

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter
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ECONOMIC STORM CLOUDS

There certainly are storm clouds in the USA and other global economies. And the cutbacks legislated (and to be legislated) by our Congress will be especially hard on the less-well-off during this recession-like downturn.

One indicator of inequality: In the past two decades, the income of CEOs has increased about 300%, whereas the pay of production workers has increased about 4%.

"More than other countries, we have a very unequal income distribution where compensation goes to the top in a winner-take-all economy." (Timothy Smeeding, U. of Wisconsin at Madison)

It's probably going to be more unequal thanks to the likely failure of congress's super-committee of twelve that will recommend cuts. Yes, our very good Congressman Chris van Hollen will be on the committee, but just seven of twelve votes will carry the day. (By the way, the redrawing of congressional lines soon to take place will probably mean that the Langley Park area will have a new person as representative.)

In mid-August, riots broke out in England, and some commentators blame the rich-poor gap, really the marginalization of the poor—and especially the immigrant poor. There are also massive demonstrations in Israel over the rising rich-poor gap there. (The Post headline: "Massive economic protests staged in Israeli cities.") Even in Iran, that much-too-closed country, the rich-poor gap is rising and the unhappiness with the regime is rising too.

Let's hope we can solve our inequality problem before the USA looks like Liverpool. We have had the anti-Vietnam War protests and the Martin Luther King assassination turmoil. So there is some history of mass street activism.



FOR INFORMATION AND EMERGENCIES

- ▶ Crime, fire, and health emergencies: 911
- ▶ Real-time traffic information: 511
- ▶ County Councilman Will Campos: 301 952-4436
- ▶ Maryland Senator Victor Ramirez: 301 858-3387
- ▶ Nurse hotline: 1888 315-7257
- ▶ Action Langley Park: 301 405-4005
- ▶ Maryland Service Locator: <http://www.mdcs.org>

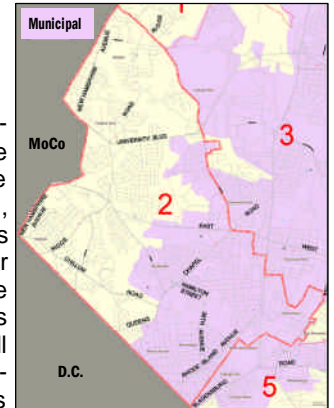
REDISTRICTING IN THE COUNTY

Thanks to the data now available from the 2010 census, the county (and country) is in the process of redistricting—that is, redrawing the lines of the districts from which each council member is elected. It appears that for the Langley Park area, the changes are minimal. District 2 will still include Langley Park, Hyattsville, Mt. Rainier, and areas around them. The Redistricting Commission is trying to keep "communities" together—only Adelphi may be split.

The Commission will unveil the preliminary plan before it is submitted to the County Council on September 1. The council will hold a public hearing on September 27; adopting the plan is scheduled for the end of November.

Note: In the above map, the purple areas indicate a municipality; the grey-brown areas indicate Montgomery County or DC. More information is available at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/redistricting2011. The preliminary redistricting maps can be found at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/redistricting2011/maps.

Note: The school districts are also being redrawn. Why not have them contiguous?



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

The combination of fertility differences and immigration patterns is changing the USA. In just the 2000-2010 period, the percentage of Euro-Americans has increased slightly (+6%), and other population categories have increased much more—led by Asians and Latino/as (+43%).

Back in 1980, the Euro population constituted 83% of the country's total. The Latino/a percentage was 7%. Now, these percentages are 72% and 16%.

In Maryland, the White Alone population is 58%, down 1% in the past ten years. The Black Alone population is 29%, a 15% gain. The Latino/a population is now 8% of the state's total, up 107%. In Prince George's County, Latinos are 15% (up from 7%); in Langley Park, the Latino count is 77% of the neighborhood—and that's probably an undercount. The ALP guess=80% at the minimum.

Two key questions: How will Euros adjust nationally and in Maryland? Will the changes lead to greater equality?

USA 2010	Pop Change	
	%	%
White Alone	72	+6
Black Alone	12	+12
Native Amer Alone	1	+18
Asian Alone	5	+43
Other	9	+27
Latino/a	16	+43

IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANTS

Secure Communities

Now the Feds state, on 5 August 2011, that the Secure Communities program is not optional—all states must comply. Alas, the implementation of the program has been deeply flawed because non-criminals and non-dangerous criminals are being caught in the “web” of the C&D (capture and deport) machine. Will an “innocent” person caught in the DHS web have access to legal counsel? Not likely. “For DHS to act with such disregard for local leadership, community policing and fiscal prudence is an act of bad faith and bad policy,” said Ali Noorani of the National Immigration Forum.

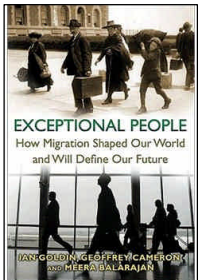
Please see the *Los Angeles Times* editorial on BLP page 3.

