

**KILL RACISM. KILL WHITE
SUPREMACY. OR KEEP KILLING
HUMANITY.**

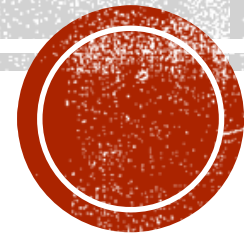
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Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

Senior Researcher

University of Louisville

July 15, 2020 Presentation to Louisville Metro Council-Community
Affairs, Health, and Education Committee



PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- Define violence and racism
- Brief historical and contemporary context of violence and racism
- Review local data (and community-based participatory research)
- Review evidence of local impact of racism
- Identify other jurisdictions' declarations of **racism as a public health crisis**



DEFINE STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

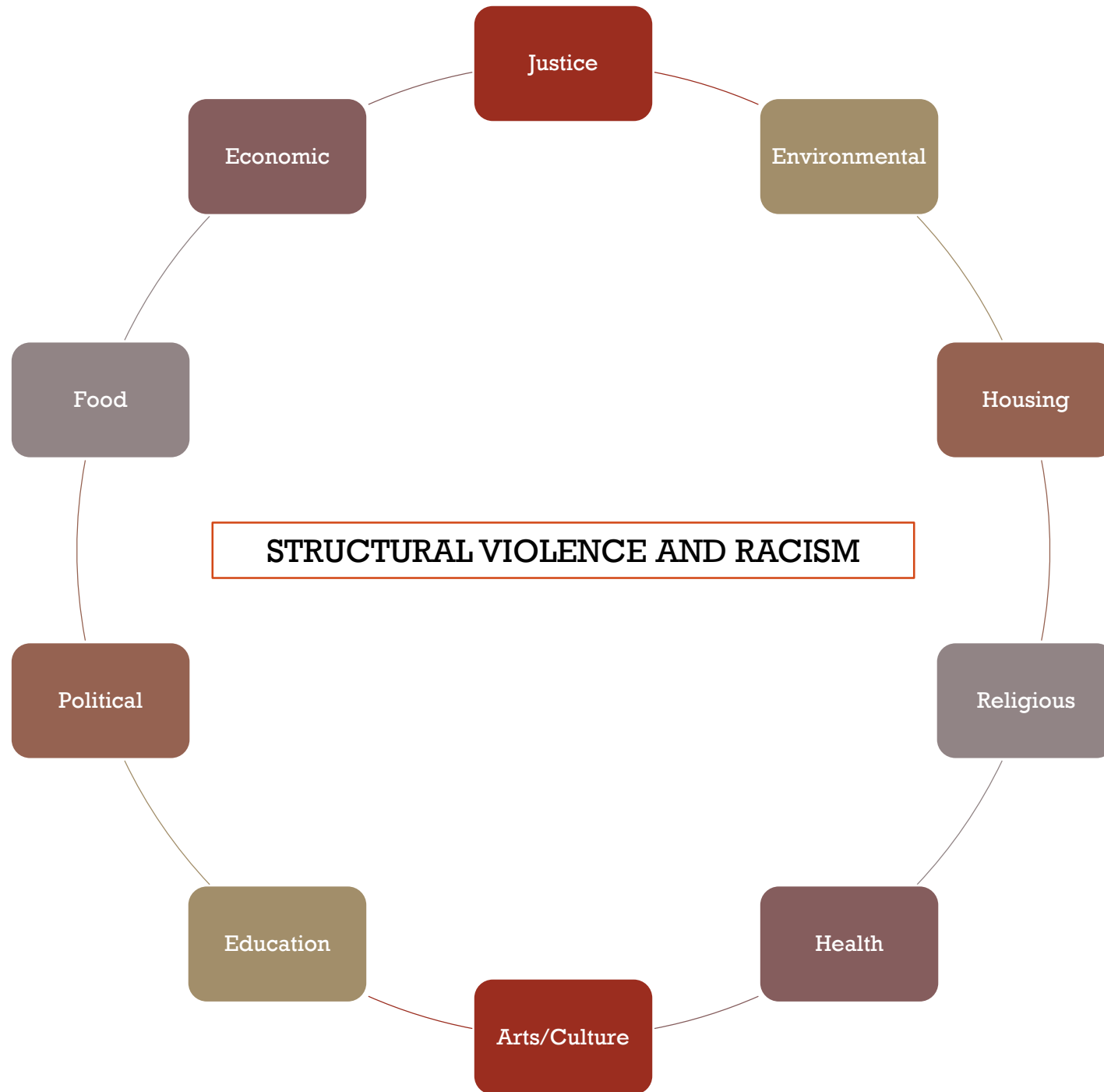


DEFINE RACE AND RACISM

