

State of the Black World Conference III

State of Emergency in Black America: Time to Heal Black Families and Communities

November 14 – 18, 2012

Howard University

2400 6th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20059

Representatives from 21 states and 15 countries attended the State of the Black World Conference III at Howard University in Washington DC. States represented were Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Washington DC. **Countries represented were:** Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Panama, Swaziland, Tanzania Trinidad-Tobago and Venezuela

Representatives from 20 Colleges and Universities took part; *Howard University (HU), University District of Columbia (UDC), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Sojourner Douglas College (SDC), York College CUNY, University of Massachusetts Boston (U. Mass. Boston), Bowie State, Coppin State, Medgar Evers College, Kent State, Loyola Marymount University, Marshall University, Morgan State University, Northern Carolina Central University (NCCU), University of Akron, University of Connecticut (U Conn.), Duquesne University, University of Pittsburgh, John Hopkins University and the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC).*

The following documents are the outcomes as reported out of the various work sessions conducted at this historic gathering. The work session reported below are **1)Environmental and Climate Justice—A Blueprint for Community Wellbeing, 2)Black Family Summit: Advancing African-Centered Programs and Policies Which Promote the Healing and Strengthening of Black Families, 3) Economic and Community Development: Discussion of Concrete Models and Strategies for Black Empowerment, 4) The Criminal Injustice System: Discussion of Strategies to End Racially Biased Criminal Justice Policies and Violence/Fraticide in Black Communities,5) Gathering of Criminal Justice/Drug Policy Reform Collaboratives, 6) Education for Liberation and Empowerment: Discussion of Critical Challenges, Choices and Strategies to Enhance Quality of Education 7) Mobilizing the Diaspora to Impact U.S. Policy Toward Africa and the Caribbean, 8) IBW Research Consortium: Gathering of Activist Scholars and Researchers to Discuss Strategies for Cooperation/Collaboration, and 9) Proposal for Civic Participation & Protection Campaign**

1) Environmental and Climate Justice—A Blueprint for Community Wellbeing

Howard University, The Blackburn Center--November 17th 2012, 10:30am-12:30pm

Exploring and Visioning Environmental and Climate Justice Through the Experiences of Our Communities

Facilitators: Jacqui Patterson and Mark Batson

Examining Impacts of Environmental Injustice Advancing Change Through Strategies Based on the Nguzo Saba	
Opening Remarks	Vernice Miller Travis (MODERATOR) , Miller Travis & Associates <i>Bowie, MD</i> Jacqui Patterson , NAACP <i>Silver Spring, MD</i>
Disasters and Gulf Communities	Reverend Tyrone Edwards , <i>Zion Travelers' Cooperative, Plaquemines Parish, LA</i>
Waste and Toxic Exposure	Sheila Holt-Orsted — <i>Holt Family, Dickson, TN</i>
Climate Change, Drought, and Black Farmers	Gary Grant , <i>Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, Tillery, NC</i>
Sub Saharan Africa Impact	Augustine Njamshi — <i>Pan African Climate justice Alliance, Yaoundé, Cameroon</i> Habtemariam Abate, PhD - <i>Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i>
Community Owned Energy and Black Entrepreneurship	Akili West , <i>Reclamation Energy, Washington, DC</i>
Youth Activism and Leadership	Zakee Thomas , <i>Energy Action Coalition, Philadelphia, PA</i>
Closing Remarks	Vernice Miller Travis , Miller Travis & Associates Jacqui Patterson , NAACP
Next Steps Discussion—Mitigating Impacts and Optimizing Assets and Opportunities What Can We Do For Ourselves? What Do We Require of the Private Sector? What Do We Demand of Our Government?	

Participants: (TBA)

1. Kari Fulton
2. Charity Hicks

PROBLEM

- 1) **Surrounded By Waste**---Landfills, Biomass Burners and Hog Farms—
 - a. RESULT: Poor Quality of Life, Cancer Clusters and Birth Defects
- 2) **Surrounded by Smoke/Air Pollution**—Coal plants, Oil Refineries, etc.
 - a. RESULT: Elevated asthma attack and asthma related death rates, Heart Disease, Learning difficulties, diminished property values, etc.
- 3) **Economically Degraded**---Double-digit unemployment, yet the billion dollar profit making polluting energy production facilities disproportionately located in our backyards, which fails to employ us and build our community wealth
 - a. RESULT: Energy Apartheid
 - i. In 2009:
 - We spent \$41 billion on energy
 - We occupied 1.1% of energy jobs
 - We amassed less than 1% of the revenue from the energy sector
- 4) **Differentially Impacted by Climate Change**—Disasters, Sea Level Rise, Shifts in Agricultural Yields
 - a. RESULT: Death and Injury, Food Deserts, Displaced Communities, Land Loss, Loss of Livelihoods, Redistricting/Political disenfranchisement

HOPE

- I. Spirit and Strength of Our People and Communities
- II. Traditional practices of conservation inherent in our cultural mores, norms, and practices.
- III. Natural resilience borne of decades of struggle
- IV. Intellect in our leaders, other movement members, and our Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- V. Institutions/organizations like our grassroots community groups, the Institute of the Black World, the NAACP and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- VI. Potential of organized masses and the commitment of a small, mighty tranche of organizers.

SOLUTION--ACTION ITEMS

Overarching Aim---Affirm the environment as the container of all life, health and wellbeing with a focus on advancing ecological resilience, restoration, and regeneration. As humans we must “think globally and act locally” and live in our ecological niche.