Self-Check

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that self-check, a free online service of E-Verify that allows workers to check their own employment eligibility status, is now available in Spanish and accessible to residents of Maryland. Go to www.uscis.gov/everifyselfcheck

A New Book

The book is *Exceptional People: How Migration Shaped Our World and Will Define Our Future* by Ian Goldin, Geoffrey Cameron, and Meera Balarajan (2011): “Throughout history, migrants have fueled the engine of human progress. Their movement has sparked innovation, spread ideas, relieved poverty, and laid the foundations for a global economy. In a world more interconnected than ever before, the number of people with the means and motivation to migrate will only increase. *Exceptional People* looks at the profound advantages that such dynamics will have for countries and migrants the world over. Challenging the received wisdom that a dramatic growth in migration is undesirable, the book proposes new approaches for governance that will embrace this international mobility.” The authors remind us that distinguished Harvard economist George Borjas estimates that migrants make a net contribution of \$10 billion a year to the US economy. Others have higher estimates.



Others have higher estimates.

News from the States: Immigration

According to a report on immigration policy presented at the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in San Antonio, 1,592 bills related to immigrants and refugees were introduced in the 50 states this year. Forty states enacted 151 laws and adopted 95 resolutions. Almost certainly, most of the laws were inspired by Mexican and Central American immigrants, not immigrants from Europe. Those darn brown skins! And they don't even speak good English!!

Undocumented Youth

Learning to Be Illegal: Roberto Gonzalez is currently researching “Learning to be Illegal,” referring to undocumented youths in transition to adulthood. The article examines the transition to adulthood among the 1.5 generation of undocumented Latino young adults. The 1.5 generation refers to children who migrate before the age of 12 and grow up and are socialized in the U.S.

For these young people, the transition involves exiting the legally protected status of K-12 students and entering into adult roles that require legal status as the basis for participation. He finds that this collision among contexts makes for a turbulent transition, and has profound implications for identity formation, friendship patterns, aspirations and expectations, and social and economic mobility.

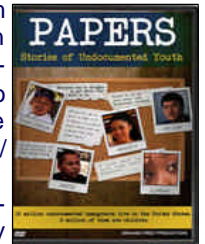
As undocumented children make transitions to adolescence and adulthood, they move from protected to unprotected, from inclusion to exclusion, from de facto legal to illegal.

One teenager: “I went to the DMV and saw I needed a Social (Security number). So I went home and my mom told me I didn't have one. I couldn't believe it. What was I going to tell my friends? I had been all like I'm gonna get my car before all of you, but I couldn't. It was unfair. How could I tell them now I can't drive? I can't get my license. It messed me up.”

Moreover, as these young people move into early adulthood between shifting legal contexts, they must learn to be ‘illegal,’ a process involving an almost complete retooling of daily routines, survival skills, aspirations, and social patterns.

Alas, the USA and most states have laws and regulations that encourage the learning to be illegal, whether it's washing dishes in a back room, putting on roofs with a team that operates on a cash-basis, or selling illegal drugs. Yet many of the young people could be running a restaurant, contracting to build new office buildings, or selling medications—while enhancing state and national economies. Why don't more politicians and other citizens realize the opportunities?

Papers—the Movie: Yes, there is a film about undocumented youth. It played in Washington last October, but the large review staff of this publication was unable to attend the screening. The trailer is available at http://www.papersthemovie.com/about_papers/trailer.html.



The DREAM Act: Here's a commentary by Joseph Anthony Carlos, a deputy district attorney in Sutter County, California, addresses the arguments against and concludes that the DREAM Act has a chance to pass with a slight modification:

It's amnesty! The word means to absolve from the consequences of a fault or crime. Could a child be a criminal? “To ask how an eight-month-old child is at fault is to expose the fallacy of the amnesty argument. Most DREAMers were brought to the U.S. without consent, or even knowledge. They are not personally at fault.”

It's a crime! Whether it is a lack of evil intent, lack of any intent, or complete ignorance as to the underlying facts, children of a tender age are simply incapable of forming the requisite mental state for the commission of a crime under American law.”

Chain migration will further swell the immigrant population! “It only takes seven words to rebut this argument demonstrates its weakness, if not its disingenuousness: Craft the bill to disallow chain migration.”

Surely, the DREAM Act will pass. But that will require some new faces in Congress and a more open mind on the part of some old faces. There are probably several hundred young people in and

“Immigration and Immigrants” continued on Page 3

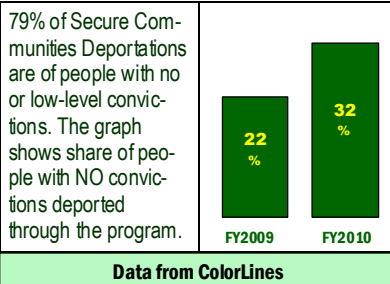


Shelve Secure Communities

A Cry from Los Angeles

Below is a Los Angeles Times editorial (12 August 2011) about the Secure Communities Program. It joins the voices of many others who think the program has more negatives than positives.

Lawmakers in California, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York have sought for several months to withdraw from Secure Communities, a supposedly voluntary federal fingerprint-sharing program designed to identify and deport dangerous immigrants. The Obama administration is now trying to make the states' opposition moot — a tactic that may provide the legal basis for expanding Secure Communities but does nothing to improve



the program's damaged credibility.

