

Baltimore City on Fire

Baltimore City on Fire

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Dedication:

To the city and citizens of Baltimore, Thank you.

Introduction - Cancer in the Black Community

The title of this article “Cancer in the Black Community” is offered both literally and figuratively. Metaphorically speaking, there is a malignant and invasive growth that has been spreading in the Black community from long before I was born. This tumor is evident and made manifest through the struggles and day to day life of all people to whom the Black American experience applies. This evil sickness simultaneously is both the overwhelming and underlying issue at the core of why many Black American communities are in such a poor condition.

The disease robs these communities of power as well as the true understanding of power. This robbery has created an environment where real resources and tools were and are still being replaced by debt creating schemes and perpetuated networks of dependency. In such a system, wealth, knowledge and knowledge of creating wealth are not passed from generation to generation. Instead the system mis-educates people to continue supporting a corrupt system. When one becomes aware of this system and is able to observe and understand how it functions and has continued to function, develop and operate over numerous generations, any thinking person would find challenges determining who is sicker, those inflicted with the sickness created by this system or those compelled to keep the system operating. The compulsion is usually driven by greed and power. Unfortunately, there is more money and power found in continuing to perpetuate the system and thereby maintaining the sickness as opposed to creating a cure to the sickness and thus ending the disease.

Literally speaking, the title of this article “Cancer in the Black Community” addresses how an entire eco-system consisting of various pieces including finance, education, religion, politics and social interacting was built upon a foundation of mis-education and mis-information and has created an environment where the social behavior of people is conducive to disease and death. This system has created a framework which when analyzed reveals how it processes and positions people for failure in all areas of

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living from schools and education to business and finance as well as health and medical treatment. The system is such that prevention of diseases is a low priority if a priority at all. Unfortunately, those who are “Trapped” in such a system are then forced to fight overwhelming odds and terrible diseases such as cancer, all too often without the needed tools and resources required to win such a fight. As the title of the document implies, this system has introduced a sickness that attacks the Black American community at the cellular level and replicates itself thus sustaining a system that continually destroys the people trapped within the confines of the system. Furthermore, by the time the cancer has taken root, cures allowed to be administered by the system in many cases causes’ additional suffering and pain while true cures and solutions to the cancerous issues and problems that plague the Black community, solutions that can lead to ending the carcinogenic behavior of people are systematically shut out. As I metaphorically stated earlier, the money and power is in maintaining the sickness as opposed to curing the disease. The theme and spirit of this project is realizing and acknowledging the issues and bringing people to the point addressing these problems.

I challenge us all to think.

Monday April 27th 2015

Service

“And your son, in a subtlety of revolutionary stance, did something black men were trained to know not to do. He looked police in the eye. And when he looked the police in the eye, they knew that there was a threat, because they're used to black men with their head bowed down low, with their spirit broken. He was a threat simply because he was man enough to look somebody in authority in the eye. I want to tell this grieving mother... you are not burying a boy, you are burying a grown man. He knew that one of the principles of being a man is looking somebody in the eye.”

(Rev. Jamal Bryant)

As Rev. Bryant delivered the eulogy for Freddie Gray, his words were comforting and meaningful. Mourning for my young brother, I understood more than ever that we as citizens of Baltimore and also we who are members of the Black community have so much work to do.

We have to really begin addressing the social-economic and political conditions of Black American communities. Proper education is required. An economic plan is essential. The environmental variables that exist in Black American neighborhoods have to be factored into how and why Rev. Jamal Bryant had to deliver a eulogy for young Freddie Gray

The Baltimore city police department, the office of the mayor of Baltimore city and the Baltimore office of the State's Attorney General have accepted the responsibility of acknowledging that Freddie Gray incurred injuries while in custody of the BDP due to police officer negligence and misconduct that resulted in Mr. Gray's death. We also need to examine why some police officers have a mentality that is conducive of such immoral behavior. We have to come together and build as a community and deal with these issues and many more, Not just here in Baltimore, we have to solve these issues throughout the United States.

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With that said we as citizens of Baltimore can start here and build our communities and take ownership of our city.

“Freddie’s death is not in vain,” “After this day, we are going to keep on marching. After this day, we are going to keep on demanding justice. After this day, we are going to keep exposing our culture of corruption.” “Get your black self-up and change this city.”

-- (Rev. Jamal Bryant)

A Lost Generation

“We sold out the future of these young people so that now they have nothing to build on because, in past generations, we wanted to integrate a lunch counter, a toilet, a hotel or motel, that we could spend our money with our oppressor....They had to grow up in the streets because fathers had no jobs and their mothers had to work, leaving the children with no supervision. They grew up hard. They grew up cold. They were the fruit of our wombs but the hand of God was riding above the conditions.”

(Farrakhan, -Hon. Minister)

In the days following April 27th 2015, I heard so many comments about young people who participated in activities that unfolded throughout that afternoon and into the evening. Some older people described the youth as a “Lost generation”. Perhaps a few were referring to Hemingway’s work however I suspect more so that older generations were exercising a form of ageism due to being disconnected with the youth.

My question to us all over the age of 30, if we are calling a generation lost, who lost them? Are not we responsible for nurturing the next generation and for ensuring the transference of knowledge and wealth takes place and is passed onto those who come after us?

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We have a responsibility to make sure young people and all people for that matter have a right to protest and express their freedom of speech.

Protests and Protesters

While the family of Freddie Gray, the Baltimore police department and Baltimore's mayor requested peaceful demonstrations and protests, frustrations and strong emotions were still being felt by protesters. These feelings stemmed from several sources. One of which was how protesters were being portrayed in major media outlets as animals due to protests that occurred on Saturday April 25th which included a few chaotic episodes.

Unfortunately, these very same media outlets did not cover that many citizens reported, that while they were protesting, traveling through more "rough" neighborhoods, all was peaceful. No violence occurred until after the protesters entered downtown Baltimore (Inner Harbor) and encountered some unruly persons who were screaming obscenities, racial slurs and derogatory terms at protesters.

According to some citizen journalists who were actually there with boots on the ground, a few drivers were using vehicles as weapons to target and run down the protesters.

Lack of Communication

With Baltimore city schools open on Monday April 27th 2015, the very same frustrations and feelings mentioned above were being felt by many young people.

Some media outlets who covered Baltimore on Monday April 27th 2015 placed all blame of chaotic events on students. These media providers claimed the students were ready and wanted a brawl. However when hearing from teachers and parents who were actually on site at Douglas High School and Mondawmin Mall that day, it appears, the events which unfolded could have been handled much better.

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Implausible Information and Intelligence

Additional research is revealing that Monday morning, the Baltimore police department acquired implausible intel which reported that a city wide call had been sent out by “who the f*** knows who” to recreate “the purge” in Baltimore.

At the time of this writing, this supposed intelligence received by the BPD has not been and cannot be traced back to any social media platform. Furthermore the so called intelligence has not been and cannot be linked to or associated with any personal social media account, organization or group.

With this bad Intel, the Baltimore police proceeded with two major errors.

These N Words are out to get us

The first error was that the BDP sent out a memo to all officers and law enforcement agencies that rival gangs in Baltimore had formed an alliance to target and threaten Baltimore city police officers. It is not clear why the BDP released this memo. The memo was grossly inaccurate at the least..

“The Purge”

An open letter to the Baltimore City School System

Edie House Foster

Manager of Public Information

ehouse@bcps.k12.md.us

Gregg Ford,

Manager of Communications Technology

gford@bcps.k12.md.us

Ms. Foster and Mr. Ford,

My name is William Danney. I am currently creating an intelligence report covering the day of April 27th 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland.

While gathering information I have discovered some conflicts in accounting for how events unfolded through the day of April 27th 2015.

Understanding your time is precious and important, I am asking if either of you would have some moments to address a few questions. Perhaps, if there has been an official account of events offered by The Baltimore City School system that addresses and answers my questions you can direct me to that source or / and document. If you think my questions should be directed to another office or department, please me aware of to whom I should send correspondence.

My questions:

From talking with some persons who were present at The Academies at Frederick Douglass High School on April 27th 2015, there appeared to be

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no communication from the Baltimore Police Department or the office of the mayor of Baltimore city about any possible threats or high levels of concern that may have existed either earlier on the 27th or prior to that Monday. Can you confirm if the BDP or any city official contacted the school system prior to the police department dispatching officers in riot gear to the high school?