1. What Can We Do for Ourselves?

- a. Foster cooperation and collectivism at the community level, with an emphasis on community local self-reliance and resilience.
- b. Share our stories so that we embrace mutual and individual experiences as well as motivating ourselves and others towards collective action.
- c. Showcase our models and examples of success and best practices at the national, regional, local, community, family, and individual levels, including highlighting the little things people can do to make a difference.
- d. Ensure that our models uplift all rights including acknowledging and addressing the gender justice dimensions of environmental and climate justice.
- e. Establish an IBW EJ Group for the Coordination of EJ Organizers including establishing Listservs and including developing mechanisms for mapping member initiatives.
- f. Coordinate campaigns, share information towards the end of advancing the ideological and practical empowerment of black folks.
- g. Develop formal and informal mentorship models to advance the practice of “Each One Teach One.
- h. Facilitate mechanisms to ensure that movements operate without siloes and foster cross pollination by cross-walking EJ education, EJ economics, EJ political education, etc.
- i. Capitalize on our innovation and assets by enact problem solving on our own behalf.
- j. Advance “Artivism” to support social change through the arts.
- k. Support, encourage, and embrace youth engagement and leadership.
- l. Educate ourselves around corporate social responsibility. Know what it means to expect it of companies and demand it.
 - i. Hold companies accountable to business principles and standards that protect the civil and human rights of communities while valuing training, opportunity and sustainable skills as priorities.
 - ii. Vote on socially responsible companies with our pocketbooks/wallets, including only choosing to invest or store our money with socially responsible financial institutions.
- m. Develop our own “green” or sustainability focused businesses/entrepreneurship opportunities/jobs.
- n. Design initiatives and enact practices that shore up our self-esteem and advance healing because, in our communities, we accept egregious environmental injustices because we don’t feel worthwhile enough to deserve better.
- o. Re-claim and re-name the energy sector so that the new normal becomes energy production policies and practices that uphold justice and that don’t harm communities.

- p. Advance the local food movement with vertical integration from the farm to the fork, including farmers markets run by black folks.
- q. Establish HBCUs as clearinghouses for education, awareness, and dissemination of information as well as holding expertise, and structurally dealing with questions around environmental and climate justice. HBCUs should also be models of sustainability themselves.
- r. Coordinate black banks, black consumers, and black thinkers (universities and think tanks) to harness and synchronize our financial, intellectual, and civil society asset towards steering our policies, programs, and practices that advance ecological justice.
- s. Institute zero-waste models that prioritize the four Rs, “*Reduce, Recovery, Reuse and Recycle*” at the local level.
- t. Activate a national campaign to draw attention to what EPA has done, empower, encourage and pressure them to do more, and protect them against attacks from industry.
- u. Issue a joint statement between African Americans and Africans calling for ecological justice.
- v. Uplift sustainable farming as holding significant promise for management of our natural resources, reduction of carbon footprints, counter measures to combat global warming, and more sustainable use of water.

2. What Do We Require of the Private Sector?

a. *Philanthropy must:*

- i. Expand funding support for eco-justice and environmental justice issues, including food justice and do it in a way that allows for collaboration and not having people fighting for a small pot of money.
- ii. Encourage collaboration of health, economic justice and environmental justice.
- iii. Directly fund grassroots organizing instead of relying on encouraging “big greens/large enviros” who have still questionable relationships with the grassroots to equitably support the efforts of local groups.
- iv. Support mechanisms to improve dialogue, coordination, and effective partnership between “big greens/large enviros” and grassroots groups.

b. *Corporations must:*

- i. Operate with transparency.
- ii. Ensure that policies and practices adhere to corporate social responsibility standards.
- iii. Uphold responsibility for reparations, restitution remediation and regeneration of damaged eco-systems in the wake of environmental assaults.

c. *Energy Sector must:*

- i. Closed loop economic system (training, opportunity and sustainable skills need to be the priority)
- ii. Energy should be created in the neighborhood where we live.

- iii. Bring energy sector to the inner city (sustainable, renewable, regenerative, distributive)

d. Disaster relief/response organizations must:

- i. Include specific components of their plans which explicitly address civil and human rights dimensions of disaster, and ensure culturally sensitive approaches.

3. What Do We Demand of Our Government?

a. The Administration and the Department of State must:

- i. Provide adequate funding to help the “LDCs—least developed countries” and other vulnerable nations to adapt to this new climate reality.
- ii. Support adaptation and development goals of the Global south by removing intellectual property rights and paying “full incremental costs of technology transfer to protect countries in the global south.

b. The Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration must:

- i. Codify our rights to uncontaminated air, water, food, and land by enacting, monitoring and enforcing a full range of policies and practices that identify, analyze, and close the myriad loopholes that exist in the existing environmental protection system.
- ii. Implement broad based restoration of communities impacted by environmental injustices with a focus on healing and regeneration.
- iii. Increase EPA protection of communities from myriad toxins from multiple sources, including adopting and enforcing the Harm Principle.
- iv. Enact aggressive emissions reductions policies and practices.
- v. Expand Carbon Pollution Standards to include existing sources.
- vi. Enforce stringent requirements for environmental impact assessments.
- vii. Enact zero waste policies.
- viii. Overhaul, monitor and enforce the Toxic Substances Control Act.
- ix. Adopt and enforce the Harm Principle at the Food and Drug Administration.
- x. Release and “daylight” government studies and modeling on climate change.
- xi. Protect and empower adaptation in communities most impacted by environmental degradation, including climate change.
- xii. Execute widespread climate change/chaos assessments.

c. The Administration and the Department of Energy must:

- i. Establish extensive subsidies for clean energy.
- ii. End oil and gas subsidies.
- iii. Support HBCU research initiatives
- iv. Support African American Entrepreneurship

- d. The Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency must:**
 - i. Include specific components of their plans which explicitly address civil and human rights dimensions of disaster, and ensure culturally sensitive approaches.
- e. The Administration and the United States Army must:**
 - i. Ensure that the Army Corps of Engineer formula for fortifying levees goes beyond decision making based on prioritizing areas of greatest financial impact and instead prioritizes protection of human life.
- f. The Department of Housing and Urban Development & Department of Agriculture must:**
 - i. Institute policies that protect communities from land loss
- g. The Administration and the Department of Agriculture must:**
 - i. Enact a fair, honest, and family –farm centered farm bill.
- h. The Department of Health and Human Services must:**
 - i. Conduct Environmental Health Impact Studies.
- i. The Administration and Congress must:**
 - i. Enact campaign finance reform to significantly reduce corporate control of elections.
- j. The Administration and The Courts/Judiciary must:**
 - i. Enact stringent monitoring and enforcement of rules governing corporate influence in the courts.
 - ii. Ensure that there is fair compensation at community, family, and individual levels for violations of civil and human rights by corporations, federal/state/county/local agencies, and other entities.
- k. The Administration must:**
 - i. Develop a comprehensive national climate action plan which integrates mitigation and adaptation.
- l. State and Local Governments must:**
 - i. Include community input in climate mitigation strategies
 - ii. Publicize climate mitigation strategies so that they are general knowledge in the community.
 - iii. Establish local climate mitigation strategies.
 - iv. Ensure that there is equitable Infrastructure for protection against increasing impact of climate change, as well as to ensure fulfillment of the right to live in sanitary, uncontaminated conditions.

