

N.J. leader arrested in La.

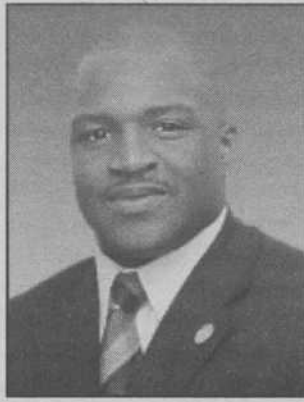
CHALMETTE, La. (AP) — A city councilman for Newark, N.J., visiting Louisiana to build homes for Habitat for Humanity accused sheriff's deputies of pulling his party over for "driving while Black" and was arrested for refusing to identify himself and yelling at the deputies, authorities said.

Oscar Sydney James II, 26, was booked recently on allegations of disturbing the peace, resisting an officer and littering after a traffic stop in St. Bernard Parish.

James, who denied wrongdoing and vowed to fight the charges, was the passenger in a minivan that was pulled over near the town of Violet, in an area hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.

Authorities said the minivan sped past an unmarked St. Bernard Parish sheriff's cruiser and then switched lanes without using a turn signal.

When the driver of the van, Roman Martin Jr., 25,



Oscar Sydney James II

of Newark, asked the deputies why the vehicle had been pulled over, James interjected: "We were stopped for DWB," according to the sheriff's office.

Maj. Chad Clark, who was involved in the stop, told *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans that the deputies, who were White, asked what James meant and he responded, "Driving while Black."

Everyone in the van was Black, Clark said.

He said James refused to identify himself and threw a handful of nails on the ground as deputies moved to pat him down.

"He was yelling at the top his lungs, 'Bring me to jail. Bring me to jail,'" Clark said.

While being booked at the sheriff's office, James identified himself and told deputies he was a Newark city councilman. He was released on \$850 bond.

Martin was issued a ticket for improper lane use and given a verbal warning for speeding.

James told *The Star-Ledger* of Newark that he hadn't been loud or confrontational, that the nails fell to the ground when he turned his pockets inside out and that he never asked the deputies to take his party to jail. He said someone in the van videotaped the incident.

James, who was in Louisiana with staff and volunteers to build homes for Habitat for Humanity, said the arrest was "definitely racial profiling."

"We've dealt with several incidents of racism since we got here," James said.

House greenlights world AIDS program, \$10 billion annually

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted last week to triple to more than \$10 billion a year U.S. humanitarian spending on fighting AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa and other stricken areas of the world.

About \$41 billion of the \$50 billion over five years would be devoted to AIDS, significantly expanding a program credited with saving more than 1 million lives in Africa alone in the largest U.S. investment ever against a single disease.

Every day another 6,000 people are infected with the HIV virus, said House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, D-Calif. "We have a moral imperative to act and to act decisively," he said.

The House voted 308-116 to extend and broaden the scope of the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that President Bush promoted and Congress enacted in 2003. It has been hailed as a noteworthy

foreign policy success of the Bush presidency.

The White House, which backs the House bill, said the program is supporting antiretroviral treatment for about 1.45 million people and is on track to meet its goals of backing treatment for 2 million, preventing 7 million new infections and providing care for 10 million, including orphans and vulnerable children.

In 2007, 33 million people worldwide were living with HIV and AIDS, according to the United Nations.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, top Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, added that while the program is based on altruism, it has strengthened U.S. security.

Without addressing the AIDS pandemic, she said, it "will continue to spread its mix of death, poverty and dependency that is further destabilizing governments and societies, and undermining the security of entire re-

gions."

The compromise bill was one of the last endeavors of the former Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, Tom Lantos, D-Calif., who died of cancer in February. The measure is named after Lantos and his predecessor as Foreign Affairs chairman, the late Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who worked together on the 2003 act.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved a similar \$50 billion bill, and the legislation is seen as having a good chance of passing in an election year in which few major bills will reach the president's desk.

To advance the legislation, conservatives had to give up a provision in the 2003 act requiring that one-third of all HIV prevention funds be spent on abstinence programs. Instead it directs the administration to promote "balanced funding for prevention activities" in target countries.