I am told by different sources, the Baltimore Police Department received intelligence which indicated that students from several high schools in Baltimore had organized and planned some unlawful activity for the afternoon of April 27th 2015. Understanding the BDP will have to address the plausibility of said intelligence, can you comment on whether or not the Baltimore Police Department, any office of the state of Maryland or any Baltimore city officials communicated with your office about any such student planned unlawful activity or organizing?

Understanding Maryland state officials would need to address questions and concerns regarding mass transit, can you confirm or comment about whether or not students were not allowed to commute via mass transit after being dismissed from any of area high schools near Mondawmin mall on April 27th 2015?

Thank you for your valuable time to read this message. It truly means a lot to know that Baltimore city school officials are listening to the public. Any response to this letter will be appreciated.

You can reach me via phone; 410.921.9157 or email; wbdanney@danntech.net. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

William Danney

Danntech Unlimited LLC

wbdanney@danntech.net

twitter; [@danntech](https://twitter.com/danntech)

Gathering Kindling

The second error was not communicating with the school system or parents. If the police were aware of some fictitious plot planned by students perhaps having officers in full riot gear positioned near Mondawmin and area schools was not the most effective method of dealing with matter. To communicate and work with the school system to lock down schools and have an organized dismissal may have diffused the situation instead of igniting frustrations and strong feelings.+

Not only was the intelligence implausible, the use of information was poor at best. Leadership played a significant role in how events unfolded in Baltimore on April Monday 27th 2015.

According to teachers and parents who were present on the scene that day, police shut down the transit hub outside the mall. Officers also stopped all busses traveling around the school and directed onboard passengers to get off the buses. Passengers, teachers, students and parents who were there repeatedly questioned and asked the officers for some explanation. No explanation was given. All this activity took place with no communication from the police department or city officials.

"The kids stood across from the police and looked like they were asking them 'why can't we get on the buses' but the police were just gazing...Majority of those kids aren't from around that neighborhood. They NEED those buses and trains in order to get home." He continued: "If they would've let them children go home, yesterday wouldn't have even turned out like that." -- A parent

The Baltimore police department posted on Facebook "There is a group of juveniles in the area of Mondawmin Mall. Expect traffic delays in the area."

Again, many of the students were not from the area and relied on the mass transit system and the transportation hub to commute home or to work (or recreational centers, that's whole different story).

Perhaps if the students had been allowed to make their commutes, possibly if the BPD or city officials had communicated with the school

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system, parents and for the love of Allah, the students the more intense events of Monday could have been avoided.

After students were virtually physically trapped, seemingly stranded, held captive and kept from commuting with no communication, the police reported that juveniles had begun to throw bottles and bricks.

Thinking Exercise 1

If I'm sitting with four or five of friends and or acquaintances and one my buddies says, "Let's go rob a store". I would of course say no for many reasons. One of which, I'm just not into robbing stores.

So if that friend asks the person sitting next to me and that third person says, "Yeah I'm in" and then a fourth agrees to rob as. I will soon be in the minority for choosing not to rob.

Shortly my friends will begin to pressure me to join in the planned activity. All types of tactics will be used. "It will be fun", "Stop being a punk", "This is what we do". Depending on how well I know these individuals and considering how skilled they may be in the art of influence, their tactics may become more aggressive or psychologically challenging making the situation more intense.

Now my father taught me, if you're associating with a group of people who are committing a crime and the authorities catch the group in the act, the group will be arrested. So if you're with the group while the group is caught, you will be arrested as well.

"You can't just tell the police, I was only in for the ride. The police will tell you,"Well now you're going for another ride, to jail".

(Lee B. Danney)

Within the intensity of that moment, I have a choice to make. I can separate myself from this group or I can decide to act along with the rest and rob the store. So if I go along with the rest, even if I simply sit in the car while my friends rob the store, I'm still guilty of at least one crime. In fact, the first

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crime depending on the area, city or state was conspiracy to commit a crime.

Scenario1

This premise can be applied to several scenarios. Considering Monday April 27th 2015, many of the students who felt stranded and trapped may have found themselves in the midst of or possibly surrounded by acquaintances from school. However some people we associate with in school we would not normally associate with outside of school. Now when those acquaintances suggest robbing a store, the student may say, "I have to go work" or "I have to go home". The circle acquaintances may have possibly responded, you aren't going anywhere, the transit hub is shut down, the busses are not running, and so you might as well go with us and rob this store, set a fire and cause some havoc. The police are not even acknowledging our existence, they are ignoring our questions. Perhaps that will respond if we throw a rock or two.

Scenario2

The premise can also be applied to the officers who were charged in the case of Freddie Gray.

If a police officer chose to be negligent or to take part in misconduct that resulted injuries that ultimately were responsible for Freddie Gray's death, then that officer is worthy of indictment. It matters not if the officer was driving the police vehicle, responsible for securing Mr. Gray in the wagon, neglected to request medical assistance for Mr. Gray or opted not to alert proper personal that Mr. Gray was unresponsive.

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"Any time you put too many sparks around a powder keg, the thing is going to explode, and if the things that explodes is still inside the house, then the house will be destroyed."

(Malcolm X)

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Baltimore is a city of 622,000 people of which 63 percent are Black American. Historically, Black Americans in Baltimore were more than 5.6 times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana than whites even though marijuana use among the races is similar.

Over \$5.7 million has been paid out by Baltimore since 2011 in over 100 police brutality lawsuits.

A large majority of survivors of severe police brutality were mostly Black Americans and includes a pregnant woman, a 65 year old church deacon, children, and an 87 year old grandmother.

In Baltimore 23.8 percent of the population live below the official poverty level.

The above statistics are the product of too many policies and laws that were and are still based on mis-education and lies. These policies and laws are conducive of an environment for social unrest and injustice.

Not just urban, social uprising creates a platform for political, social-economic change. Obviously a change is needed.

Baltimore city had to burn, physically and metaphorically.

Metaphorically

Some people particularly young people don't need to analyze statistics to know how bad a social situation has become. Many young people and students in Baltimore city are far too aware of the history of police brutality in the United States. Unfortunately, this awareness stems from personal experiences. Furthermore, these experiences are shared by many young people Black, White, Brown, Yellow and Red. With the advent of technology helping people empower themselves, citizens are capturing police brutality and murder on mobile devices and cameras and sharing this information with all of the Human family.

As a society, we all need to come together and investigate why these instances of police brutality are happening so consistently.

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The events which unfolded Monday were partially the result of bad policies and unjust laws which are based on mis-education and lies.

Perhaps with a healthier relationship between Baltimore police officers and community members starting with and based on communication will help.

During the media coverage of events happening and unfolding on Monday, many citizens commented that the rioters were burning their own city.

Possibly if the students and those who were rioting actually owned property, land, homes, shops and stores in Black American communities and neighborhoods citizens who participated in the “uprising” would not have felt the need to burn Baltimore.

We as citizens need to examine why so many homes, shops, stores and places of business in Black American communities are not owned by Black Americans. As Humans we need to begin analyzing the laws and policies which guide, govern and perpetuate these types of environments.

Physically

The actual social unrest in Baltimore on Monday April 27th 2015 which was broadcasted to entire planet was the physical representation of so much bottled up frustration and anger felt by citizens. Simply examining how the events unfolded and were initiated with no communication from the Baltimore police department or city officials to the school system and subsequently the public prior to sending riot geared police officers to shut down public transportation and inhibit students from commuting, helps us understand the case and ultimately the death of Freddie Gray brought awareness to many social issues in Baltimore city.

I do not condone senseless acts violence. If the social unrest exhibited by citizens yielded one piece of fruit, one commonality that everyone can agree on is that awareness has been brought to Baltimore and the social-economic issues in this city and within the United States as a whole.

Historically “Survivors of the Middle Passage”, Black American ancestors have produced people such as Nat Turner and Gabriel Prosser who are not

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generally regarded as abolitionist or Civil Rights heroes history text books however these two men help shape and pave the road to the emancipation proclamation. To suggest that these very important people of history did not have a profound effect on shaping this country and in fact the world is ridiculous. To make such a claim would be as preposterous as stating that the “Louisiana Purchase” had nothing to do with a Black man named Toussaint Louverture and the liberation of Haiti.

As a society and as Human beings, we have the responsibility of observing the events that took place in Baltimore on April 27th 2015 from a global perspective. To suggest all persons who participated in the Baltimore uprising were villainous is absurd.

Thugs

Thug: a cruel or vicious ruffian, robber, or murderer.

