

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN & BOYS

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SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

+ + + + +

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022

+ + + + +

The Commission convened via
Videoconference at 1:00 p.m. EDT, U.S.
Representative Frederica S. Wilson, Chair,
presiding.

PRESENT:

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICA S. WILSON,
Chair

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN HORSFORD,
Commissioner, Nevada

JACK BREWER, Commissioner, The Brewer Group

RICHARD CESAR, Commissioner, Department of
Labor

KRISTEN CLARKE, Commissioner, Department of
Justice

THOMAS M. COLCLOUGH, Commissioner, U.S. Equal
Employment

MARSHALL DILLARD, Commissioner, Driller

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Leadership

O.J. OLEKA, Commissioner, Kentucky Colleges

CHRISTIAN RHODES, Commissioner, U.S.

Department of Education

JAMES E. CLYBURN, Panelist, U.S.

Representative, South Carolina

HENRY (HANK) JOHNSON, Panelist, U.S.

Representative, Georgia

BENJAMIN CRUMP, Panelist, Civil Rights

Attorney

RAYMOND HART, Panelist, Council of Great City

Schools

DESMOND MEADE,

Panelist, Florida Rights

Coalition

MAURO A. MORALES, USCCR Staff Director

DR. MARVIN WILLIAMS, CSSBMB Program Manager

DAVID GANZ, USCCR General Counsel

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 1:06 p.m.

3 **I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

4 CHAIR WILSON: Good afternoon. The
5 meeting will come to order. It is April 22nd, 2022.
6 This is the second quarterly meeting of the
7 Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.
8 It is a public meeting, and a live broadcast on
9 YouTube through the National Press Club. I want to
10 extend a warm welcome to the Commissioners and our
11 public audience. As always, our mission will be to
12 exchange ideas, implement our expertise while
13 continuing to work to recommend solutions for the
14 advancement of Black men and boys through this new
15 Commission.

16 I must reiterate, that this Commission's
17 not built on politics, it's built on humanity,
18 empathy, unification, dedication, persistence, but
19 most importantly the desire for change. We must
20 create stronger communities and an equitable society
21 for everyone. We began our work in January by deeming
22 the Year 2022-2023 as the year of Black men and boys.

23 Today, I am so pleased to announce that
24 we will have this roundtable discussion on the impact
25 of the criminal justice system on Black men and boys

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1 in America. Followed by a very brief business meeting
2 that will include appointments of the members of the
3 2022 annual report subcommittee. I now recognize the
4 Commission's program manager, Dr. Marvin Williams,
5 who will conduct the roll call, and establish a
6 quorum. Dr. Williams?

7 **II. ROLL CALL**

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, everyone.
9 Per the statute, a majority of the members of the
10 quorum, which is ten members, constitute a quorum. To
11 establish the quorum, I will call each member by name.
12 Please note your presence by saying here. Chair
13 Wilson of course.

14 CHAIR WILSON: Here.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Secretary Sharpton?
16 Commissioner Beatty? Commissioner Bowman?
17 Commissioner Brewer?

18 COMMISSIONER BREWER: Here.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Cesar?

20 COMMISSIONER CESAR: Here.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Clarke?

22 COMMISSIONER CLARKE: Here.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Colclough?

24 COMMISSIONER COLCLOUGH: Here.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Dillard?

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1 COMMISSIONER DILLARD: Here.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Elder?
3 Commissioner Fosten?

4 COMMISSIONER FOSTEN: Here.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Horsford?

6 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Here.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Jeffries?
8 Commissioner Johnson?

9 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Here.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Marshall?

11 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Present.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner McBath?
13 Commissioner McIver?

14 COMMISSIONER MCIVER: Here.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Oleka?

16 COMMISSIONER OLEKA: Here.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Rhodes?

18 COMMISSIONER RHODES: Here.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Madam Chair, for the
20 record, please note that a quorum of the
21 Commissioners is present.

22 CHAIR WILSON: Thank you.

23 **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

24 CHAIR WILSON: The next order of business
25 is the adoption of the agenda. May I have a motion to

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1 approve the agenda?

