



National Black Agenda Consortium - Chicago Police Violence against African Americans Position Statement

CHICAGO, Illinois December 8, 2014 –

The continuous and perpetual killings of African American males and police brutality are brought into judgment. And while this is not an indictment against all police officers, the malfeasance of misguided, fearful, overzealous, and often times racist/white supremacist, law enforcement personnel against African American males in particular must cease. The United States of America has brought upon itself major repercussions through its continuous justification of unwarranted homicides and gross misconduct at the hands of police officers, who have been hired to serve and protect the community. Unfortunately, there have been insidious miscarriages of justice perpetrated against its citizens with no apparent judicial recourse.

However, we contend that justice must prevail for all; not for a selected few. Throughout the course of history, when justice, equity and judgment were perverted, the system was ultimately overthrown and a new one emplaced. One must surmise that the divine providential hand of justice will intervene because “the handwriting is on the wall.” The impending trajectory of events within this country is already set in motion, unless the crimes against the people are abolished.

As such, we are to be reminded that after the Jewish Holocaust in Nazi Germany, countless soldiers were brought to justice—hanged or imprisoned as a result of the ravages of murder committed against the Jewish people. Furthermore, the government provided reparations to the descendants victimized by the Holocaust. However, justice and reparations (a Human Rights issue not a Civil Rights issue) have yet to be granted within this country to us as an African people for the continual Holocaust we experience.

America has yet to make good on its debt. We have yet to receive the “forty acres and a mule.” We have yet to receive reparations for the endless years and centuries of crimes and atrocities meted out against us. We have yet to receive equal protection under the law. We have yet to receive parity in economics notwithstanding; this very country was built upon the backs of our forebears, while countless others have reaped the benefits of our labor even though we have been excluded from the process. We have determined that the time has come for a paradigm shift. When there is blatant and overt—“in your face,” prosecutorial malpractice that is an accepted practice, something must be done.

Albeit, when others continuously benefit from white privilege and laws are purposely skewed to maintain this systemic structure while others remain oppressed and outside the periphery of justice; something must be done.

As part of the solution, we must coalesce and develop ways to further our own agenda—the Black Agenda. We must do what needs to be done to ensure our own success as a great people.

We must do what is in our own best interests. And when we are unified, all things become possible for us. Therefore, in order to address the current issues of police brutality and misconduct, we suggest the following:

1. Refer to the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 relative to the case in Austin, Texas initiated by the NAACP to defund police departments until strategies and solutions have been developed to address issues relative to police misconduct.
2. We support the proposal for police to wear body cameras, with installed cameras in their vehicles that are tampered proof.
3. We support the model of Mr. Howard Saffold, former President of the African American Patrolmans League, and the implementation of community neighborhood complaint centers to address police misconduct.
4. Mr. Randy Ryder—Rules of Engagement: Keeping It Real Street Law Project
This teaches young African American males and females how to engage the police, while keeping their constitutional rights intact.
5. Mr. Steve Bell-First Strike Program laws and guidelines for interaction with police.
6. Mr. Sheldon Smith—the Dovetail Project—program to instruct others in engaging with police.

The National Black Agenda Consortium (NBAC) is outraged and stands firmly against the continuous and perpetual killings of African American males and police brutality. NBAC is prepared to engage in the process to demand an end to this insidious harm to our families and communities throughout America.