“One of the things that Americans have a whole lot of trouble with actually that people in developed societies with written language have trouble with is that words never keep their meaning over time. A word is a thing on the move. A word is a process. And that’s what so confusing about the “N” word and that’s what so confusing now about the word “thug”. Any discussion where we pretend that it only means one thing is just going to lead to dissention and confusion. “

(John McWhorter)

Frankly put, the term thug is racially charged due to how the word is used to describe criminal and violent activity when referring to Black Americans as opposed to less derogatory and in some cases more euphoric terminology being applied to White Americans who indulge in the very same activity.

The most blatant display of how the term thug has been racially charged is coincidentally when dealing with rioting.

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For example as media outlets covered riots in San Francisco which broke out after the 2014 world series, mobile devices and cameras captured lots of criminal activity however the perpetrators were not villainized. In fact, some of the media described the chaos as “fans taking to the streets”. Even though this riot gave way to more than 40 arrests and two shootings, the media opted to not label the riot as a riot nor the rioters as criminals.

Earlier in 2015 after the Ohio State University won the NCAA football championship, fans set more than 80 fires and caused havoc and this happening was not called a riot by major media outlets.

What these two examples and many more cases have in common is that while photos and video have captured criminal activity, arson, looting as well as rioting when the assailants and perpetrators are White Americans, the term thug is not used. The activity is not labeled as criminal and what is clearly rioting is portrayed as more euphoric.

Councilman Nick Mosby

A politician who understands policy and laws need to be reshaped and reformed to better reflect and serve the needs of citizens. Councilman Mosby is keenly aware of a bigger picture of social economic and political issues that are all connected and rooted in policies and laws.

While being able to panoramically observe this forest of issues, Councilman Mosby has clearly demonstrated that he is able to view the individual trees of the forest as well.

Through initiating the “Ban the Box” bill in Baltimore Mr. Mosby is helping to ensure that those of us with criminal records have fair opportunities for empowering ourselves.

In an interview with Fox news during the Baltimore uprising as a reporter attempted to villainize citizens, Councilman Mosby explained that while the activity we saw in the streets of Baltimore was chaotic and intense, we’ve seen this very same activity in different parts of the country being conducted after sports games and pumpkin festivals however major media

outlets have not applied the same villainous terminology to describe those events.

Councilman Mosby went on to explain that the events occurring were bigger than Freddie Gray. The councilman expressed that the activity we were seeing is the culmination of many different sources including the combination of failed policies and bad laws.

The councilman was active that Monday evening with boots on the ground working with community leaders and organizers to bring calm and peace to the streets of Baltimore.

Tuesday April 28th 2015

Councilman Carl Stokes

Baltimore city councilman Carl Stokes while addressing CNN made clear that referring to misguided youth who may have participated in events of April 27th 2015 in Baltimore as thugs is the same as calling these young people the “N” word.

Councilman Stokes, a 65-year-old Black American man who has a broad range of experience including politics and business expressed an enormous amount of tenacity. He stood his ground and was firm in explaining that many of the young people that were caught in the chaos of Monday’s events were indeed misguided and in need of proper education.

Maryor Rawlings-Blake

Press Conference | April 24th 2014

I personally thank the mayor for the press conference she hosted on April 27th 2017. The mayor delivered information that was both informative and heart-felt.

Heart-felt

Opening the press conference, Mayor Rawlings-Blake expressed both sympathy and empathy as a Baltimorean who realizes the pain of losing family members, friends and fellow citizens to violence in our communities and neighborhoods.

The mayor seemed to identify herself in this press conference more than ever before as a citizen, standing with the people of Baltimore as well as an elected official representing the interests of the people of Baltimore.

Watching the press conference, Mayor Rawlings-Blake demonstrated leadership explaining that she as many other Baltimore city citizens are seeking answers as well as to have justice for Freddie Gray. On a personal note, the mayor appears to be putting some distance between herself or rather her office and position and commissioner Batts.

The Mayor as well as NAACP "" stressed concern about outside forces coming into Baltimore with the objective disrupting what was expected to be a peaceful protest.

I am personally proud of how Mayor Rawlings-Blake for exhibiting respect for her office and position by accepting responsibility for leading and representing the citizens of Baltimore by holding all parties accountable for proving answers and ensuring justice prevails for Freddie Gray.

Informative

During the press conference, Mayor Rawlings-Blake briefly explained the process of how events should unfold moving forward. The mayor further expressed that to respect the procedure; all investigating agencies must be as thorough as possible.

Mayor Rawlings-Blake did mention that some independent and outside agencies are investigating and gathering details and facts about the case. The Mayor specifically mentioned that the Department of Justice was conducting an independent investigating.

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As the mayor spoke about building stronger communities in Baltimore, she encouraged protesters to be peaceful and thanked the police for protecting the protestor's right to be heard.

Mayor Rawlings-Blake pledged that she will take corrective action to make changes in policy or procedures that are required to help make Baltimore better.

Chaotic Monday

At the time of the writing, information has not been revealed to indicate how involved the mayor's office was in the lack of communication between the Baltimore police department and the school system on Monday.

Mayor Rawlings-Blake was the target of much blame stemming from her comment to allow space to those who would want to destroy. The mayor later faced more criticism for accusing a reporter of taking her comment out of context and "twisting her words". Some media outlets played the mayor's original statement alongside a clip of her accusation of word twisting.

The mayor also came under fire for what many considered was a late call to Governor Hogan to request National Guard support.

In frustration from the chaos of Monday, Mayor Rawlings-Blake referred to all those participating and caught up in Monday's events as "Thugs".

Proud of Her

I am still proud of Mayor Rawlings-Blake. The mayor apologized for calling all involved in the chaos of Monday "Thugs"

"I wanted to clarify my comments on "thugs." When you speak out of frustration and anger, one can say things in a way that you don't mean.

That night we saw misguided young people who need to be held accountable, but who also need support. And my comments then didn't convey that"

(Mayor Rawlings-Blake)

Mayor Rawlings-Blake made a very strong good impression on many people by thanking mentioning community leaders and organizers who

helped to orchestrate and arrange clean up and rebuilding efforts on Tuesday.

At her own political expense, the mayor thanked Student Minister Carlos Muhammad of the Nation of Islam's Muhammad Mosque number six. I was personally impressed that Mayor Rawlings-Blake risked political blowback by acknowledging the Nation of Islam's work in community to help change environmental variables in Black communities as well as the NOI's assistance in uniting Baltimore gangs to help clean up and keep the peace in the streets.

The Occupation of Baltimore

On Tuesday April 28th 2015 the mayor imposed a curfew for all citizens of Baltimore from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM. The curfew was to be in effect for 7 days.

Admittedly before I wrote Black American, there were so many pieces of Black American history of which I simply did not know.

On Wednesday April 29th 2015 Baltimore entered its second day of curfew for all citizens. The idea that I needed a certain type of identification to serve as proof that I am in transit from or to my job, company or place of business was reminiscent of slave codes that were put in place to help keep "Survivors of the Middle Passage" under control during the United States of America's slave industry. I also thought about the black codes that were created after the emancipation proclamation in an attempt keep Black Americans from acquiring power.

For those us who were providing a media outlet for Baltimore or needed to conduct business after curfew hours, identification was required.

According to Baltimore City (311), a letter from your company or employer stating that you are in transit either from or too your office was needed along with proper employee or company I.D.

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I asked a 311 operator I spoke with if the company letter was required to be in a specific format. The operator suggested I speak with the police department. She transferred me to the BPD. I asked the officer who took my call the same question as above. The officer said a letter was not required as long as you have proper company I.D.

I also asked the officer, “Can you tell me what type of credentials I need as a independent or citizen journalist to cover the streets of Baltimore after curfew?” The officer asked me to contact city hall, 410.396.3100.

After contacting city hall, I spoke with an operator who didn't have the answer and requested that I contact the mayor's office of policy and communication, 410 545 3406. I called and a voice mail message.

I never received a reply.

As I had work to do, I posted a article called “Just in case” in the event I was apprehended for “Breaking curfew”.

When I created I.D. badges for my company's employees, I wouldn't have thought company identification would be required to travel safely in Baltimore city. Of course, my magic mirror or crystal ball also didn't tell me Baltimore would be occupied by the National Guard.

Thursday April 30th 2015

Proud of Commissioner Batts

While I am critical of Commissioner Batts and the Baltimore city police department for lack of communication to the citizens of Baltimore, residents and community members, I am however proud of Police Commissioner Batts for leading the police department and accepting accountability for the Baltimore Police department's mistreatment, misconduct and gross negligence of Freddie Gray as well as “The Freddie Gray case”

The Police Report

Commissioner Batts assembled an internal task force of plus 40 persons to investigate the case of Freddie Gray. The team included 30 detectives that were dedicated to the task force.