2) Black Family Summit: *Advancing African-Centered Programs and Policies Which Promote the Healing and Strengthening of Black Families*

Facilitator: Baba Leonard Dunston

Moderators: Donald Clark, Dr. Garry Mendez, Jr., Dr. Cynthia Harris, Dr. Rhonda Wells-Wilbon, Kinaya Sokoya

Speakers/Panelists: Dr. Annelle Primm, Dr. Cheryl Grills, Dr. Nana Patricia Newton, Dr. Tricia-Bent Goodley, A.D. Rachel Pierre, Dr. Olatunde Olusesi, Sharon Shelton, Patrick Halsall, Rev. Dr. Randy Vaughn, Tony Russell, Wendy McClinton, Joseph Muhammad, Joe Benton, Shawn Dove, Carlyle Holder, Nisa Muhammad, Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt.

State of the Black World Conference III

Report of the Black Family Summit

November 18, 2012

MODELS

What we are currently doing for ourselves to address the issue

Fourteen African-centered models were either presented or referenced.

- All Healers Mental Health Alliance – A national Black organization of mental health professionals. Initiatives presented included
 - ∅ Mentorship of transformational leaders
 - ∅ Conducting support groups in times of crisis
 - ∅ Emergency response for African Americans who are victims of disasters (Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Sandy)
- En Circle – Domestic Violence intervention project that serves residents in metropolitan Washington, DC
- Emotional Emancipation Circles – Project of the Community Healing Network to combat the lies perpetrated on African American inferiority being launched by Tuskegee University
- African centered treatment protocol for mental health problems resulting from toxic stress (i.e., substance abuse)
- Andora Project – post placement services for 1200 Haitian children who were adopted by families in the USA
- Immigrant Communities in Partnership Initiative – provides services for West African immigrant children to address adjustment to a new environment/culture

- Tropicana Community Services – organization in Toronto, Canada that serves immigrants from the Caribbean
- Disaster Preparedness of the National Baptist Convention
- Rites of Passage Program for youth in South Carolina. Includes a Parenting Skills component
- Federal Prisons Mentorship Program for African American males
- Basis training for couples and teens on healthy marriages
- Campaign for Black Achievement
- Initiative to address the institutional racism child welfare that has resulted in placement of disproportionate numbers of African American children in the child welfare system

RECOMMENDATIONS

What we must demand from private sector institutions

- Adoption agencies must provide post placement services for Haitian children
- Adoption agencies must develop culturally competent services for immigrant children, such recruiting social workers who speak Creole for Haitian immigrant children
- African centered organizations must address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in the African American community
- Social workers must include veterans in treatment services for families
- Develop programs to match ex-offenders to available jobs. Must include training in high technical fields
- Internal - Develop and distribute a resource guide on African centered initiatives for replication and technical assistance
- Internal - Establish learning circles to develop strategies to address issues in the African American community

What we must demand from government

- Provide financial support/stimulus (local & state tax incentives) for development/provision of culturally relevant treatment services
- Provide incentives for philanthropic organizations to support culturally relevant treatment models
- Reorganize social services agencies to performance-based models
- Pass the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and maintain the provision that supports domestic violence services for African American families

- Provide a pathway to legal status for Haitian immigrant children
- Continue to work closely with the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs , & Veterans Administration to meet the needs of African American veterans
- Provide/fund transitional housing services for veterans, especially women veterans with children
- Establish Female Veteran Supportive Housing Programs (FVSHP)
- Provide HIV prevention and treatment services for African American soldiers, especially African American women
- Articulate to FEMA the importance of culturally competency in disaster relief
- Continue to provide funding to support/promote programs for healthy relationships in the African American community (promoting healthy marriages, preventing domestic violence, provision of parenting education)

3) Economic and Community Development: *Discussion of Concrete Models and Strategies for Black Empowerment*

Facilitator: Andrew Morrison

Panelists: George Fraser, Fredrica Bey, Jim Clingman, David Anderson, Dean John Morris and Rev. Dennis Dillon

Blackonomics Workshop

Howard University

November 17, 2012

Convened by Dr. Ron Daniels, President of the Institute of the Black World

Meeting Minutes: An Addendum Ad Hoc:

Open: 10:55 AM Introduction of Panel Participants

Moderator: Andrew Morrison, CEO of Small Business Camp

• George Fraser, CEO of FraserNet , Inc :

• 2 Objectives:

- 1.) Help Black people to build intergenerational wealth –Intergenerational Transfer of Wealth
- 2.) Become the number one employer of our own people –This is the only way to raise up the poor; we must fix these problems before the end of this century

• 9,000 Black public officials in the United States as of last year, however, these above stated objectives have not been given an appropriate resolve

• An overview was provided, introducing the vision for an upcoming conference in Dallas, Texas. The website provided: www.powernetworkingconference.com

John Morris, Dean of the School of Urban Planning/Community Development at Sojourner-Douglass College:

• Introduced the landscape of the work being assessed for the Community of Oldtown in Baltimore, Maryland

• Special attention was given to the importance of developing human capital, connectivity, and establishing a structure for Black people to operate functionally

James Clingman, Founder of Greater Cincinnati African-American Chamber of Commerce and Founder of Ohio Entrepreneurship High School:

- Interested in Black people landing contracting work
- Made points referencing \$5 billion dollars being invested into cities, and the need to ensure Black participation in economic inclusion, and that notion moving beyond rhetoric

Fredrica Bey, Founder of WISOMMM and CEO of the Adelaide Sanford Charter School:

- Outlined a platform for buying power, principled by property ownership; operates the Adelaide Sanford Charter School in Newark, New Jersey, and has hired Black people in all areas of building.
- Within 17 years after the acquisition of the school building, the estimated cost of the building is \$15 million dollars

Reverend Dennis Dillon, Pastor of the Brooklyn Christian Center, Founder and CEO of The Christian Times and the NYCCABE:

- “We must build a strong cultural center of commerce.” –Reverend Dennis Dillon
- Led a fight against Macy’s to include Black enterprise as revenue totaled \$3 billion dollars per year, however, Macy’s sold no Black owned products. The outcome of this effort resulted in Macy’s signing a contract to publish Black owned newspaper
- Ralph Lauren/POLO has contracted \$10 million dollars to various corporations, and non-profit entities due to Reverend Dillon’s leadership
- His leadership has presented 3 of the largest economic development plans in New York for Black people
- Raised points: \$87 billion Black dollars housed in banks, but Black families are denied loans from Chase bank
- Chase bank signed an agreement that \$8.2 billion will circulate through Black communities
- On June 19 there will be a commemoration of the 150 year anniversary of the emancipation proclamation in New York

