



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
&
AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CHICAGO MAYOR LIGHTFOOT, NEWARK MAYOR BARAKA AND HOUSTON MAYOR TURNER THREE MAYORS, THREE VISIONS, THREE POLICIES - A VIRTUAL SERIES

Nat'l Reporters Moderate Conversations on Criminal Justice Reform, The Wealth Gap, and Diversity & Inclusion

WHAT: In a virtual series of conversations on major issues facing the nation and highlighting U.S Black mayors' roles as leaders, **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot** speaks on criminal justice reform, **Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka** on the wealth gap, and **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner** on diversity and inclusion.

These three major-city Black mayors will share their insights, strategies and tactics into the policies, practices and programs that have been most effective under their leadership and describe the alliances and partnerships they have built. The series, presented **by the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues and the Department of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, in conjunction with the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago** will feature conversations moderated by nationally recognized journalists, with scholars discussing issues raised by these mayors.

WHO:

- **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**
 - **Moderator: Cheryl Corley, NPR National Correspondent**
 - **Panelists:**
 - **Nikki Jones, Professor, African American Studies, University of California, Berkeley**
 - **Cid Martinez, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of San Diego**
- **Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka**
 - **Moderator: Tracy Jan, The Washington Post, Reporter**
 - **Panelists:**
 - **Paul Ong, Research Professor and Dir., Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**
 - **Elsie Harper-Anderson, Associate Professor, Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University**
- **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner**
 - **Moderator: Natasha Korecki, Politico National Correspondent**
 - **Panelists:**
 - **Pedro Noguera, Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California**
 - **Kathleen Yang-Clayton, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Illinois at Chicago**



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**Great Cities
Institute**

**WHEN: Chicago: 2 p.m. CST, Thursday, March 4, 2021
Newark: 3 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Houston: 2 p.m. CST, Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

WHERE: Register here for these free events: <http://bit.ly/BlackMayors>

WHY: Given the lack of national leadership in the past four years and the sharpening crises of our times, Black mayors in the United States have stepped in to fill the vacuum, taking on roles they didn't bargain for, but embracing the opportunity to make a difference for their cities. The key elements of this leadership -- and the major obstacles that it seeks to overcome -- are the focus of this virtual series.

CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE:

African American Mayors Association, National Urban League, California Association of Black Lawyers, Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, Equal Justice Society, City Club of Chicago, Metropolitan Family Services, The Chicago Community Trust, Metropolitan Family Services of Chicago, Communities Partnering for Peace, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago and Strides for Peace.

ABOUT:

The **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**, part of the University of California, Berkeley, fosters innovative, community-engaged, qualitative and quantitative interdisciplinary research on the issues central to social stratification and inequality. The primary focus is on institutional patterns that impact marginalized communities - in the United States and around the world – as well as social and political movements that disrupt such patterns. ISSI trains, advises, mentors and supports the next generation of social change scholars to identify and collect empirical data so as to interpret and explain social stratification, with significant attention to the processes that support and disrupt stratification. Founded in 1976 as the Institute for the Study of Social Change, ISSI was the first institute in the University of California system to focus on race, stratification and social change. <https://issi.berkeley.edu/>

The **Department of African American Studies** at the University of California, Berkeley, is an intellectual community committed to producing, refining and advancing knowledge of Black people in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa. A key component of the department's mission is to interrogate the meanings and dimensions of slavery and colonialism, and their continuing political, social and cultural implications. <https://africam.berkeley.edu/>

UIC's Great Cities Institute is a research hub for scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders who share an interest in finding answers to the question of how cities and regions can make themselves into great places. The Great Cities Institute represents UIC's commitment to "engaged research" while contributing to its stature as a Research One University thereby highlighting the value of quality research for addressing today's urban challenges. GCI's goal is to improve the quality of life of residents living and working in Chicago, its metropolitan region, and cities throughout the world. <https://greatcities.uic.edu/>

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