

From: robert ford
Sent: 10/17/2014 10:40:07 PM
To: Keel, Mark; LEROY; Shwedo, Kevin; Haley, Nikki; HENRY
MCMASTER; JOHN PADGETT
Cc:
Subject: Spare the Rod; Spoil the Child - The Adrian Peterson Execution

WE MUST SAVE OUR CHILDREN!!! ROBERT FORD, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPER

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Spare the Rod; Spoil the Child, the Adrian Peterson Execution

September 2014

It's a common practice among Black ministers and speakers to arouse audiences by saying when we were coming up back in days of old, our parents didn't mind giving us a serious spanking." The worst spanking you could ever receive would be from your father. I assure you, that statement is 100% percent right.

This generation is fondly called the "Integration Generation", those African-Americans born after 1969. This generation is also referred to as the lost generation; I guess it's sad but true. This generation is lost because they have been surrounded by a myriad of destructive forces. Black-on-black crime, the destruction of the black family, failing schools, poor education, gangster rap, drive by shootings and drugs in every community in the USA. We have more young Black people involved with the judicial system than involved with higher education. Destruction and negative vices lurk at every turn. From slavery to the 1970's the Black family unit was a strong entity. The African proverb, "It takes an entire village to raise a child" was a reality not just a statement. Blacks pursued education, their goal was a good job or to own their own businesses. Many became professionals pursuing vocations as lawyers, physicians, educators and etc. I don't think there is a Black person living in America that's 40 or older that was not spanked by their family. In many cases, permission was also granted to school teachers, guidance counselors, relatives who witnessed or received information that you were misbehaving or disrespectful to an adult. The community had no qualms about reporting your

less than desirable behavior to your parents, grandparents or other family members and you were subject to their discipline as well.

In the case of Adrian Peterson, one of the best running backs in the National Football League (NFL) of all times grew up in a small Texas town with loving typical Black parents. Their desire was to raise their son to possess good manners and home training. As most typical African-Americans, Adrian decided to raise his son as he was raised. Loving parents know a child has to be disciplined; we tend to use methods and practices that are most familiar to us. This was in fact what he was doing with his own son.

I challenge fraternal organizations, Masonic, Civil Rights and most of all religious denominations such as the AME, and the 9 million strong National Baptist Convention and its affiliates to come out in support of Adrian Peterson. You are encouraged to use social media network, sermons and speeches. What is most important is to show strong support to America and let the world know this is not necessarily an act of violence but a common practice in the Black family dynamics past and present.

In closing, the NFL, the sports and news commentators, various groups and humanitarian organizations that are condemning Adrian Peterson, have not done one thing to solve the abundance of social ills that exist among African Americans and other minority families in America today. These problems should be America's problems today and not conveniently one segment of the community's problems. This is the true philosophy of a melting pot nation.

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