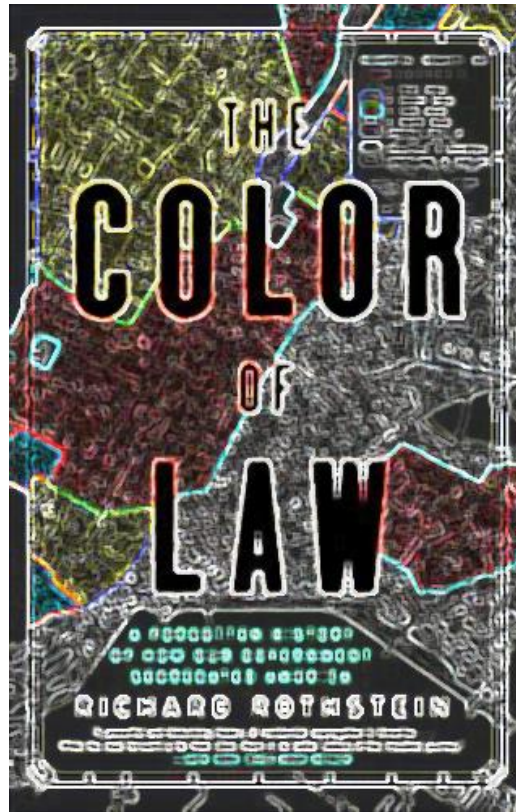


- **Institutionalized:** differential access to resources, services, and opportunities; seems *normal* and *legal*
- **Interpersonal:** differential assumptions and actions towards others; *prejudice* and *discrimination*
- **Internalized:** acceptance of negative messages about their own (and collective) abilities and worth; *helpless* and *hopeless*





WHAT'S POLICY GOT TO DO WITH IT?





THE BLACK LIFE CYCLE?



+



=





Jason Downey



Jul 1 · 🌐

Look at what I got booked with versus what [Woolfolk](#) got booked with. We were at the same place at the same time doing the exact same thing.

I'll get arrested 100 more times if I have to in order for this shit to stop.





SAY HER NAME

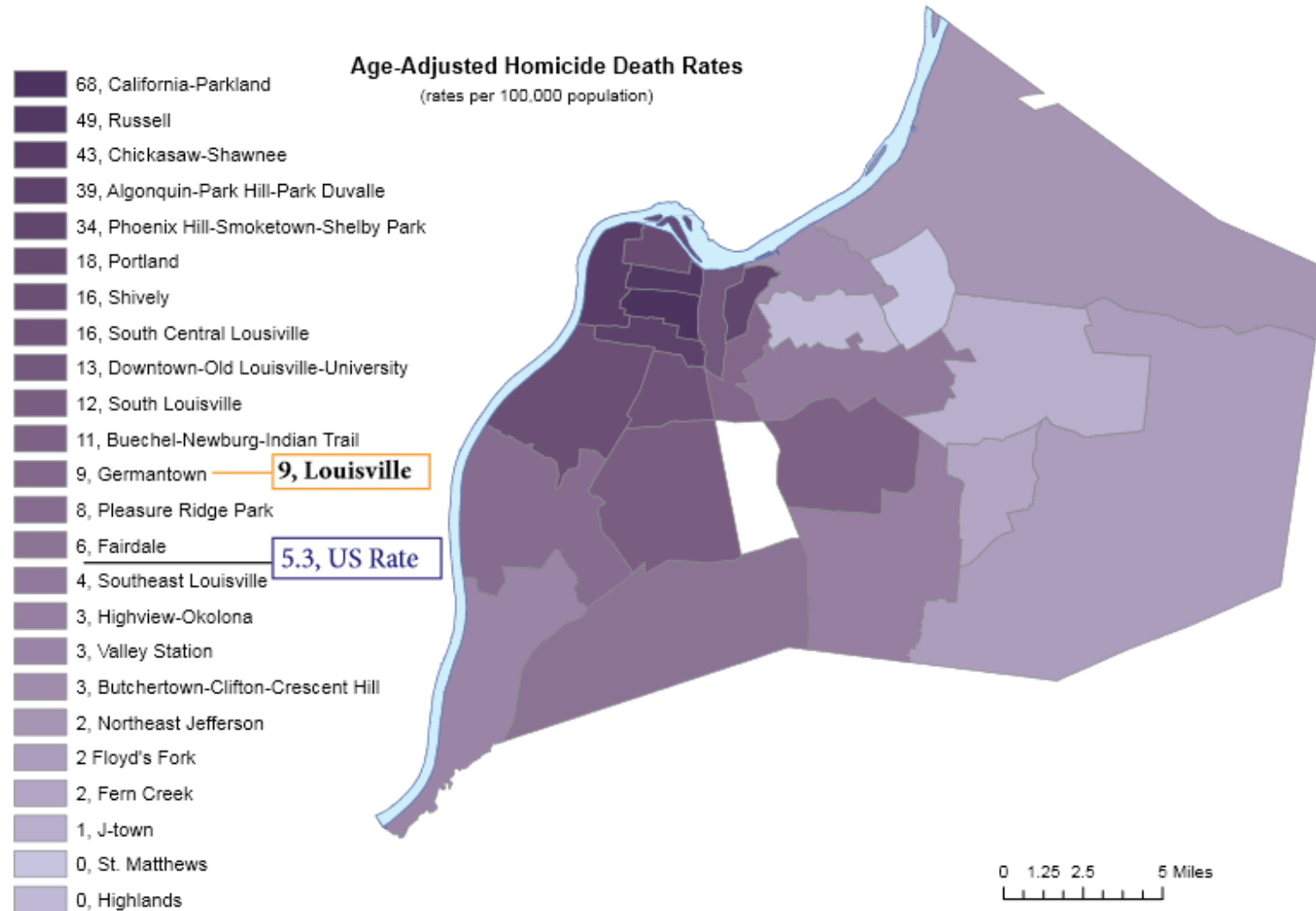
((((((((((BREONNA TAYLOR))))))))))



HOW ARE BLACK PEOPLE SEEN IN DATA?