2 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: So, moved.

3 COMMISSIONER OLEKA: Second.

4 CHAIR WILSON: Without objection, we have
5 adopted the agenda for this meeting.

6 **IV. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

7 CHAIR WILSON: I want to acknowledge and
8 thank our roundtable participants for this engaged
9 national conversation. Commissioner Representative
10 Steen Horsford, the first vice president of the
11 Congressional Black Caucus, will serve as our
12 moderator. He is a member of the Commission and is a
13 strong advocate for Black men and boys. A diligent
14 legislator for the people of Nevada.

15 He has agreed to pitch hit for
16 Commissioner Reverend Sharpton who is delivering the
17 eulogy today for Patrick Lyoya of Michigan. An
18 unarmed Black man, who was shot in the back of the
19 head by a police officer, which elevates our
20 conversation, and our job that we must accomplish. We
21 are honored to have house majority Representative Jim
22 Clyburn from South Carolina, who will present the
23 historical perspective on Black men and boys in
24 America.

25 Representative Clyburn is a gifted

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1 historian who knows so much and can share so much. It
2 is an honor to have him here with us today. Followed
3 by the United States Assistant Attorney General for
4 Civil Rights, Commissioner Kristen Clarke, we are so,
5 so proud of her. She will open our discussion today
6 with her perspective on the over representation of
7 Black men and boys in the criminal justice system.

8 And that is only the beginning. Benjamin
9 Crump, internationally renowned civil rights
10 attorney, we call him Black America's attorney
11 general. Dr. Raymond Hart, executive director of the
12 Council of Great City Schools, criminal justice
13 reform begins in our schools. Choices, and peer
14 pressure can change a child's entire life.
15 Commissioner Calvin Johnson, Deputy Assistant
16 Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban
17 Development, HUD, who worked in the world of prisons,
18 jails, and other penal institutions.

19 Congressman Hank Johnson from the state
20 of Georgia, an executive committee member of the
21 Congressional Black Caucus, imminently qualified to
22 opine on today's topics. Desmond Meade, founder of
23 the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, who has
24 restored the rights of so many returning citizens and
25 is a history maker in our nation. Commissioner Clarke

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1 will also be one of the participants in the roundtable
2 discussion.

3 Our Assistant Attorney General for the
4 Civil Rights Division of the United States. I am so
5 excited now to bring forward our moderator, and
6 Commissioner, our beloved representative from Nevada,
7 Stephen Horsford. So, at this time I will turn the
8 discussion over to him. Commissioner Horsford?

9 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you so much
10 Chair Wilson, and I am so delighted to be a part of
11 this historic moment, as we come together to work on
12 solutions as agents of change in the context of the
13 impact of the criminal justice system on Black men
14 and boys. One of the goals of the Commissioner on the
15 Social Status of Black Men and Boys is to study the
16 disparity Black men and boys experience in our
17 criminal justice system.

18 Because we all know firsthand the
19 realities many of our young Black men face, with the
20 lack of job opportunities, lack of educational, and
21 skills development, and a lack of presence of active,
22 and engaged fathers in some households. This
23 roundtable discussion today will include some amazing
24 trailblazers, and champions from government,
25 academia, and advocacy to make sure our young Black

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1 men and boys can obtain the resources that they need
2 to live a life of purpose, dignity, and free from the
3 injustices we have historically endured in this
4 country.

5 So, without further ado, let us proceed
6 by welcoming our great champion, my mentor and
7 friend, United States House of Representatives
8 Majority Whip Congressman Jim Clyburn from South
9 Carolina, who will present a historical perspective
10 on Black men and boys in America. Representative
11 Clyburn, we will turn it to you.

12 **IV. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

13 **A. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

14 COMMISSIONER CLYBURN: Well, thank you
15 very much Representative Horsford. Representative
16 Wilson, thank you so much for not only your effort
17 here today, but your long history with us. I have
18 been in your congressional district several times,
19 being a part of the work as you have done with your
20 five thousand role models. In fact, I was with you in
21 a foreign country several years ago when I looked,
22 and there among one of the presenters was a young man
23 with his red tie on, and five thousand role models.