Launched in 2008 and due to be in effect nationwide in 2013, Secure Communities requires the FBI to share with the Department of Homeland Security the fingerprints of everyone booked into local jails. The department then checks the prints against its immigration database. But some state officials balked at the program, citing fears that it might hinder public safety more than it helps it.

This month, the Department of Homeland Security abruptly announced that it was canceling agreements with all local officials. It explained that it would no longer invite them to opt into the program because local police already send the FBI the fingerprint data of every detainee.

States signed up for Secure Communities because they thought it would make their neighborhoods safer by getting serious criminals off the streets. But the government's own data indicate that more than half of those deported under the program were undocumented immigrants with no criminal record or only minor ones — not violent felons.

Moreover, the program's staggering failure to prioritize deportation efforts may actually result in more harm than good. Law enforcement officials in San Francisco, Santa Clara County and elsewhere want out of the program because they say it has a chilling effect on immigrants' willingness to report crimes or assist authorities. Police must now persuade immigrants that officers are interested only in preventing crimes, not deporting them.

The Obama administration says it already has taken steps to fix that problem, creating a task force and issuing new guidelines instructing agents and prosecutors to focus on criminals. The states, however, are growing increasingly tired

of the administration's mixed signals on immigration.

The president has publicly called for an overhaul of the nation's broken immigration system to give those who work hard but are illegally in the country a chance to remain here legally. Yet his administration

has failed to curb a program that deports many of the very people he says deserve a chance to stay.

The president's leadership on immigration has been anemic. He can't solve the problem alone, but he has done little beyond delivering speeches blaming Congress. At the very least, Obama should shelve Secure Communities and stop making matters worse.



near Langley Park who are eligible for the DREAM Act. A few of them are devastated by the sudden lack of a good future in the USA. Passage? Here's hoping.

American Bar Association

The ABA House of Delegates has just approved three related resolutions urging state legislatures, Congress and the DHS to revise policies that pertain to immigration proceedings, particularly in regards to minor, unaccompanied and undocumented children. They urge federal immigration policies be modified so that the interests of minor children who may be affected by immigration detention or removal proceedings against their parents are fully protected. Good for the ABA.

The Deported

Here's a small part of an AP story (5 August 2011) that reveals a second tragedy for the deported: First, they lose their niche in the USA, and second, they don't have a niche in the home country.

"After 15 years of installing marble in homes in Escondido, California, Porfirio Perez was caught without a driver's license during a February traffic stop and deported. Now the 42-year-old just tries to survive in this sprawling industrial border city, 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) from his birthplace of Puebla in central Mexico. He is among hundreds of deportees who are stuck in Tijuana, which sits across from San Diego, California. Some don't have the money for a bus trip home. Some are waiting to cross the border again. And some have mental problems or addictions.

"Like many of the other 350 people living in and around a section of the Rio Tijuana canal that separates the two cities, Perez doesn't have the Mexican documents he would need to get a job, or the permanent addresses to get the documents. "I'm looking for work here but I can't get any because I don't have papers or a voter ID," Perez said. "It's a real awful change, you know. There, when I was hungry I'd go to a restaurant. Here, you eat if you can get it. You walk back and forth, looking out for the police."

Deportation Change!? An Obama staffer writes: "Under the administration's guidance, immigration courts are going to focus on deporting people who have been convicted of crimes or who pose a security risk. This means that the courts will focus less on 'low-priority' cases—like young people who were brought here as small children and know no other home, or veterans and military spouses. So the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice will be reviewing the current deportation caseload, clearing out low-priority cases, and making sure they don't get into the system in the first place—keeping the focus on cases that will make our country safer." And the *Los Angeles Times* (18 August 2011) reports: "The Obama administration said it will review the cases of 300,000 illegal immigrants currently in deportation proceedings to identify 'low-priority' offenders—including the elderly, crime victims and people who have lived in the U.S. since childhood—with an eye toward allowing them to stay."

No Miranda Rights for Immigrants???

This is horrible. The Board of Immigration Appeals has just held that immigrants arrested without a warrant are not entitled to certain Miranda-like warnings prior to questioning by immigration officers. The Board states that noncitizens need not be informed of their right to counsel or warned that their statements can be used against them until after they have been placed in formal deportation proceedings. "As a result of [the] ruling, noncitizens under arrest will now be even more vulnerable to pressure from interrogating officers, and immigration judges will face greater difficulty determining whether statements made during questioning were truly voluntary." (The American Immigration Council, 15 August 2011)

NEWS AND NOTES

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PURPLE LINE AND GENTRIFICATION

Impact of the Economy: The Purple Line alignment is essentially set. (See map at bottom of page.) All that's needed is the will and the money to build it. Alas, the US economy is in bad shape, and that may well have a negative impact on plans for the Purple Line and the bulldozing of the affordable apartments in the Langley Park area. Will the millions or billion be available from the state and the feds for a light rail line connecting Bethesda and New Carrollton through Langley Park and College Park? Will the millions be available to developers to do the tearing down and building called for in the mean Sector Plan? It may well be that both efforts will be delayed, and for the many thousands of area residents and hundreds of small businesspeople, that may be a plus. When funds are available for these projects, maybe the very misguided county planners and yes-voting council members will care more about people. Note: lead sector planner Aldea Douglas has resigned.

