

NB: Copy for Gov. Nikki Haley

January 27, 2016 - Revised

To: Ms. Sarah Anne Hughes, Reporter
Washington City Paper
Editor@washingtoncitypaper.com

Re: '...Crackdown on D.C. Homeless Encampments Continues...',
See City Paper issue of 1/15/16

Your report on D.C. Government and some non-profit Agencies' efforts to assist the Homeless clearly overlooks the root causes of Homelessness in the District.

As I recall, the Homeless in the 1970's were hardly noticeable in the big cities, albeit, New York had its Bowery and some few winos sleeping at Crotona Park in the Bronx. But the picture is substantially different today where it's not unusual to see whole families in Homeless Shelters, especially in New York and D.C.

As usual the politicians and the media blame gentrification, alcoholism, the mentally ill, and individuals down on their luck for the increase in this social phenomena.

I, however, think the root cause of the current explosion in the Homeless population has been a function of the broken American Judicial System which is very hostile to Black males. This is shown in the Public Record that most of the Defendants convicted under President Bill Clinton's Anti-crack Statutes were Black males who were given lengthy sentences out of proportion to the alleged crimes committed. Most of these Ex-offenders now constitute a large portion of the Homeless in major American cities. Indeed, many of them cannot get well-paying jobs or even rent an apartment in a decent neighborhood because of their criminal record, and many likely end up in Homeless Shelters, encampments and on the sidewalk.

Thus, this trend has reinforced the absence of the father from the average Black household and this mainly explains the increasingly growing numbers of Black households headed by single women. It also explains in part the overall decline in the quality of inner cities' schools even though the teachers' unions, Bill Gates and his Foundation, and Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg still preach that if each public school teacher is paid \$100,000 or more, all will be fine with the kids. But this will not happen unless we undertake a deep reform of the broken American Judicial System.

Judicial reform has many aspects viewing it from how the Police initially gather evidence on the street to

the role of the Prosecutor, the Jury and the sentencing Judge when it's all said and done. All cannot be discussed in full detail here. But it's worth mentioning Congress should impose a fixed term limit on the tenure of federal judges for under the present arrangement there is no way one can get rid of biased federal judges who abuse their discretion on meting out harsh sentences that are out of proportion to the alleged misdeeds of a Defendant.

Therefore, the U.S. Congress should also review the sanctions meted out for various crimes so that our broken judicial system is rebuilt with fairness and compassion and with the objective of reduction in crime, to rehab the Ex-offender, the restoration of his civil rights post release, and a reduction in wasteful government spending estimated at \$80 billion per year in running American local, state and federal prisons.

Perhaps to effectively combat Homelessness, we should adopt how Italy treats its senior offenders. There a 60+ year old convicted of non-violent crime that carries a sentence of not more than 3 years is allowed to serve his time at home so as not to be separated from family support. Thus, such humane incarceration doesn't needlessly lead to a breakup of families that degenerate into Homelessness. Also, the government saves money on the Offender's room, board and medical expenses which are provided by his family.

Certainly, the Government should take the lead in funding and creating jobs in the Inner City since many Banks are unwilling to lend in the Inner City. The U.S. Small Business Administration should be run by retired business executives to give it a strong business bent. Also, large government contractors like General Dynamics and Martin Marietta should be required by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to seek minority subcontractors to carry out their government contracts. Be mindful, it has been Republican Presidents like Richard M. Nixon and Ronald Reagan that have used government programs to empower minority enterprises.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has gutted or diluted these set-aside programs and has inadvertently ruined many Black-owned small businesses. But these Black American owned businesses are the ones now needed to provide job opportunities to the American Black held back by his criminal record, and who is further denied the chance to get back on his feet by such immigrant groups from Korea, Ethiopia and Central America, who are more inclined to hire their own kind instead of native born Black Americans. Another reason that one can cite against the SBA is also the fact that Obama has loaded up its executive suite with appointees who have never

sold even Girl Scout cookies on the street. So one cannot count on that Agency to alleviate the high rate of unemployment in the Inner City where most of the Ex-offenders and other Homeless individuals could be found with aggressive Pan Handlers.

Unbelievably, The Washington Post and The New York Times have turned a blind eye President Obama's social programs' lapses and they have also given him a free pass on his disastrous Middle East Policies.

However, it's not too late for Obama to make amends by distribution of the \$100+ Billion to the various states to build affordable housing according to each state's need. The \$100 Billion represents fines his former Attorney General Eric Holder was able to extract from the 14 largest financial institutions for their contribution to the collapse of the subprime mortgage market. For a hypothetical example, if each state and D.C. is arbitrarily apportioned \$2 Billion, it's estimated D.C. can underwrite about 7000 affordable housing units that can benefit lower and middle income residents and the Homeless. There is no doubt that the average middle income person cannot afford to live in D.C. ten years from now. See the front page, "The Beacon" newspaper for Seniors dated January 2016.

Now, having been made aware of the short comings in our current patchwork that has failed to cure such social ills, we shouldn't foolishly ignore the alternative plan that seeks to combat more effectively Homelessness at its roots, as illustrated above.

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