

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Chicago 2016

Discussion:

Justice is defined as the principle or ideal of moral rightness; equity; the upholding of what is right and lawful (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

African Americans have been denied justice in all sectors of society within the United States and throughout the world. We have been stripped of human dignity and the right to live as human beings. As a people, our life chances have been greatly compromised and curtailed due to various dysfunctions to which we have succumbed.

As African Americans, we have decided to actively respond to our needs as a collective body having come to the conclusion that we must deliver ourselves from the onslaught of the oppressive constructs and systems of a hostile majority.

An enemy is defined as: one feeling or displaying hostility or malice toward another: a hostile force or power: something having destructive effects (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary).

In order to initially address the myriad of issues relative to justice; we must confront and systematically dismantle all contrary and subversive policies, agendas and so forth that continue to adversely impact us as a people.

Public Policy Recommendations

African American males are disproportionately targeted and impacted by the criminal justice system—through unfair sentencing, policies, racial profiling, brutality and so forth. As a result, African American families and their communities have suffered adversely in every sector of the Human Index.

We propose the following in order to rectify and remediate the problem:

Criminal Justice Reform:

- An immediate end to Mass Incarceration
- Abolish mandatory minimum and “color blind” sentencing
- Dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex
- End racial profiling
 1. Propose and enact legislation to end the use of pretext stops (racial profiling) by law enforcement officials on highways
 2. Support the Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act
 3. Monitor racial profiling statewide, state by state
 4. Encourage U.S. Justice Department to take steps to end racial profiling in federally funded programs
 5. Require periodic racial sensitivity training for state and local highway police officers
 6. End racial profiling in airports, train stations, bus terminals, and all other transportation ports
- Create a comprehensive restructuring of the present prison system
- Utilize Restorative Justice Models

- Reform the Criminal Code
- Implement the Pathway to Citizenship Model—Randy Ryder
- Create fair pre-entry and re-entry guidelines: remove barriers to re-entry through holistic and comprehensive plans
- Establish a commission to address all unfair laws and policies that specifically target African Americans –identify policies that adversely impact inmates and returning citizens
- Implement “Ban the Box” and expungement of records nationwide
- Aggressively prosecute law enforcement personnel that lie to obtain a conviction—false imprisonment
- Construct privatized Black-owned prisons to rehabilitate inmates
- Reduce the length of time that a person can be held in jail without a fair and speedy trial (It is unacceptable for a person to remain in jail for several years without having a trial)

Juvenile Justice Reform

- Abolish the preschool to prison pipeline
- Eliminate juvenile prisons
- Provide meaningful educational and vocational training within institutions
- Address all barriers to success in schools and an educational system that target young Black boys for prison
- Develop a comprehensive intervention model to address the juvenile system to prison system
- Create legislative measures to ensure that juveniles are not placed in adult prisons
- Provide wraparound support for juvenile offenders
- Eliminate the zero tolerance policy
- Establish peer to peer courts

Police Reform

Justice is a broad topic—the American justice system has moving parts that simultaneously affect life, death, freedom, and justice; so, disrupting the operation of a single part may often yield no visible results. This is why we must attack the problem of injustice, as it pertains to Black Americans, from many different directions, using different tactics, in a united, yet non-uniform manner.

- Reinstate and maintain funding for the Torture Act Human Rights—775 IL CS 40/) Torture Inquiry Relief Act
- Eliminate all crime policies that disproportionately target African Americans
- Aggressively prosecute any law enforcement personnel involved in crime, corruption and cover-ups relative to African Americans
- Swiftly address all issues involving and/or alleging police misconduct or brutality, including wrongful deaths
- Establish a Civilian Police Accountability Council nationwide
- Eliminate the disparity of African Americans on the police force
- Provide enhanced cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement using best practices models
- Review records of police officers and provide ongoing psychological assessments of behavior patterns—stiffer and harsher penalties for police abuse and misconduct

Organizational Infrastructural needs

- Create a national legal defense fund, recruit cadre and law students to develop short and long range legal action strategies
- Develop research marketing to quantify victims of brutality and misconduct
- Create a technology team for communication and website plan strategies
- Develop a fund development team to assist in financing agenda
- Promote supportive diverse community collaborative efforts
- Develop transportation networks to facilitate a nation-wide activism plan
- Create an effective model for ongoing training for community activism