Gentrification in Joliet: The US Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against the city of Joliet, Illinois, alleging it violated the law in the taking through eminent domain a federally-subsidized affordable housing development that will displace more than 750 low-income residents, more than 95% of whom are black. ... The Justice lawsuit alleges that the effect of the city's actions and proposed actions is "to limit or reduce" the number of black residents residing within the city of Joliet. [Information from the *Washington Examiner*. Thanks, John, for the tip.] Any parallel to the "Sector Plan"?

EDUCATION

Middle School: All but one county middle school failed to achieve state benchmarks in 2011 for proficiency in math and reading. At Buck Lodge, 34% of the 8th grade students received a "basic" grade (in the old days, D or F) in reading; math plunged to 56% basic. The Latino/a basic scores mirrored those for all students: 35% and 56%; the males had an edge in math, and the females in reading. We need change!

Incompetent Teachers: During the 2010-2011 school year, 89 PGCPSS teachers were terminated for "incompetence"; that rating reflected two consecutive years earning an "unsatisfactory" evaluation. That's more than three times the number of terminations the year before. The actions are said to be a tightening of teacher quality; maybe so, but we hope that the decisions were based on objective and transparent merit (i.e., lack of merit) rather than a personal conflict between a teacher and his/her superordinates. What, you think the personal is never involved? There's a bridge in Brooklyn we'd like to sell to you.



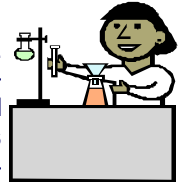
Competent Teachers: Change.org has this to say about

the 1,000 Filipino teachers that are being kicked out: "Imagine saving up money for years, selling your house, packing your belongings, and leaving everything you know to embark to a foreign land where the promise of a new job awaits you. Then imagine you settle into that job, begin to feel at home in your new surroundings, and excel at the position, expecting to stay for several years, possibly permanently. Now, through no fault of your own, all of that is taken away from you immediately, and you're told to go back to the country you left—where you sold your home and nearly everything you own and where you have no promise of a job. That is exactly what is happening to Filipino teachers in Prince George's County." (www.news.change.org) It would seem that public and/or private initiatives could and should correct this awful punishment of the innocent. Maybe the August 9th rally called this very sad situation to the attention of some key people.

A petition effort is taking place. Check out this change.org web site: http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-dol-dont-deport-filipino-teachers-after-school-system-failed-them?utm_medium=email&alert_id=dBAWcRzRVI_rdVKVrOnRB&utm_source=action_alert

Losing International Talent: Senator Patrick Leahy (26 July 2010) states:

"The United States loses too many talented foreign-born students who graduate from professional and other higher-education institutions in the United States. We must ensure that American companies have access to the well-trained and highly skilled individuals they need to stay at the leading edge of innovation and productivity. It is self-defeating to educate foreign-born men and women in our graduate schools and then erect a bureaucratic maze between these graduates and potential employment in the United States after they graduate. The loss of skilled graduates is particularly acute in the science and engineering fields. In testimony before Congress in 2005, Dr. William A. Wulf, President of the National Academy of Engineering, stated that one-third of all Ph.D.'s granted in the United States in the fields of science and engineering are awarded to foreign-born graduate students. I strongly support an increase in the number of H-1B visas offered to highly-skilled temporary workers each year."

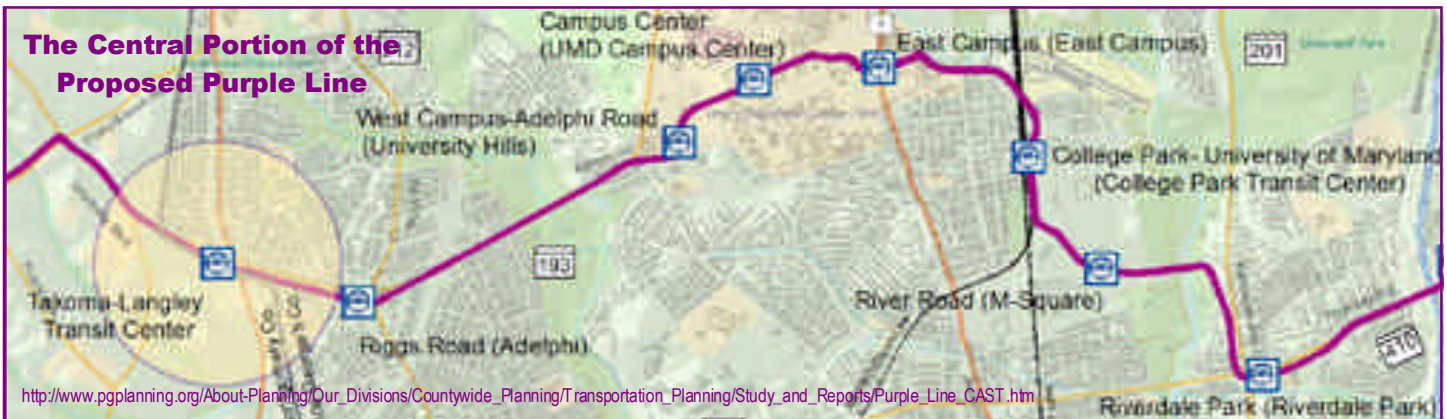


Measuring Dropout: A new system in Los Angeles that tracks every public school student finds that about 3.5% of eighth-graders—17,257 in all—left school and didn't return for ninth grade. The high school dropout rate is 18.2%. PGCPSS should employ such a system despite the bad news it might bring.