***2 billion Black owned businesses**

David Anderson, Founder of Blackonomics and XM Radio Host:

- Take networking seriously, and engage rules of entrepreneurship:
 - 1.) No mortgage
 - 2.) No car note

- 3.) Generate income
- 4.) Understand cornerstone of wealth
- 5.) Move on points of self-reliance, and then intergenerational wealth –Be intentional

***Look into crowd-funding**

Karolyn “Empress” Oakley, Founder and Lead Food Security Specialist of Empress Works, Inc.:

- Human security relies on food security; knowing what goes into the foods we are purchasing, and then eating
- There needs to be a concentrated effort to learn aquaponics, and we can begin by cultivating small urban gardens in our communities –We need to expand our definition of community
- We need to understand:
 - 1.) Biotechnology
 - 2.) Nanotechnology
- She is scheduled to conduct research in 2013, learning additional agricultural skills in Ghana, West Africa through in organization called, First World People in Ghana
- Some of the topics she covers on the XM Radio broadcast of Blackonomics include: Black health, Black wealth, aquaponics, crop production, and food security

Nakia Cooper, Real Estate Investor:

- Buy homes and rebuild those homes in Black communities
- Development of the Black community relies on principles of self-help –Find a Mentor
- While pursuing real estate, remember:
 - 1.) Opportunities are always available
 - 2.) Learn and obtain knowledge of investing; where to look, and where to invest
 - 3.) Networking is key, and then acting upon the knowledge acquired concerning property investment –Seek Funding

***A Commercial Break with George Fraser:**

A Concept:

Average: Live Poorly and Have Poor Business ➡ Good: Are Average, Live An Average Life and Have an Average Business ➡ Excellent: Are Good, Live A Good Life, and Operate A Good Business ➡ Amazing: Are Excellent, Live An Excellent Life, and Run An Excellent Business

This concept was narrated around the idea that, at this contemporary point, we can only be and live out a life of excellence. If among us are those who are average, and unwilling to function differently, we

may have to reconsider the need to invest more energy, time, and resources toward that particular type of individual. ***For Blackanomics participants, there will be a discounted fee to take part in the conference in Dallas in 2013 at the rate of \$199.00, and there will be no charge to college age students who receive a recommendation from today's participants. Note: Visit gofundme.com and grants.gov**

2:48 PM: Dean John Morris began his presentation, "Cooperating" The Community.

***Note: This presentation will be furnished by Dean Morris**

• Two participants raised these questions during this presentation:

- 1.) Can I come and organize for funding?
- 2.) What is the [Community of Oldtown's] plan for education?
- 3.) Will the hotel initiative hire Black people?

*An interjection by Andrew Morrison, to the participants asking these questions, suggested the need for individualized responsibility in the effort to rebuild the existing Community of Oldtown in Baltimore. This attempt to intervene was due to the need of continuing on with the presentation, and that explicit responses could follow after the workshop. Furthermore, Andrew Morrison asked fellow panelists to provide Dean Morris with additional support tools that will assist in the rebuilding of Oldtown in Baltimore, Maryland.

In Response:

James Clingman: The concept is viable. There needs to be an act of collective banking in Baltimore among the Black community to leverage assets in a community sustainability effort. Look into Blackanomics Billionaire Club, and the Collective Empowerment Group in Washington, D.C. Recycle dollars, and invest in small business ventures such as: Blue Line Water –Alkaline water; biodiesel; aquaponics (urban gardens); comprotax; bartering on trust and love –this will assist in connecting human resources. Look at similar models that work, as well as Black business history: blackanomics.com. Clingman provided his contact information: 513.489.4132

Fredrica Bey: WISOMMM's pledges their support to rebuilding Oldtown, and it would be beneficial to establish a Black credit union

Karolyn "Empress" Oakley: Pledged her commitment to the rebuilding of Oldtown in educating on food security, developing a composting operation, grain initiation, and promoting food security in schools to cut down on food costs. Also, there could be a beta test done to bridge a relationship between what is happening in Oldtown, and the African system of aquaculture. *Oakley builds hydroponic centers, and provided the name of a Mr. Allen who teaches on the development of hydroponic centers in Milwaukee, WI. *Oakley provided contact information: www.empress-works.com and 407.716.3116

David Anderson: Wants Dean Morris to email him the Oldtown Plan. These are sustainable living concepts: 1.) Real Estate (needs to be core principle) 2.) Utilities; own water rights based on real estate; heating, cooling, and solar power. You can drill down to 400-500 feet to keep homes cool at 55 degrees 3.) Mineral Rights. *Anderson provided contact information: info@blackanomics.com and 888.790.3074. Anderson is also looking for content contributors for his radio show

Lunch Break: Rows of participants were assigned to have a working lunch by connecting, and developing ways that each organization/business represented can be of more support to individual efforts. *Note: At this time, Andrew Morrison received an epiphany concerning the need to infuse his gang affiliated background into his current body of writing, in order to highlight the intersections of his former gang related attitude, and the present attitude that drives his assertive will in his entrepreneurial endeavors of today.

Fredrica Bey: Aired video featuring the Adelaide Sanford Charter School

4:29 PM: We took a short break to stretch, and a participant asked everyone to pay homage to our ancestors, and in particular, the Maroon communities

Nakia Cooper: We need to go to our city planning offices and look directly at the plans that are being agreed upon, and take action. *Cooper provided contact information: keyestatellc@gmail.com

Reverend Yolanda Brown, Broyland & Associates, Minister of Economic Development:

- Economic development is a science, and a discipline
- Points raised about economic development:
 - 1.) It is about wealth building
 - 2.) Wealth creation within a specific area
 - 3.) Economic development happens from the outside in, and from the bottom up
 - 4.) It is the focus of workforce development, providing skills training to the unskilled, as professional development is needed to run our businesses
- We need the knowledge of governmental planning efforts, as government tends to plan for 30-40 years ahead
- We need to be gatekeepers as we better understand the regulations being set regarding access to land ownership and wealth. ***Note: Brown will convene a 2 day conference in New York from January 17-18, 2013 that will focus on economic development. The Economics Corporation that approves plans in the United States will be in attendance at the conference.**

“Learn the art of imitation, as Reverend Dennis Dillion comes forward with this final presentation. Listen with your body and your heart...” – Andrew Morrison

4:48 PM Reverend Dillon begins his lecture

Wherever we are, it is the same as racial grouping, and there is a need for solution oriented talk. I was prepared to discuss four solutions, however a fifth one came as I have been in this room.

