

Music video to be filmed in downtown Flint as local musicians join forces to express hope, determination

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By [Jessica Strachan | The Flint Journal](#)



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Flint Journal Yusuf Bauswell, 38, of Flint, center in plaid, stands with collaborators and supporters of his project "We Gone Make It (The Fight Ain't Yours Alone)", a song produced to promote strength and unity in Flint. Bauswell and his crew will be filming a music video for the song in front of the Durant Hotel in downtown Flint on June 4. "Flint has been depicted in a negative light for too long," Bauswell said. "This is a simple cry for help. Anything is possible through music.

For everyone who feels the strain of Flint's struggles, there's a new song on the horizon, "We Gone Make It (The Fight Ain't Yours Alone)."

Flint resident Yusuf Bauswell, 38, has been into music his entire life, performing as a male vocalist at Flint venues. Two months ago, he was sitting with a friend, Bernard Jackson, and began to pour his concerns, frustrations and hopes about his hometown onto paper in a whole new way.

"We got together and just started writing this song, just me and him," Bauswell said about that evening with Jackson, who runs Brainstorm Records. "We decided to invite a few other recording artists from around the area to bring them into the studio, never knowing what this would turn out to be."

What it turned out to be was a communitywide effort to not only create a song about Flint, but a music video to go along with it.

After rallying a musical crew of about 25 local musicians in the past couple months, the song has been completed and the public filming of a music video is set for June 4.

From noon to 3 p.m. that day, Bauswell and his group are inviting the community to meet at the [Durant, 607 E. Second Ave. in downtown Flint](#), to film a scene with Flint residents chanting, “We gone make it ... the fight ain’t yours alone.”

As a director of the new endeavor, Bauswell said it’s about engaging a community that feels the same challenges as he does in the city.

“This is for the city of Flint. We’re trying to do something about the turmoil the city has been in for so long,” he said. “What we’re trying to do with this scene is depict what we want for the city.”

The music video is scheduled to be released June 20 in a package that comes with the single and music video, a T-shirt and an interview with the creators.

Bauswell said that while he and Jackson wrote the original song, what makes it special is that each artist who sings in it adds a personal touch. Artists such as local gospel singer Cherry Givens and Stanford Lewis — known as “Stan the Man” — are some of the voices that can be found within “We Gone Make It.”

“The song is from the heart,” Bauswell added.

Bauswell also recently met with Mayor Dayne Walling to talk about the Flint project.

“The song embodies the strong spirit and faith of the Flint community,” Walling said. “We have been down before, but we always get up stronger than ever.”

He added that the project is “an inspiring example of the power of creative and committed people working together.”

When it came to choosing a charity to receive the music video’s proceeds, Bauswell said they had nearly every Flint cause on their list. But what it came down to is the rising generation.

“We will give money to Whaley Children’s Center,” he explained. “We want to start with the children. The children are our future.”

[Click here to find out more about Whaley Children's Center.](#)

For details on the filming slated for downtown on June 4, contact Bauswell at 616-375-6063.

More information is soon to come on the project, including where the album will be available for sale.