OPPORTUNITIES

Go On-Line Affordably: Comcast is launching a new program to offer discounted Internet service and computers to low

"News and Notes" continued on Page 4



REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL RELOCATION

Economist Stephen Fuller at GMU was asked to prepare an impact report on the plans of the hospital: the move to the new location and the change in the old location. Below is a large part of the Executive Summary. Fuller has had hundreds of consultancies and resultant publications; it appears that most of his work is in support of business development.

"The relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital to a new campus in White Oak will generate a range of positive impacts to the benefit of the surrounding Montgomery and Prince George's counties' economies. These will include economic impacts generated during the construction phase followed by increased



The Hospital To Be

operating outlays that will generate economic benefits on an annually recurring basis. Beyond these construction and increased post-construction impacts will be additional local economic

benefits resulting from the renovation and repositioning of Adventist Health Care's Takoma Park Campus (to be called the "Village of Education, Health and Wellbeing") including the provision of new outpatient services and wellness facilities and the expansion of the educational capacity and programs offered by Washington Adventist University at this location. ...

"Additionally, WAH's economic importance as a catalyst for further economic development within the Science Corridor centered on the FDA White Oak Campus can generate significant and continuing economic benefits to the local and state economies. The location of WAH at White Oak has the potential of rationalizing and magnifying the economic and market forces that can be focused within the Science Corridor thereby contributing to a development process that ultimately will represent new private investment totaling more than \$5 billion, providing work space for more than 8,000 workers beyond those employed on the FDA campus and creating a live-work community housing 7,500 residents. These developmental benefits will strengthen the economic base and enhance the quality of life for the residents and businesses within the surrounding region, an area that has long underperformed its inherent growth potential.

"The economic futures of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties are closely tied to their success in attracting and accommodating a growing science and technology-intensive business base. Forecasts for these counties' economic growth during the current decade identify the growth of professional and business services and educational and health services as the principal sources of future job growth. In order to achieve this economic potential local and state public officials need to recognize the synergies and resulting economic benefits that can be achieved by concentrating and linking the health sciences and supporting professional and business services with a high quality living and working environment."

Pretty convincing, and yet Adventist HealthCare is still trying to convince various authorities that the move is a positive one. The major opposition appears to come from area hospitals, Holy Cross, Laurel General, and others. They think that the new facility will "steal" paying patients from them. Maybe so. If the new facility is likely to offer better care (not that it necessarily will) than at least a few of the protesting facilities, should the better care be blocked? Maybe the move will inspire area hospitals to do better.

-income families. The program, called Internet Essentials, will "provide low-cost access to the Internet and affordable computers as well as digital literacy training to families with children who are eligible to receive free lunches under the National School Lunch Program. Upon enrollment, new customers have the opportunity to buy a netbook-style laptop computer for \$149.99 (plus tax). It supports wired and Wi-Fi Internet connectivity and includes the Windows 7 Starter operating system and Internet browser software." There's much more information at <http://www.internetsentials.com/>. For information or to sign up, call 1855.846.8376.



Green Card: Did you know you can file to renew or replace your green card online? Learn more at <http://www.uscis.gov/e-filing>.

LATINAS SPEAK

The organization California Latinas for Reproductive Justice published, in 2010, *Unearthing Latina/o Voices on Family, Pregnancy and Reproductive Justice*. There was sampling for the study; the N was 890. Below are a few of the findings. Note the concern about crossing cultures. Small-scale research in Langley Park suggests that cost and culture are also concerns.

◆ Young Latinas/os (under 30), immigrants and Latinas/os with less formal education (high school degree or less) were more likely to indicate that cost of services and lack of insurance are "a large barrier" to accessing health services.

◆ Female immigrant respondents stated service providers not understanding their culture is a larger barrier than providers not speaking their language.

◆ Over eight in ten participants "strongly agreed" that every woman should have a right to decide for herself the number and spacing of her children.



Source: <http://www.californialatinas.org/research/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/CLRJ-Unearthing-Latina-o-Voices.pdf>

HEALTH AND SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

Health: Is it a problem that Cignet Health received public funds—according to a lawsuit—from insurance plans seven years after it lost its corporate charter? Is there someone in the county's Department of Health who is responsible for the proper operation of health clinics in the county? According to the *Washington Business Journal* (12 August 2011), the Cignet charter expired several years ago.

Security: Crime is down in the county, but homicides are up: from 53 at this time last year to 70 this year. Two teenagers stab a 74-year-old to death; a mother and her 20-year-old daughter shot to death; and on and on.

