

## Mews



# Ready for the **Big Leagues**

America's favorite mayor Cory Booker sets his sights on a Senate seat

BY ANSLEM SAMUEL ROCQUE

AS MAYOR OF Newark, NJ, Cory Booker has made a habit of grabbing national headlines. The 44-year-old Democrat is known as much for shoveling citizens' sidewalks and rescuing a neighbor from a burning building as he is for his impressive record—during his seven-year

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For an extended interview with Booker, go to **JETmag.com** 



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tenure, Newark's murder rate has fallen by 17 percent and business opportunities have grown. Ready to take his talents to the Senate, Booker explains how he plans on shaking things up on Capitol Hill.

### If elected, will you continue to be a man of action in the community?

 Much of my work as mayor has been getting involved in things that are actually my statutory responsibility. So I plan on being a senator who is just as innovative in ways to drive change on the ground.

#### How do you plan on bettering the education system as a senator?

• My frustration is that there doesn't seem to be a commitment to end the educational apartheid in some ZIP codes. But every American child has the right to attend a high-performing public school. That's something I'll advocate for in Washington just like I've done in Newark.

#### What immediate impact do you hope to make in DC?

• I'm looking forward to being a senator who talks about issues that we don't discuss enough in America— from the failure of the war on drugs to the problem of mass incarceration. I'll speak truth to power and make sure we all understand that we're in this together.

#### Anything else you'd like to add?

 My staff members have been teasing me saying that I was doing [this interview] to look at the Beauty of the Week. That's a fallacious lie. [Laughs] I've been reading JET since I was a little kid.