There is enough power here and around the world, and we should not leave this room without a plan. The Black problem is: economics. The Black solution is: economics.

We talk about reparations as the problem solver, and that is economics. Where there is no spiritual economics, there is no economic development.

There is always a sociology of poverty with poor power of engagement, and putting Black persons in Congress, City Hall, and other political positions, will not matter when there is no economic power.

We need to legitimize ourselves with our aggressive agenda of economic power.

[Gentrification –in his publications— looking at numbers of reverse White flight, with a 20% increase of White residents in cities.]

The real issue is dominant control of land; having economic prospects as an ethnic group. We suffer from “commerce of culture syndrome”.

Solutions:

- 1.) Culture of Commerce Attitude (We need to adopt)
 - A. Selling culture
 - B. Mind set change, attitudinal change, and take commerce mainstream
- 2.) Business Advocates: Must Be An Aggressive Global Commerce Agenda
 - A. Illinois has 84,000 Black businesses
 - B. Buying power in the Black community is estimated at \$1.2 trillion dollars; the equivalent of 20 of the 50 United States
 - C. Brooklyn has 69,000 Black businesses
- 3.) Reduce the Amount of Remittance Monies and Transform It Into Trade
 - A. Nigeria, the largest remittance activity in the world at \$15 billion dollars
 - B. Jamaica, \$3 billion in remittance activity
 - C. Airline monopolies: Carribean Airlines going into New York is the 6th largest airline; not enough trade between Black community and the Carribean
- 4.) Make A Conscious Decision To Buy Black
 - A. It is a personal sacrifice

- B. Challenge governments on the continent of Africa on the basis of economics/shared wealth/shared power
- 5.) Economic Sanctions and Corporate Leveraging
- A. Organized against Chase and Citibank and for churches to take monies out of these banks
 - B. Churches then placed monies in Carver Bank
 - C. Banks found out about this level of organizing, and wanted to negotiate deals with Black customers; this direct action received media attention
 - D. This is an exercise of leveraging. Always remember a “good guy, bad guy” position, but, be sure to be flexible
- 6.) Embrace the Power of the Faith Community
- A. Who assisted with slavery?
 - B. The same way Catholics used the church...
 - C. There is no other place that gathers more people, more frequently than the church; harness the church energy
 - D. Referenced Reverend Sun Myung Moon, Founder of the Unification Church, and how he built assets over 60 years; the owner of Mystic beverages
 - E. Provided an epithet of being in South Korea, and being taken with 100 other clergyman to get tailored clothing, and accessories at an estimated cost of \$18,000 (for the cost of one watch). The basis for why this type of transaction could take place, was due to the building of wealth by an ethnic group
 - F. Seventh Day Adventists’ own stock in Kellogg’s Cornflakes, Post, and Morning Star food products
 - G. There has been a National Baptist Convention, etc., and we have not harnessed our energy
 - H. A social agenda is in the way of a change equation

*In the spirit of Marcus Garvey, the power of liberation is to take our capacities and empower our ethnic group in America and around the world. Have an overwhelming spirit of a culture of commerce. Take money and create a business; relinquishing a perpetual spending syndrome.

To transform the Community of Oldtown in Baltimore, look at different strategies

- 1.) Aggressively focus on economic development for 5 years

*Note: It may mean losing lives not focusing on food sustainability, but economic development will allow for better longterm results

Reverend Dillon will convene a Freedom Conference in New York in 2013. 20 years ago, Reginald Lewis was one Black billionaire, and we have at least 7 Black billionaires in the room currently

Reverend Dillon In Closing:

What is in your hands? Knowledge is power. Put in place a strategy, not of individualism, but of a global culture of commerce. Solve the economic problem, and everything else gets solved

George Fraser:

Introduced a context for the new usage of the term “gangsta”. He acknowledged Hip Hop artist, JayZ for redefining the term to mean, creativity, and legalizing new activities. “Get gangsta: raise consciousness”

There are 2 practical applications of the term:

- 1.) Support those who support us
- 2.) Get back to measuring what companies do, and what companies do not do for Black people

An example of Black buying power: [George Fraser] wanted to buy a Lexus, and had a \$65,000 check to purchase the vehicle of his choice the same day. I asked the general manager to produce a Black salesman in order to solidify the deal, however, the general manager was not able to produce one. I went to another Lexus dealership, and gave my \$65,000 check to a Black saleswoman. This is an example of conscious Black buying power. Control your own destiny.

***Note: Andrew Morrison asked all of those who took notes during the workshop to see him at the closing.**

Andrew Morrison invited everyone to join hands for a prayer circle, and then asked everyone to hug 7 people.

Adjourn: 5:58 PM

4) The Criminal Injustice System: *Discussion of Strategies to End Racially Biased Criminal Justice Policies and Violence/Fratricide in Black Communities*

Facilitators: Atty. Nkechi Taifa

Panelists: Dr. Divine Pryor, Ron Hampton, Atty. Irv Joyner, Benjamin Woods,
Atty. Jesselyn McCurdy

5) Gathering of Criminal Justice/Drug Policy Reform Collaboratives

Facilitator: Rick Adams, Dr. Taiwan Lovelace and Kareem Aziz

Resource Persons: Tyrone Parker, Jo Patterson, Dean Williams, Bernadette Turner, Dr. Marcia Sturdivant
and Sonnie Jones

Overall Recommendations:

1) Continue Public Education Mobilizing/Organizing Strategy to build Justice Collaboratives in three cities; Baltimore Md., Pittsburgh Pa. and Washington DC.

2) Continue working on:

Online Petition and Advocate Identification Campaign: that declares war on the war on drugs and asks individuals to sign-on to being advocates for alternatives to a failed strategy.

Town Hall Meetings: Highly publicized community-based forums with outreach to a broad cross-section of constituencies and community based organizations in designated cities across the country to disseminate vital information and generate critical discussion at the grassroots level.

Media Information Campaign: Utilizing its access to key allies in the Black press/media, particularly radio talk show hosts, to provide regular educational inserts on the movement to end the debilitating War on Drugs.