HOMICIDE

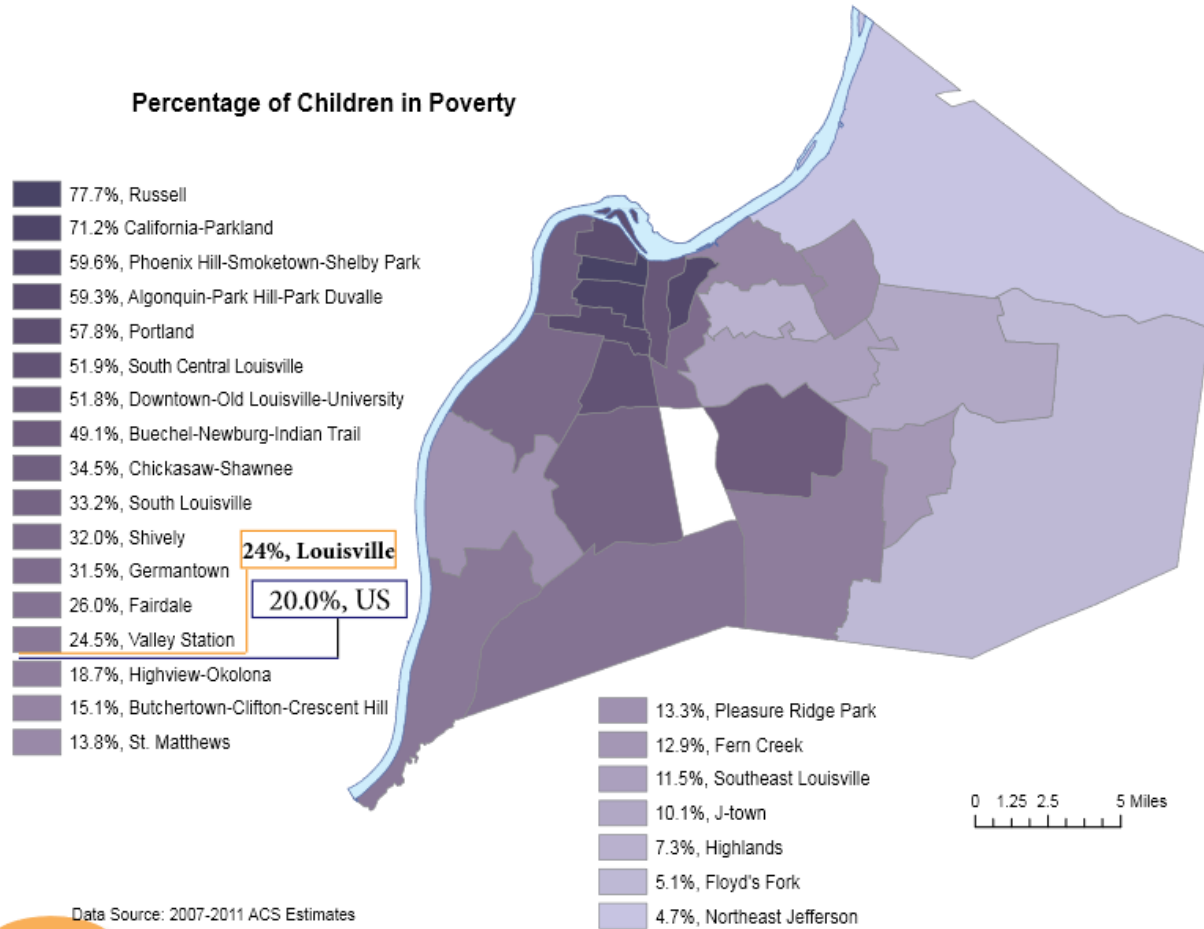


Data Source: 2006-2010 Louisville/Jefferson County Death Records
Age-Adjusted to 2000 standard population



