

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue Number 244, July 2012

President Obama on July 4 SPEAKING AT A NATURALIZATION CEREMONY



Twenty-five active duty USA service members became citizens on July 4th with President Obama present and the key speaker. They emigrated from seventeen different countries including Mexico and Nigeria. Below is a brief excerpt from the President's remarks:

"Immigrants signed their names to our Declaration and helped win our independence. Immigrants helped lay the railroads and build our cities, calloused hand by calloused hand. Immigrants took up arms to preserve our union, to defeat fascism, and to win a Cold War. Immigrants and their descendants helped pioneer new industries and fuel our Information Age, from Google to the iPhone. So the story of immigrants in America isn't a story of 'them,' it's a story of 'us.' It's who we are. And now, all of you get to write the next chapter.

"Each of you have traveled your own path to this moment—from Cameroon and the Philippines, Russia and Palau and places in between. Some of you came here as children, brought by parents who dreamed of giving you the opportunities that they had never had. Others of you came as adults, finding your way through a new country and a new culture and a new language." ■

ARE WE LOSING OUR MINDS?

Yes, because we are gutting our schools
An Editorial

What the heck is going on? Over the past several years, the country's primary and secondary teaching corps layoffs have now exceeded 200,000. (The White House estimates that the figure might be 250,000.) So the classes get larger and pre-kindergarten programs are dropped, plus specialist positions such as nurses and parent liaisons are eliminated. Our comparative educational standing in the world is declining, especially in the STEM fields.

Are we playing the Be-Like-The-Greeks austerity game? Are we trying to squeeze the economy so that national spending power (except for the wealth elite) is tenuous and therefore hoarded—contributing to the weak economy?

The White House says we need more teachers, more firefighters, more police officers, more sanitation workers. And clearly that is the case—to educate and protect us. We also have great need to improve our infrastructure, and that means construction jobs. But the political negativists want to cut government employment and funding even more. Each cut creates another person or household that will not spend to contribute to our economic revival. ■

Profiling and the Constitution

In the USA (and in many other countries), there is unfortunately a lot of profiling on the basis of skin color, use of language, name, aesthetics, and more. When we see a man with brown skin and a heavy accent, we "know" that he is from some Latin country, probably Mexico or Central America. When we see a woman with very dark brown skin and dreads, we "know" she is of African heritage. Quick classification of people is sometimes useful, but it is also used for negative reasons. Arizona officials are very likely to use profiling to jail some Latinos and Latinas thanks to state legislation. The issue is addressed in a poster (below) apparently sponsored by the

PICK OUT THE IMMIGRANT
WHO'S MORE LIKELY TO BE ASKED TO SHOW THEIR PAPERS IN ARIZONA?

WILLIAM SHATNER  IMMIGRATED FROM CANADA	EDWARD JAMES OLMOs  BORN IN THE UNITED STATES
--	---

RACIAL PROFILING IS UN-AMERICAN.

office of Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez. One problem with the poster is that the immigrant is wearing a suit and tie; most immigrants don't—and most non-immigrants who like to be comfortable don't unless there is a de facto requirement to do so!

Show Me Your Papers

Is the "show me your papers" component of the Supreme Court's decision on Arizona's SB1070 now the law? Or can it be practiced with great care? For clarification, BLP turns to Devon G. Peña, a Professor of American Ethnic Studies, Anthropology, and Environmental Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. Here is a small portion of his comments that appeared in <http://mexmigration.blogspot.com>:

"The Supreme Court *did not uphold §2(B)*. The Court decided to wait until other legal challenges can work their way through the judicial system and then the Justices will reconsider the constitutionality of this most notorious of all the sections of Arizona's statute. The current legal challenges by MALDEF, ACLU, and other parties are focused on the due process and equal protection

"Profiling" continues on Page 3

HERE AND THERE

ICE: A "Benefits Agency"?????

USCIS calls itself "the world's largest immigration benefits agency." Really! Clearly, the agency thinks participating in the deportation of almost half a million people annually is for the deportees' benefit. Isn't that sweet! USCIS is just like our mother!????

