

GENERAL

Anthony Fauci, Leader on Federal Covid Response, to Step Down in December

By Jennifer Shutt, Tennessee Look-out

WASHINGTON--Anthony Fauci, one of the federal government's leading public health figures, announced Monday he'll be leaving his post in December, though he made clear he's not retiring.

The 81-year-old doctor who runs the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, became a household name during the COVID-19 pandemic as a consistent, medically focused and rational voice.

"Because of Dr. Fauci's many contributions to public health, lives here in the United States and around the world have been saved," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "As he leaves his position in the U.S. Government, I know the American people and the entire world will continue to benefit from Dr. Fauci's expertise in whatever he does next."

While Fauci is leaving as NIAID director after nearly four decades, he plans to continue working, though he declined to say Monday in his statement exactly what his next role will be.

"I want to use what I have learned as NIAID Director to continue to advance science and public health and to inspire and mentor the next generation of scientific leaders as they help prepare the world to face future infectious disease threats," Fauci said.

Fauci will not just leave behind his role as NIAID director, but his position as chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation and Biden's chief medical adviser.

Fauci has researched numerous illnesses throughout his career, including HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, malaria, Ebola and Zika.

He's advised seven different presidents "on global HIV/AIDS issues, and on initiatives to bolster medical and public health preparedness against emerging infectious disease threats such as pandemic influenza and COVID-19," according to his biography.

Fauci is most well known for his role explaining COVID-19 to Americans during the first weeks and months of the outbreak in 2020, though he later became something of a boogeyman for conservative politicians and com-



Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci announced Monday he is stepping down from his post.

mentators as the pandemic dragged on, and pharmaceutical companies debuted vaccines.

During the past few months, he's become a leader in the federal government's response to the recent monkeypox outbreak, which the U.S. Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency earlier this month.

Biden said Monday that Fauci has his "deepest thanks for his public service."

Redistricting is Voter Suppression Too

By Ben Jealous

When Charles Diggs, Jr., won election to Congress in Michigan's 13th District in 1954, he launched nearly seven decades in which the city of Detroit had at least one Black member of Congress. That's likely to change this year. Because of redistricting, Detroit no longer has majority-Black congressional districts. And in the first primary election with newly drawn district lines, a Black candidate did not win the Democratic contest in the heavily Democratic 13th. That means the city is likely to lack Black representation in Congress for the first time in decades.

Redistricting is robbing Black candidates and voters of hard fought for opportunities they have had for years. In Detroit, new districts merged Black areas of the city with white neighborhoods across 8 Mile Road. The city stands to lose Black representation in Congress and have less representation in the state legislature. Knowing what the impact could be, voters have spoken out forcefully against the new redistricting maps from pulpits to street corners to the state capitol and even before the

state courts.

Sadly, Michigan is not alone. The New York Times reported in August that this year, "judges in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Ohio have found that Republican legislators illegally drew those states' congressional maps along racial or partisan lines, or that a trial very likely would conclude that they did." But elections are moving forward anyway.

We've all heard about the restrictive voter suppression laws that far-right state legislatures are passing. We've heard about the crackdowns on voting hours and mail-in voting, and even on giving food and water to voters in long lines. But we don't hear enough about redistricting as another weapon being used to intimidate voters and keep us from exercising our constitutional rights. It is erasing us from Congress and state legislatures. We need to call it out and challenge it where we see it.

Calling out and challenging means organizing, litigating, and legislating. It means supporting national and local organizations that unite communities against racist gerrymandering and seek justice in the courts. They might not win

every case, but advocacy and activism are essential to righting this wrong.

We must also keep voting, running for office, and educating. My organization, People For the American Way, houses an African American Religious Affairs network that has reaffirmed for more than a decade that "every election matters and every vote counts" — and that includes primaries. For Black ministers in our network, voting and civic participation are acts of faith and so much more. As Reverend Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., pastor of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit said, "It's not about left or right. Splitting Detroit into two districts was an insult. But we have faith and must 'deal with our self-interest by voting in every election!'"

I know that a lot of media coverage of this summer's primaries has focused on one big question: will Trump-style, MAGA candidates win or lose? But there's another question that needs to be asked: how harmful are the impacts of redistricting on our communities in this year's elections and those to come? The current reality dictates that we do not sit out any election. We need to resolutely



Ben Jealous

register, educate, motivate and turn out voters. In every election. Every time.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER | Due Process ... It's Important to All