GROWING UP IN POVERTY

Percentage of Children in Poverty

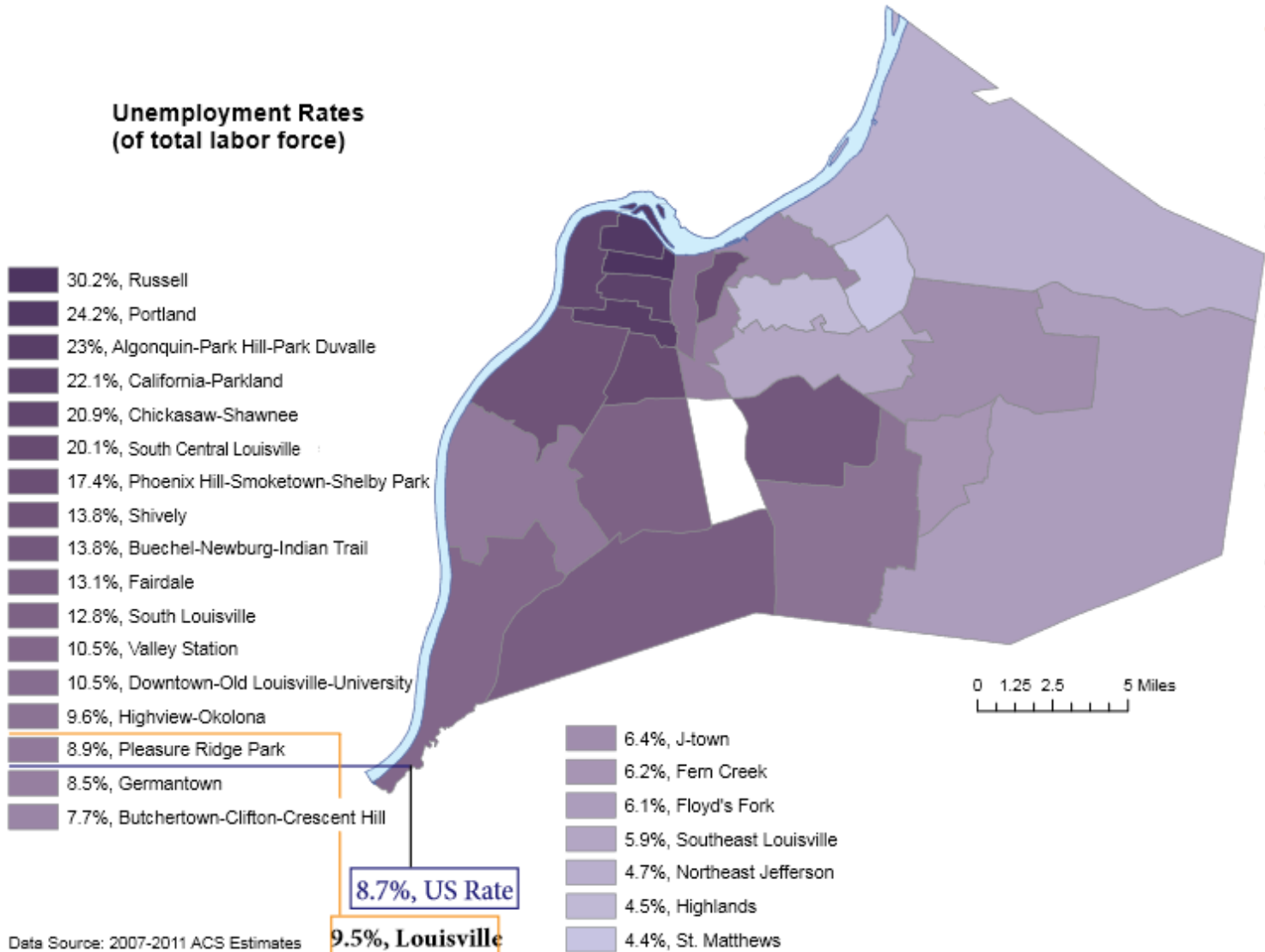


Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS Estimates



EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Rates
(of total labor force)