Through the investigation, Commissioner Batts and his team discovered that the police van carrying Gray had made a second stop. This previously un-revealed stop was captured on a privately owned security camera.

Vita est Bellum

I've heard more than few quotes about life that create all sorts of analogies which compare living, the human experience and even existence to various systems, objects, scenarios, circumstances and situations.

Life is like this, life is like that, people have said. One my favorites, Life is War.

In Latin, "Vita est bellum"

Why war? Some people have asked me. We as human beings are all on the front line, so to speak. Speaking particularly as a Black man in America there is a constant dichotomy that exists in the "Souls" of Black Americans. Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois described this as "Twoness". I personally experience and witness this condition of "Twoness" on a daily basis.

As I walk through inner city Black American neighborhoods observing the open drug markets, seeing the situations as perceived from both those of us who are addicted to substances as well as those of us who are compelled to operate and or participate in the business of dealing death via addiction and dependency to substances, I am at war. I am torn between wanting to have no more association with these environmental variables while simultaneously knowing that these ills of society have to be cured and eradicated by the people within the communities. The mentality and behavior has to change.

If all us who seek and aspire to attain a mentality and a behavior that is conducive to living healthy, wealthy, happy and well, if we all leave these neighborhoods entirely, the communities will continue to suffer and remain in a state of death and decay.

Positioning

As I interact with my neighbors and fellow inner city residents, experiencing firsthand a huge disparity in this great America as demonstrated through the

immense void of locally owned businesses, economic empowerment, political involvement, financial literacy, technology availability, education and information resources and healthcare in our inner cities, I am at war. I am at odds, with the almost perfectly packaged idea that financial wealth along equals freedom and happiness. At odds because I know and understand true wealth and happiness is attained through investing personal resources; creativity, energy, thinking ability and time to personal improvement and development thereby re positioning one's self to be a better example for one's children, family, friends, neighbors and community.

Persistence

Self improvement and development are indicative of thoughts and actions. We will always face challenges. These experiences can be viewed as opportunities to grow and become more. However to face challenges effectively, we must be persistent in our thoughts and actions. So much so that when a challenge is revealed which seems insurmountable, we are able to call upon our prior experiences to help us deal with and overcome current obstacle that may impede our path to further improvement.

Challenges will arrive in varying levels of difficulty; some will be more complicated than others. Many will not be easy. It is important to communicate to younger generations that they will face difficulties, hardships and rough times.

Speaking as a small business owner, we as entrepreneurs can offer people specifically younger people a gift of knowledge about knowing that the attainment of success however personally defined is an active participatory experience. Hard work is required. There will be suffering and sacrifices. For some of us, sleep, friendships and hair will be lost as we dig in and excavate to begin carving out our roads to success. We will pave these roads with our experiences, challenge after challenge and while the avenues and streets of our success may seem smooth as the asphalt on a new highway to those who were not present during their construction, we can perform a service to those building their own roads by informing them that this is, was not and will not be a cake walk.

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Resolve and relationships have been and will be tested, stamina and endurance pushed beyond their current capacity. We've got to let them know, there will be times when some people will throw their hands up and say the hell with it, success be damned. I'll just be ordinary. While we may not really feel that way, we have to convey that the struggle is real. Otherwise when times get hard, when young people face their own challenges they may give up.

Some so called reality shows and media products may push the notion that through finger snapping and magic human accomplishments just happen. However as business owners, successful people, those attaining success, technologist, designers, teachers, parents, etc we have an opportunity to share with others particularly younger people that action is required to bring what we seek into this reality.

I have some friends who believe many of our young black youths have a sense of entitlement. Perhaps by sharing the truth of success the fact that bringing ideas into reality calls upon us to exercise our creativity and mental abilities and practice our crafts while continuing to acquire new skills, we can help young people understand the power of persistent positive thoughts and actions.

Within the Fall of America (Interview with Mr. Nice Guy)

At the height of the social protests in Ferguson I began to interview several people to gain a better understanding of the consensus of humans thinking around the Michael Brown case.

One person whom I talked to changed my way of thinking about almost everything. While the gentleman requested to remain anonymous, his deep thinking and wisdom is reflected in the following dialog between him and me.

WDanney: What are your thoughts on events occurring in Ferguson?

MNG: In purity and in physics, there is so much potential energy being stored up in Ferguson as well as in many parts of America. For how long this energy has been building is debatable.

This unsolicited and unwarranted murder of Michael Brown could act as the catalyst that transforms social dissatisfaction and unrest into real revolution and change.

Absorbing information from some major media outlets, a initial thought could be why is this energy being wasted away through fruitless activities, senseless rioting and looting. This type of behavior will not yield positive results or good fruit.

So while the portrayal some protesters as looters, vandals and senseless rioters could be a true depiction of some activity happening in the streets of Ferguson, a reasonable intelligently thinking person would not neglect records of the Counter Intelligence Program. This operation targeted groups such as the Black Panthers with the purpose and intent of infiltrating, dismantling and destroying such organizations. A tactic commonly used in this type of operation utilizes government provocateurs to infiltrate legitimate protests. These agents then carry out acts of violence, looting and vandalism. This tactic is used primarily to falsely present cause and necessity to bring in more powerful organized force.

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WDanney: Are you suggesting that Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon did not need to request the National Guard?

MNG: As events escalated in Ferguson, federal troops of some sort would have been required providing that protesters and community leaders actually began to seek true justice for the murder of Michael Brown.

WDanney: What is true justice?

MNG: Plato said, "Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only as first it resides in the hearts and souls of the citizens"

Justice is based on law. In fact, justice is the quantified as well as the unquantifiable result of laws. Therefore the more appropriate question is, "What is the law?"

WDanney: Well, what is the law?

MNG: Law or "The law" can be defined as a system of rules and instructions established to govern behavior. An issue clearly exists where and when social groups are governed by law or a set of laws to which that social group or groups had and / or have no participation in fashioning, structuring or creating. The system which is charged, pun intended, with creating laws in this country is the legislative branch of government. This branch exists in every layer of government in America from federal and state to city and county.

Unfortunately, many citizens are oblivious to how they are disenfranchised from the political system in America. Alas, until great social concerns arise similar to what is happening in Ferguson, it seems many citizens do not think about the importance and significance of grassroots organizations. We as Americans especially appear to forget or in some cases are not taught and therefore do not learn that this country was made possible through the efforts of small grassroots organizations. This is the essence of American history.

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Grassroots organizations were key factors in all events that led up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War which birthed the United States of America.

“No taxation without representation”

“Unjust” and illegal laws paved the way to the Boston Massacre.

WDanney: Are you drawing a parallel between the Boston Massacre and the events happening in Ferguson?

MNG: There are potentially similarities between a “Black American” named Crispus Attucks who is considered to be the first causality of the American Revolutionary War and Michael Brown.

WDanney: Can you elaborate on “Potentially similarities”?

MNG: The Boston Massacre was a result of unjust laws which targeted the colonies which at that time were under the rule of the British Empire. The Stamp Act followed by the Townshend Acts led to the shooting of Mr. Attucks. Historians and scholars are in some disagreement as to rather the murder of Mr. Attucks was provoked. Despite any disagreement, there is no doubt about the significance of the Boston Massacre in galvanizing the spirit of the people to plan, create strategies and act to begin bringing real change and justice to their environments.

A very important question is, how will the murder of Michael Brown galvanize citizens? Furthermore what are the implications of realizing the very real fact that within our society a free unarmed citizen can be stopped, gunned down and murdered in the streets of America by an officer of the “Law”. Will this criminal act of violence be a call to citizens throughout the nation that our government and the system of laws we are under no longer and possibly have never served our true interest? Citizens may begin to ask, how did such a environment come into existence. Revolution may be required.

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WDanney: Are you forecasting an event similar to the Boston Tea Party happening in Ferguson?

MNG: The Boston Tea Party took place in a city that has a port to the sea. Missouri has no sea ports. Ironically, true revolution in a American city will require that city to be coastal. While the current events as well what actions or lack of action follows may spark and ignite true revolution, the actual revolution will be most effective when launched from a city with access and ability to import and export.

WDanney: Can you explain "True revolution"?

MNG: The events happening in Ferguson could potentially be viewed as everything the Tea Party created in 2009 failed to accomplish.

