



# State of Black Asheville

## 2014 Community Presentation

Where Do We Go From Here?

*The purpose of this conference is to identify  
community problems and search for solutions.  
This is an opportunity to make change. Let us  
be respectful of all the contributions and  
insights offered.*

**Thank you for your interest in the State of Black Asheville.**

**The students of the University of North Carolina at Asheville have, since 2007, researched and reported on the status of African-Americans living in the City of Asheville. Over the last seven years, undergraduates have put their best efforts forth in finding, sorting and displaying information that describes the health and wellbeing of Black city residents. It has been no small task.**

**Nor is it lightly considered. The pain of discovery often matches the difficulties of research. Consistently, students concluded that outcomes in public policy areas discriminate by race. Whether intentional or not, race continues to be a dominant predictor of how a person will be treated in Asheville.**

**What are our responses as individuals?**

**How do we hold our public institutions accountable for their outcomes?**

**These questions are at the heart of the daylong meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2014 at the YMI in Downtown Asheville. Your energetic and creative support is needed. It's been 50 years since federal law ended the era of racial segregation. It is now time to make the law a reality in the lives of all citizens.**

**In 1968, in his last completed book, Martin Luther King, Jr. asked *Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community*. Help us make the City of Asheville a community for all.**

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# Agenda

8:00am – Coffee and Pastries

8:30am – Welcome and Blessing by Rev. Dr. Charles R. Mosley, and  
a Special Presentation by Ms. Priscilla Ndiaye

8:50am – A Presentation of Black Asheville Culture by the S.O.B.A.  
Culture Group

9:15am – A Synopsis of Student Research, presented by Dr. Dwight  
Mullen and Dr. Dolly Jenkins-Mullen: Education, Employment, and  
Economic Development

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Breakout working groups: Participants will arrange in one of the three topic areas. The objective is to revisit the current status and present an action plan even if that entails follow-up meetings. If interested, some may choose to participate in more than one group. Each cluster will have a moderator to guide discussion, assuring that all voices are heard. The moderators were chosen based on their expertise and their willingness to accept this responsibility. In addition, each group will have a scribe to record its interaction. Each policy area will make a report on their findings and intended forward movement. Most important is the mutual respect we bring to each other. If folks need assistance, we are all here to help.

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9:30am to 11:15am – Breakout Discussion Groups  
Education, Auditorium  
Employment & Economic Development, Gallery 1 & 2

11:30am to 12:15pm – Group Reports

# Negro National Anthem

Lift Every Voice and sing till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come, over a way that which tears has been watered  
We have come, treading out path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

GOD of our weary years, GOD of our silent tears  
Thou Who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light  
Keep us for-e-ver in the path we pray

Lest our feet, stray from the places our GOD where me met thee  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand  
TRUE TO OUR GOD, TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND



# Culture

## YOUNG MAN'S INSTITUTE

- The YMI, built in 1882, is one of the oldest (possibly **the** oldest) black cultural centers in the United States of America (YMI)
- The 18,000 square foot building was designed by one of the architects that also helped design the Biltmore Estate, which is why the YMI building looks so architecturally similar to the Biltmore Estate (YMI)
- The YMI is set up to provide economic opportunity to the black community of Asheville by renting to the first floor store space to black-owned businesses
- In 1977, the YMI was almost demolished for falling into disrepair and no longer meeting city codes. Nine black churches banded together to raise funds so that the YMI's doors would remain open.

