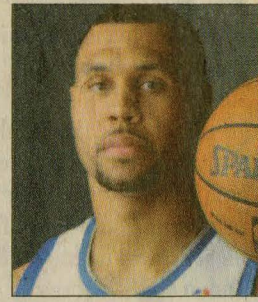


**Hack The CD Helps
Entrepreneurs Turn
Ideas Into Businesses**

-- Page 6

**Separating Church And
State: Mount Zion
Baptist Church Should
Not Be A "Police State"**

-- See Below



**Former NBA
All-Star Brandon
Roy Named New
Head Coach At
Nathan Hale**

-- Page 3

The Seattle Medium

A Message From The People... To The People \$.25

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 26

NOW IN OUR 47TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

Chris B. Bennett Wins National Award For Column Writing



Seattle Medium Co-publisher/Editor Chris B. Bennett, left, is shown with Jeffrey Boney, right, of the Houston Forwardtimes newspaper at the NNPA's National Merit Awards in Houston, TX. Bennett won third place for best column writing, while Boney won first place in the category. NNPA Photo/ Breddie Allen.

Chris B. Bennett, co-publisher/editor, was honored last week by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), The Black Press of America, during their Merit Awards held in Houston, TX.

Bennett won third place in the Best Column Writing category for his column "Through The Eyes Of An Ink Barrel" which appears in The Seattle Medium.

"The NNPA has over 200 member publications and to be recognized is indeed a great honor," said Bennett of the award. "The Black Press has many great writers and to be recognized by your peers for the work that you do makes this award even more special."

While excited about his national recognition, Bennett was quick to point

out that awards don't mean very much if you're not making a difference in the community that you serve.

"We don't do this work for recognition," says Bennett. "We do it to provide a platform to showcase the success stories in our community, to expose the wrongs that take place in our society, to give a voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless, and to speak up for the least, the last and the left out."

"We do it to make a difference," he continued. "I'm just happy that God put me in a position to help others, and I'm grateful for everyone in the community who encouraged me to continue writing because their support keeps me grounded and inspires me to keep telling our stories from our perspective."

AG Ferguson: Volkswagen To Pay \$26 Million To State Over Consumer Fraud

On Tuesday, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced a more than \$26 million agreement with Volkswagen over its deceptive marketing of its "clean diesel" vehicles, plus restitution for consumers and billions in investments in clean technology development and environmental mitigation.

The \$26.1 million recovery is believed to represent the third-largest Consumer Protection recovery in Washington's history.

In related litigation, hundreds of millions of dollars will be returned to Washington consumers as restitution, and Volkswagen will either buy back or repair affected vehicles.

"Consumers specifically sought these supposedly green vehicles in an effort to make a better choice for the environment, only to discover Volkswagen deliberately deceived them," Ferguson said. "Volkswagen pulled a