HITE: Bon Voyage

We will soon be saying goodbye to PGCP's Bill Hite. Boy voyage! He is heading into a challenging job. From the *Philadelphia Tribune*: "The new superintendent will be faced with a growing budget crisis and ongoing reform efforts. With a budget deficit that is now poised to jump from \$218 million to more than \$270 million, the SRC [a schools policy committee] will either have to implement another round of cuts, on top of already deep cuts, or borrow to close its spending gap. Already the district, its students and parents are dealing with several rounds of layoffs and furloughs."

From an online commentator: "I find nothing positive about our losing our school system's Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent *at the same time* during an election year with possibly five new BoE members transitioning in." Right on: a double search and several interim appointees: phew! Let's hope that Bill Hite made some very good appointments at lower bureaucratic levels so that the loss of the leaders will not set the ship adrift.

But why did Dr. Hite leave? Here's one guess: He noted that the County Executive set up a school advisory committee, and he worried about the politics that might well emerge from competition between the committee and the Board of Education. Maybe?

Note: PG will not be the only Maryland county with new leadership. Newcomers have taken over the systems in Howard, Baltimore, and Montgomery Counties. Let's hope that success and stability will mark the tenure of PGCP's new leaders.

GUNS: They Are Dangerous



Gun criminals are dangerous because guns are dangerous in the hands of criminals, so it is good that the PG County Council unanimously passed a bill to establish a registry for residents who have been convicted of a gun-related crime. Those on the registry would report to the police every half-year for three years with information about their residence, place of work, and other information. But the local NAACP is trying to stop County Executive Baker from signing the bill into law claiming that it is not constitutional. Why would the NAACP try to scuttle a bill designed to reduce gun-related violence? The claim is that the bill violates the 14th Amendment barring the governments from depriving a person's life, liberty and property. But hey, the persons deprived are gun-toting criminals. Strange. Did the NRA give the local organization money, or what?

BLUNT S-COMM Says California

A bill currently working its way through the California legislature would block local law enforcement agencies from referring a detainee to immigration officials for possible deportation unless that person had been convicted of a violent or other serious felony. "California cannot afford to become another Arizona," said California As-

sembly member Tom Ammiano, the bill's sponsor. Most observers believe that Arizona's law and others like it lead to racial/ethnic profiling—and other negative outcomes. The California bill, supported by over 100 immigrant rights groups, police chiefs and mayors is designed to minimize the impact of the federal Secure Communities program that too often leads to family fragmentation and the deportation of non-criminals, many of whom have been contributing residents.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING Is Needed

As BLP readers know, there is a threat to affordable housing in the Langley Park area thanks to the goals of the Sector Plan. It is a striking contrast that the District of Columbia government plans to put aside \$18 million to build and retain housing units for low- and moderate-income residents.



Throughout the metro area, previously affordable housing has been converted into market-rate housing. That is, there is widespread gentrification. That's good for the gentry, but it throws families into apartment sharing or into homelessness.

Apartment sharing is taking place throughout the Washington metro area thanks to the rising rents and steady or declining earnings. Clearly, sharing is common in the county, and according to a recent Census report, it is widespread throughout the country. The housing squeeze has hit those in the 25-34 age group especially hard. (The Census report is at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-242.pdf>.)

The Prince George's County government should work hard to preserve affordable housing, and it can easily do so while building many more market-rate apartments and condos. It is not either or; it is both—if housing officials put on creative thinking caps. So the Langley Park neighborhood can be saved without preventing some increase in the county's real estate tax base.

EVANGELICALS AND IMMIGRATION

In June, a large gathering of evangelical Christian leaders including those from the Southern Baptist Convention, the Assemblies of God, Mennonite Brethren, Church of the Nazarene, Open Bible Churches, and others, drafted and signed the "Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform" calling for comprehensive immigration reform. From the document:

"Our national immigration laws have created a moral, economic and political crisis in America. Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other's positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions. This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost. As evangelical Christian leaders, we call for a bipartisan solution on immigration that:

- Respects the God-given dignity of every person
- Protects the unity of the immediate family
- Respects the rule of law
- Guarantees secure national borders
- Ensures fairness to taxpayers
- Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents

IMMIGRANTS MAKE BUSINESS!

According to the Fiscal Policy Institute, more than one in six small business owners in the United States is an immigrant. Immigrants make up 18% of all small business owners in the United States. By contrast, immigrants are 13% of the population and 16% of the labor force, according to the Census's 2010 American Community Survey. That's a big change from 20 years ago, when immigrants made up 12% of small business owners.