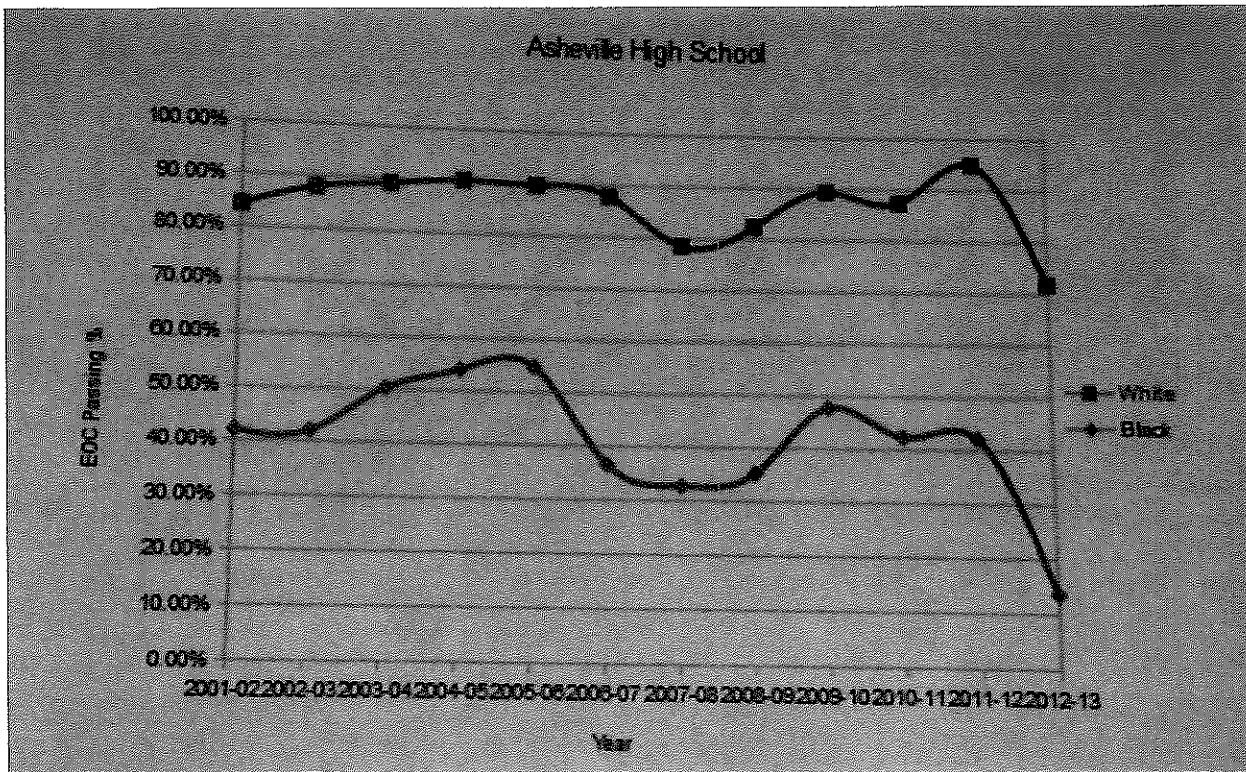


## STEPHENS LEE HIGH SCHOOL

- Stephens-Lee High School was built in 1923, on a site just above the former site of Catholic Hill Elementary School. For several decades Stephens-Lee was one of the only black public secondary schools serving the greater Western North Carolina area. Students were bussed in from five different counties.
- Almost all of the teachers had master's degrees, and some even had PhDs.
- Stephens-Lee held classes in all typical areas of study, but also provided classes in dance, industrial arts, photography, home economics, beauty culture, radio repair, play production, welding, drama, and manual training – just to name a few. (Black Highlanders Collection)
- In 1965, the Asheville City School System began to desegregate. Stephens-Lee students were first moved to South French Board High School, and then finally to a desegregated Lee Edwards High School, presently known as Asheville High.
- The entire process of desegregation in Asheville placed the burden of desegregation disproportionately on the African American community (With All Deliberate Speed 5). All black elementary schools were closed, and the former students had to be bussed to white schools.
- This resulted in two little-known race riots in Asheville, North Carolina.
- The first took place on September 29, 1969. Black students walked about in protest of the problems mentioned above (With All Deliberate Speed 7). The police were called, and, in the midst of the chaos, damage was inflicted on the building. The school was shut down for a week, and a citywide curfew was established in response to the race riot.
- The second took place on October 18, 1972. A race riot broke out over an interracial couple. Eight students were hospitalized in the fight between black and white students. (With All Deliberate Speed)
- Stephens-Lee was torn down in 1975. All that remains of this important institution is its gymnasium, an alumni group, and the stories that members have to tell.