The vision of the Tea Party is a nation where personal freedom is cherished and where all Americans are treated equally, assuring our ability to pursue the American Dream.

"What united the tea party movement is the same set of core principles that brought America together at its founding, that kindled the American Dream in the hearts of those who struggled to build our nation, and made the United States of America the greatest, most successful country in world history."

-- <http://www.teapartypatriots.org/ourvision/>

This is the hope we have for our country and are children. However when a unarmed citizen can be shot dead in the streets of America by a officer of the law other citizens may begin to wonder if the American dream is as dead as Michael Brown.

True revolution will address this concern and remind all citizens that the American dream is alive, well and strong in the hearts and minds of Americans.

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True revolution requires organization, strategic planning, political policy building and some sort of organized force to act and implement the policies, plans and strategies of the revolutionaries.

WDanney: What are your thoughts about President Obama in regard to the events happening in Ferguson? Do you believe he should have been present in the city?

MNG: President Obama should be considered one this nation's greatest presidents. He has consistently worked in a bipartisan way to help make this country keep the American dream alive.

The president faces criticism from both republicans and democrats. He specifically faces a certain type of criticism from some Black Americans who feel that he has not done enough address the concerns of Black Americans.

Some republican citizens may feel President Obama is politicizing Michael Brown's murder. While other democratic citizens may feel the President should officially address the underlying issues that create an environment where events such as the murder of a unarmed citizen by law enforcement can take place.

Tragically, neither of the two major political parties offer real solutions to the issues and problems the plague so many urban and inner city citizens. What is even more tragic is that:

Citizens themselves may not be aware of the depth of these issues and how much so they are affected by societal matters until another event similar to the murder of Michael happens.

The social-economical-political conditions in Ferguson, Missouri are different than they are in New York or North Carolina, South Carolina, Baltimore, Detroit, etc. While we are all connected, many murders occurring in other major metropolitan cities are not being committed by police or organized force, these crimes are being carried out by citizens themselves.

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The underlying issues that cause these types of environments to exist must be addressed.

Democrats offer solutions that help ease the social suffering of citizens however the underlying issues which are at the root of many of these social woes go unaddressed. Treating and managing symptoms is not the same as curing the disease.

To elaborate, many inner city public schools require additional funding however just throwing money at a problem will not fix the problem.

The “Race to the top” program is however a good attempt to begin education reform in the United States. Unfortunately, controversy surrounds “Common Core” which is a significant piece of this program. While the idea of Common Core is debatable the incentive to create greater more functional learning environments and schools for our children is a awesome initiative.

Republicans are spot on at pointing out the effects of several of the underlying issues that plague inner city and urban citizens in America however completely ceasing treatment of a sickness is not a cure for decease either.

To elaborate, simply eliminating programs with no plan or strategy to address the original purpose for which those programs were created is senseless and ridiculous.

Welfare reform is necessary. For instance, either very regular or random periodic drug testing of any welfare recipients is a good idea however as citizens we must strategically examine the implication of this idea. Many if not all of systems are either connected or related in some way. Therefore as citizens we need to participate in addressing and deciding how to deal with drug addiction as crime or as a treatable problem. In addition, citizens must address the privatization prisons and the revenue motivated prison system as well.

WDanney: Do you think “True revolution” will take place during President Obama’s second term as president?

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MNK: These abuses of police power and organized force are becoming a major factor in triggering “True revolution”.

It would be particularly unfortunate if “True revolution” arises during president Obama’s term in office.

WDanney: Why “Particularly unfortunate”?

MNK: The significance of President Barack Obama’s initial presidential campaign, election, presidency and subsequent re-election as president of the United States of America is monumental and colossal.

For a few reasons:

President Obama’s team used technology so effectively well in both the 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Similarly to how the first televised debate between former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford signaled a shift in how American citizens would consume media and view candidates, social media and the Internet established that we were in a new era in American politics. From “FaceBook” to blogs, so many people were galvanized by the electricity generated by President Obama and his team.

President Obama addressed so many issues during his campaigns that were on the minds and hearts of citizens. During his campaign and while in office, he has continued to reach out to democrats, republicans, religious folks, atheist, Asians, Hispanics, Latinos, Blacks, Whites, Native Americans, people of all types of ethnic backgrounds and nationalities.

President Barrack Obama is first Black president of the United States. The significance of President Obama’s ethic background is possibly as noteworthy as the fact that John F. Kennedy was the first and only Roman Catholic president of the United States of America..

There is a cancer growing in America. When and how the infection began is debatable. However this decease must be addressed.

President Obama made clear; the largest threat to American citizens is the possibility of a “Terror” attack from within America on American soil.

Ironically, some citizens consider the murder of Michael Brown an act of

terror on American citizens. The question is how will American citizens respond?

Anecdotally, we may be within the Fall of America. Winter is coming.

Going Crazy?

The “Baltimore Uprising” in my view was more of a urban or social catharsis. People just don’t go crazy. Crazy is a process, a long road. Historically, that road has too often been paved with inequity and injustice. So sometimes “crazy” is the manifestation of venting so much bottled us frustration and pain. And when a crazy person encounters other persons who have been experiencing the very same type of frustration, people may vent together.

Young Solders

“I’ve often said our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see, but now our children are sending us to a future they will never see,” he said. “There is something wrong with that picture.”

“It’s up to adults across the United States to improve the education their cities provide — otherwise, Baltimore can happen anywhere”

(Rep. Elijah Cummings)

I’ve lived in urban and inner city communities in Baltimore Maryland for most of my life.

Fortunately, my story is a familiar one to some. As a teenager, I ventured into a street life of crime and violence. I associated with questionable persons, I sold drugs and I got into my fair share of trouble. Thankfully I had a very strong support system of family, good friends, teachers and mentors to help me straighten up.

Unfortunately, the latter part of my story is not the reality of too many young people growing up in the same types of communities in which I was raised. For many of these young folks, if a support system does exist, providing a clear strong positive signal to reach these young minds through all noise of the street can be challenging.

Today more than ever before young people face so many obstacles that can obstruct their paths to creativity and impede them from building greater futures. Many of our inner city neighborhoods are open drug markets where the street level drug dealers have become the first “role models” to whom our young people look up to, admire and aspire to emulate.

This behavior has to change and the change must start in the very same neighborhoods and communities where the issues exist. We’ve got to make things better for our young people.

Guns of War

As discussed in an earlier section, on April 27th 2015 more than 100 Baltimore city police officers in full riot gear were waiting in anticipation outside of a Baltimore city high school.

As the lack of communication had already poisoned any chance of meaningful dialog between the police department and students, one can imagine what types of visual effects would have been created if police officers in riot gear had taking down teenage students in front of a television audience consisting of people from around the world.

At the dismay of some, officers did not engage students with force. This may have been a wise choice for the BPD. Video capturing officers in full riot gear converging over a young student to take that child down may have taken that afternoon and that evening to higher and more sophisticated levels of violence.

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To elaborate, in 2012 during a gun buyback in Los Angeles police received two rocket launchers.

Earlier in 2012 James Holmes used 3 different kinds of guns including a high powered AR 15 assault rifle during his assault on a Colorado movie theater.

Weapons of war are in the streets and in the hands of many types of different people. Furthermore while illegal drug markets are open on the streets of Baltimore, the gun markets are available as well. The gun markets are not as overt as the open illegal pharmaceutical markets however if a gun is being searched for, a gun will be found.

To be clear, I am in complete support of the 2nd amendment, the rights to bear arms and defend oneself from harm particularly tyranny. I bring attention to the availability of weapons of war in the streets of the United States to make us aware of why we need to begin addressing the underlying and overwhelming issues that plague our inner cities.

While the National Guard may need to be deployed again in another American city, how far away are we from seeing urban warfare in the United States. I ask, how many police brutality cases away are we, from creating a Mogadishu Somalia environment within a United States city. It was a RPG, rocket propelled grenade launcher similar to the type that turned up in Los Angeles that brought down a Black Hawk helicopter in Somalia. I'm just saying.

It is in the interest of us all that we begin addressing the issues of our inner cities in the United States.

Understanding the Problem

Mis-Education and Greed

Proper education is the right and the responsibility of every human being. It seems, many humans sometimes confuse the purpose of education with what some people would call a core sickness within our society.

The point of education is to learn, teach and grow. This is how human civilizations have developed and become better. We learn and we communicate what we learn to our neighbors, our friends and family members and most importantly to our children and the generation which is coming of age.

It is the responsibility of each of us to assist in teaching and helping others to learn and thereby grow. Utilizing this trend, our societies will begin to witness more of the product of education. For the product of education is productivity.