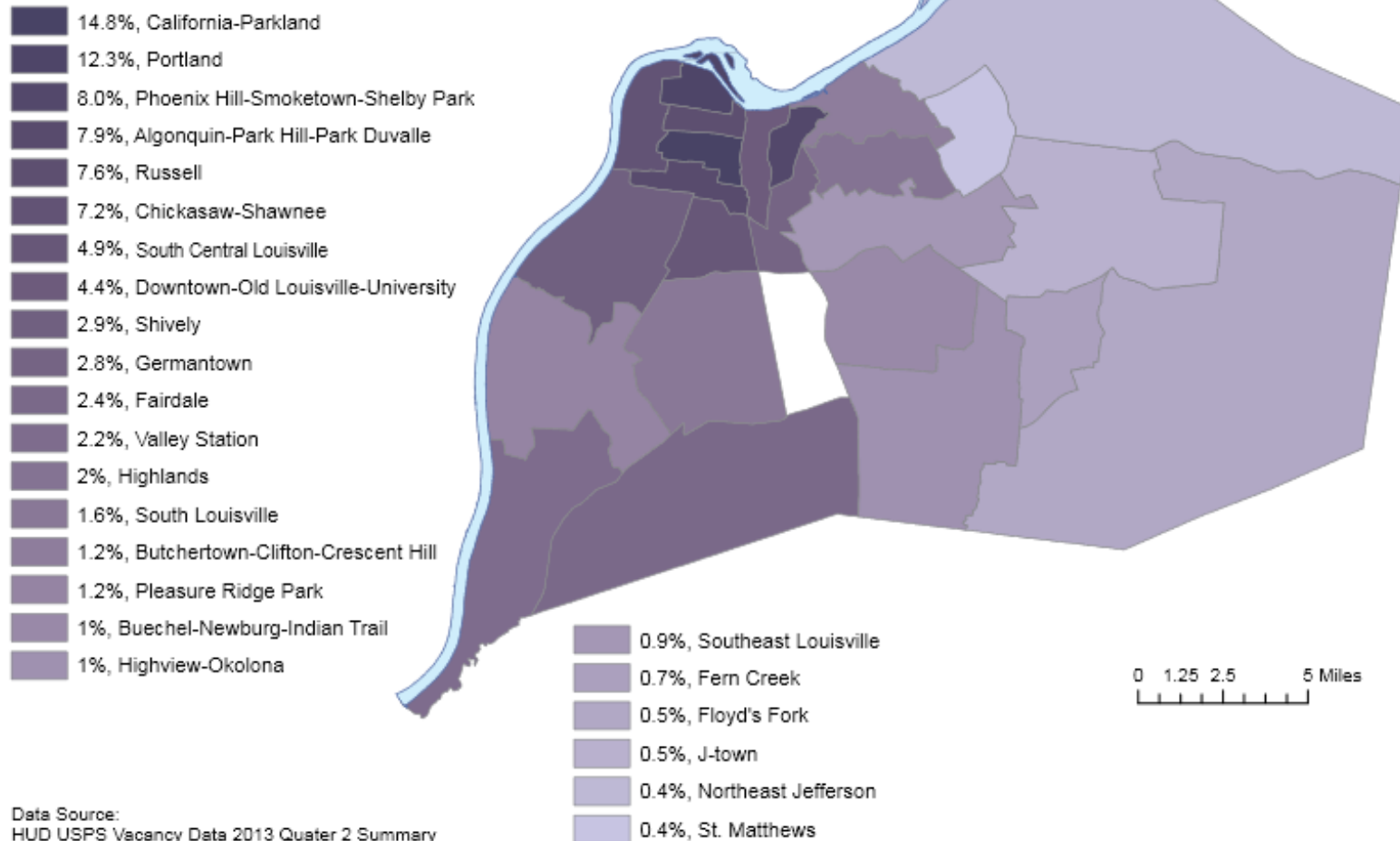
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS Estimates



VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Proportion of Residential Vacancies
(address vacant for 3+ years)

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Data Source:
HUD USPS Vacancy Data 2013 Quarter 2 Summary



WHAT'S THE **MEANING** OF THIS CONTEXT?



WE WANT "JUST" DATA...



FROM FERGUSON TO LOUISVILLE

- Interviews
- Captured images related to dichotomies of safety, justice, and hope.
- Image narrative shaped by the following questions:
 - What do you **SEE** here?
 - What's really **HAPPENING** here?
 - How does this relate to **OUR** lives?
 - **WHY** does this situation **EXIST**?
 - What can we **DO** about it?

**NO
INDICTMENT!**



WEST LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS



RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- When you think about what happened in Ferguson, how do you relate that to your experience here in Louisville?
- What are the similarities you see between the two cities?
- What kinds of differences do you see and hear between how things are in Ferguson and how they are here?
- How do these things that you've talked about affect you and your family?
- In your mind, can anything be done to make things better here?



WEST LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

RACISM and OPPRESSION

Racism and oppression contribute to lack of opportunity, poverty, violence, and incarceration.

- Racial inequity puts members of the Black community at a disadvantage before they start.
- The Black community recognizes the injustice of the prison industrial complex.
- People feel powerless and like they have no voice.
- The Black community often blames itself wrongly.



WEST LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

LOSS and TRAUMA

The loss and trauma in the community is so common that people feel frustrated, hopeless, and powerless.

- The community has grown used to loss.
- The public perception of West Louisville and predominantly Black communities focuses on poverty, violence, and drugs.



WEST LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

SYSTEM RELIANCE

We have changed as a society, with more reliance on the system and less reliance on individuals, families, and communities.

- Homes are broken, and issues are generational.
- Social cohesion kept Black communities safe in the past, but that has been lost.
- Faith leaders and the church should play an active role in making positive change in the community.
- There has to be some individual accountability for behavior.



WEST LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

DO SOMETHING

There is recognition that we have to stop talking and do something to stop the violence.

- People in the community are fearful for their safety and the safety of their families.
- Residents draw on history in terms of understanding current injustice and what should be done.
- People need to take ownership of their communities and be part of the solution.
- Solutions must come from within the community.
- There is strength in numbers; the masses must be mobilized for change to occur.



WEST LOUISVILLE PHOTOVOICE PROJECT: YET WE LIVE, STRIVE, & SUCCEED



www.livestrivesucceed.com



LIVE, STRIVE, SUCCEED DIALOGUE

- Tell us about this picture.
- Does this picture speak to anyone else's experience?
- Why does this [situation, problem, strength] exist?
- How can we become empowered by our understanding of this?
- What can we do?