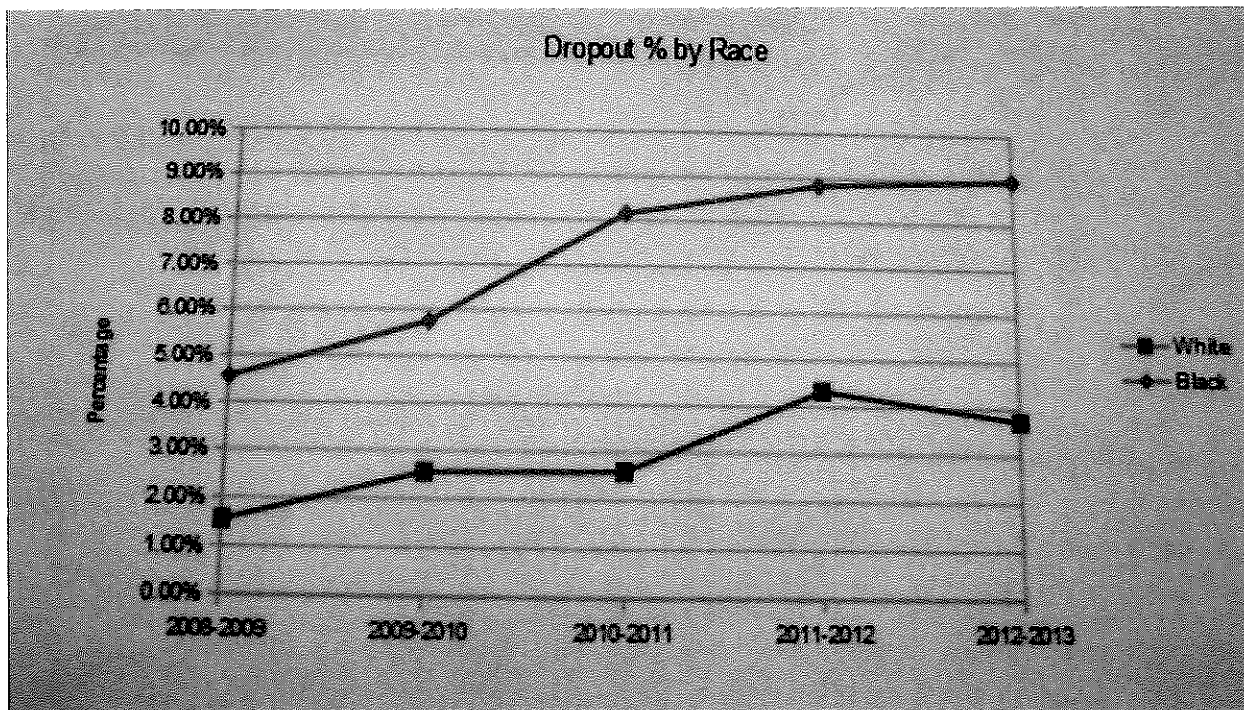
# NOTES

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## ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

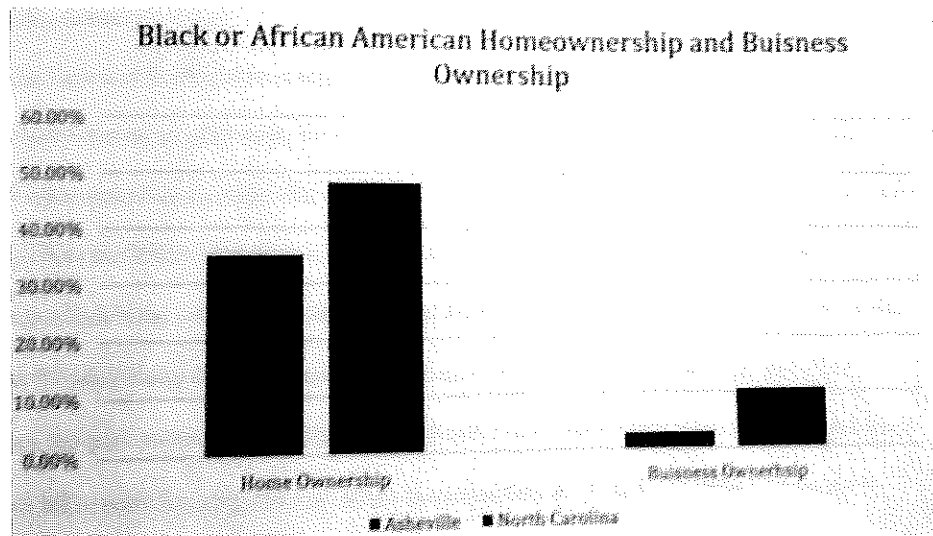
- The ratio of white and Black staff members in administrative, teaching and counseling positions do not reflect the ratio of white to Black students. There are 73 secondary teachers in ACS, and only 6 of those teachers are Black.
- ACS adopted the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program in 1997. 100% of ACS students in AVID apply to college, and 90% are accepted.