"Immigrants play a disproportionate role in some industries. The sector where immigrants make up the biggest share of small business owners is leisure and hospitality. Immigrants represent 28% of small business owners in that sector. Within leisure and hospitality, immigrants make up 43% of hotel and motel owners, and 37% of restaurant owners. Other types of businesses where immigrants are strongly overrepresented include taxi service firms (65% of owners are immigrants) and dry cleaning and laundry services (54%). See the top six in the adjoining table. ...

"Over the past two decades, between 1990 and 2010, the number of small business owners grew by 1.8 million, from 3.1 to 4.9 million. Immigrants made up 30% of that growth."

Where are these businesspeople from? One out of eight is from Mexico. Following behind are India, Korea, Cuba, China, Vietnam, Canada, Iran, and the Philippines. Central America lags behind; immigrants from El Salvador constitute about 2% of the owners and for Guatemala the figure is 1%.

"Immigrants from some countries—including some with relatively small numbers in the overall population—are disproportionately likely to be business owners. Immigrants from the Middle East, Asia, and Southern Europe are particularly inclined toward business ownership. Immigrants from Greece, for example, are a tiny fraction of all immigrants in the labor force, but 16% of Greek immigrants in the labor force are business owners—the highest share of any group. Immigrants born in Israel/Palestine (the Census does not disaggregate the



two) are the group with the second highest rate of business ownership, followed by Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Italy, Korea, South Africa, Ireland, Iraq, Pakistan, and Turkey." Clearly, culture and opportunity are powerful determining factors.

Time in the USA is a factor. Immigrants are twice as likely to own a small business after being in the USA for at least eleven years. For instance, 6% of Greeks who have been in the country for less than eleven years are small busi-

WHERE IMMIGRANT SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ARE MOST CONCENTRATED	
Taxi/limousine service	65%
Dry cleaning/laundry services	54%
Gasoline stations	53%
Grocery stores	49%
General merchandise stores	47%
Cut/sew apparel manufacturing	45%

"Profiling" continues on Page 3

issues including discrimination based on racial profiling. Moreover, and perhaps most significantly, *the Court also refused to strike down the current lower court injunction that prohibits local and state police from enforcing §2(B)*, which means that Arizona cannot legally start enforcing the only remaining provision that has not yet been overturned and that would allow police to ask suspected immigrants to prove their legal status." Let's hope this is the definitive valid interpretation of that section of Arizona's SB1070. ■

DANGER: OBESE CHILDREN

Why obesity? Fast foods: sure. But two decades ago, 42% of public school children attended daily physical education classes. In the USA by 2006 (the latest available data collected by the CDC), only 4% of elementary schools, 8% of middle schools, and 2% of high schools provide daily physical education or its equivalent for all students in all grades.

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. The percentage of children aged 6–11 years in the United States who were obese increased from 7% in 1980 to nearly 20% in 2008. Similarly, the percentage of adolescents aged 12–19 years who were obese increased from 5% to 18% over the same period.

So what? Obese youth are more likely to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease such as high cholesterol or high blood pressure. Fully 70% of obese youth had at least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Obese adolescents are more likely to have pre-diabetes, a condition in which blood glucose levels indicate a high risk for development of diabetes. And children and adolescents who are obese are at greater risk for bone and joint problems, sleep apnea, and social and psychological problems such as stigmatization and poor self-esteem.

Hey PGCPs: How about reintroducing PE into the daily schedule so that obesity levels are reduced—and therefore health costs are reduced? ■

"Business" continued from last column

nesspeople, but 17% of those here for more than that own small businesses.

Fully 33% of the businesspeople in the Washington DC metro area are immigrants. That ranks our area fifth behind Miami, LA, NY, and San Francisco. Metro areas with fewer immigrants have comparatively high rates of immigrant business ownership. Ranking first in ratio of foreign-born share to US-born share is Baltimore. Maryland's immigrants have a high share of all the business owners, 20.9%; that places the state seventh behind California, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Hawaii, and Illinois.