LIVE, STRIVE, SUCCEED THEMES

1. Systemic inequalities are apparent and oppressive in West Louisville
2. The city doesn't care about West Louisville—or Black lives
3. Black lives and Black history matter
4. The need for collective community action



THEME 1: SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES ARE APPARENT AND OPPRESSIVE IN WEST LOUISVILLE

- Memorialization of Thomas Jefferson
 - Presenting colonialism as positive while omitting the genocide and slavery attached to it
- Inequalities in the school system
 - Zero Tolerance policies
 - School to prison pipeline
- Criminal justice system
 - Teaches, reinforces, and benefits from criminal(ized) behavior among Black male youth





HOW DARE YOU

INJUSTICE/RACISM



THEME 2: THE CITY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT WEST LOUISVILLE — OR BLACK LIVES

- The look of the west end vs. the east end
 - Plenty of neglected properties
 - Trash in streets
- Lack of resources to west Louisville
- Media portrayal is one-sided and inaccurate



THEME 3: BLACK LIVES AND BLACK HISTORY MATTER

- Need for promotion of positive self image
 - Emphasis on promoting positive cultural/ethnic identity
- Inspiration comes from knowledge of history
 - Knowing [accurate] history is empowering
 - Seeing others who look like you do great things is motivational



THEME 4: THE NEED FOR COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION

- Take ownership
 - “We have to do something ourselves to make it better”
 - Don’t wait for others [outside of community] to make changes
- Adopt a “my brother’s keeper” mentality
- Meet the needs of our youth
- To be able to do these things, we need:
 - To know accurate history
 - Know and value our identity
 - Promote, engage, and celebrate the good of the community



CONTEXTUAL UTILIZATION

- Exhibit lectures
- Methods lectures
- Data triangulation
- My Dream for Lou: Policy Summit 2016
- YVPRC



FOLLOW UP: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Identify urgent priorities**
 - **Education**
 - **Economics**
 - **Promoting positive self-identity**
- **Form teams to work on priority areas**



DATA TRIANGULATION

- Community conversations: youth and police
- OSHN: Implementation meetings
- Louisville Metro Police Department
- University of Louisville Hospital
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Louisville Metro Housing Authority



WHAT KEEPS HUMANS
STUCK?



Navigating Ecology

BOAT STUCK → PEOPLE DROWN



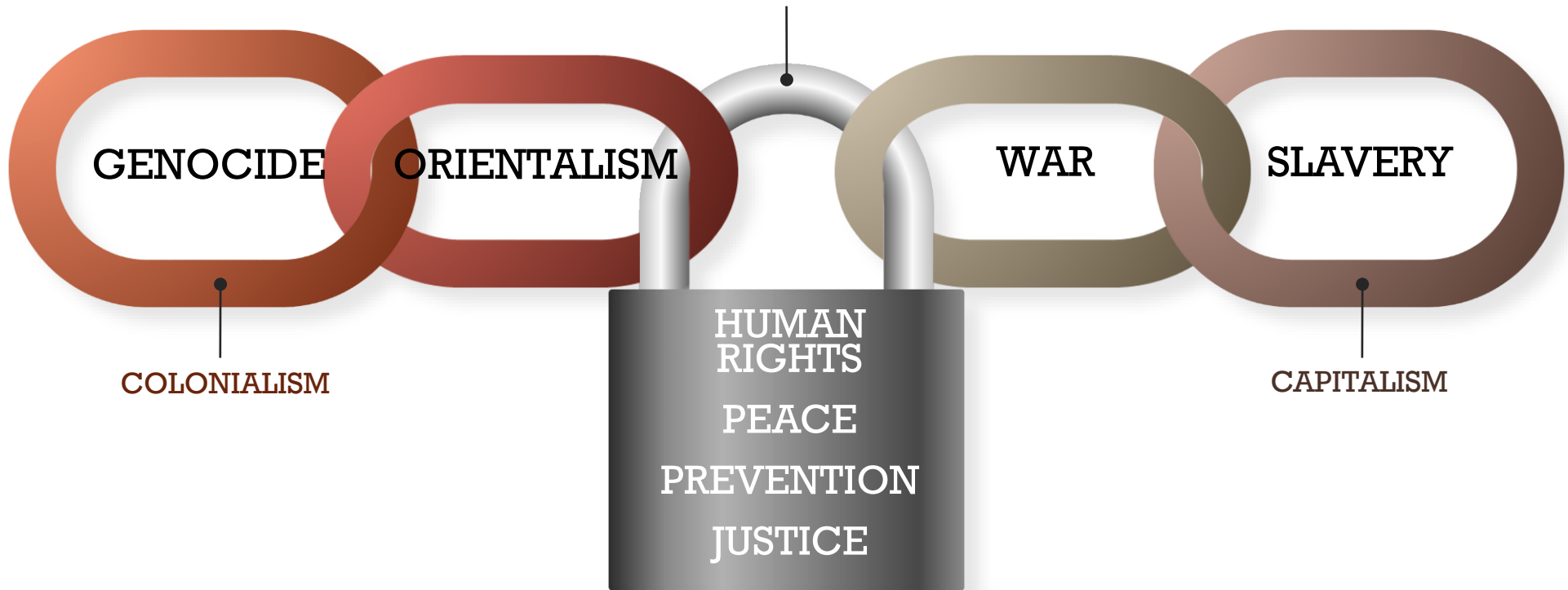
Why can't we see under water?