Intensive Advocate Development Training: Identifying a limited number of organizers, advocates and opinion leaders to provide more in-depth orientation and training on the War on Drugs and alternatives including arguments surrounding the decriminalization and regulation debate.

Culturally Sensitive Educational Materials Development: e.g., fact sheets, how-to organizing handbooks, videos that present concepts, images and language that resonate with Black people.

6) Continue to advocate for the

10 Point Action Agenda to Create Just and Humane Alternatives

1. **Eliminate the 18:1 disparity in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine offenses** and make the current changes in the law retroactive
2. **End mandatory minimum sentencing schemes** which prohibit judges from considering the individual merits of a case
3. **End unscrupulous legislation proliferating prison slave labor** pools which are dependent upon drug arrests to fill prison bed quotas benefitting major United States and Canadian Fortune 500 corporations and New York Stock Exchange investors
4. **End the criminalization of drug abuse** which disproportionately impacts people of color and the poor and utilize a public health model to create just and humane alternatives to the War on Drugs
5. **End racial profiling** which results in Blacks being stopped, frisked and arrested more often than other races, causing the disproportionate criminalization and incarceration of Black people
6. **End mass incarceration** which disrupts families and communities and depletes government budgets without making communities safer
7. **Support the promotion of evidence-based approaches** to address drug policy, including treatment instead of incarceration, harm reduction and decriminalization models
8. **Support changes in laws and policies** to allow people with felony convictions and criminal records who have served their time to be gainfully employed, adequately housed, successfully reintegrated into society and have their voting rights restored
9. **Support a dialogue on the pros and cons of the regulation of drugs** to decrease crime, violence and fratricide in Black communities
10. **Focus on root causes and prevention of crime** by adopting a holistic “Domestic Marshall Plan” type social, economic and jobs initiative to create wholesome urban inner-city communities

7) Education for Liberation and Empowerment: *Discussion of Critical Challenges, Choices and Strategies to Enhance Quality of Education*

Facilitators: Richard Jones and Debra Watkins

State of the Black World III Conference Recommendations from Education for Liberation Sessions Saturday, November 17, 2012

1. Read culturally-responsive literature to our children from birth until kindergarten and encourage them to read the same independently after kindergarten.
2. Foster programs highlighting and sharing success rather than deficit models for young black males.
3. Spark genius potential through cultural-based education variables (handout provided).
4. Take responsibility to tell our story by any means necessary.
5. Ignite a movement to take control of the education of our children.
6. Create a new underground railroad so that we can share knowledge, best practices and encouragement with each other out of view of “mainstream” society.
7. Join the 1,000 African-centered Schools Network (now officially called A Black Education Network—A’BEN) unveiled at the National Black Education Agenda’s Working Summit last month in Chicago and spearheaded by the California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAEE).
8. Establish Reading Circles throughout our communities.
9. Participate in the March 1 – 3 Jubilee in Selma. Bring young people!
10. Support African-centered schools in theory and practice.
11. Reach out to juvenile detention centers, jails and prisons to support and to prepare our sisters and brothers for re-entry.
12. Create a plan to preserve African and African American history and culture by contributing to and supporting the publication of a culturally responsive encyclopedia, i.e., Encyclopedia of African American Culture.
13. Foster inter-generational dialogue to promote the strategic use of technology and social media avenues for disseminating culturally responsive information.
14. Promote social activities for our youth in ways that affirm their consciousness, self-worth, self-determination and knowledge and pride in self and culture.
15. Provide question-driven culturally responsive pedagogy for Black and non-white teachers.

16. Ensure that content knowledge (African Disaporan Experience) and culturally relevant standards are part of any professional development for teachers.

Overview and presenters for the Education Work Sessions

We have also attached below the Overview and presenters for the sessions. We are aware of the request for only three recommendations, but in view of the commitment of the body to address the totality of those listed we have provided the complete list

Peace,

Richard Jones, Co-Chair, IBW Education for Liberation Working Session

Debra Watkins, Co- Chair, IBW Education for Liberation Working Session

Overview

Education for Liberation and Empowerment:

Discussion of Critical Challenges, Choices and Strategies to Enhance Quality Education

The Conveners/Organizers of State of the Black World Conferences have always strategically positioned these “Great Gatherings” after presidential elections to take inventory of our status/condition and to galvanize our people to continue to work on all levels to advance a positive, progressive Black Agenda. The theme for SOBWC III, State of Emergency in Black America: Time to Heal Black Families and Communities, was chosen to highlight our rejection of the notion of a “post-racial society.” It proclaims to the world that structural/institutional racism and economic apartheid are still stubborn barriers to full freedom for people of African descent in this country. Therefore, a critical focus for SOBWC III will be to devise a Declaration of Intent to Heal Black Families and Communities. This will be shaped by the input of the participants and resource people in the Working Sessions in crucial issue areas, e.g., the Black Family, Education, Economic and Community Development, Health and Environment, Criminal Justice, Culture, Religion and Spirituality, Pan African Policy and Mobilizing the Diaspora. However, the Declaration will not just focus on government. It will outline what we as people of African descent must demand of ourselves and internally from our communities, as well as what we must demand of those educational institutions, private sector businesses and corporations which thrive on one trillion dollars of Black income and Black investment! The Declaration will be a blueprint that various organizations will accept responsibility for implementing under the framework of IBW as a facilitative/ coordinating vehicle, that is, an engine for Black empowerment.

Session I. Developing High Quality Programs

10:30 am – 11:30 am

The education of our youth necessitates that we provide them with holistic and culturally responsive learning environments that nurture students’ sense of self and provide them with intellectually stimulating and creative environments. Respect for students’ language and culture and learning styles is

central to their successful development. Research has proven that intervention strategies determine the trajectory that many students will follow as they move through the school system.

Panelists will describe successful strategies for educating our youth and will present examples of successful and culturally responsive literacy programs.

Dr. Akila Donna Wright, Professor of Education, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Dr Kenneth Anderson, Professor, School of Education, Howard University

Session II. Advancing An African-Centered Education

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

The movement for re-centering and politicizing an African American education more than 40 years ago represented community demands for schools that would offer an historically inclusive and culturally affirming education for African American children. This movement led to the establishment of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI) in 1972. Today, 40 years later, we find it even more necessary to engage the youth in our schools in a community-building and nation-building experience. The idea of a “post-racial” society is indeed a myth. There are an increasing number of urban districts with majority African American student populations. Our youth are desensitized about their culture and history and we need to incorporate curriculum models in African-centered schools and in majority African-centered student populations that center African American history, literature and culture and that draw on and respect students’ prior knowledge.