Community Strategy

- Utilize the National Black Agenda
- Work as a collaborative to monitor, agitate, educate, organize, and mobilize your constituents (go door-to-door)
- Actively challenge the system regarding injustices—injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere—Dr. M.L. King
- Study previous successful models—(refer to NAACP and other websites)
- Stay current on all issues that impact African Americans
- Address the internal and external forces that cause crime
- Support the Reparations Agenda
- Address and confront the core of racism and white supremacy within the United States and abroad
- Develop strategic methods to push the Black Agenda
- Develop after care for incarcerated youth and returning citizens
- Link community resources for youth and other returning citizens prior to release
- Maintain data surrounding major Human Index—e.g. Housing, Education, Economics, etc.
- Utilize civic engagement
- Support legislation that will indirectly and indirectly impact African Americans
- Find ways to engage youth on all levels
- Address all issues surrounding police brutality
- Support Black organizations that are making a difference within the community
- Support the Civilian Police Accountability Council or other such entity
- Create education and entrepreneurship programs in order to employ our own
- Development pre-entry and re-entry programs that will support juveniles and returning citizens
- Create a Black business initiative
- Identify the community stakeholders and work with them as collaborative partners
- Review and investigate the Illinois Judicial Review Board and its stance relative to policies concerning prison reform
- Assist in providing residential/transitional housing, credentials and health oriented treatment for returning citizens

What individuals can do

- We must support each other—wherever we can—whenever we can
- We must be willing to do the work as grassroots’ participants—establish a level of commitment
- Encourage entrepreneurship---empowerment and economics
- Find ways to engage our youth

- Participate in community education
- Support the Pathway to Citizenship
- Support Reparations
- Support youth related programs such as The Black Star Project

What leaders and elected officials can do

- Support the Black Agenda
- Interact with the community stakeholders and constituents
- Reform current unjust laws regarding mandatory minimum sentencing
- Regularly update your constituents as to legislation and laws of importance
- Actively respond to concerns of violence, police misconduct and issues that impact your community
- Advocate for Restorative Justice
- Support Reparations agenda
- Support measures to help children maintain ties with parents in prison
- Advocate for Police and Prison reform
- Provide various types of assistance for returning citizens
- Support the Pathway to Citizenship for the Formerly Incarcerated—Mr. Randy Ryder

Appendices

Pathway to Citizenship for the Formerly Incarcerated Mr. Randy Ryder: Keepin it Real Law Project

You are receiving this proposal and hopefully we can work collectively to make this a reality for the millions of Returning Citizens who are being denied opportunities based solely on their criminal background/record. The question of when we have completed our sentences needs to be answered and a National standard established. When has our debt to society been paid? Does anyone know? Some of our convictions are several years' even decades old and yet the formerly incarcerated still face discrimination; therefore the question of continued punishment by society needs to be answered by legislative and judiciary measures.

The Argument

I. **This is a discrimination issue rather than a moral one.**

In the past this issue has been addressed as a moral issue and those efforts have been unsuccessful. The root cause of the inability to successfully reintegrate back into society for Formerly Incarcerated citizens are the discriminatory administrative policies and statutory laws that either limit or deny participation in the areas of employment, housing, and most importantly, education.

Under the current system regardless of how long we were incarcerated it amounts to a life sentence of being a second class citizen. There is no uniform means to regain our citizenship or rid oneself of the stigma associated with being an ex-felon. The Formerly Incarcerated and the LGBT communities are the only Citizens in this Country whose citizenship rights vary from State to State. For instance most

Southern States either deny or limit the Formerly Incarcerated right to vote, in some States for life. In those States where this policy exists, the Formerly Incarcerated who are fortunate enough to find employment are being taxed without representation, which violates one of the key principles on which this nation was founded. It was a contributing factor in the Revolutionary War, now we as a national policy are imposing the same discriminatory policies on the Formerly Incarcerated population.

How does one prove rehabilitation? The Formerly Incarcerated ability to participate in American society depends on the benevolence of school administrators, employers and landlords etc. The Formerly Incarcerated do not have right of self-determination as other citizens do. It is the only population in the United States you can legally discriminate against.

Under the current system even if the Formerly Incarcerated, obeys all of societies' laws and becomes a productive member of society they are still discriminated against in the aforementioned areas because of their past convictions. You will be an ex-felon for the rest of your life and nothing you do will ever change that however, you shouldn't have to pay for something you did at 18yrs old for the rest of your life. The current system does not recognize or take into consideration growth, maturity or rehabilitation of the Formerly Incarcerated person, the only thing that matters is their criminal record.

The effect of these policies has created a permanently dependent class or a predatory one. Since Formerly Incarcerated citizens are not allowed to earn a living and support themselves they must prey upon those who do, either through entitlements or sponging off someone who is working. This is the root cause of the high recidivism rate here in Illinois and across the nation. The Formerly Incarcerated population is asked do something no other class of citizen is required to do, live in a capitalist society without any legal means of earning capital.