It is important to realize that proper education will yield productivity. Therefore where there is no productivity there is most likely improper education.

Again, education is both the right of the people and the responsibility of the people. So if the people are not being educated properly, one can conclude that either a fundamental right is being denied or a responsibility is not being met.

Ironically, some proper education is required to arrive at this point of understanding.

The confusion of the true value and product of education with the sickness of greed driven competitiveness for which is primarily in place to perpetuate the “working poor” and continue draining resources from many of our societies is a problem.

The point of education is to provide a pathway to creativity and self-expression. Education should supply and facilitate one’s ability to acquire

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knowledge and help to cultivate and grow that knowledge thereby helping people to become more creative as well as more productive.

Regardless of being educated formerly or informally, proper education will yield productivity. When a person is able to articulate their thoughts, express their ideas and create what they speak to make just as real in the minds of others what is already real in their own mind through manifesting via the creative process that person and their education is accredited.

While one does recognize the priceless value of so many wonderful learning institutions, one also realizes education is more eclectic and broad than any institution or facility can hold within its walls.

Education is our right and our responsibility.

Politics

I am a Black American. For the majority of my life I've lived in communities, gone to schools and churches, as well as worked and lived around other Black Americans. For many of us, Black Americans that is, we may find ourselves in a certain state and / or condition. Dr. W.E.B. Du Boise described this condition in his book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, as double-consciousness.

Historically, Black Americans have addressed many of our issues and problems in the "Black American" community via the political system, and our elected officials.

However it is clear, while many Black Americans have similar concerns, it is becoming more obvious that we, Black Americans do not share what types of political social – economic policies need to be created and implemented to address and solve these issues.

The three most prevailing political parties in the United States of America are the Republicans, the Democrats and Libertarians.

Republicans

The Louisiana Purchase occurred in 1803. This purchase was a result of Napoleon Bonaparte selling French owned land in the American territories in order to assist France with combating the continuing slave revolt in Haiti.

The land acquired by the United States eventually became Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska; parts of Minnesota that were west of the Mississippi River; most of North Dakota; most of South Dakota; northeastern New Mexico; northern Texas; the portions of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado east of the Continental Divide; Louisiana west of the Mississippi River, including the city of New Orleans; and small portions of land that would eventually become part of the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The United States paid a total sum of 15 million dollars (less than 3 cents per acre) for the Louisiana territory

Haiti proclaimed independence in 1804 after defeating the French thus becoming the first “nation” of African slaves to free themselves from bondage.

In 1820 the Missouri Compromise was passed in between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions in the United States. This compromise was designed to prohibit slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north except within the boundaries of the proposed state of Missouri.

The Kansas–Nebraska Act was successfully passed by congress in 1854. This act created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and allowed white male settlers in those territories to determine through popular sovereignty whether they would allow slavery within each territory. This act basically repealed the Missouri Compromise.

Later in 1854 the Republican Party also referred to as “GOP” or Grand Old Party was founded by anti-slavery activists. Republicans dominated politics in the United States between the years of 1860 to 1932.

A driving force behind creating the Republican Party was the opposition to the Kansas–Nebraska Act.

The northern Republicans saw slavery as greatly prohibitory to the modernization and progress of the United States.

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To provide some time framing:

1857 - In the Dred Scott v. Sandford case in 1857, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress did not have authority to prohibit slavery in territories, and that those provisions of the Missouri Compromise were unconstitutional.

1860 - President Abraham Lincoln who was a republican and is credited for emancipating the slaves of the United States of America was elected to the presidency in 1860.

1863 - United States slaves were emancipated.

Libertarian

The principle, on which the war was waged by the North, was simply this:

“That men may rightfully be compelled to submit to, and support, a government that they do not want; and that resistance, on their part, makes them traitors and criminals.

No principle, that is possible to be named, can be more self-evidently false than this; or more self-evidently fatal to all political freedom. Yet it triumphed in the field, and is now assumed to be established. If it really be established, the number of slaves, instead of having been diminished by the war, has been greatly increased; for a man, thus subjected to a government that he does not want, is a slave. And there is no difference, in principle --- but only in degree --- between political and chattel slavery. The former, no less than the latter, denies a man's ownership of himself and the products of his labor; and asserts that other men may own him, and dispose of him and his property, for their uses, and at their pleasure.”

(Lysander Spooner)

Lysander Spooner penned the above words in a pamphlet published in 1867 called No Treason, No. 1. This was two years after United States slaves were emancipated. While similar to the constitution by way of

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probably not pertaining specifically to Black Americans; his words still hold merit for all people.

Mr. Spooner believed The Union states were attempting to restore the Southern states to the Union, against the wishes of southerners. Furthermore, Mr. Spooner argued, the right of the states to secede derived from the natural right of slaves to be free.

The author believes it is important to note, Mr. Spooner believed “Being free” was a natural right. This is very important.

Mr. Spooner’s argument was unpopular in both the North and the South after the War began, because it conflicted with the official position of both The Union and The Confederacy.

Thinking Exercise 2

History is powerful and purposeful. History, knowledge of past events is very valuable in fact history is priceless.

However, history is almost, if not completely meaningless and worthless, if we do not learn how to apply and then actually do apply the lessons of recorded deeds, data and information to current events.

Unfortunately, some people do not understand the value of history. Value is defined as relative worth, merit, or importance, such as the “value of a college education” or “the value of a queen in chess”.

Understand the fact that money, a US dollar for instance is only valuable because people want it. A person wants a US dollar because that person knows other people will accept that US dollar in exchange for services and products. People give value to the dollar because it has become a standard of currency and a means of monetary exchange for goods and services.

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This value is applied regardless of the amount or number of dollars. We could be discussing 1 dollar, 2 dollars, 200 dollars or 2 billion dollars. The reason of the value remains the same.

Despite monetary or fiscal policy, inflations or deflation, any understanding of economics, GDP, GNP or even international trade, the US dollar is only valuable because people give it value.

Scenario 1

Consider a 40 year old man who is inherently wealthy. This man's wealth has been passed down through previous generations of his family unto him. The wealth includes property; commercial and residential, land; for farming and development, stocks and holdings in companies, businesses with long standing contracts that generate residual profit of up to 10 million dollars per year, banking, investments in various industries such as shipping and transpiration, art, jewelry, automobiles, books, cash, etc.

To further our scenario, let us imagine that we can trace this man's inherited wealth to the year 1619. We can presume his family established themselves and accumulated a large majority of their wealth through the tobacco industry.

Now consider stripping all that wealth away from this man. Applying "War on drugs" kingpin policies, we will take away all wealth that can be traced to his family establishing themselves in 1619. We will also take away all wealth that was built and or accumulated via the family's inherited wealth.

For example, if the man established a chain of hotels by using capital which was created by his grandfather in the shipping industry, and if the shipping industry investments were made from the man's great grandfather via the tobacco industry then we will take that hotel chain away as well.

Furthermore, all properties owned by the man will be turned over, given and gifted to the tenants of those properties at no cost to the tenants. All investments, holdings and banking accounts of the man and his family will be liquidated and the funds thus distributed to NGOs throughout the United States.

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We will take every single bit of wealth from this man and his family.

I imagine most sensible people would see this as wrong. Some may say, for this scenario to even entertain the notion of taking away a person's current wealth i.e. home, land, banking and investment accounts, etc based solely on the fact that the acquisition and accumulation of said wealth can be undeniably linked and traced to previous generations of that person's family is ridiculous.

Now in the scenario let's replace the inherited accumulated wealth with history, accumulated human history. We would include things such as how to build automobiles, count, construct wheels, start a fire, engineering, mathematics, agriculture, written languages aeronautics, etc.

The value of history is that Humans are magnificent creatures. We are blessed with the ability to learn in real time. We remember things and have the mental capacity and aptitude to learn and apply what we have learned. A key note to remember however is that Humans die. And when we die all the knowledge we have accumulated can go away.

However what separates Humans from the other species is communication, specifically language, reading and writing. So, not only do we learn, we learn and adapt and continue to accumulate knowledge throughout our lifetimes. Via the tool of communication we Humans pass what we learn to future generations. We can translate not only what we have learned but also how future generations can apply we've learned. This process of "Collective learning" is so powerful and precise; we can share information with accuracy in the collective memory of Humanity that will outlast an individual who originally acquired such data and be useful to future generations.