The report concludes: "Immigrant small business owners are playing a large role in today's economy, a role that has grown over the past 20 years in step with the increasing immigrant share of the labor force. Immigrant small business owners contribute to economic growth, to employment, and to producing the goods and services that support our standard of living." Those interested in the subject of immigrants in the USA should read the entire report. It is at <http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/immigrant-small-business-owners-FPI-20120614.pdf>. ■



"Business" continued in next column

"Here and There" continued from Page 2

"We urge our nation's leaders to work together with the American people to pass immigration reform that embodies these key principles and that will make our nation proud."

The quotation is from <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com/>

HEAT

Heat can affect anyone, but most at risk are the very young, very old and people with health problems. Please pass on these tips:

- Find somewhere in air conditioning during the warmest part of the day.
- Avoid hard work and exercise outside in the extreme heat.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Avoid drinks that have alcohol or caffeine.
- Eat small meals and eat more often
- If you feel sick or have any acute medical problems during extreme heat, get medical help right away.



DREAMERS

Planning to apply for deferred action? Warning: "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) alerts eligible individuals NOT to submit a deferred action request under the Deferred Action Process for Young People memorandum issued by Secretary Napolitano on June 15. If you submit now, your application will be rejected. The Secretary's directive gives USCIS 60 days to create a process to accept these requests and it is not yet able to accept requests at this time."

Perhaps there's a possibility that the kill-obama House of Representatives leadership will try to delay implementation further. Hopefully, the Obama administration will fight off anti-Dream attempts.

FUN ON FIRST SATURDAYS

Silver Spring's historic B&O Railroad Station, at 8100 Georgia corner Sligo Avenues (where Silver Spring's Central Business District was born) holds an Open House the first Saturday of every month. It is said to be enjoyable for all ages. Free parking, walking distance from Red Line Metro. For more info, visit this web site: <http://www.montgomerypreservation.org/BOSStation>.

LULAC ON 14th

LULAC Maryland meets on Saturday, July 14th, from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tampico restaurant (42 Washington Blvd. Laurel, MD 20707). Non-members are welcome. Planning to attend? RSVP to lulacmaryland@gmail.com.

The Mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Latino/a population of the United States.

TEEN CAMP OPPORTUNITY

Prince George's County Police Department's Community Services Division, in conjunction with community partners, will be hosting its Fourth Annual Leadership & Life Camp. The goal of the summer camp is to provide a supportive environment for teens and to enhance their leadership skills. Participants in the camp will be able to enjoy such things as a field trip to Six Flags America and

participate in workshops about bullying, the dangers of drugs and alcohol, teen mental health, and community service. The Leadership & Life Camp will operate for three sessions Monday thru Friday. There is a \$100.00 fee per camper. (Maybe there is a sliding scale.) For additional information or to register for the event, contact the Community Services Division at (301) 909-7126 or email Corporal Erika Ervin at ejervin@co.pg.md.us.

MORE GAMBLING LOCATIONS?

Will the Maryland legislature approve a sixth gambling center in the state? Governor O'Malley said Friday that he will not call lawmakers back into session next week to address the issue, but he added that he might call a special session in the summer. Let's hope that all the relevant buildings in Annapolis are air conditioned!

PGPD Buys New Use of Force Simulator System

The Prince George's County Police Department has purchased the Judgmental Enhancement Training System (JETS) MILO Range Pro through state and federal grants. The updated system will provide effective use of force training for PGPD officers, while enhancing their use of force decision-making through the use of 425 training scenarios including an active shooter, emotionally disturbed individuals and traffic stops.



Many years ago, there was a training program called "Shoot/Don't Shoot." The BLP staff spent a few hours practicing whether, in each scenario, one should shoot or not. Almost all of the scenarios were challenging: is he going to shoot me so I should shoot him first? Etc. The scenarios make one realize the great challenges police officers often face. That makes the MILO training all the more important.