Panelists will present models and strategies for incorporating an African-Centered curriculum and developing African-Centered schools.

Dr. Susan Goodwin, Director of the Rochester Teacher Center, Rochester, NY

Dr. Mwalimu Shujaa, Dean, College of Education and Human Development, Southern University at New Orleans.

Bro. Baye Kemit, Baale, The Garvey School/Egun Omode Shule

Session III: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline

2:30 pm– 3:45 pm

The criminalization of our youth is a crisis in our culture. The growing trend of harsh school discipline practices such as suspension, expulsions, and zero tolerance policies in public schools has increased our students’ involvement in the criminal justice system. These suspensions, which begin in elementary school and continue through high school, are often for minor infractions such as

Talking-out-of-turn in class, failing to wear uniforms, arriving to school late, and engaging in schoolyard scuffles. Long term suspensions very often result in high drop-out rates and eventually incarceration. Additionally, upon leaving the criminal justice system, many young people who seek re-entry into the

school system face economic, psychological and educational obstacles that impact their successful progress in school.

In the face of a disproportionate number of students and particularly African American males who have been subjected to the school-to-prison pipeline, we must identify strategies that will create educational environments which are conducive to learning and which actively work to avoid jeopardizing a successful future for our youth. We must come together as a community and identify resources and build networks and coalitions that will save our youth from the journey to prison.

Panelists will discuss the obstacles faced by young people when they return from the juvenile justice system and seek to re-enter schools and identify positive and culturally responsive strategies, resources and models that are successful in dismantling the school- to prison pipeline.

Dr. Iva Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel De Witt Proctor Conference, Inc.
Dr. Emma Fraser-Pendleton, Project Manager, TurnAround For Children

Session IV. Becoming A Culturally Courageous Leader
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

We have many African American sisters and brothers who have been passionate about advancing culturally responsive teaching for African American youth. They have committed their lives to this cause and they have accumulated years of wisdom and experience. They represent the organizers, activists and educational leaders who emerged during the civil rights, Black Power and Black Arts movements. While many have and are passing the torch to future generations, there is a need to highlight and engage in intergenerational conversations for developing and promoting committed and responsible educational leaders.

Dr. John Browne coined the phrase “Culturally Courageous Leadership” and has recently published a book about it, Entitled Walking the Equity Talk: A Guide for Culturally Courageous Leadership in School Communities. The book provides the foundation for this panel. Using their experience and accumulated wisdom, participants for this panel will identify successful strategies for developing culturally courageous leaders.

Dr. Joyce King, Benjamin E. Mays Endowed Chair, Professor of Social Foundations of Education, Georgia State University Faya Ora Rose Touré Sanders, Civil Rights Activist and Litigation Attorney, Founder of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama Dr. Brenda Greene, Executive Director, Center for Black Literature, Medgar Evers College.

Student Caucus Session

Issues identified by Students

Identity formation: Sustaining one's identity while exterior pressures attempt to substitute stereotypes;

Youth stressed the need for identifying a "movement" for them and their peers to be committed. "Don't feel they have a common struggle"

Students indicated that many of their peers have been privileged and isolated from political, civil rights and social justice movements;

Technology and social media is viewed as a "tool and a weapon".

Students/Youth more focused on events and activities than on movements re: social justice, education, etc.

Need for more intergenerational dialogues on way to address issues endemic to youth.

Violence is an issue in the community.

Need to harness the forces of the internet and social media to launch a movement.

Black students on white campuses are looking for ways to engage students at other Historically Black colleges.

In attendance at the SOBWC III were students representatives from:

Howard University (HU), University District of Columbia (UDC), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Sojourner Douglas College (SDC), York College CUNY, University of Massachusetts Boston (U. Mass. Boston), Coppin State, Medgar Evers College, Kent State, Loyola Marymount University, Marshall University, Northern Carolina Central University (NCCU), University of Akron, University of Connecticut (U Conn), Duquesne University, University of Pittsburgh, John Hopkins University and the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC).

7) Mobilizing the Diaspora to Impact U.S. Policy Toward Africa and the Caribbean

Facilitators: Dr. Jemadari Kamara and Folami Harris

Panelists: Atty. Nicole Lee, Honorable Una Clarke, Sidique Wai, Kambale Musavali, Yvette Modestin, Dr. Joseph Jordan, Dr. Waldaba Stewart, Julian P. Kiganda, Dr. Ron Daniels

MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR A U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA

OVERALL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

IBW should support the creation/organization of *a Center for Sustainable Pan-African Development (CSPAND)* as the primary instrument to implement the findings, conclusions, recommendations and ideas generated by both the “Pan Africa Policy Forum,” and the Working Session on “Mobilizing the Diaspora to Impact U.S. Policy Toward Africa and the Caribbean” during the SOBW III Conference. The CSPAND would be comprised of Scholar-Activists reflecting a broad cross section of the Pan-African /World Diaspora, to engage in research, policy analysis and advocacy, lobbying, program/project development, publishing and all other activities relevant to developing a new paradigm for Africa’s “Sustainable Development.” **By Sustainable Development, we mean the holistic, integrated and balanced development of Africa’s political-economic-social-cultural-environmental and physical resources for the cooperative benefit of its people in present and future generations.**

SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS RESULTING FROM THE FORUM AND WORKING SESSION DELIBERATIONS

A. THE SPECIAL NEED FOR AN INTERNAL DEFINITION

A working definition of the “Diaspora” should be developed to include all members of the continental and dispersed African populations worldwide. The African Union’s definition and related definitions should be the starting point for this discussion. The definition should recognize the variations in identity formation within the Diaspora and how differing ethnic groups designate themselves. The CSPAND should consult with Diaspora Studies Departments (within the academy) in this endeavor and hold Forums on defining Diaspora, Pan Africanism and identity formation.

B. POLICY ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

- 1 We should insist that US foreign policy in Africa be revised to directly benefit African countries themselves rather than US geo-political interests, or US business interests
- 2 We should conduct a critique and evaluation of specific US foreign policies in Africa and determine which are working for the benefit of African people v. those that are working primarily for foreigners and African elites. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) should be given high priority for evaluation because it will be up for renewal in 2014.
- 3 We should assess the impact of U.S influenced multi-lateral organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, and WTO on African sustainable development We should also assess the results/outcomes of specific Western driven programs such as Structural Adjustment,

Millennial Development Goals, and NEPAD to determine who the beneficiaries are. The U.S. role in these institutions and programs must be re-examined, as well as the elimination of all U.S. and European debt.