This is a significant reason why Humans have advanced so far and partly why we are so creative and have built so many powerful and strong societies. This is why Humans have a history, because we have the power to record history and we use that power. This is the value of history.

Scenario 2

Consider a 40 year old man who has no inherited wealth. This man however has accumulated history of his family's previous generations. He has acquired knowledge of his family and of himself. In lieu of commercial or residential property bequeathed to him from earlier generations, he has knowledge of his ancestry, records of survival, of courage, strength and tenacity. While not having the luxury of inherited land, businesses, investment holdings, banking accounts, etc, he has awareness of his lineage. He understands who he is and how the present conditions of the United States came into existence and how these conditions continue to exist. The man has knowledge and a firm grasp of his history as well as the history of the United States and the world. The man is wealthy however to understand his wealth, you must understand the value of history.

Any reasonable person would agree that stripping away this man's wealth is wrong. As with scenario 1 to even entertain the notion of taking away a person's current wealth based solely on the fact that the acquisition and accumulation of said wealth can be undeniably linked and traced to previous generations of that person's family is ridiculous.

Human history is intrinsically linked to our present as our present is invariably linked to our future.

As Black people, we especially should understand the reason why history is important.

Group Membership

“What you and I need to do is learn to forget our differences. When we come together, we don't come together as Baptists or Methodists. You don't catch hell because you're a Baptist, and you don't catch hell because you're a Methodist. You don't catch hell 'cause you're a Methodist or Baptist. You don't catch hell because you're a Democrat or a Republican. You don't catch hell because you're a Mason or an Elk, and you sure don't catch hell because you're an American; because if you were an American, you wouldn't catch hell. You catch hell because you're a Black man. You catch hell; all of us catch hell, for the same reason.” — Malcom X

It is important and imperative for Black Americans and all people to think individually and move beyond the classic unintelligent group thinking that has shackled so many societies of human civilizations.

Groups are good. Human beings are social creatures. One of the reasons why Humans have been around so long is because we group together as individuals to help strengthen each other and thus the group as a whole. However this system requires that we fulfill our group membership responsibility by actively and intelligently participating as individuals within the group.

In order to actively and intelligently participate we need to think and think as individuals. Understanding, becoming and being aware of our environments, socially, economically, politically, etc. is key to our ability to be active participants in our environments.

Building, understanding and development are required.

Building the infrastructure and institutions that are the foundation of nations and cultures is necessary. Understanding the institutions that are being built around us, for us, under us and over us is essential. These institutions of education, privatized prisons, organized force, political and judicial systems all have good meaning, validity and reason for existence.

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And now is the time for us to build our institutions to be certain that what we are building will serve us and our interests and thus improve our environments.

It benefits us all to have good understanding of how and why we build institutions. Societies build through groups.

If we are involving ourselves with a group as most humans do as we are social creatures, we should be mindful of what that group is “all about”.

- What are the politics, beliefs and views of the group?
- How will the group serve my interests?
- What are the goals of the group?
- What is the group’s mission and vision for the environment?
- What is the long term strategy of the group?
- What are the group’s plans to implement and bring about that long term strategy?
- How does the group affect other groups?

While many of us are members of several different groups, some of us may not understand the group or even why we are members. This can be said for religious and political groups, unions and social clubs or any organization too which we are connected.

If we are democrats or republicans and applied the questions listed above, can we answer those questions intelligently? Furthermore are we at all familiar with the policies of these groups and how they affect our environments as well as our planet. After all we are one big human group. Perhaps we should begin to investigate the foreign policies of the groups to which we are members.

We really need to start thinking and acting on our intelligent thoughts.

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Along with building our infrastructure and institutions it serves us well to also continue building our cultures.

If we look around our environments and are aware of so many homes that are vacant and abandoned, business and establishments that are not owned and / or operated by those that actually reside in the environment then perhaps we should begin to take more notice and action.

Now is the time to actively participate in our groups. Challenge our group leaders and find out what they are doing about the issues and concerns you may have to express. If those leaders are not aware your issues and concerns then we need to express and convey a very strong message to those leaders to inform them that some things are not right. When those leaders are aware of concerns and issues and opt to do nothing to fix and eliminate the issues then those leader must be removed from leadership positions.

Again, a major part of actively and intelligently participating in our groups is through building better institutions.

In closing, I challenge us all to look more closely at our political groups and associations. Some would make the argument the political system of the United States merely consists of Democrats and Republican. Further, many feel that these two political parties are just two sides of the same coin with offering any real solutions to actual problems and issues.

So I challenge us to have a better understanding of what our respective groups are all about. We should know:

What is the definition of “Small business”?

What is meant by tax cuts?

When a party speaks about over spending and smaller government, what is really being said?

What industries are against regulations and why?

We here the phrase “Main stream media” a lot, probably to much With that said I encourage you to go outside the conventional media and begin investigating different types of media.

Time to Re-define the Republican Party

“History shows that it does not matter who is in power or what revolutionary forces take over the government, those who have not learned to do for themselves and have to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they had in the beginning.”

(Dr, Carter G. Woodson)

My primary criticism of republicans and conservatives specifically Black American republicans and conservatives is; they offer no solutions, no alternate options, short term or long term plans for dealing with and solving the issues in the Black American communities. It is apparent to the author that Black American republicans and conservatives recognize the issues in the Black American communities however there are more fingers being pointing at so called “Race hustlers” than are solutions being brought forth and implemented by Black republicans and conservatives.

I can truly understand the conservative view and argument against Black American democratic leaders however in lieu of suggesting what is wrong with the liberal approach to solving the issues in Black American communities perhaps these same conservatives can dedicate resources to creating and implementing their own plans and solutions to deal specifically with issues in the “Black American community”.

The purpose of this document is to engage other Black Americans and begin to have open conversations about the Black American political power in this country and in what ways should we wield and exercise this power so that it best serves our interests.

While reading the piece my mind kept reflecting on President Obama’s live press conference from yesterday. The President’s comments seemed to

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reiterate that while he was not on the ballot many “liberal” policies were up for vote in polls across the United States.

It appears while several Republican candidates gave their Democratic counterparts “a good shellacking” “@jeffmason1”, more than a few policies which are promoted and powered by democratic ideas and liberal thinking were championed by voters.

Undoubtedly, interesting events are to emerge as various factions of the Republican Party begin to communicate and share ideas as well strategies.

From the perspective of several inner city Black Americans, we share many republican ideas. It is when the discussion is had or rather not had with or within the communities about how to carry out and implement these ideas, concerns are raised and problems occur.

As interesting as the question of, “How will President Obama’s administration work with a republican controlled Congress” A question some may find even more interesting is “How will this republican controlled Congress work with existing policies”.

A question for voters and non voters, how will we hold those in office who have been elected to represent us, accountable and responsible for ensuring that our ideas and interests are in fact represented?

Republicans speak about de-regulating. Well perhaps we can begin discussing how de-regulating certain industries can be in the interest of Black Americans. Particularly Black Americans living in the inner cities of the United States.

So while legalizing marijuana is happening , can we begin to communicate about how a legal marijuana industry will be structured.

In many inner city neighborhoods there’s a joke that goes, “You know when you’re in the city because you will see a liquor store on every comer”. While true, this is not that funny. Especially when factoring in that proprietors of many of these establishments are not residents of the communities from where their businesses profit. What’s even less funny is that those profits

are seldom if ever re-invested into the communities from which they were made.

Moving forward, one wonders if marijuana legalization will yield the same results on our inner cities as lifting alcohol prohibition and “regulating” state lotteries has had on these same communities.

So how can “de-regulating” policies be structured, implemented and applied to work in favor of so many inner-city citizen-residents is a question.

How will new republican representatives and democratic leaders work together to create empowerment of inner city citizen-residents is another question.

Republican leadership will need address issues such as a woman’s right to choose how she cares for own body and self. Voters as well those who chose not to vote will need to hold our leaders and representative accountable for their votes in congress.

Raising minimum wages won big in the polls. Understanding both sides of the wage argument from a business owner’s perspective as well as an employee’s point of view, one wonders if our newly elected representatives will create and support legislation to backup these newly passed wage laws.

Another question, will we see legislation which promotes education and creates resources for inner city citizen-residents to position themselves to create businesses and thereby create jobs particularly in the inner cities of the United States.

Republican leadership will also need to further address and investigate the idea that some policies actually create voting restrictions for many United States citizens. Some people really do need to be able to vote on weekends.

As newly elected republican leaders begin building strategies’, we all as citizens really need to be engaged with how those strategies will effect and

affect us, our lives, our communities, our futures and the futures of our children.