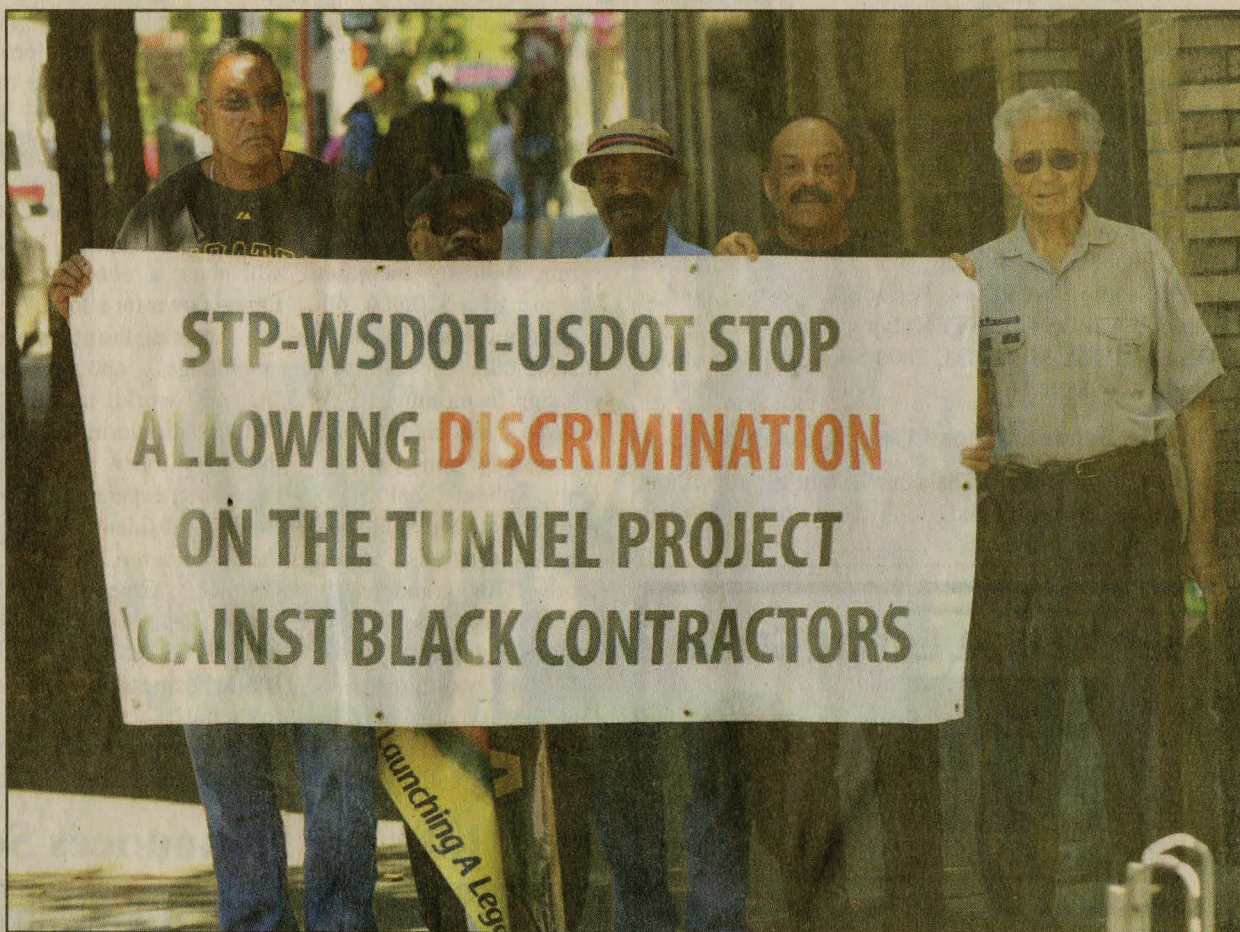
bait-and-switch on Washington consumers, and our agreement holds them accountable."

As a result of the agreement, Volkswagen will pay the states \$1,100 per car for repeated violations of consumer protection laws, for a total of \$570 million nationwide. This includes \$24,387,000 to Washington for the 22,170 affected vehicles sold in the state. Washington will also receive an additional \$1,739,120 for its role as a leader in the investigation, for a total of more than \$26 million.

Volkswagen will also pay \$20 million to the states for their costs in investigating this matter and to establish a fund that state attorneys general can utilize for future initiatives, including investigations concerning emissions violations and automobile compliance.

Full details of the agreement will be available online at VWCourtSettlement.com.

Community Activist Stand Up For Economic Justice On Tunnel Project



Members of the African American community held a protest rally near the entrance of the Seattle Tunnel Project in downtown Seattle on Monday. Organizers claim that African American contractors have been subjected to discriminatory business practices. Staff Photo/Chris B. Bennett

On Monday, members of the African American community held a rally to support African American owned business that they claim have been discriminated against on the Seattle Tunnel Project.

According to Eddie Rye, Jr., the rally was designed to shed light on the lack of enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act and the unfair business practices that have allegedly taken place on the project.

