

Getting My Behavior Together



by Aiden Loyden
Hopewell Middle Sch.

Lately, I have been letting two important teams down due to my behavior. My football team plus my coaches, and the most important team, my home aka my parents. These two teams do so much for me and I go and misbehave in class. It is not cool or funny. I could not play in my football game on Saturday in Elgin, Texas. It was not fun driving there just to watch. I cannot play with

friends, have electronics, and I missed my 6th grade dance. The sad thing is, I have countless people telling me what is right from wrong and now they are disappointed. Now I have to serve double the punishment because I'm on two (2) separate teams. It is already super bad and this is just the start. From now on, I will consider my actions in and out of the classroom, think twice about who I hang out with, and how obedient I am to my elders, parents, and teachers. I am going to take more accountability for my actions and stop dropping the ball. I am sorry to all the loved ones I have hurt because of my actions. I am also sorry to my parents and teachers for causing more trouble to them.



Travis County Democratic Party Chair Issues Statement on Arrest of Domestic Terrorist

AUSTIN, TEXAS -- Travis County Democratic Party Chair Katie Naranjo issued the following statement:

Our community is freer and safer to participate in elections thanks to Austin Fire Department and FBI investigators and to the engagement of TCDP staff and our neighbors. Democrats are committed to breaking down barriers to ensure the safety of voters, our community, and our democratic process. When we work together, engage the community, and denounce far-right radicalism we make our community safer.

Any individual who wraps themselves in the flag and espouses racism, hate, bigotry, and commits violent acts, is a domestic terrorist. The most patriotic act we can take is to vote. We can and must drown out hate with our voices at the ballot box. There is no place for intimidation or violence in our political process. We call upon leaders of every political party and heads of government to denounce any behavior or acts that will intimidate voters.

We thank the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, and special thanks to the Arson Investigators and FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force for their steadfast response to the attack on our office and threats of future attacks.

The support we have received this week from our neighbors and community, here in Travis County and across Texas, is proof that we are not alone in this fight. Texans from every corner of our state are recommitting to better leadership, better government, and better society.

Bubba Wallace becomes 2nd Black driver to win NASCAR Cup race



by Biba Adams
THE GRIO

(GRIO) - NASCAR driver Bubba Wallace became the second Black driver to win the Cup Series race in the sport.

The historic achievement is Wallace's first career win, according to a tweet from NASCAR.

The 27-year-old driver was in first place in the race at Talladega Speedway on Monday when officials ended the event due to rain—awarding Wallace the win.

In a tearful statement following his vic-

tory, Wallace said, "This is for all the kids out there that want to have an opportunity and whatever they want to achieve, and be the best at what they want to do. You're going to go through a lot of bulls***. But you always got to stick true to your path and not let the nonsense get to you."

Wallace, one of the few African American drivers in the sport, has spoken out in the past about racial discrimination. In the summer of 2020, Wallace alleged that a noose was found in his garage. An investigation by NASCAR and the FBI concluded that the rope was only a "garage door pull."

As previously reported, Wallace refuted that conclusion telling CNN's Don Lemon, "I've been racing all of my life. We've raced out of hun-



Holding The Next Chief Accountable

(AUSTIN, TX) - Today the Austin City Council approved City Manager Spencer Cronk's promotion of Austin Police Department (APD) Interim Chief Joe Chacon to full-time police chief. Given Chacon's long career within APD, including as director of the Austin Regional Intelligence Center and as an Assistant Chief, we understand that he represents the status quo for a department plagued by racism, misogyny, unaccountable violence and right-wing sentiments. On top of that, we learned with the last police chief that someone promoted to chief from within the department can't be fired under state law - only demoted - so we fear that Chief Chacon couldn't be held accountable if his actions warrant dismissal.

Due to these concerns, we understand that some people were pushing for the hiring process to be completely restarted and for new candidates to be considered. However, the quality of finalists produced by this process gave us no confidence that a new process would yield a better candidate and could easily open the door for a worse one. Therefore, we pushed for the Austin City Council to get public commitments from Chacon before approving his confirmation, and to delay the process if necessary until those commitments were achieved.

In response, council members got Chacon on record making the commitments listed below.

Chacon commits to not supporting population-based police staffing levels (like required in Propo-

sition A) but instead supports staffing decisions based on what services the community wants police to deliver.

Chacon commits to pursue areas where alternatives to police can be deployed and supports the recent effort to send civilians instead of armed officers to some non-emergency calls and believes this is good policy aside from perceived staffing shortages.

Chacon commits to increasing the visibility of Victims Services personnel within the department and their access to department leadership, including in executive staff meetings.

Chacon commits to filling 9-1-1 call center vacancies (moved back under APD to comply with Texas House Bill 1900).

Chacon commits to being open to including civilians in the formal investigation of misconduct complaints against officers.

Chacon commits to resign if the City Manager asks for his resignation or city council votes they have "no confidence" in him.

While we should demand even more of the people empowered to use violence and surveillance in our city, we wanted to highlight these commitments with the community in hopes that we can collectively hold Chacon, APD and the city as a whole accountable to keeping them while we continue to push for truly reimagin

Texas board recommends posthumous pardon for George Floyd in 2004 case



by Fadel Allassan | YAHOO! NEWS

(HOUSTON, TEXAS) - The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles on Monday recommended a full posthumous pardon for George Floyd for a 2004 drug charge he received and served 10 months in prison for in Houston.

Why it matters: The decision on whether to grant clemency for the charge now lies with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), who must approve or reject the state board's decision.

Context: The Harris County Public Defender's Office applied for clemency in April.

The big picture: Floyd, whose killing at the hands of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin sparked global protests in 2020, grew up in Houston and was arrested there in 2004 during a police sting operation after he sold \$10 worth of crack, AP reported.

The police officer who arrested him, Gerald

Goines, is now facing two counts of murder charges following a 2019 drug raid. He was accused of having lied to justify warrants in the raid.

An attorney with the Harris County Public Defender's office alleged Goines fabricated a confidential informant in Floyd's case and "no one bothered to question the word of a veteran cop against that of a previously convicted Black man."

Of note: Floyd pleaded guilty to avoid a more-severe sentencing because of his past criminal history, the attorney said.

"We lament the loss of former Houstonian George Floyd and hope that his family finds comfort in Monday's decision by the Texas State Board of Pardons and Paroles to recommend clemency for a 2004 conviction involving former Houston Police Department Officer Gerald Goines."

dreds of garages that never had garage pulls like that."

"It was a noose," Wallace told Lemon. "Whether tied in 2019 or whatever, it was a noose. So, it wasn't directed at me but somebody tied a noose. That's what I'm saying."

Wallace will soon make history again as a documentary about his 2021 NASCAR season is coming to Netflix.

Wallace is now driving the No. 23 car in Michael Jordan's 23XI Racing team. At the time of the announcement, Jordan released a state-

ment saying, "Historically, NASCAR has struggled with diversity, and there have been few Black owners. The timing seemed perfect, as NASCAR is evolving and embracing social change more and more." The upcoming Netflix series will explore that newly formed team and the current season, according to Deadline.

According to ESPN, after Monday's NASCAR Cup Series race, and as fans chanted his name, Wallace said, "Got some credibility to my name now," adding, "I'm just like, 'Finally, I'm a winner



Bubba Wallace (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

and I'm a winner in the Cup level,' and it's just like, 'Hell yeah!' It was a huge weight lifted off my shoulders."

The first African American to win the top-level race in the sport was Wendell Scott, in

1963. Scott was announced the winner after another man, a white man named Buck Baker, was presented the trophy. Scott's family was finally presented with his winning trophy just two months ago.