No Radars

Faulty Radars

Ignored Radars

White Supremacy



Wealth



Navigating Ecology

MOVEMENT → FLOURISH

RECLAIMING POWER

MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES!



SOCIOPOLITICAL ENGAGEMENT...



JEFFERSON COUNTY
ATTICA C. SCOTT
HOUSE DISTRICT 41



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

702 Capitol Avenue
Capitol Annex, Suite 432C
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Office: (502) 564-8100, Ext. 606
Fax: (502) 564-6543

August 16, 2017

Ms. Christine Trout, Commissioner
Alcohol Beverage Control Board
Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet
1003 Twilight Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601-8400

Dear Commissioner Trout:

I oppose the granting of any alcohol licenses in Louisville at:

- 535 East Broadway – Owner is Mayher's Inc., President is Samir Alya (they are DBA East Coast Liquors)
- 540 East Gray Street – Owner is MSBT, LLC, President is Alem Berhe Tella (they are DBA A-Z Liquors)
- 942 East Muhammad Ali Boulevard - Owners of Webb's Liquors: Sanjit Pandher, Sukhminder Pandher, Tirath Pandher, Gurmukh Pandher, Ramandeep Singh

I applaud and am in full support of the recent denial of these licenses by Louisville Metro Government.

The negative impact of establishing liquors sales in communities aspiring to be safe and sustainable is well documented. Alcohol products are already sufficiently available in both the immediate neighborhoods of Smoketown and Phoenix Hill as well as in Old Louisville, Paristown Point, and the Highlands. Residents and stakeholders in this area are working to bring an array of commerce and services to our neighborhoods. Increasing alcohol sales has never been on the community's list of priorities. Granting an alcohol sales license, where it is neither needed nor has been requested, would be counter to the neighborhood wishes and best interests.

The notice indicates that none of the owners reside in the neighborhood and some not even in our city. Applying for a license to sell alcohol where they are unlikely to dwell or face the daily consequences suggests an insensitivity to the community needs, concerns, and hopes for a better neighborhood.

COMMITTEES:
Education • Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs • Local Government



KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State Capitol
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-564-8100

August 21, 2017

Mr. Keith Talley, Sr.
Director, Louisville Metro APCD
701 W. Ormsby Ave.
Louisville, KY 40203-3137

Dear Mr. Talley,

As state representatives who collectively serve 176,000 residents in Jefferson County, we stand in firm support of the nationally-recognized benchmark standards established for air quality through the Strategic Toxic Air Reduction (STAR) program under the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District. We urge you to do the same.

We join those individuals and organizations, including the American Lung Association, the Kentucky Resources Council and Rubbertown Emergency Action, in opposing any reduction in emission goals for toxic, cancer-causing chemicals as currently requested by American Synthetic Rubber Company. By improving air quality and reducing health risks, the STAR program benefits our local economy – it improves the quality of life for area residents and helps protect working families and their children throughout the Metro area. These standards help secure environmental justice, social equality and economic prosperity for all Jefferson County residents.

We encourage district members to reject any reduction in emission standards, and resist modifying requirements for one industry lest it invite requests from other industries currently respecting these standards to follow suit. We've made too much progress in community compliance to turn back now.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Joni Jenkins
44th House District

State Rep. Darryl Owens
43rd House District

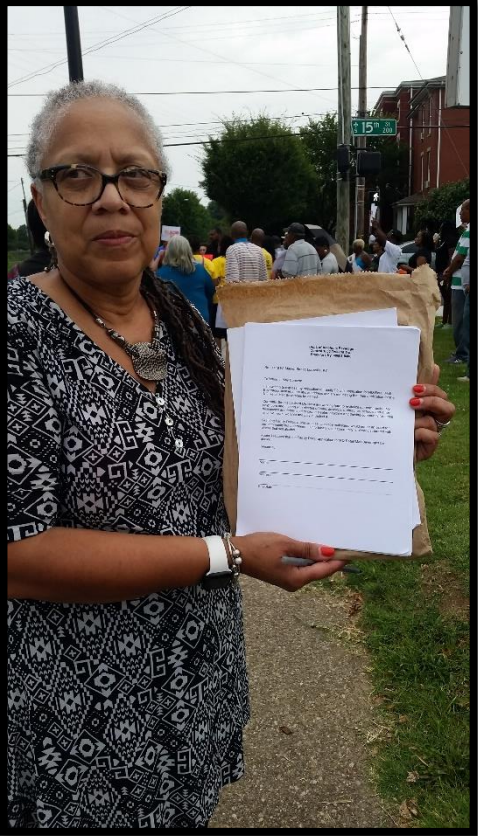
Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville Metro Council President David Yates
Air Pollution Control Board Chairman Dr. Robert Powell