# NOTES

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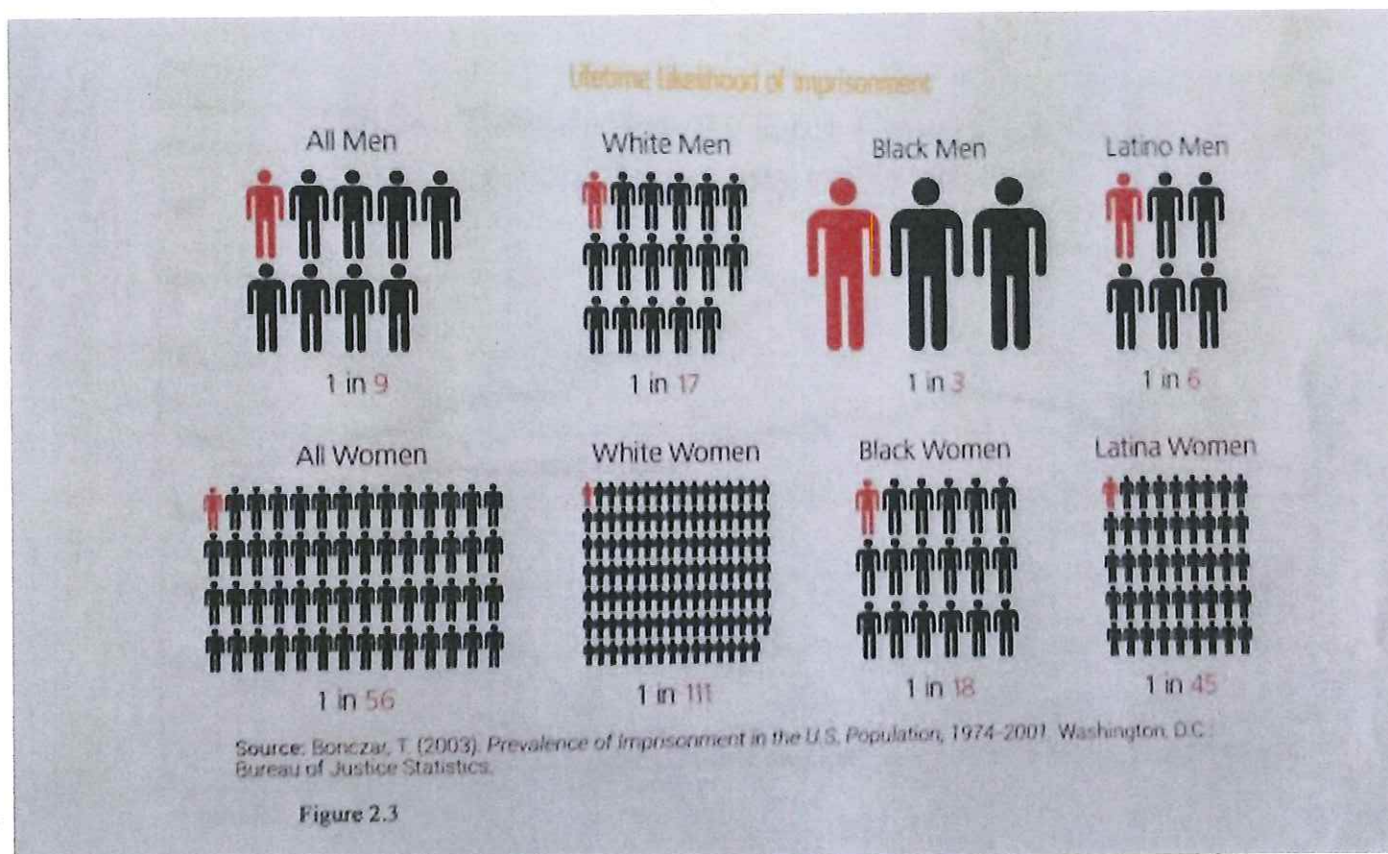
**NOTES**

