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**WBGO 88.3 FM TO HOST HISTORIC LIVE RADIO CALL-IN SHOW
WITH FOUR NEWARK MAYORS ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, AT 8 P.M.**

*Kenneth Gibson, Sharpe James, Cory A. Booker, and Ras J. Baraka
will share their perspectives on Newark's past, present, and future;*

Event part of station's Black History Month observance;

Listeners may call in to 844-677-9283 or watch and participate at [facebook.com/wbgojazz](https://www.facebook.com/wbgojazz)

Newark, NJ – January 29, 2017 — WBGO presents a unique and historic opportunity for its audience to engage all four of Newark's living, elected mayors in a live call-in radio show set to air on **Friday, February 3, at 8 p.m.** on *Newark Today* present **The Four Mayors in partnership, co-presented by NJTV.**

Kenneth A. Gibson, Sharpe James, Cory A. Booker, and Ras J. Baraka will share their perspectives on Newark's past, present, and future, engaging with listeners on the show, which is part of the station's observance of Black History Month. Award-winning WBGO *Newark Today* host, NJTV reporter, and Barringer High School alumnus Michael Hill will moderate the discussion which can be heard locally on 88.3FM and globally on WBGO.org. The event will also be streamed on Facebook Live in partnership with NJTV.

"It is an extreme honor that we were chosen to host all four living mayors of our city at WBGO's studio in Newark as they unite to discuss the challenges and achievements of their administrations and eras with each other and our audience," said WBGO President Amy Niles. "These four men defined our City's efforts to rise and rebuild from economic and social crises, and the city we enjoy is the results of their labor. We look forward to a thought-provoking, memorable, and educational show, and urge all of our listeners to tune in and call in."

All four mayors have impressive records in their terms of office. Mayor Gibson took office in 1970 in the wake of corruption scandals and the 1967 rebellion that battered Newark at its physical emotional core. As the city's first African-American mayor, his statement "Wherever

America's cities are going, Newark will get there first" became the foundation for an administration committed to change. His accomplishments included construction of the Gateway Center in Newark's downtown and the expansion of Newark Liberty International Airport as an airline hub, which generated jobs. In 1976, he was the first African-American to be elected President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Elected in 1986 and Newark's longest-serving mayor until stepping down in 2006, Mayor James pushed for and cut the ribbon of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, which put this world-class facility in Newark's downtown. He also broke ground for the Prudential Center, which is now the seventh-busiest entertainment complex in the nation and home to both the New Jersey Devils and Seton Hall basketball. He demolished the city's outdated public housing towers and replaced them with small-scale public housing complexes.

During his seven-year term from 2006 to 2013, Mayor Booker gained a national reputation as one of the most forceful and eloquent advocates for Newark, gaining support from national-level investors and philanthropists like Panasonic, Manischewitz, and Marc Zuckerberg. The international electronics giant moved its national headquarters to downtown, the foods company moved its operations to the city's East Ward, and the Facebook founder donated \$100 million to supporting Newark's schools. Mayor Booker also worked to create Passaic Riverfront Park, which has provided residents with new parks and recreation facilities on that celebrated river. He united with Newark native and NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal to start construction on the city's first residential skyscraper in 30 years, and gained a national presence and following for his use of social media. Mayor Booker resigned in 2013 after winning a special election to fill the United States Senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator Frank Lautenberg.

Elected in 2014, Mayor Baraka has focused his efforts on engaging residents and regaining control of the Newark Public Schools, holding numerous town halls, "Occupy the Block," and "Neighborhood Walks" to achieve the former. The latter will be accomplished later this year under an agreement between the Mayor and the state. Mayor Baraka has also created groundbreaking public safety reforms to enhance transparency and accountability, while reducing crime and improving the quality of life. He recently opened the renovated historic Hahne's Building, which includes a Whole Foods store, apartments, and arts facilities for Rutgers University. He created the Model Neighborhoods Program to conduct holistic and comprehensive redevelopment of three Newark communities, which are addressing a wide range of issues from pothole repair to housing development. He has re-cast Newark as a "wired" city, and even unveiled the second-longest public mural on the East Coast, the highlight of his many arts and youth projects.

Newark Today is produced by Alexandra Hill, who has received numerous awards for her coverage of politics, including the 2014 mayoral campaign of Mayor Ras Baraka as well as the senate campaigns of former Newark Mayor and now U.S. Senator Cory Booker in both 2013 and 2014. Leading up to the broadcast, each of the Mayors will be profiled on WBGO.org.

The show will initiate WBGO's special observances of Black History Month.

WBGO celebrates African-American history every day and during the month of February, WBGO News will be reporting on Newark's contributions to that history. Throughout 2017, WBGO News will produce content marking the 50th anniversary of the Newark rebellion, which took place from July 12-July 17, 1967.

About WBGO

WBGO is the global leader in jazz radio, broadcasting from the jazz capital of the world. Founded in 1979, WBGO is a publically-supported cultural institution that preserves and elevates America's music: jazz and blues. Within public radio, WBGO is regarded as a leader because of its ground-breaking work in community engagement and the presentation of jazz. WBGO, Newark Public Radio, is one of the original 12 New Jersey cultural organizations that has been designated a "Major Impact" arts organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and has been awarded this distinction for each year for more than two decades.

For more information, contact WBGO at (973) 624-8880

Or visit their website at: WBGO.org