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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

### Why Are The Worst Crooks Always In Office?

As I write this, the sitting Mayor of New York, a Black man, has been indicted. By the time you read this, you'll know why.

Eric L. Adams will be the first New York City mayor indicted on federal criminal charges while in office. Yes, he's a Black man; and yes, he's a Democrat.

The indictment was sealed when it was filed on Wednesday evening. In response, Adams said in a statement to the public, "I always knew that if I stood my ground for New Yorkers that I would be a target — and a target I became. If I am charged, I am innocent and I will fight this with every ounce of my strength and spirit."

At the time of this writing, no one knew what the charges were. However, speculation pointed to Adams' involvement with Turkish officials and cover-up schemes to hide campaign contributions, personal finances, and lavish gifts.

As all this unfolded, people on FOX, CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS and the like, seemed flabbergasted. Which left me flabbergasted. The writing's been on the wall for this guy. Granted, I thought that he would resign, or his current term would run out and he wouldn't seek re-election. While indicting him now certainly grabbed my attention, it wasn't shocking.

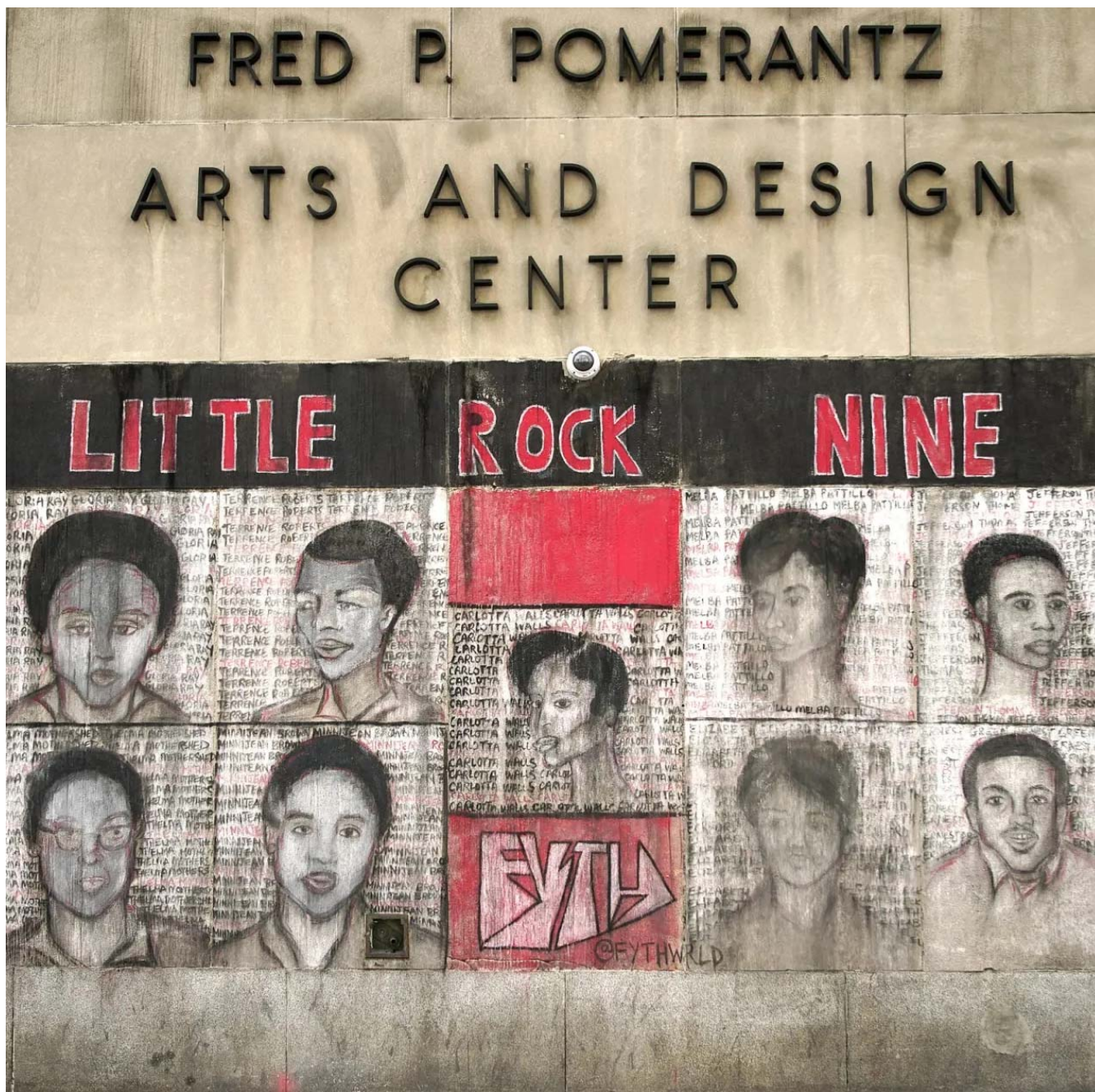
Adams' administration has been in disarray for at least the past two years. But last November, investigators in the Southern District of New York raided Adams' chief fundraiser. Later, FBI officials showed up at the homes of several Adams administration officials with search warrants. These admins included First Deputy Commissioner Sheena Wright, the Schools Chancellor David Banks and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Phil Banks III. Furthermore, NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban and several other police officials had phones and other devices seized last month. Caban has since resigned along with NYC Chief Counsel Lisa Zornberg.