Is the stress of the economic downturn including high unemployment for young males getting to people—and leading to violent outbursts?



Or population change? Consider this view: "[You're a fool] if you believe that 'citywide efforts' stemmed the tide of crime in DC. Crime is decreasing in DC because gentrification is pushing people likely to commit crime into PGCo. Home prices and rent have skyrocketed in DC and that rocket is blazing through Anacostia, Trinidad, and other areas of the city where poor and working class people used to be able to live." (Blogger ceemac, 12 August 2011)

If either of these explanations is valid, probably the police will have a hard time controlling the violent behavior. Only in central Havana is there a copy at every street corner.

THE STATE OF CHILDREN OF COLOR

The Children's Defense Fund report, *State of America's Children* (2011), tells us that the average child of color (Latina/os and African-Americans) is behind on virtually every measure of child well-being. These children—"our children"—face multiple risks that put them in grave danger of entering the pipeline to prison rather than the pipeline to college, productive employment and successful futures.

Below, we list items from the report that include African-American and Latina/o (aka Hispanic) children. This is grim reading, and the findings strongly point to the need for a major effort to correct the shameful situation. How can we consider cutting Medicaid, food stamps, and the rest of what keep poor children—and of course their parents—from ill-health, malnourishment, and the rest?

Many of the children in the Langley Park area fit the descriptions that follow, and yet we don't even have a free clinic in the neighborhood. What the h--l is going on? Why don't more of our leaders and more rank-and-file citizens give a damn? (If some of them do give a damn, then one might add: actions speak louder than words.)

The children of color are found to be at increased risk of:

Being born at low birth weight and with late or no prenatal care

- Black and Hispanic babies are more than twice as likely as White babies to be born to mothers who received late or no prenatal care in almost half the states.

Living in poverty and extreme poverty

- More than one in three Black, one in three Hispanic and one in 10 White children live in poverty (\$22,050 for a family of four).
- For children under age five, 41.9% of Black, 35% of Hispanic and almost 15% of White children are poor.
- More than one in six Black and one in seven Hispanic children live in extreme poverty—at half the poverty level or below. One in 20 White children lives in extreme poverty.

Lacking family stability

- Almost one in two Black children and more than one in four Hispanic children live with their mother only, compared with fewer than one in five White children.
- Black children are more than twice as likely as White children and almost twice as likely as Hispanic children to live with neither parent.
- Black children are more than seven times as likely and Hispanic children more than two and a half times as likely as White children to have a parent in prison.

Greater health risks

- Black and Hispanic children are almost three times as likely to be in poor or only fair health as White children and are more likely to have an unmet medical need due to cost than White children.
- More than one in three children in low-income families is overweight or obese. Black teens are 26% and Hispanic teens 32% more likely than White teens to be overweight or obese.

Lacking a quality education

- Nearly 80% or more of Black and Hispanic public school students in the fourth, 8th and 12th grades are unable to read or do math at grade level compared to 50% or more of White children.
- Black students are more than three times as likely as White or Asian/Pacific Islander students and more than twice as likely as Hispanic students to be suspended from

school.

- Thirty-five% of Black and 29% of Hispanic high school students attend the more than 1,600 "dropout factories" across the country where 60% or fewer of the students in any given ninth grade class will graduate in four years with a regular diploma.
- The averaged graduation rate for Black and Hispanic students is just over 60%, in contrast with 81% for White and 91% for Asian/Pacific Islander students. The 20-plus%age point spread in graduation rates between Black and White students exists in 13 states.

Being caught in the college completion gap

- The Black-White gap in college completion persists and the Hispanic-White college completion gap is even greater.

Being unemployed

- In 2010, four out of 10 Black and three out of 10 Hispanic teens ages 16 to 19 were unemployed.
- The youth jobless rate for teens 16 to 19 in July 2010 was higher than at any time in the past five decades.

Each day in America for Hispanic children

- 2 children or teens are killed by firearms.
- 5 children or teens die from accidents.
- 103 public school students are corporally punished.
- 198 babies are born at low birthweight.
- 387 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 402 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 944 babies are born without health insurance.
- 945 high school students drop out.
- 955 babies are born into poverty.
- 1,495 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 3,726 public school students are suspended.

SO WHAT?

"The United States is going to miss the boat to lead and compete in our globalizing world because we are not preparing the majority of our children for the future. The greatest threat to America's national security comes from no enemy without but from our failure to invest in and educate all of our nation's children. Every 11 seconds of the school day a child drops out. A majority of children in all racial and income groups and almost 80% and more of Black and Hispanic children in public schools cannot read or do math at grade level in fourth, eighth, or 12th grade—if they have not already dropped out. Any nation that is failing to prepare all of its children for productive work and life needs to correct course—now. And all of us—parents, educators, community, religious and political leaders—need to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. God did not make two classes of children. Every single child needs and deserves a quality education." Source: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/state-of-americas-2011.pdf>



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT THE LANGLEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

The annual National Night Out is a national event that takes place in early August around the country. At the Langley Park Community Center, there was a special daytime NNO to accommodate children before dark and to let them know about police officers' jobs, equipment, ... and humanity.

