health care testifies to the fact that this is who we are. Donald Trump could not have gotten away with locking children in cages if this despicable display of inhumanity was not cheered on by millions of supportive bigots. Franklin Roosevelt could not have gotten away with herding innocent and loyal Japanese Americans into concentration camps without the tacit approval of the majority of Americans, including those of Italian and German ancestry.

There are many white Americans who know this country's major problems are all about race. A large portion of America's white people have a maniacal fear of people of color, who they deem to be "the other," and who they believe want to deprive white people of what they have. But what does the poorest

and least educated white person have besides his whiteness? Abandoned by the wealthy elitist of their race, these wretched of the earth are positioned as pawns to barricade the doors to opportunity against people of color. These loyalists of white supremacy diligently carry out their charge without realizing that the only way they can carry out this mission is to remain outside the doors themselves.

Many of the first Europeans who populated this land were from the prisons of England. There are estimates that approximately 10% of migrants to America between 1718 and 1775 were British convicts.

The character of the American people is not so saintly as to warrant a blind faith in our goodness in the face of racial hatred and race-based violence and murder on display every day. Many Europeans who came to America's shores were fine people, but the proof is in the pudding - and we need to put an end to the biggest lie and stop denying that this is who we are.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.