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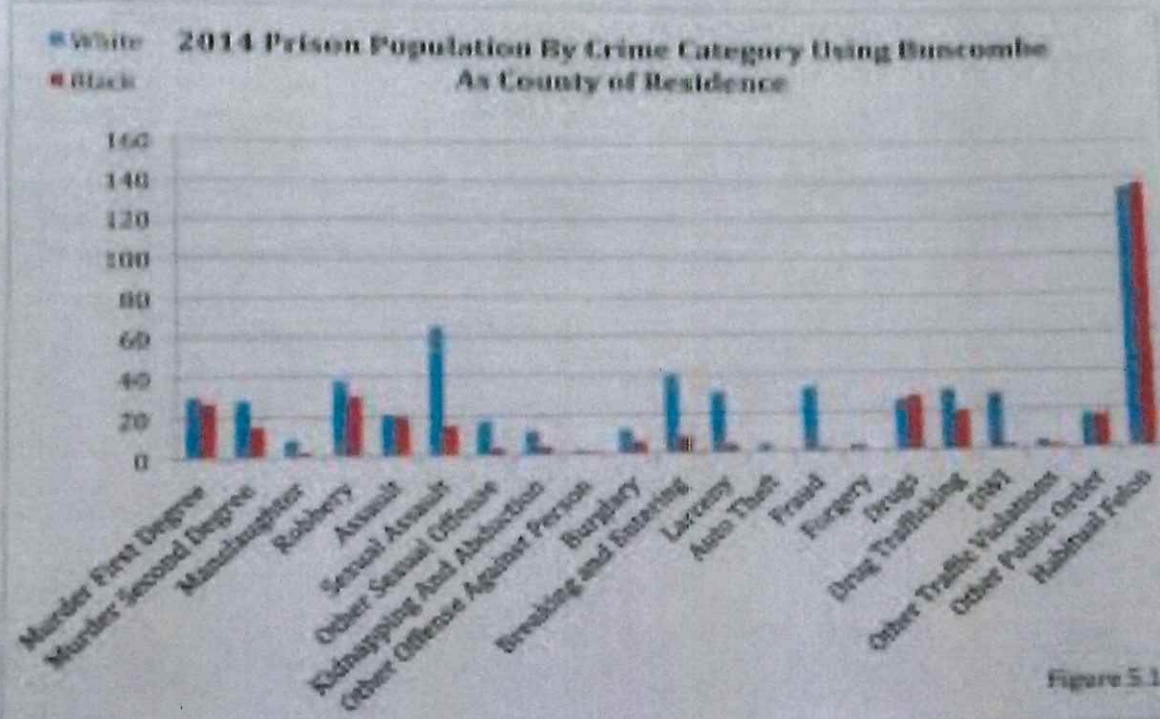
# Criminal Justice

- **82** of **159** on North Carolina's Death Row are Black. **22%** named Buncombe County as their county of residence. Black men comprise **less than 4%** of the county's population. (NCDOC and Census 2010).
- Even though less than **7%** of Asheville's total population are African-American men:
  - **39%** of men stopped by APD are Black
  - **16%** of men given citations during a traffic stop are Black
  - **32%** of men who are arrested during a traffic stop are Black
- African-American women are also overrepresented in the APD statistics:
  - **21%** of women stopped by APD are Black
  - **14%** of women given citations during a traffic stop are Black
  - **14%** of women who are arrested during a traffic stop are Black

*(statistics via NCDOJ)*



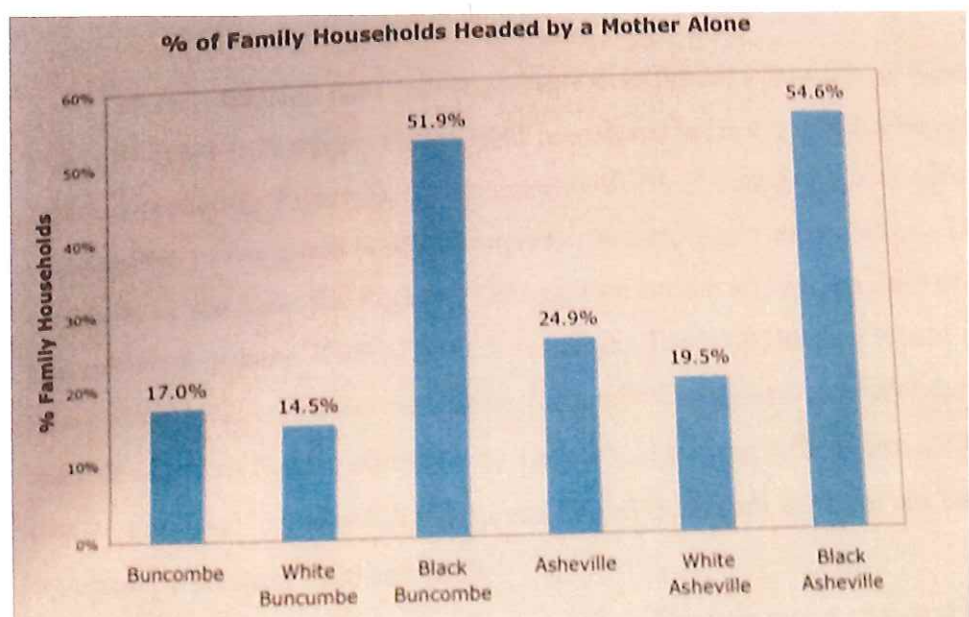
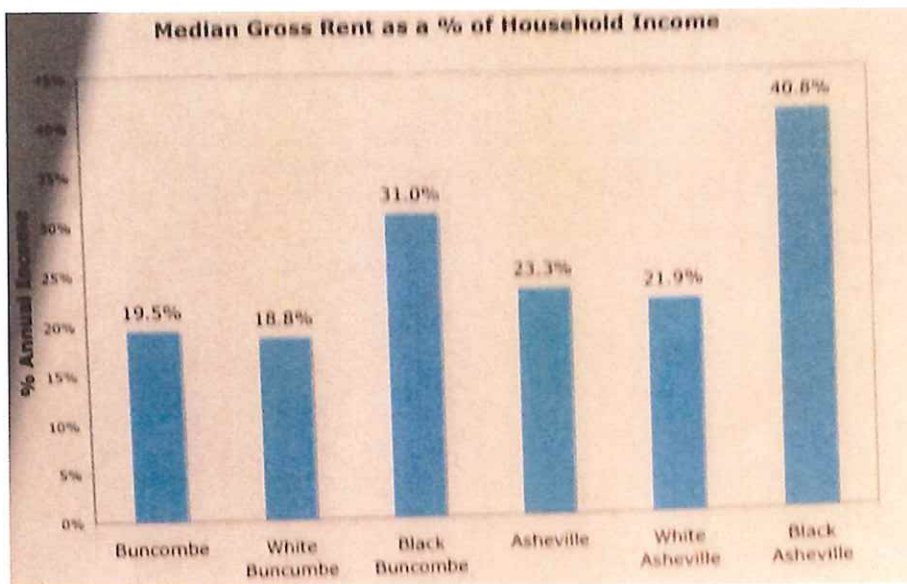
*Policy Options*