Major Hector Velez was at the event, and he certainly is an ideal person to close the gap between the police and the residents. Thanks Hector! And thanks too to Lourdes Sulc, the LPCC Director, who came up with the focus on children and organized the event.

THE I.C.E. WAY?

Maybe some "security" people misbehave whether they are with a county sheriff's office, or the Department of Homeland Security, or on traffic patrol. Perhaps that's because many security people enlist because they love their country and want to do good, but a few security people might join because they think they are joining a legal gang. The legal gang people may shoot a family's dog, shoot a man trying to get his ID out of his pocket, or throw an innocent person to the ground.

These comments are inspired by an article in the *Huffington Post* (2 August 2011); a few paragraphs from that publication are below. Of course, we haven't heard the full ICE side of the story. But the woman's report is in some sense not shocking because there are other reports of apparent mistreatment.

Did you know that sometimes an agent will enter a house or apartment to see if people are sleeping together? (That was reported by an agent giving a guest lecture at the University of Maryland.)

Maybe ALP should invite an ICE representative to one of our meetings to see how s/he explains some of the "strange" behavior.

THE TARGET SPEAKS

"Seven members of a Hispanic family from Los Angeles became victims of a mistaken drug raid at a home in the city of Norco in Riverside County by nearly 40 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Homeland Security, Immigration (HSI) agents.

"Where's the money? Where are the drugs?" the agents shouted at a terrified Carmen Bonilla. At about 3:45 in the afternoon, Bonilla, of Mexican origin, and her daughter-in-law, Leticia, were cooking in anticipation of their husbands' arrival from work. The agent insurrection would end at 7 p.m. that evening.



"I heard pounding and kicking at the door; I became very frightened and when I opened the door, I saw that it was the police," recalled Bonilla tearfully, as she showed areas of her body where she'd allegedly been struck by agents. "I asked them, What did we do? What did we do? What did we do?" she intimated. "I didn't open the door out of fear."

"They simply grabbed me by the arm, threw me on the ground, handcuffed me and slammed me up against the wall." Bonilla said she implored the agents to let her turn off the stove and grab her granddaughter, who was screaming in fear. "Shut up or we'll shoot you! We have orders to shoot," she said at a news conference. "I begged them to let me get to my granddaughter, but they did not understand me and continued to beat me," she said. ... "Where are the guns? Where is the money?"

ICE RESPONDS

"Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents for the Department of Homeland Security went to a residence on Corona Avenue in Norco, California, Tuesday (July 19) to execute a search warrant related to an ongoing federal investigation. In the execution of their official duty, the ICE agents and officials uphold themselves to the highest standards of professional conduct."

CELL PHONES

Don't become paranoid, but: Do you use a cell phone? Chances are, your answer is "yes." Does the government have the ability to track where you go, what you do, even whom you know — all by using your phone? That's a definite "yes." If you use a cell phone, your location is being recorded and stored. And law enforcement agencies see it as a gold mine of information that's there for the taking. Paranoia: "Let's find some immigrants; I'll bet there using a cell phone."



TO BECOME A CITIZEN

"CLINIC is pleased to announce the 6th edition of our popular guide, *Citizenship for Us: A Handbook on Naturalization & Citizenship*. *Citizenship for Us* is a comprehensive guide to the naturalization process that includes detailed information on naturalization benefits and requirements as well as a step-by-step explanation of the N-400 (Application for Naturalization). The guide has a chapter on the citizenship test with 13 study units on U.S. history and civics, historic photos, timelines, maps, vocabulary, and study tips. It also has a chapter on the citizenship interview with a mock interview for practice and a chapter on civic participation. The new edition has been updated to reflect the latest naturalization policies, procedures, and forms, including the new fee waiver application form, the new disability waiver form, and the latest information on the citizenship test."



Citizenship for Us is available as a free resource that can be viewed and printed from the CLINIC website in PDF format at <http://cliniclegal.org/resources/citizenship-us-handbook>. Professionally printed and bound copies may be ordered for \$40 each, plus shipping.

Note: CLINIC is the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Remittances

Once upon a time, an estimated more than one thousand families or individuals living in the Langley Park area provided significant financial aid to relatives in the home country. There are workers in Langley Park who send about half of their earnings—however meager. The money helps to put food on the table, children in school, etc. Sometimes, the remitted money is used for village or town improvements: water pipes, a baseball field, a church, etc.

From "The Flow of Money," *TimeWorld*: "The benefits of migration have been significant for both sending and receiving countries. Total remittance flows continue to increase over time, nearly doubling in a period of ten years from \$34B (B=billion) in 1990 to over \$66B in 2000—with an annual average in the previous decade of US\$700-1000 per worker.... According to World Bank statistics, remittances in 2000 to 80 countries for which there were data available, amounted to near \$70B. These estimates provide an illustration of a larger and more significant impact of how migrant workers are impacting their home country economies."

