

## WLOU/WLLV

### Programs and Issues

#### 1st Quarter 2022

**KENTUCKY'S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS MAJOR CHANGES** – Two major African American players in Kentucky Politics have left a major void in the Kentucky House of Representatives. Attorney Darryl Owens, who was a model of leadership and was well known for his commitment to public service and civil rights, died in January. Representing the 43<sup>rd</sup> District from 2005 – 2019, He will be missed by the community and the legislature. We ran a special recognition of his service to Louisville.

Reginald Meeks retired from the House of Representatives and a special election was scheduled to replace him. Having served the 42<sup>nd</sup> District for over 21 years, he was well known and recognized. We ran special reminders about the special election encouraging persons to vote, and Kentucky elected its' first LGBTQ legislator.

**HEALTH** - The Coronavirus Pandemic continues to plague our state and our country. The Omicron Variant which surfaced in late December has spread faster than the initial Pandemic and has had a major impact on children and young adults. While the overall effect of this variant is not as severe, it caused hospitals throughout the area to be overcrowded and the National guard to again be called in due to illness of medical staff. We ran a variety of PSA's and informational spots regarding the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands, but most importantly the importance of getting vaccinated and getting boosters which is proving to minimize the impact severity of the virus and keep people out of the hospital, although it does not keep someone from getting the virus.

**EDUCATION** – The subject of JCPS student assignment plans has been a hot topic for some time and specifically how Black students are bused farther and have fewer options for better schools. JCPS introduced a new student assignment plan that would offer more choices for West Louisville students to attend schools closer to their homes and to have more choices for magnet programs and educational choices. A series of informational spots and PSAs were run to encourage parents to attend meetings in their area to address the concerns and to get a better understanding of the proposed changes.

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN WEST LOUISVILLE-** Norton Healthcare unveiled plans for a \$70 million hospital in the Parkland neighborhood, the first new medical center for Louisville's West End since before the Civil War. Norton would join Goodwill industries of Kentucky's 20-acre "opportunity campus" at 28th Street and West Broadway in a \$100 million project that would include Goodwill Headquarters and educational programs as well as job opportunities and a much-needed full-service hospital. We participated in the announcement ceremonies and ran PSAs informing the community of this new and extensive advancement.