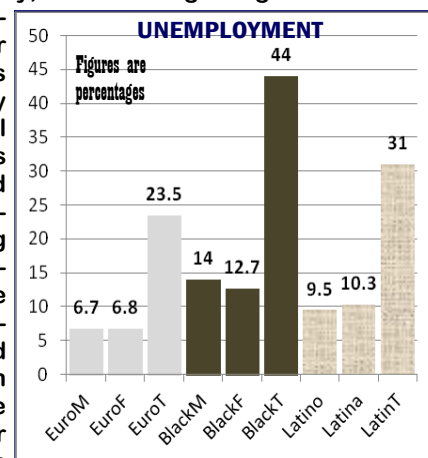
UNEMPLOYMENT

The June unemployment figures are out, and the news is disappointing. The total national figure is 8.2%, which means that for the past few months there has been little progress. And the figure does not count underemployment or job dropouts.

How can that be? Two reasons are the weak and dangerous euro economy, and the beginning weakness in the Chinese economy.

The weaker other economies are, the less likely people there will purchase our goods and services. A third reason is the electoral politics being played by the majority party in the House of Representatives. There, good jobs bills have been stopped with the idea being that poor job growth makes the President more vulnerable.

There are many differences within the 8.2% figure. As the above graphic indicates, Blacks are the most challenged, and all teens (T in graphic) aged 16 to 19 are dangerously out of work. Of local interest, construction jobs have the highest unemployment rate; PG County's unemployment is well under the national rate.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES Presents Immigration

A new exhibit has opened at the National Archives in DC: "Attachments: Faces and Stories from America's Gates." Ellis Island is where millions of immigrants landed to be processed by bureaucrats who at times displayed considerable prejudice. But most arrives got in.*



"One came with plenty of money; another carried only a handful of belongings. One was a visitor; another was a citizen returning home. One had her papers in order; another brought false documents hoping to find a new life. All of these men, women, and children left likenesses and traces of their journeys to America's entryways. Entering, leaving, or staying in America—their stories were captured in documents and photographs that were attached to government forms."

The exhibition "draws from the millions of immigration case files in the Archives to tell a few of these stories from the 1880s through World War II. It also explores the attachment of immigrants to family and community and the attachment of government organizations to immigration laws that reflected certain beliefs about immigrants and citizenship. These are dramatic tales of joy and disappointment, opportunity and discrimination, deceit and honesty."

The quotations are from a web site about the exhibit: <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2012/pdfs/prologue-attachments.pdf>. ■

*The father and mother's parents of the Editor of BLP went through the Ellis Island "process." To show some of the difficulties posed by the voyage and time at Ellis Island, a good film is The Golden Door.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Pamela Brown Creekmur is expected to be nominated as the county's next Health Officer. She previously served as Director of Surgical Services for Kaiser Permanente in Silver Spring. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Howard University and is working towards an M.S. in Health Care Administration (anticipated degree 2013) at UMUC.

An emailer comments: "In the considered opinion of nationwide public health experts and policy-makers, a local, state or regional Health Officer must possess tremendous experience in public health policy and practice and must hold [a relevant degree such as] M.D., Ph.D., M.S.P.H., M.P.H., Dr.P.H. or accredited Diplomate in Health Policy. Ms. Pamela Creekmur holds none of the above." Does this make a difference?

WHAT AND WHEN



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

July 11, 18, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the south end of the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue building. Lots of fruits and vegetables and live music and more. (See map below.)

July 15-20 or 22-27—Writing workshop. For students in grades 8 through 12. Information: <http://www.hurstonwright.org/ProgramsAwards/creativeWritingIntensive.html>. Note: there is a tuition charge of \$130 but scholarships are available.

July 15-27—Young Scholars Discovery at University of Maryland. For 8th and 9th grade students. There may be a few openings at this late date, but the fees are high. For information, go to Ysdiscovery.umd.edu.

July 21: Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at 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 on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

August 7: National Night Out. In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon [not quite "night"!] event, 3:30-5 p.m., with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun.

September 20: Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to about 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome; ideas always welcome!

November 10: Health Check at the LP Community Center from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Any problems with oral health? Et cetera!

May 5—Langley Park Day 2013, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health.

CROSSROADS FARMERS' MARKET

Some readers of this newsletter indicate that our information about the location of the farmers' market was not clear. Well, okay. Thanks to the market staff, a map of the location is here. So at the corner of University Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave., head south (towards DC) on New Hampshire and turn into the first driveway on your right. Then turn left past the 7676 building to the market. It's open Wednesdays from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Be sure to check on the music; musicians are almost always there to entertain.

**7676 New Hampshire Ave,
Takoma Park**

