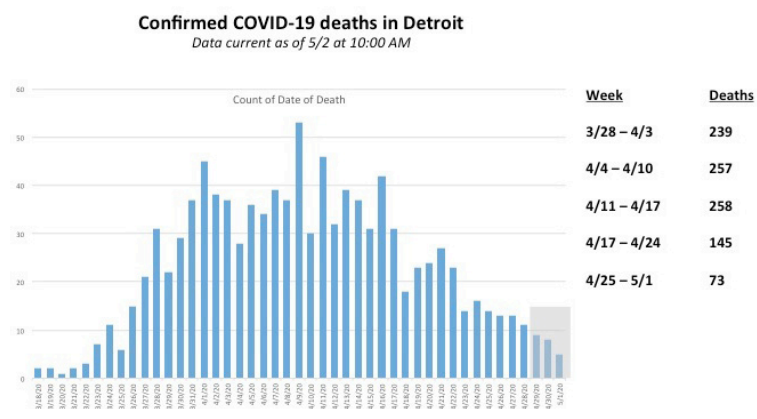


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Statement from Chief Public Health Officer Denise Fair on Detroit COVID-19 May 2, 2020 Statistics

The following statement is from Detroit's Chief Public Health Officer Denise Fair on today's COVID-19 stats for the City of Detroit:

"The State of Michigan and hospitals continue to review death records and update them to report fully those attributable to COVID-19. The total number of COVID-19 related deaths reported, has increased by 40; from 1,045 to 1,085. Nearly half of the deaths reported occurred more than a week ago, including several occurring in late March. The actual number of deaths attributed to yesterday is six. While that number may change as we receive new information, it is the lowest since March 25th."



City of Detroit Immigration Task Force Promotes Census 2020

The financial impact of the Census is most directly felt by Detroit residents, especially by those who rely on social services, such as school lunches, Head Start, WIC, Bridge Cards, low-income housing, Meals on Wheels, and Medicaid.

The Detroit City Council Immigration Task Force (ITF), chaired by Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López, joined the City's efforts to help increase the Census count among some of the hardest to reach populations, low-income and immigrant communities.

Census completion rates in census tracts with a high percentage of immigrants and people in poverty are significantly lower than the city average. As of this week, the approximate self-response rate in District 6, which has a high concentration of immigrants, was just 35% while the city's rate was 41%.

"As the daughter of an immigrant who grew up in poverty, I know firsthand the distrust and disinterest many communities have for government and filling out the Census," said Council Member Castañeda-López. "Counting everyone is a must. We are excited to be partnering with community leaders to share their stories about why the Census is important in hopes of increasing the completion rate amongst our ethnic minorities in Detroit."

Over the past several months, the ITF created more than 25 videos from the Latino, Arab, Bengali, Nigerian, Senegalese, and Afro-Caribbean communities. These videos explain the Census in their

respective language and encourage community members to complete it. This is an unprecedented effort in the city to conduct outreach to immigrant communities in their native languages.

The videos will be shared via virtual town halls, beginning April 24 and throughout the month of May. The first of these virtual meetings was held on Friday, April 24 in collaboration with the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and more than 25 other organizations. Additional virtual town halls are scheduled with the Islamic Center of Detroit, the Nigerian Rassul Islamic Center, the Bangladeshi American Public Affairs Committee, the African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs, and the Caribbean Community Service Center.

"While we are all currently dealing with the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, we cannot lose sight of the Census. Too much is at stake for our communities for the next 10 years. We have to work together now, we have to use our social networks, and we have to do all we can to make sure that we, and our people, fill out the 2020 Census. 10 minutes, 10 years," said Hayg Oshagan, ITF member and Director of New Michigan Media.

We know that the City will lose approximately \$55,000 per person over the next ten years for each person who does not complete the Census form. We hope these videos help increase response rates and ask for the media's help in sharing them.



By: Ozzie Rivera

PENSAMIENTOS Y RECUERDOS

*Dwayne Carrero Berry
 The Bright Star (El Rey)*

I remember when I first met Dwayne. We called him El Rey (the King).

After an email introduction a number of years back from Dr. Jorge Chinaea, director of Wayne State's Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, Rey and I decided to meet and discuss his interest in taking my class, Afro Hispanic History and Culture in the U.S., scheduled for the coming semester. Dr. Chinaea felt he had a lot of potential and that a conversation would be helpful in funneling his growing interest in Afro Latino studies. Of Cuban and Puerto Rican heritage he had a burning interest to learn more about his heritage. Within a short period of time we became close friends, he signed up for my class and would soon join the folkloric Puerto Rican BombaRica I co-led at the time. Immediately I was struck by his intellectual curiosity and thirst of knowledge. Tragedy struck. His shining star dimmed too early in life, December 2017, at the age of 24 he passed. Nonetheless he left an indelible mark on those of us who knew and called him friend. That will forever grace us.