"It's time for us to let the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Seattle Tunnel Partners know in a very demonstrative way that

their lack of enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the continuing racist practices are unacceptable," said Rye.

The timing of the protest, according to organizers, coincided with the presence of investigators from the Federal Highway Administration Office of Civil Rights who were in

town to review the alleged discriminatory practices on the Seattle Tunnel Project.

In a release prior to the protest, organizers said that they were going to "visibly show support for [their] contractors and demand that the USDOT Civil Rights Office and the WSDOT hold the Seattle Tunnel Partners accountable."

Thoughts From The Chairman

Separating Church And State: Mount Zion Baptist Church Should Not Be A "Police State"



By Chris H. Bennett
Chairman, The Seattle Medium

Why did the founders of 24 Countries deliberately establish a Constitutional Amendment to separate the powers of the Church and the State? Perhaps the answer lies in what is happening at one of Seattle's most prestigious churches, the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Seattle where many members have stated they feel the hostile worship environment is apparently similar to prison or jail under the leadership of Sr. Pastor Aaron Williams, and former Interim Police Chief now Chair of the Trustee Board, Harry Bailey. Under their leadership Church and State seem to be co-mingled rather than separate. For example, utilizing the services of a police officer, who, according to sources, is allegedly responsible, to

some degree, for the U. S. Justice Department being in town to investigate corruption and misconduct in the Seattle Police Department. It is rumored and alleged that former Interim Police Chief Bailey introduced him to the Mount Zion Baptist Church Brotherhood for a mentor training assignment for which he was allegedly paid overtime by the Seattle Police Department, according to Bailey, "...this guy is not a racist, he worked for me." This alleged corrupt cop later received Mount Zion's Father of the Year Award. Are we dealing with rocket scientist stuff or just apparently rewarding trusted friends?

The downtown "powers that be" placed Rev. Aaron Williams, Sr. Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church on the U. S. Justice Department inspired Community Police Commission despite Williams' long-time, then non-resident of Seattle status, minimum pastoral experience, and unknown civil rights background. Furthermore, out of retirement, Former Assistant Chief, Harry Bailey, was tabbed as

Seattle Police Department's interim Chief.

One of Bailey's early actions as the Interim Police Chief was to terminating all of the Police Department Assistant Chiefs and complete negotiations for firing of the then current Police Chief. After the Interim Police Chief returned to Mount Zion he became Sr. Pastor Rev. Williams' alleged right hand man, and with pastoral support was elected Chair of the Trustee Board while remaining Chief of Church Security. Traditionally at Mount Zion, no one person could hold two ministry positions.

NO one can be sure if the former Interim Police Chief was allegedly institutionalized with the Donald Trump's TV like apprentice show "you are fired". However, similarities apparently occurred at Mount Zion, as the newly elected Trustee Chair's first and most controversial action was apparently to over-rule a recent Trustee agreement that allowed an 89 year-old homebound Church member to remain in leased Church housing at the \$1500 per month she was paying rather than raise the rent which would have

caused her eviction. The newly elected Trustee Board Chair, Bailey, sent her a certified letter to apparently economically evict this 89 year-old church member from Mount Zion rental houses by increasing her rent an extra \$1000 per month to \$2500.00 per month. For that, Bailey apparently took the heat for Williams as he apparently did for the Seattle Mayor with the police department, got a Jesse Jones "get Jesse" segment on KIRO TV. According to church sources, the 89-year-old tenant apparently was the only tenant given this increase. Insane? A violation of the age and disability act? Mean-spirited? Certainly NOT kind, gentle, Christ-like or demonstrating love as Jesus taught in His only Command: "Love one another as I Love you...", as preached from many pulpits?

At the last all church meeting, according to former State Rep. Dawn Mason, this Trustee Chair, the former Interim Police Chief, is now on an apparent mission to "weed" Mount Zion of its most

(Cont'd On Page 7)