Solutions

Body Cameras

'We would know exactly what happened' to Freddie Gray with police cameras”

(United States Senator Tim Scott)

If implemented correctly, body cameras may be somewhat effective in capturing additional evidence of criminal behavior from both officers and members of the community.

Suggestions for implementation:

- The camera should record a live feed from the beginning of the officer's shift to end of the officer's shift.
- Officers should not be able to turn camera off. If a camera is turned off, the officer should either immediately return to station or a tech team should be dispatched to correct the issue.
- The camera should become the third essential piece of an officer's uniform i.e. badge, gun and camera.
- The live feed and subsequent collected data and video footage should not monitor or maintained by the police department. A third party vender should be responsible for monitoring and storing the data.

Marijuana

If there is to be a legal marijuana industry in these United States, Black Americans should have a strong foothold in that industry. Within that foothold we should have control everything from the farming, production and manufacturing, packaging and marketing to the transportation and supply line as well as the advertisements and distribution.

We should be able to establish a group economy from this industry. Also we should be looking at both recreational as well as medicinal production of a marijuana product.

It's not just about getting high.

This is about being aware of the laws and policies that will shape a new industry and possibly reform and reshape existing industries such as pharmaceutical and healthcare.

The Lee Berkley Danney Technology Center

I want to build a technology community center in the neighborhood and community where this facility can actually be effective in creating positive changes in the lives of the young people in that particular area.

The purpose of this center is to empower the young people with the knowledge of information and technology and to introduce these young minds to new avenues and ideas beyond the corner and the street block. The center will offer an entry level introduction to web design and development, Information Technology, video game design, video production, music production and digital photography.

As an Internet consultant, I work with wide variety of people, groups and organizations that all see a great need for this type of solution. We are

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ready to invest energy, computers, education, books, software, and money as well the most valuable resource of all, time.

So that's the story. I'm asking you to chip in and help us create a positive change in our inner city communities.

We are all infected.

Black Americans face a certain set of circumstances that are unique to Black Americans.

Unique Set of Circumstances

The circumstances we face can actually be translated into several problems spanning financial-economic, social, political, etc. These issues are compounded, compacted and packaged together into a dense sometimes seemingly solid enclosure that is consistently and constantly being redesigned, re-engineered and re-enforced to systemically lock humans specifically Black Americans into its confines and controlled structure.

1st Agreement - Acknowledge the Circumstances

It is imperative as we continue that we agree that this problem exists. At this point of discussion, it matters little how you perceive or from which perspective you observe and/ or experience these circumstances. However to reiterate we must all agree that these circumstances exist.

To elaborate, in many of our Black American communities we are facing high homicide rates specifically “Black on Black” murder, excessive crime rates particularly violent crimes performed by Black Americans, deficient political involvement, participation and engagement, insufficient and improper education, limited access to technology, data, information and healthcare, inadequate financial planning skills, a void of banking institutions and economic tools and development, a low rate of home ownership and entrepreneurship and a deliberate defective teaching of history.

Again we must all agree that these circumstances are real and that these issues are and have been present in the “Black Community” for several generations. These issues are obvious and perpetual.

While in our groups, political parties, religions, churches, social circles, organizations, etc., we passionately discuss debate and unfortunately mostly argue about what caused, allowed, is still causing and allowing

these types of environments to exist and continue, now is the time more than ever before that we through unity and solidarity begin forming, structuring and building a new Black American Community that is based in and on Love and Power and then begin to address these issues and circumstances.

2nd Agreement – We are all Human, Black Americans are Human.

We are all Human beings. As such we all have some commonalities. There are certain features and characteristics that we share and have in common.

I'm talking about something more than physical. I'm speaking about the bonds and relationships that link us all together. Specifically, I'm speaking about the associations made either through blood or through marriage or civil union, the interaction and involvement with our family and friends through our workplaces and places of worship: our synagogues, our mosques and our churches or however our social circles are structured. We are Human beings are we are all social creatures. This is how God made us and is one of the reasons why Humans have been around for so long.

We are all part of the larger Human family. As such, we are all worthy of human rights and God's grace as well as each other's courtesy.

As we continue this discussion, we must agree that Black Americans are Human Beings. It is disturbing to say the least, that this conversation must still be had in the year 2015. However there are some debates that bring forth the idea that the root cause of some of the current social issues we are experiencing can be attributed to the idea that some view Black American as well as Black people in general as not Human.

“We declare our right on this earth...to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence by any means necessary.”

(Malcolm X)

3rd Agreement – What is Racism

“The dark ghettos are social, political, educational and above all— economic colonies. Their inhabitants are subject peoples, victims of the greed, cruelty, insensitivity, guilt and fear of their masters.”

(Dr. Kenneth B. Clark)| Dark Ghetto (1965) p. 11

To grasp the reality of racism in the United States we must acknowledge and understand the United States slave industry and the Tran-Atlantic Slave trade. Slavery had existed in the world long before America was even constituted however with the colonization of North and South America came a new type of chattel slavery. Within the United States slavery industry, laws were drafted, voted on and passed which determined that a race of human beings were not Human. Furthermore the United States slave industry introduced the harsh reality that a human who had committed no crime had to spend the rest of his / her life in physical bondage even from birth, the harsh reality that a human being could be classified as not human.

The Black American condition partly exists as a result of the United States of America’s slave industry and subsequently slave codes, emancipation, reconstruction, then Black codes, the “redemption” period Jim Crow laws, segregation, integration, civil rights, crack cocaine, the war on drugs, the privatized prison industry to the open drug markets that exists in the streets of so many Black American communities. Woven in throughout the above mentioned variables as well as through the fabric of American culture is individual and institutional racism.

“Racism is both overt and covert. It takes two, closely related forms: individual whites acting against individual blacks, and acts by the total white community against the black community. We call these individual racism and institutional racism. The first consists of overt acts by individuals, which cause death, injury or the violent destruction of property. This type can be recorded by television cameras; it can frequently be observed in the process of commission. The second type is less overt, far more subtle, less identifiable in terms of specific individuals committing the acts. But it is no

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less destructive of human life. The second type originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than the first type. When white terrorists bomb a black church and kill five black children, that is an act of individual racism, widely deployed by most segments of the society. But when in that same city - Birmingham, Alabama - five hundred black babies die each year because of the lack of proper food, shelter and medical facilities, and thousands more are destroyed and maimed physically, emotionally and intellectually because of conditions of poverty and discrimination in the black community, that is a function of institutional racism. When a black family moves into a home in a white neighborhood and is stoned, burned or routed out, they are victims of an overt act of individual racism which many people will condemn - at least in words. But it is institutional racism that keeps black people locked in dilapidated slum tenements, subject to the daily prey of exploitative slumlords, merchants, loan sharks and discriminatory real estate agents. The society either pretends it does not know of this latter situation, or is in fact incapable of doing anything meaningful about it.

(Dr. Kenneth B. Clark),

Notes

WilliamDanney.com

The goal of WilliamDanney.com is to reposition, redesign and reengineer society for the betterment and advancement of human beings. This goal is being accomplished through processes properly educating people with accurate information.

The goal is based upon two fundamental beliefs.

1. One person can change the world. Through thought and action as well as feelings and emotions conveyed via power of personal awareness and self-expression a person can influence another. This power manifests in many different ways; through speech, writing, art, athleticism, and teaching, just to name very few. Through positive influence, we encourage, motivate and advance each other. Utilizing the idea of likeminded thinking and pooling our personal resources, we can accomplish great things well beyond our current (Farrakhan, -Hon. Minister)imagination.

2. The power of change begins within the individual. Personal change is completely a participatory self-engagement activity. The initial requirements are to conduct a self inventory of one's personal resources, the acknowledgement of one's strengths and weaknesses and the self understanding of what one believes in i.e. faith, God the future and the power of change.

Through awareness of one's self, creativity and expression we can reshape and redesign a better environment for ourselves, our children and families, our communities and the Human family.

How you can be involved:

- Checkout the blog and spread the word.
- Check out our sister and brother sites and spread the word.
- The WilliamDanney.com project is currently completely self-funded. We have decided to monetize the blog utilizing ad campaigns. We ask that you please click an ad from the site. This small gesture will help us to continue creating and providing meaningful and good content.

We've added a "Take Action" button to the web site. You can also use this tool to show your financial support for the project and our goals.

Thank you so much,

Sincerely,

William Danney

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Lysander Spooner.

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Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Rev. Jamal Bryant.

United States Senator Tim Scott.