- 4 We should develop an approach to “corporate social responsibility” in Africa to address the problem of lack of transparency and accountability of U.S. firms doing business in African countries. This problem is most acutely evident among U.S. oil and gas companies who frequently avoid accountability to African governments.
- 5 We need to mount an aggressive educational campaign among people of African descent prior to the 2020 census in order to insure that our definitions of the diaspora and the appropriate census categories are included. An example of this concern is the way in which African people from the Caribbean, Central and South America are categorized by the census, resulting in the conclusion that the census category “Hispanic” is the emerging majority minority in the U.S. without delineating the African descended populations (Afro-Latinos) within this language derived census category.
- 6 We should engage in lobbying activities and determine the “framework” of what specific U.S. immigration policy we will support to insure the interests of African descended immigrant populations.
- 7 We should support African democracy movements and oppose /reject dictatorships, authoritarian regimes, and governments that violate the human rights of its people. We call on the U.S. government to do likewise in its approaches to diplomacy in Africa.
- 8 We should oppose the increasing militarization of US foreign policy in Africa, including: supplying military equipment, the bombing of African countries, American military bases such as Africom, CIA activity in Africa, and drone activity.

C.POLICY ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PAN AFRICAN WORLD

1. We should develop a Pan-African “crisis response team” that can assist African countries when natural and human caused disasters strike their country.
2. We should provide planning and technical assistance to Civil Society Organizations in African countries that are pursuing a central role in designing and implementing participatory and sustainable development strategies
3. We should develop a “**Black paper**” that summarizes the experience of African Americans with US political democracy and our experiences with the free market system. The objective would be to share lessons learned and suggest best practices as African countries are driven toward the mechanical application of western forms of “democracy”. We support the “domestication” or indigenization of democracy in African countries
4. We reiterate our support for the AU initiative to form a United States of Africa for the benefit of the African people. Existing boundaries on the African continent should be re-considered in this process. This unifying effort should be independent of Western and elite control.
5. The World African Diaspora should be granted “citizenship” in a re-configured United Africa, and should be considered for dual citizenship by specific countries as an interim measure.

6. We should engage in a comprehensive re-examination of land reform, land loss, and land redistribution in African countries to determine whether African land is controlled by its people or by foreign interests, including US companies and investors.
7. We should develop “principles of engagement” as a framework for collaboration and cooperation among Pan African and Diaspora organizations. The Pan African Unity Dialogue (PAUD) of New York is a model of how this concept. We should also arrange and maximize exchanges with progressive and grassroots organizations in the Diaspora.
8. We should vigorously organize and promote Intergenerational Dialogue and engagement as a basic organizational principle of ALL of our work.
9. We should develop a catalogue or directory of Pan African organizations in the U.S. and pan-African world as a part of our efforts at collaboration.
10. We should develop/design Good Governance and Sustainable Development Indexes and Indicators from a progressive Pan-African perspective for the entire Pan-African world. These indicators would allow the Pan-African world to publicly determine how well African countries are doing in realizing sustainability objectives.
11. We should support the repair of African courts so that they can try their own prisoners, and remove their cases from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

SUBMITTED BY:

DR. JEMADARI KAMARA, DR. MTANGULIZI SANYIKA AND HULBERT JAMES

NOTE: This document attempts to capture the main ideas generated by the deliberations. There is no order of priority or order of importance of any of the specific policy actions. However the organization and implementation of the CSPAND is the priority recommendation. To that end, we will develop a proposal for CSPAND over the next two months and will submit it for review and comment by February 2013.

8) IBW Research Consortium: *Gathering of Activist Scholars and Researchers to Discuss Strategies for Cooperation/Collaboration*

Facilitators: Mark Batson and Dr. Zachary Williams

Resource Persons: Dr. Howard Dodson, *Sandra Rattley, *Dr. Joyce King, Dr. James Turner and Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika

There was a rich discussion with much valuable information being passed along. Everyone spoke of their interest and experiences. We were then able to discuss a proposed structure and get feedback on the feasibility and practicalities of moving forward. Dr. Dodson was in attendance and spoke about the beginnings of the original Institute of the Black World Institute in the 1960's.

Our plan is to simply put the Research consortium into operation within the IBW structure and begin working, setting agendas, accomplishing deliverables, creating infrastructure and getting work done. We will focus on at least three of the major concepts that were discussed:

1. Setting up the structure to begin "manufacturing research"
2. Setting up a "Rapid Response" team.
3. Fundraising

Submitted by

Mark Batson
Dr. Zachery Williams

9) Proposal to the State of the Black World Conference III 10)

Civic Participation & Protection Campaign

Overview:

The 48th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be celebrated in 2013 this historic act removed barriers to voting and provided real remedies and protections for African Americans who had been deliberately prevented from voting. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) insured that basic democratic rights were guaranteed to African Americans and all Americans. The Voting Rights Act has been under attack by right wing conservatives forces for many years under the guise that times have changed, however in 2010 many conservatives Legislators past voter identification laws a solution looking for a problem, reduced the number early voting days and made it harder for formerly incarcerating citizens to register to vote. The constant efforts to undermine the V R A have resulted in crippling the democratic process and making it more difficult for all Americans to exercise their right to vote. The Supreme Court is schedule to take up the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act and given the conservative position of the current court it is very likely there will be a 5 to 4 vote to eliminate Section 5 the preapproval provision of the VRA which provides the real protections that give the Act strength, leaving millions of American vulnerable to having their rights restricted. The need to act now is imperative.

Proposal:

Develop an education and action campaign to inform and engage Americans to assure full civic participation without restrictions and demand civil participation legislation.

Goals:

Educate Americans on the impact of gutting the VRA and what it would mean to the democratic process.

Build support for protecting full civic participation; including support for extending the number of early voting days, vigorous enforcement and monitoring of the motor voter law and same day registration.

Methods:

Build national and local action committees with civil rights, clergy, labor and community bases organizations. Sponsor/host conduct an education series using town halls forums, media and social media in targeted cities.

Objectives:

Conduct education activities in 10 cities from March to September 2013; raise over \$60,000 bring together 6 national civil rights organizations, 3 national labor organizations, 4 national religious organizations.