So, my question isn't even if Adams is guilty or not. Of course he's guilty!

I just want to see if the evidence they have on him is as bad as former New Jersey Senator Bob Menezes.

## Why Little Rock Nine's Legacy Still Matters

by Quintessa Williams | WORD IN BLACK



NEW YORK, NY- AUGUST 21: A mural commemorating the "Little Rock Nine" (Photo by John Lamparski/Getty Images)

(EDUCATION) - Screaming parents, students yelling racial slurs, and a law enforcement escort. That's what the Little Rock Nine faced on September 25, 1957 when they made history as the first Black students to racially integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas.

The nine Black students — Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls — entered the school under the protection of federal troops.

Reflecting on her experience in a 1999 interview, Melba Pattillo Beals described her fear walking through the angry crowd: "...It was absolutely terrifying to walk past them. Every moment I wondered what would become of me. It was the kind of

fear I had never known. And it went on for most of the year."

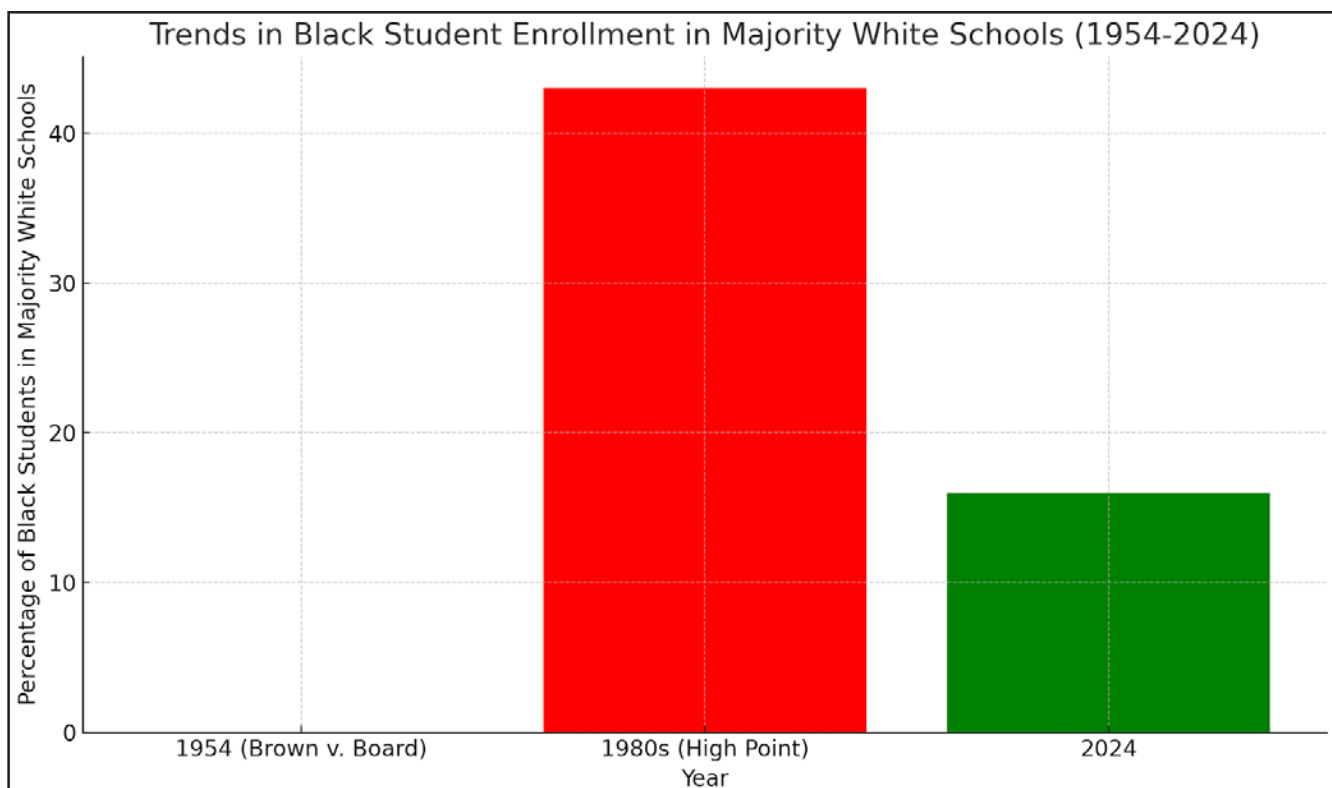
By bravely entering the school, the students challenged the longstanding lack of enforcement of the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision.

But even as we remember and recognize the bravery of the Little Rock Nine, the reality remains: too many Black students today face inequalities that echo the very struggles those pioneers fought to dismantle.

### Racial Violence in Little Rock

Despite President Dwight D. Eisenhower's deployment of federal troops to escort the students safely into the building, the Little Rock Nine endured

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The bar graph above illustrates the percentage of Black students attending majority-white schools in the South from 1954 (when it was 0%) to its peak in the 1980s (43%), and the current percentage in 2024 (16%). According to data from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, this chart reflects the trend of school desegregation and the recent resegregation observed in U.S. public schools.

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City Council to see regular work sessions again? See **CHANGES Page 4**



BMHC is expanding its footprint throughout the Greater Austin Area. See **SERVICES Page 5**

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