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Congress

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ginning before a person gets out. What we need to do is the moment a person enters prison, we need to be trying to figure out what is it that we can do to keep that person from ever coming back. So, you've got to find out what got them there. So, whatever that was, you've got to work on it right then. And then you work on it consistently with the hope that you're going to be able to prevent it from causing them to return."

Among the programs the bill will provide, Bush pointed to treatment programs for alcoholics and drug addicts. He drew warm chuckles and applause from the audience when he referred to himself, saying, "I quit drinking — and it wasn't because of a government program. It required a little more powerful force than a government program in my case."

He added, "Our government has a responsibility to help prisoners to return as contributing members of their community. But this does not mean that the government has all the answers. Some of the most important work to help ex-convicts is done outside of Washington, D.C., in faith-based communities and community-based

groups. It's done on streets and small town community centers. It's done in churches and synagogues and temples and mosques," he said. "They help addicts and users break the chains of addiction. They help former prisoners find a ride to work and a meal to eat and place to stay. These men and women are answering the call to love their neighbors as they'd like to be loved themselves. And in the process, they're helping prisoners replace anger and suffering and despair with faith and hope and love."

Davis' bipartisan team of House representatives and senators also included Republicans Sen. Sam Brownback (Kans.), former Rep. Rob Portman (Ohio), and Rep. Chris Cannon (Utah).

According to the bill, H.R. 1593, there are 7 million people currently incarcerated in local jails and prisons in the U.S. The Bureau of Criminal Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice estimates that 67.5 percent of inmates are re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within three years of release from incarceration. Of that 67.5 percent, 47 percent are reconvicted, and 26 percent are re-sentenced to prison for a new crime.

Congress is in the process

of allocating funds for the programs; so the cost of putting the bill into affect is still unknown, legislators say.

"Virginia is in the process of spending \$100 million a year every year for the foreseeable future," for incarcerated inmates, said Scott. "The idea that we were going to spend a \$100 million dollars a year for the foreseeable future and tens of millions of dollars each year to run each of those prisons, anything that you can do is a great opportunity for people to come together, not only to reduce crime but to save money and to save lives."

The bill, H. R. 1593, will take affect on Oct. 8, exactly 180 days after its signing last week. It outlines dozens of opportunities for inmates to get help to stem the tide of re-incarceration by making it easier for them to reintegrate into society. It includes:

— Educational, literacy, vocational programs inside correctional facilities as well as job placement services to facilitate re-entry into the community.

— Substance abuse treatment and services, including outpatient as well as residential services and recovery programs.

— Coordinated supervision and comprehensive services for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a

juvenile facility, including housing and mental and physical health care in order to facilitate re-entry into the community. This includes veteran-specific services for eligible veterans.

— Family development services, including encourage offenders to develop safe, healthy, and responsible family relationships and parent-child relationships; and by involving the entire family unit in comprehensive re-entry services.

— The involvement of prison, jail, or juvenile facility mentors in the re-entry process and enabling those mentors to remain in contact with offenders while in custody and after re-entry into the community.

Davis stresses that offenders will not be forced to take advantage of any of the programs. However, they will be strongly encouraged.

"It's more opportunity than mandate," he said. "It's kind of like you can send a horse to the well, but you can't make him drink. My father used to say, 'You can send a boy to college, but you can't make him think. So, it's going to a matter of helping people. You can't mandate that they change their behavior. But, you can help them to become normal, productive contributing members of society.'"

Herman

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rently serves as chairwoman and chief executive officer of New Ventures LLC. In addition, she chairs the Toyota Diversity Advisory Board and the Sodexo Business Advisory Board and is a member of the board of directors of Cummins Inc., Entergy, Inc., MGM Mirage and the Coca-Cola Co. Herman has also been active in the nonprofit arena.

The SNCCW is a nonprofit entity comprised of woman who share a concern for the political, educational and social problems of this community and who are committed to making a difference. Tickets for the luncheon are \$75 per person. For more information, please call 259-7578 or 242-6938.

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