

NJ BLACK AGENDA: AN ABSTRACT (DRAFT 2)

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

There is a war being waged on Black America, characterized by police brutality and repression, racial injustice, and economic inequality. The election of Donald Trump with his cohort of billionaires and neofascist is cause for alarm that attacks on the interests of Black People, other minority nationalities, women, the working class and other vulnerable populations will be intensified and little affirmative leadership or assistance in alleviating the effects of that war can be expected from the Trump -led Federal Government. Therefore, the struggle at the State and Local level against oppression; in defense of the social safety net; and advancing the well- being of the masses of people becomes all the more important. Here is drawn the line of defense against the Trump assault.

This Agenda reflects the work of: The Black Panther Party; NJ Black Issues Convention; NJ Association of Black Educators; Black is Back Coalition; Black Liberation Unity Committee; Movement for Black Lives; several local churches and other faith-based organizations; several local NAACP Branches; the NJ Institute for Social Justice; and, the People's Organization for Progress.

Police Brutality end excessive violence against civilians, police torture, killing of unarmed civilians: state terrorism against Black individuals and the Black community. Reopening the cases; firing and prosecution of police killers of: Jerome Reid, Abdul Kamal, Kashad Ashford, Earl Faison, Darryl Fuquan, Jaqui Graham (and the attempted killing of Radaz Hearn).

Criminal Justice Reform: firing and prosecution of police killers of unarmed civilians. Community control of police and civilian complaint review boards with subpoena and disciplinary authority. Grand Jury Reform for transparency or abolition. Halt further militarization of police: terminate NJ participation in the federal govt. 1033 program. Create an Office of Special Prosecutor to handle police brutality cases. Establish the crime of negligent homicide in NJ. Residency, ongoing psychological, racial bias, and non-lethal force training requirements for all police. Require annual statistical collection of all municipalities of killings of unarmed civilians; use of excessive force and racial discrimination incidents. End the "WAR ON DRUGS," recognizing the drug crisis as a public health emergency. Oppose prison privatization, which provides a profit motivation to mass incarceration.

Support **reparations** to African Americans for the nearly 400 years of enslavement and the post-enslavement legacy of abuse, brutality, torture, terror and murder inflicted on Black People by police and other law enforcement agencies and for the thousands who have been unjustly imprisoned and executed.

Jobs for All; Full employment or guaranteed income will attack chronic poverty and the related social dislocations; while public works and services, financed by taxing the corporations and wealthiest 1% will meet the needs of the 99% for dignified work and necessary constructions, goods, and services. Where the private sector fails to provide employment, the public sector should substitute. Program participation should be open to all, including formerly incarcerated and immigrants. Oppose virtual prison slavery (authorized by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution) and authorize market level wages for prison labor.

Healthcare for All A state single payer healthcare system—improved and extended Medicare for all is needed to realize healthcare as a right rather than a privilege of individual wealth. NJ has the collective wealth for NJ to lead the way to a national single payer system.

Free Public Education and Support for Youth from preschool through university. Fully fund and ensure implementation of the Amistad Act. Critical is the need for reform of the “Juvenile Justice” system, including: anti-Black and Brown racial discrimination; alternatives to incarceration, substituting effectively funded community based care systems

Peoples’ Agenda for Peace State advocacy for end to U.S. wars and occupations; repatriation of the human and material resources to meet social needs at home.

Housing As A Human Right Use state power toward elimination of homelessness. A moratorium on foreclosures and evictions. Legislate to reset underwater mortgages at no more than 30% of income; and prosecution of perpetrators of massive mortgage fraud, rampant in NJ. Distribute designated funds for homeowner relief. Increase affordable low-income housing. End dispossession of people without income.

Defense of Democratic Rights Use the State bully pulpit to resist efforts to restrict democratic rights and liberties; to increase government surveillance and invasion of privacy. Oppose restrictions on women’s right to choose abortion and other reproductive and healthcare rights. Support restoration and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act. End disenfranchisement of those convicted of crimes. Support overturning of Citizens United, to take the weight of money from politics. Support the use of effective initiative and referendum at all levels of government. Defend the political space necessary to defend against the assault on human rights, civil rights, and workers’ rights.

Uplift and Equality for Women in All Spheres of Life The deprivations, degradations, and victimizations suffered by the Black America as a whole are exponentially endured by Black women. Special corrective actions are appropriate to ameliorate the triple oppression, by race, class, and gender by these stalwarts who “Hold Up (More than) Half the sky”! Therefore, exercise State authority to eliminate the significant economic discrimination and insecurity experienced by women: including the gender wage and wealth gap.

Workers’ Rights A living wage for all. End all restrictions on the right to unionize, organize, and strike. Immediate implementation of \$15 per hr. minimum wage with cost of living increases.

Immigrants’ Rights Legalization and equal rights for all; and end to deportations; no state cooperation with ICE; release of detainees from State facilities

Seniors’ Rights Preserve and enhance the social safety net for seniors to ensure that later years of life may be lived in dignity and respect.

Environmental Justice and End Environmental Racism No fracking or any forms of extreme energy extraction. No disposal of toxic/hazardous waste. Pursue transition from pollution in industries and public investment in zero waste, clean energy, public transportation, community housing, and food sovereignty. Eliminate inequitable environmental burdens borne by Black, poor and minority nationality communities. Shift from Jobs vs. the Environment thinking to Jobs for the Environment practice.