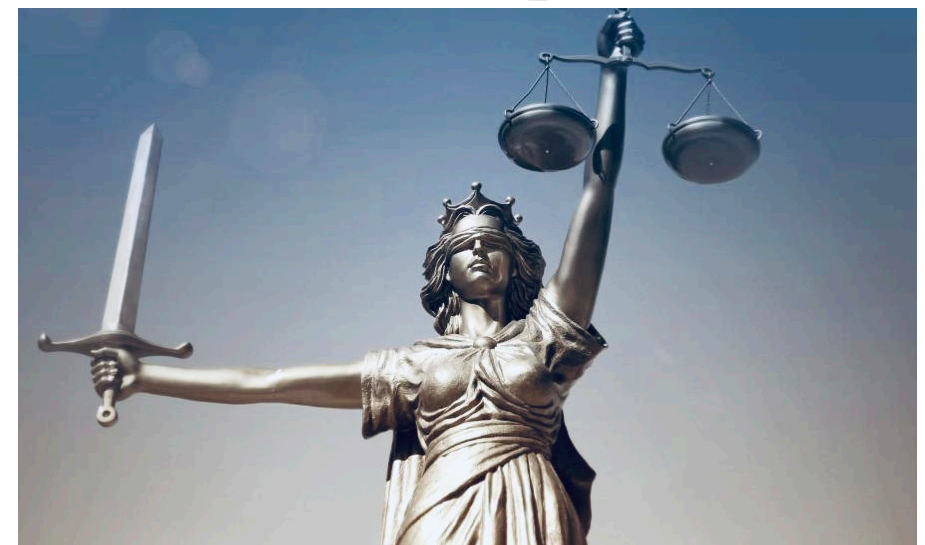
The recent reassignment of Chattanooga Police Department Officers by Chief Celeste Murphy has drawn attention, criticism, support, and unanswered questions. The fact that has already been demonstrated by the turn of events is clear and simple: Due process is important to all.

As reported and affirmed through the actions of both the US Attorney's Office and the response of Chattanooga Police Chief Celeste Murphy, cases tried, involving men and women standing as defendants for crimes alleged, have revealed a record of falsified reports or misrepresentations of the truth by at least 10 CPD Officers in court proceedings.

The US Attorney's Office specifically noted, the "paramount importance" that "defendants in federal criminal proceedings receive the due process required by the US Constitution." It was the initial request of the US Attorney's Office to the Chattanooga Police Department which set in motion the movement of CPD Officers from enforcement duties to non-enforcement duties when it asked for "a list of names of officers who had been untruthful or misrepresented information in the past," as reported by the Chattanooga Times-Free Press.

Complying with this request, Chief Murphy submitted a list of names that numbered 10 officers which apparently existed or was able to be generated due to activity in the past which established their alleged unreliable testimony in court. From the vantage point of the US Attorney's Office, the need for accurate and truthful testimony and evidence is obvious. Equally, from the perspective of the Chattanooga Police Department, the efforts of Chief Murphy, a 25-year law enforcement veteran whose tenure with the Atlanta Police Department held a record of commendable service, to have men and women in enforcement positions that provide accurate and truthful testimony and evidence are justified.

The Chattanooga community has questions that seem to reflect both the Hamilton County Branch of the NAACP and the local Police Union. What is the due process for the Chattanooga Police Officers in question who allegedly made unreliable statements or filed falsified reports? What is the process for these individuals who were not terminated, yet have been reassigned since they, apparently, are no longer able to testify in federal court cases? Is this process the same for all officers and what training and stan-



dards are in place to ensure that all officers assigned enforcement duty, which includes court appearances, follow procedures and submit accurate testimony and evidence?

Defendants are due their day in court with facts as the tool to bring justice. So should the due process for the Chattanooga Police Officers be known for the sake of the officers involved, the entire Chattanooga

Police Department and all the officers, as well as the entire community.

Chattanoogans and Hamilton Countians expect and deserve a justice system, not just a legal system, that provides both law and order.

Madison McKenzie

Tennessee Immigrant Rights Organization Responds to Asylum Seekers Arriving in Chattanooga

Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

CHATTANOOGA, TN (TN Tribune)—In response to reports that Texas Governor Greg Abbott has begun sending buses with migrants seeking asylum throughout the country — from Washington D.C. to New York City — and now, Chattanooga, Tenn. The Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIIRC) issued the following statement below.

People have the right to seek asylum in a country where they feel safe. An individual's right to seek international protection is upheld by U.S. law which recognizes the right to present

oneself at the border to seek protection. These people are exercising their rights under U.S. and international law.

"Tennessee has a long history of welcoming and providing refuge to those in need, from Cuban political asylees in the 1960s to welcoming Afghan parolees and refugees from around the world. This moment is an opportunity for us to live up to the ideals of our nations by welcoming these families with dignity and kindness.

No matter what it is that brought families here, our local communities and the state of Tennessee has a moral obligation to ensure that everyone is

treated with human dignity and has access to shelter, legal services, service coordination, healthcare, reproductive health services, mental health services, and education.

While Governor Abbot is using vulnerable individuals as a political football, Chattanooga — and Tennessee — should rise above and lead with our values and welcome our new neighbors with dignity."



Gov. Greg Abbott, pictured in Feb. 2019, said Texas does not consent to allow refugees to resettle within the state. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has begun sending buses with migrants seeking asylum throughout the country - from Washington D.C. to New York City - and now, Chattanooga,