The discriminatory policies created by administrators, legislators and employers amounts to a post incarceration sentence is a violation of the double jeopardy clause in the 5th Amend and the separation of powers, because only the judicial branch is empowered under the constitution to mete out and impose punishment. The judge did not sentence us to life!! The Formerly Incarcerated population is the only class of people it is legal to discriminate against in the United States.

Moreover if the United States government can consider providing a pathway to citizenship to an illegal immigrant population, who they do not know what crimes they may have committed in their country of origin. They should do no less for United States citizens.

Therefore I am proposing the following steps for the Formerly Incarcerated to regain their Citizenship:

1. Must complete parole/probation and special board orders such as drug treatment, anger management, life skill development etc.....
2. Must obtain a G.E.D. or have a High School Diploma
3. Must be employed, actively seeking employment, enrolled in vocational training, college or entrepreneurial/microfinance program
4. Not have had any felony conviction for a period of time commensurate with the conviction. (1, 3, 5, or 7 years)
5. If the above steps are successfully completed then the Formerly Incarcerated shall have his/her record forever sealed unless he/she re-offends

It is critical we address this issue both in legislature and in the Courts.

Benefits of this Proposal

What this proposal does is empower the Formerly Incarcerated Citizen with the ability to determine their destiny.

Gives the Formerly Incarcerated Citizen the opportunity to choose where they live, work and attend school.

Provides Formerly Incarcerated with the incentive to conform their behavior to society's standard while it reduces the recidivism rate and increase public safety.

The cost associated with implementation of this proposal is minimal as it is based on behavior, which is monitored by parole /probation officers already.

Allowing able bodied Formerly Incarcerated citizens to earn a living free from the stigma of their criminal background will generate tax revenue and reduce government dependency.

Lastly the story of my friend's father, Mr. Lee is proof positive of the absurdity of the current system. Mr. Lee a retired gentleman who had earned a pension from his former employer and decided to look for employment to pay his wife's exorbitant medical costs. He applied to a bus company and was denied employment because of conviction he had in the 50's for possession of a pocket knife. He was 72 years old at the time of this incident. We must address the question of when does the sentencing end.

Randy Ryder
Founder/Executive Director
Keepin It Real Law Project
Cell: 773-563-6379
Email:keepinitreallawproject.ryder@gmail.com

The Information in this document has been copyrighted any attempt to duplicate the information for public or private use is prohibited without expressed written consent Keepin It Real Law Project or its author.

Appendices continued

(Please refer to any of the documents below)

A Plan for Activism police crimes

Contract Police and city.pdf

CPAC legislation summary

Every 28 hours .pdf

IPRA 2012 numbers

IPRA Ordinance.pdf

IPRA_AnnualReport2009-2010.pdf

Legislation-2.pdf

policecorruption.pdf

Racial bias report

Racial profiling bill

Racial profiling laws .pdf

Shocking ACLU Report One Life Without Parole Sentences For Nonviolent Crimes

Title 6 case.pdf

Use of force.pdf

Please find attached, Reports, Articles, Successful strategies of the past, Laws and Current strategies to combat INJUSTICE IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM.

- Every 28 hours is a report that outlines the frequency at which Black people in America are victims of extrajudicial killings
- A Plan For Activism is an outline of the strategy to combat injustice in our judicial system
- CPAC Legislation Summary and Legislation are a summary and full copy of the proposal for an Elected Civilian Police Accountability Council, a Chicago ordinance that would give civilians control over the actions and discipline of their police
- Police Corruption is a report, issued by the University of Chicago, which outlines the audacity of police corruption in Chicago
- Racial Bias Report is an article that outlines facts found in a report by the Sentencing Project, which clearly shows the disparity in sentencing between the races
- Title 6 Case outlines the successful fight that organizations in San Antonio waged against a brutal police force, filing department of justice complaints, and having the police force censured based on their violations of title 6 of the civil rights act
- Racial Profiling Bill is the actual bill passed by the 112th congress addressing racial profiling, on the books and underutilized
- IPRA 2012 numbers show the insulting rate at which the Independent Police Review Authority, the organization that is charged with investigating police misconduct, finds officers liable for the crimes they commit.
- Contract Police is a copy of an old contract between the city of Chicago and the police union. In this contract we find protections for police officers that make it hard and close to impossible to hold police accountable for wrongdoing, without the okay of the police union, which has a history of protecting “their own”, at all costs

All of these documents will be compiled into a final agenda report that will be guided by the wants and needs of the community as they have been reported by the organizations on the ground, yet infused with proposed strategies, developed by the experience and research of those that have dedicated 1000s of hours toward finding a solution for these problems.

Displaying IPRA_AnnualReport2009-2010.pdf.