

with them.

**NPM: Where do you think the weapons are coming from?**

OG: Honestly, I don't know. My speculation is that it's made readily available, nobody's owning up to where its coming from, but I know it's by design. It's by plan and unfortunately we're too stupid to see it or too deep into it [to realize it], but I can't say exactly where it's coming from. I know there is a plan behind the guns getting here. A lot of these guys are able to buy a gun a day. How can you buy a gun in Pennsylvania yet you don't have to report them stolen?

I think guys are just buying them and selling them. They're getting in here by design. I'll just say that, I can't say who or speculate who is providing them, but it's by design.

## RENAMING DIAMOND STREET

By ANTHONY PHILIPS

We had the opportunity to sit down with Kemah Carles Washington, who is organizing the campaign to rename Diamond Street Father Paul M. Washington Avenue. You are probably wondering why this guy deserves an entire street named after him, and so were we. Mr. Kemah told us just why Father Paul was such an important figure for North Philadelphia.

**NPM: Would you speak a little bit about Father Paul's teaching?**

Mr. Kemah: Father Paul's life was planned for him. His mother gave birth to all girls at the time, but wanted a boy. So she prayed out to God to give her a boy and that he would live to serve him. So eventually Father Paul was born.

In 1967, Father Paul ordained 11 women as priests at his church, which changed 2000 years of history because that had never happened. That is just one of the many things that Father Paul has done over the years. He also organized the first Black Panther conference in America.

Father Paul had organized youth programs set up in the early 70's that drove in a good group. Rival gangs that had blood feuds would show up. They would actually meet at the church peacefully and I don't know if that would happen anywhere else because no one was brave enough to try this out. Father Washington was just that type of person, to open his doors to people and help others.

**NPM: How did Father Paul influence your life?**

Mr. Kemah: I was a daddy's boy, so I always hung out with my dad. When he went to meetings and different churches, I was always by his side. I was with him when he was doing the black power conferences. I remember dad took a bunch of us kids from North Philly to a pool down in South Philly, in an all

**NPM: Could you explain the general rules of the road for a teenager?**

OG: Basically when you're operating a motor vehicle in the state of Pennsylvania you have to have a Pennsylvania driver's license, your car must be registered and your inspection stickers and insurance must be current. If you drive without a driver's license, not only will you get a ticket for driving without a license, you will have to appear in court for that ticket. You will also have your car impounded, it will be live-stocked. Not having your paperwork is costly, because it costs to go to court, it costs to get your vehicle back, and it costs to get your stuff reinstated. A little five or ten minute joyride can lead to thousands of dollars, setting you back and your parents back because they'll probably be helping you.

white neighborhood, so that we could play in the pool. As soon as we jumped in the pool, the other kids jumped out. That was my first taste of racism.

As I he grew up, I always heard people say that you can just be in Father Paul's presence without saying anything and you could feel his spirit. He influenced me greatly. It feels good that I could look to my dad for that kind of inspiration. When going through his struggle, you see a lot of miracles. Let me tell you about one of the things that happened. My dad and I were up in Harrisburg because he had to take care of some business, and there happened to be a demonstration nearby. My dad was inside and he decided to talk to the crowd and try to calm them down. The crowd got real unruly and my dad got real scared. The crowd actually thought that the people inside sent my dad out to deal with them and were on the verge of attacking. Before things got too out of hand, a woman grabbed my dad's arms and walked him through the crowd. The crowd actually parted like the Red Sea. As my dad walked through, everyone was quite moved. As soon as my dad got through the crowd, they dispersed.

**NPM: It seems that most of the teachings of Father Paul are Philadelphia based. Is there anywhere else that you went to spread his teachings?**

Mr. Kemah: My dad was a missionary in West Africa. He traveled to Spain, France, Rome, and all around that area. He also traveled to South America. There was a time that he went to Uganda for a peace conference. He's been in Russia for a peace conference.

**NPM: Why did you choose Diamond Street as the street for the name change?**

Mr. Kemah: Diamond Street was chosen because my dad's church, the Church of the Advocate, is on the 1800 block of

What I tell people is, if you're stopped by a police officer and the officer approaches you, you do not want to have everything out before I get there. You're reaching into your glove compartment where a gun could be concealed, you're going into your pockets and all that stuff. Some people even jump out of the car to get something out of the trunk. All of those are no-no's. If a police officer is approaching you, put your hands on the steering wheel in a non-threatening manner, do not reach for anything and you let him tell you what to do. If you want to say "Hello, officer," that's fine. You don't have to "Yes, sir" him to death. You have every right to ask why you are being stopped and they have an obligation to tell you. If it gets off on a good foot and you don't get nasty, they may even cut you a break.

Diamond Street.

**NPM: So do you think that by changing the name of Diamond Street, people will become inspired to do research and learn more about him?**

Mr. Kemah: Yeah, I think so. I'm hoping that we could do a better job of teaching our children about our ancestors.



Father Paul M. Washington

## WORD ON THE STREET - HIP HOP SURVEY

By SHAQUANA HARRIS

We decided to conduct a survey about hip hop in order to learn how hip hop is affecting everyone's life, by understanding different perspectives from different people.

**1. What type of impact do you think Hip-Hop has on our lives and in our community?**

Isaiah Smith, 14, a student at the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responded:

"It depends on how people react to it. See, for me it's not a bad influence because I know the things that I listen to in videos I shouldn't really do, but if people aren't smart enough not to do the things they hear than they should just stop listening to it altogether."

Iesam Smith, 16, a student at the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responds:

"Not all hip hop is bad. The good hip hop leaves a good impression on younger kids and the bad hip hop is all fake and it doesn't have any impact in my life."

April Alcaraz, the Teen Program Manager of the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responds:

"I think that it creates a role model for the younger kids. These roles can be both good and bad."

**2. What do you think the world would be like without hip hop?**

Mr. Richard Amoako, teen program counselor of the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responds:

"I say it would be a world without a lot of diverse music and diverse individuals. I think that it's a rare music genre that has a lot of people of different backgrounds and I think it would be boring."

Mr. Edward Basile, video instructor of the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responds:

"It would be a lot less interesting, that's for sure. hip hop adds a lot of color and a lot of music that helps us score in life and everything and I like hip hop a lot."

Brierra Kelly, 13, a student at the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, responds:

"It would be boring and people wouldn't have anything hip to listen to or to stay active with."

**The name of hip hop was first used as the name of our culture by Africa Bamba back in the early 80's, before the word hip hop was a phrase that MC's said on the mike.**