**NOTES**

# Housing

- **63%** of African-American families rent their homes, and **37%** own their homes
- **48%** of white families rent their homes, and **52%** own their homes  
(*American Community Survey 2012*)
- The median sales prices for a house in Asheville as of May 2014 is **\$212,000**
- There are **ten** public housing communities with **3,100** residents
- The African-American population in these public housing communities is **2,225**, or **71.8%** of the total population
- Another **1,350** families receive funding from Housing Choice Vouchers (*Section 8*)





# NOTES

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## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS WORKING TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY**

- Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement (ABIPA)
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- Mt. Zion Community Development, Inc.
- YWCA
- UNC Asheville.NC Center for Health and Wellness

## **NOTES**

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# Acknowledgements

Ms. Sharon West

YMI

Mr. Jessie Ray

Ray & Allen Funeral Home

Elder Johnny Hayes

Harris Teeter

Atlanta Bread Co.

Bruegger's Bagels

Sav-Mor

Rev. Keith & Deborah Knox

Rev. James Lee

YWCA

Ms. Sasha Mitchel

ColorofAsheville.com

Ms. Priscilla Ndiaye

Southside Community Advisory Board

Asheville Free Media Broadcasting

Andrea McMullen

DateMyCity.com

MED

International Socialist Organization

Isaac Coleman

UNC Asheville Political Science Department

ChangingTogether.org

UNC Asheville Intercultural Center & Multicultural Student Programs

Deborah Miles and the Center for Diversity Education

Housing Authority of the City of Asheville

Asheville Pizza & Brewing Company

Luella's

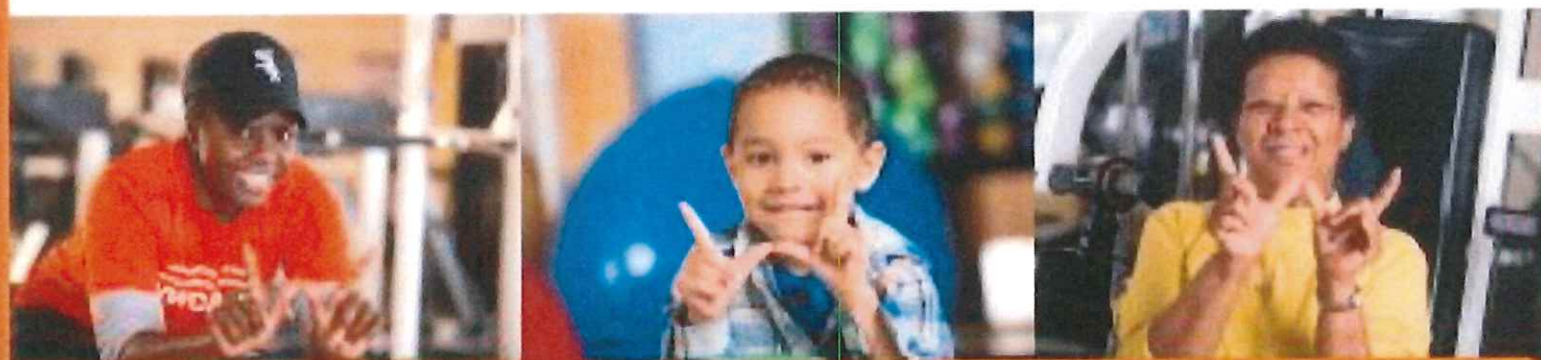
and all of the advocacy groups present



# The YWCA of Asheville is proud to support *The State of Black Asheville*

The YWCA of Asheville is dedicated to  
eliminating racism and empowering women.