I found out recently, as I and others have been going about our lives hunkered down with the effects of the Covid pandemic, that he would be granted a posthumous degree by Wayne State. But it still came as a pleasant surprise to read a Detroit Free Press article dated April 28, 2020 detailing that he, along with two others, would receive the degree in a virtual graduation ceremony the following day.

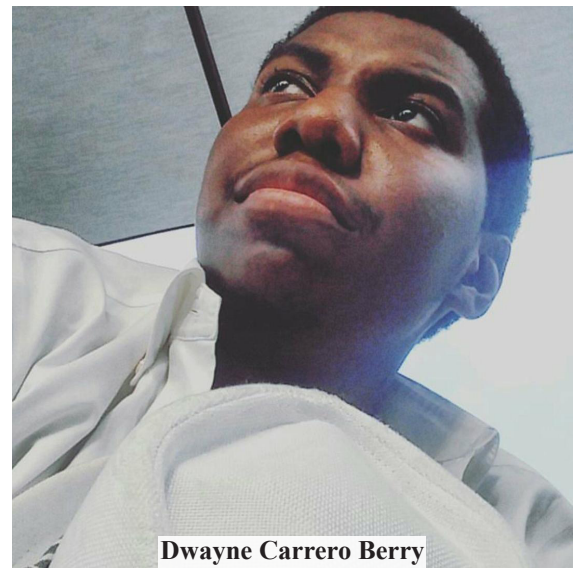
As noted in the article written by Meredith Spelbring, "Carrero-Berry will be awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, with minors in Latino/a and Latin American studies as well as peace and conflict studies. Carrero-Berry, who had ties to both Detroit and Southfield, was diagnosed with heart disease at 19 years old." She continues "Carrero-Berry was involved in organizations across campus and within the community, starting a

support group and visiting hospitals to encourage others facing similar health issues. He was a peer mentor and student ambassador to the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies and earned the Peer Mentor of the Year Award from the WSU Learning Communities Office for his dedication. "The university community mourns his loss and celebrates his loving and generous spirit," reads a WSU statement."

I am honored to have called him a friend and fellow cultural activist. In class, he was often quiet but I soon noted he was totally immersed in the subject material and quite observant of the inter-actions and learning experiences of other students. As the class progressed he would increasingly pose profound questions for the class to consider. Not only about the past but also would help his classmates ponder what the future would bring our community.

As noted in the Free Press article he played a critical mentoring and organizing role within Wayne State's Latino student body. He was practical in his advice to others, in providing guidance and counseling. In subsequent sessions and classes I taught, other students would come to me and tell me Duane had recommended they take the class. During sessions if I was to mention his name as an example of a young person who took research to heart, many would nod and comments were made about what a difference he made in their lives.

Student work was not enough for Dwayne. He was active in the community serving as one of the youngest members of the Puerto Rican Festival Committee which



Dwayne Carrero Berry

planned the annual event for five years at Clark Park earlier this decade. He was willing to do the menial tasks while also contributing ideas and making sure folks turned out to the event.

Though he struggled with his physical ailments he always kept an optimistic can-do spirit believing this was not going to get the best of him.

I remember very clearly one of our last major discussions when he approached me to discuss continuing his graduate level studies. La platica (discussion) focused on two areas of interest. He was sure he wanted to continue his exploration of the Africa Latino presence in the U.S. but also had a strong interest in psychology and related fields. I pointed out to him there are so few males in social work, much less Afro Latinos, that given his leadership qualities he could play a major role in mentoring others and in pushing the envelope when it comes to the discussion of diversity. He then made the decision to apply to U Of M's School Of Social Work and wanted my help in the process. We never got to the point where he actually submitted his application for the masters program because of his rapidly declining health. I am often left to ponder if he had not left us so early what achievements would he have accomplished. I am convinced they would have been many. Though he is not here with us physically, his impact on others, the students and his colleagues will continue on.....

COVID-19 and Cinco De Mayo

This weekend would have been the 56th year of the Mexican Patriotic Committee's hosting of our Cinco de Mayo parade in Southwest Detroit - the weather would have been perfect. Lately though, life has been less than perfect for COVID-19 has disrupted life for us, our families

and our organizations. Some have also suffered very traumatic loss. I cannot go without also mentioning the tragic passing of one of our beloved community advocates and good friend, Monica Echivarria-Casares, who we lost to this dreaded virus.

We look forward to the future when we can again celebrate our parade and Fiesta and invite you head over to MPC's Facebook page to stay informed, volunteer and join our efforts to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta again next year. Thank you.