State Rep. Attica Scott
41st House District

State Rep. Reginald Meeks
42nd House District



LIQUOR LICENSE PROTEST

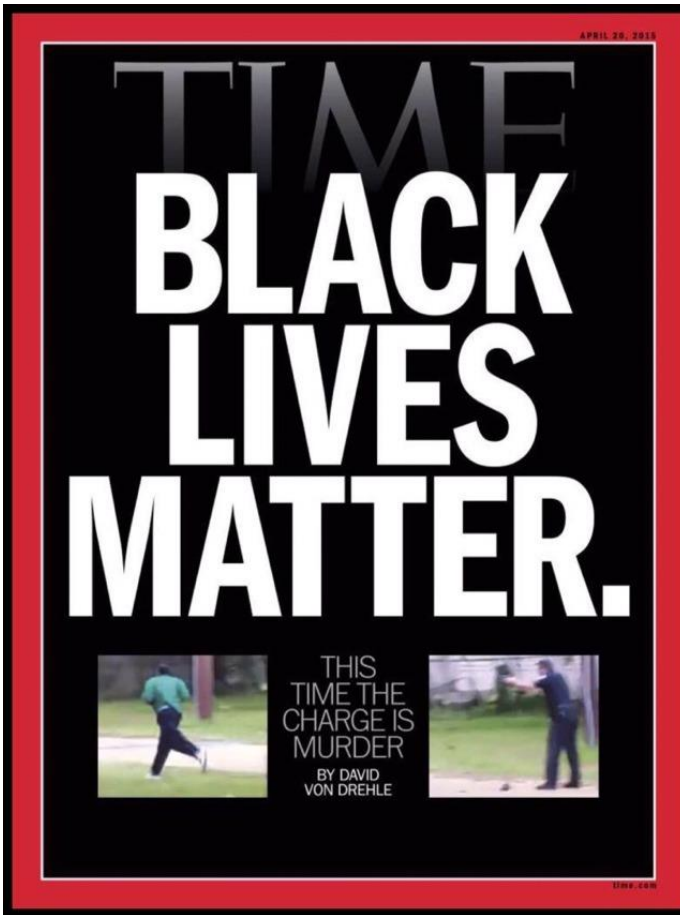




TRINIDAD ♀ ✨ @HiJack... • 3d ✓
#power of the #people 🙌🙌🙌

Courier Journal ✓ @courierjo...
Louisville says Family Dollar
can't sell beer after community
protests dlvr.it/QlhL54





barriers for working class folks and single moms like me to run for high office

WTF?

I am going to continue working with my colleagues to get our bills at least heard in committee, particularly in an environment where none of the Black people who are members of the House had any of our bills heard in the 2018 session. I will keep lifting up these issues and refuse to allow us to be treated as invisible by the political establishment.

Since announcing in 2018 that I was considering a run for Governor, many of you have started asking important questions like why no Black person is running as a Lieutenant Governor



The 502CON adult advisors would like to take a moment to address the virtual attack and disruption of our event on Saturday, May 23, 2020. When our youth leaders enlisted us as their advisors – we knew they had an ambitious vision that they wanted to rapidly deliver to the city and we supported it. Their vision to create a safer community for all included addressing uncomfortable and complex issues including the systemic inequities that are often at the root of violence. Individuals who address the disparities that exist in our communities have historically been targeted, and Saturday's attack on their collective brilliance was a signpost telling the world that we have ways to go in creating the just world that we all deserve.

The horrific hijacking of our event by racist bigots did not stop our young leaders' commitment to this work. In fact, they reminded us that we embody ancestral power that shapes, that builds, that rises, that heals and that is everlasting. As forces work to detonate our dopeness, we will continue to move forward with innovative visions that inspire humanity to be better and to do better. Our work to create a safer city where everyone is supported and free of violence alongside our young leaders will continue. Thank you for supporting our youth's ambition, their critical consciousness, and for gifting them with your empathy during this time of growth. We are currently prioritizing and supporting their protection as well as healing. We take the racially driven virtual attack very seriously and will take steps to investigate the incident.

Our youth leaders will continue to ring the alarms as they lead the way for an equitable and peaceful nation that we can achieve by having difficult conversations about violence prevention. We will continue to stand right alongside them and appreciate those who have extended their support. It takes a village.

#UBUNTU

Trinidad Jackson and Maryam Ahmed



RACISM: PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE / CRISIS

- The health condition must place a large **burden on society**, a burden that is getting larger despite existing control efforts
- The burden must be **distributed unfairly** (i.e., certain segments of the population are unequally affected)
- There must be evidence that **upstream preventive strategies** could substantially reduce the burden of the condition
- Such preventive **strategies are not** in place.



RACISM DECLARED A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS/EMERGENCY IN 65 JURISDICTIONS

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota

- Missouri
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington
- **Wisconsin**



WHAT ARE WE ENVISIONING?