We offer programs that bridge gaps in education,  
health care, child care and earning power.



Learn more about the YWCA of Asheville at  
[www.ywcaofasheville.org](http://www.ywcaofasheville.org)

185 S. French Broad Ave.  
(828) 254-7206 • @ywcaofavi

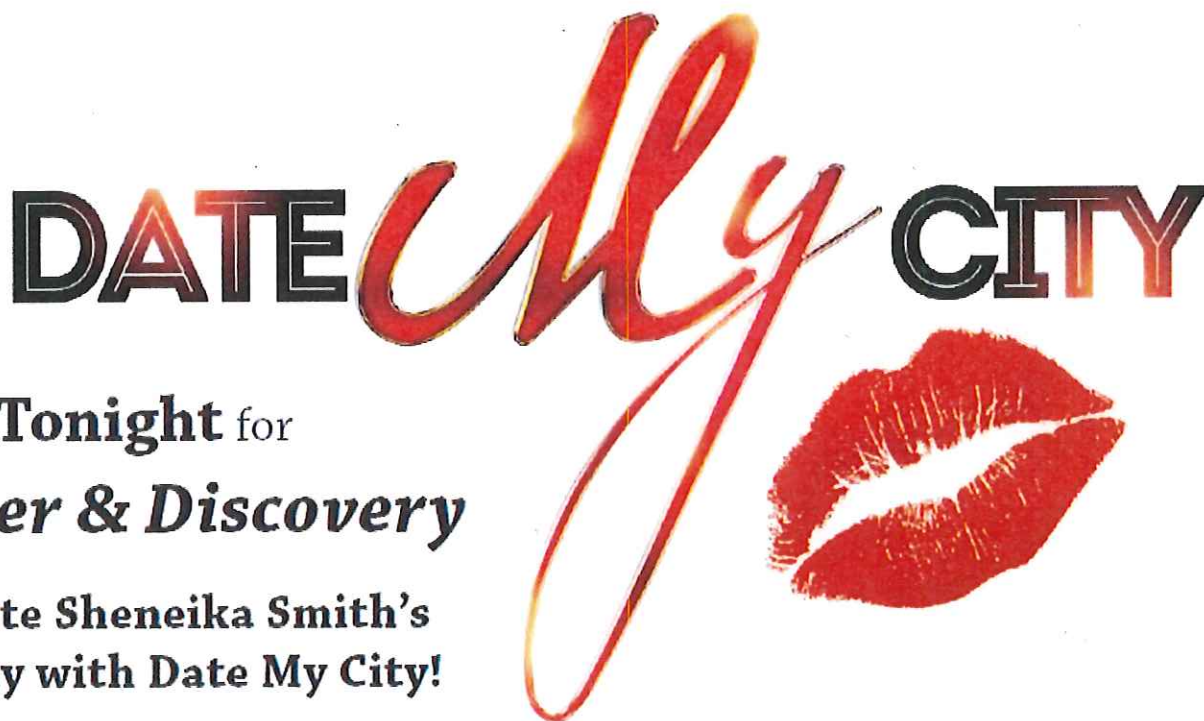
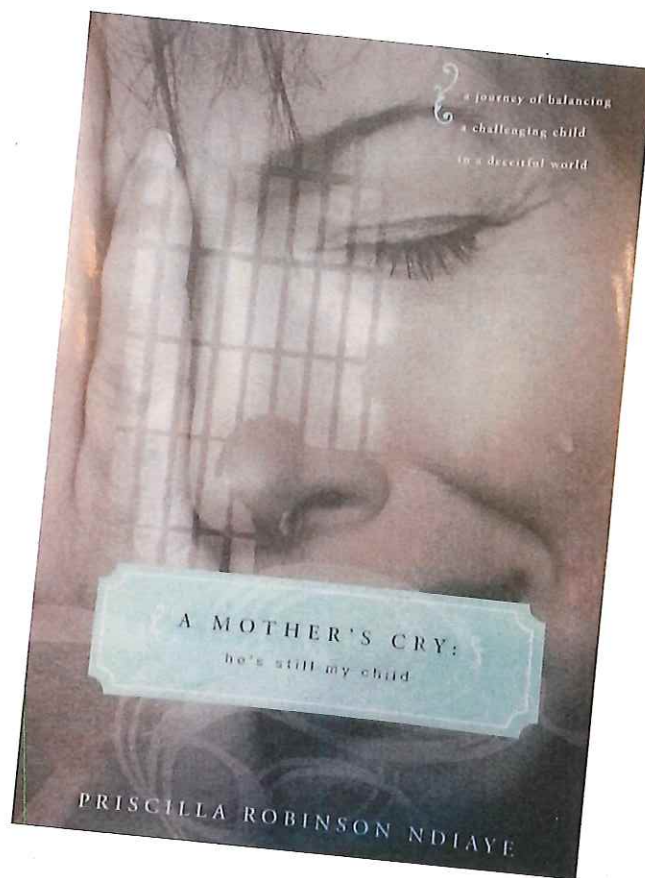
eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**