Remittances constitute a significant portion of the GDP in many Latin American countries: Haiti=30%, Honduras=25.6%, El Salvador (18.2%), etc. Latin America receives \$59B every year. But there has been change. From *Worker Remittances*, InterAmerican Development Bank, 2010: "Two main economic factors in the U.S., the recession and currency devaluation, are largely responsible for a decline in remittances to Latin America. At its highest point in 2008, \$69B in remittances flowed into Latin America. But in 2009, amid economic uncertainty in the U.S. following the global recession, the volume of remittances dropped by 15% to USD 58.8 billion. While 2010 experienced a modest rise of \$10 million, these gains, as well as those projected for 2011, are stunted by a weaker dollar. The 2010 growth of 1.7% was in reality a 2.9% decline in local currency terms, meaning the value of earnings made in the U.S. relative to Latin America is waning. ... The purchasing power of remittances to Latin America is trailing far behind."

RESOURCES FOR THE LANGLEY PARK AREA

(and elsewhere)

Action Langley Park, in conjunction with Washington Adventist University and other organizations, is planning to compile information about health, education, legal, and other resources easily available to the residents and businesspeople of the Langley Park area. The results would be made available through various media.



Take health as an example. We know that close by is Community Clinic Inc. (CCI), Washington Adventist Hospital, Mary's Center and the Walk-In Clinic. Independent medical doctors include Manohar Chenchugalla and Nasreen Kango. Chiropractors include Rachel Ash, Alan Cornfield, Michelle Williams, and Langley Park health events participant Doug Sims. There are also at least seven dental offices with a DDS: Gary Arrindel, Vincent Davis, Tajick Gita, Sanches Lourdes, Umoren Mfon, Sing Rajwant, and Farzaneh Razaghifar. The final information would include location, contact information, costs, and more.

► Let us know: Is there a need for this information? If so, what else should be included in a listing? If we go forward, BLP will print the results, put them on-line, prepare a small reference booklet, and more. Feedback, please!

DANGER AHEAD?

Lots of experts and non-experts are commenting on the current condition of our local area as well as the country. Some are perhaps paranoid and others are goody-goody. Below are two who see the present and future negatively. Let's hope they are simply wrong or maybe in need of psychiatric help.

"Crime is happening further and further away from the home of the perpetrators. Frightened people in pretty neighborhoods are buying guns. Unemployment rates: for Black youth, 39.2%; for Latino youth 36.2%; White youth 23%. This area faces impending federal and state government employee furloughs, government contractor layoffs, teacher layoffs, socio-economic gentrification, and high foreclosure rates." [Blogger Ceemac on 11 August 2011]

On the Congressional select committee of twelve: "The way this deal ends is fairly easy to predict – it's a setup that will result in fairly deep cuts to domestic spending, won't raise taxes on the wealthy and will leave 'defense' spending largely untouched – a process that will force cuts to important public services. In the real world, here's the end result of that ludicrous battle over the debt ceiling: Tens of thousands of vulnerable people will lose health coverage, funding for Head Start will be cut, thousands of low-income students will be denied an education, and many more public sector workers will be added to the unemployment rolls. Neither the environment nor our decrepit 19th-century infrastructure will get their needed funds." [Alternet on 11 August 2011]

WHAT AND WHEN

BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

This neighborhood planning newsletter is edited and published by Action Langley Park, with a supportive link to the Langley Park Project of the University of Maryland. The Editor is Bill Hanna. It appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com. Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

Wednesdays—the Farmers' Market on the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue space operates from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and more—even music!

August 20—PGCPS Back to School Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. Information: Cheryl Landis at 301 952-6095 or clandis@pgcps.org.

August 20—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

August 22—First day of school in Prince George's County.

September 11—Takoma Park Folk Festival, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd. Many stages of performers plus crafts and foods.

September 15—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. The main agenda item will be planning ALP's work for the coming year. But there are many more pressing issues. Everyone is welcome!!

September 18—Prince George's County's Hispanic Festival in Lane Manor Park, noon to 6 p.m. Lots of food, music, and children's activities. The location is on the south side of University Blvd. west of the U. of Maryland.



November 6—Health Check 2011 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. This annual event provides free screenings for many potentially harmful health conditions; high blood pressure, rotting teeth, HIV, diabetes, poor kidney function, and more. Yes, it's free!

May 6—Langley Park Day 2012 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair checking vision, HIV status, blood pressure, and more; food and craft vendors; children's art and games; and more.



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INEQUALITIES

The Maryland suburbs are far from unique in having significant assessment gaps between Asian-Americans and Euro-American students, and African-Americans and Latino/as. It is a gap that has challenged our country for a long time. Some people blame principals and teachers, some blame adults in the family, some focus on neighborhood influences, some blame socioeconomic status, and more. One gap example among many appears in the table (right) for High Point HS students; one of four African-Americans and Latino/as are not doing well. To cover all the bases, the in-school work by the principals and teachers must give special attention to the marginal students—"basic" in the language of those who constructed the tests; school personnel must reach out to parents (and vice versa) so that the school becomes an integral part of the community; and the jurisdiction must work to eliminate neighborhood "distractions." At the county, state, and national levels, much more attention must be given to inequalities—of health, housing, resources, and more.

Algebra	Basic
Asian-A	8%
African-A	26%
Euro-A	17%
Latino/a	27%