# *A Mother's Cry: He's Still My Child*

by Priscilla Robinson Ndiaye

In *A Mother's Cry: He's Still My Child*, you will enter the world of: **Child vs. Parent** - Realize how important it is to establish a nurturing and loving relationship, which is the main ingredient of a strong foundation in parental responsibility. **Society vs. Parent** - Be exposed to the challenges a parent incurs within the schools, juvenile court systems, and even from family. Learn how to get results. **Parent vs. Self** - Feel emotions of hurt, anger, disbelief, stress, determination, courage, and satisfaction! Find your point of getting over denial and letting go of guilt, while working toward balance, in the midst of *A Mother's Cry - He's Still My Child*. This book is your constant reminder that as a child begins to challenge you, he or she is still your child.



Join Us **Tonight** for  
**Dinner & Discovery**

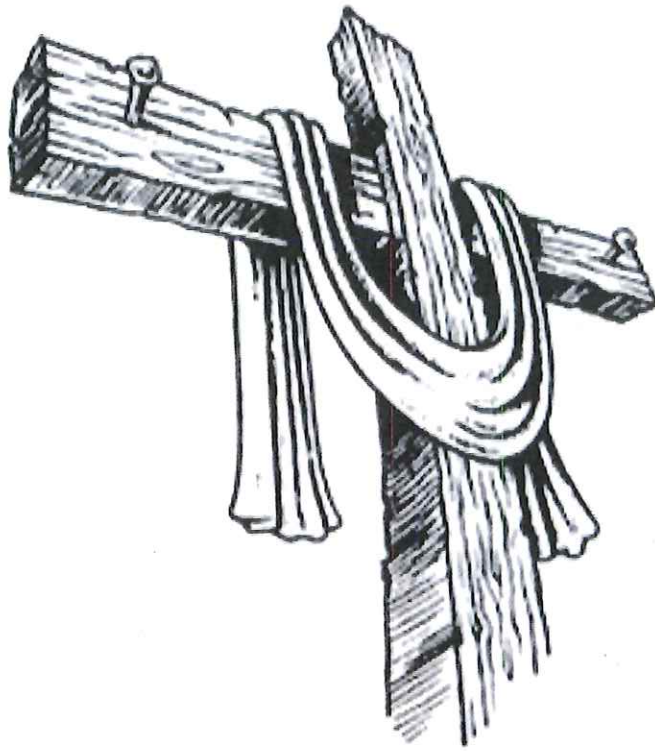
**Celebrate Sheneika Smith's  
birthday with Date My City!**

*Meet us at Hana Japanese Restaurant, 5B Biltmore Ave. at 6:00 pm.  
Then we'll move to WXYZ Lounge for a DJ, cake and conversation!*

**Follow us on Facebook to find out about "Mini-Dates" all summer!**  
**facebook.com/newasheville**



Garrison Chapel Baptist Church, Markham Road,  
PO Box 242, Tryon NC, 27282. Rev. Keith D. & Deborah  
Knox, Sr. Pastor & First Lady, Church (828) 859-5418.



Cell (828) 691-4445. keithdknox@gmail.com

*the* UNC Asheville  
Political Science Department  
*is proud to support the*

**State of Black Asheville**  
**2014 Conference**



The Urban Sound of Asheville  
100.7 FM

# **Young Man's Institute**



**In celebration of and with respect for people of all ethnicities, the YMI Cultural Center promotes interculturalism and the preservation of cultural identity. A historical gathering place, the YMI strives to provide programs and events for all.**

**39 South Market Street  
Asheville NC 28801  
(828) 257-4540  
Tuesday-Friday 12pm-4pm**