24 And I said to you then, you have gone
25 international with your efforts. So, I want to thank

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1 her so much for all that she has done with this issue.
2 I am sitting in Orangeburg, South Carolina. I am here
3 today with our EPA administrator, d African Americans
4 of North Carolina, North Carolina A&T, and I mention
5 that for a reason that I will get to in a minute.

6 And, our secretary of commerce, who is
7 here with us today, as well as the so-called czar of
8 the President's Infrastructure Program, Mitch
9 Landrieu. These three people are here. We are all
10 sitting about two blocks from the site of the three
11 young men, two college students, and one high school
12 student, who were shot, and killed by law enforcement
13 officers here in South Carolina that led to the
14 infamous Orangeburg Massacre.

15 We are here representing issues that are
16 historical, that led to some circumstances here in
17 South Carolina, in Orangeburg, that have a historical
18 foundation. Alexis de Tocqueville, who I studied as
19 a student at South Carolina State here in Orangeburg,
20 came to this country to study our penal system. He
21 saw back in the 1830s, what he called a progressive
22 system.

23 He talked about it as being a magical
24 thing in this country, and authored a two-volume book
25 called, "Democracy in America." And de Tocqueville's

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1 Democracy in America, is summed up in one little
2 phrase that I want to share with you. De Tocqueville
3 said America is not great because it is more
4 enlightened than any other nation, but because it has
5 always been able to repair its faults. Think about
6 that.

7 Always been able to repair its faults. We
8 have seen some fault lines opened in America in recent
9 days, not just with George Floyd, but as recent as
10 the one who is being funeralized today when it comes
11 to our justice system. But if you look at the
12 foundation of this, how did we get here? We must look
13 at some more recent history. Look at what happened in
14 this country after the stock market crashed back in
15 1929.

16 And we had to make decisions about
17 whether, or not this country could come back
18 together, and continue its pursuit of perfection. In
19 1935, we, Congress, passed legislation to bring this
20 country back together. One of the pieces of
21 legislation was social security, and it is
22 interesting that social security ended up named one
23 of the biggest anti-along poverty programs ever.

24 Except that social security left certain
25 job classifications uncovered. Among them were

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1 domestic workers that did not receive coverage. Farm
2 workers did not receive coverage. And 65 percent of
3 all the African Americans living in this country at
4 that time were employed in those two areas. So, 65
5 percent of African Americans from the 1930s did not
6 receive coverage by the recovery efforts produced.

7 After World War II ended in early 1945,
8 so many African Americans came back from the war
9 having been a part of saving this country's freedom.
10 We all remember the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen,
11 their heroic heroism in saving this country, and
12 delivering a victory in World War II. When they came
13 home, the country decided to resettle all its
14 veterans, the people who fought the war, by passing
15 the GI Bill.

16 The GI Bill was to restore stability to
17 these young men's lives, providing resources for them
18 to purchase homes, and get an education. It just so
19 happens that in the first three thousand people that
20 got the benefit of the GI Bill -- I want to say that
21 again, of the first three thousand people who got the
22 benefit of the GI Bill, only two, not two percent,
23 but only two, went to African Americans.

24 So, to stabilize the communities with new
25 homes, to receive an education to care for their

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1 children, it was not available for them. These are
2 the foundations, the pillars, of which things began
3 to develop. And all of us know that if you look at
4 the system, the so-called penal system, the justice
5 system, those people who run afoul of the law, when
6 you investigate their educational backgrounds, you
7 will find that they were lacking in educational
8 opportunities, and attainment.

9 The same thing happened with communities
10 when they have not been able to come out of stable
11 communities, which is the backdrop to this. Now, I
12 want you to think about that as you do your work with
13 this Commission. And think about what de Tocqueville
14 said when he wrote America's greatness is because it
15 has always been able to repair its faults. As a
16 Commission, you are going to look at a lot of fault
17 lines in this country.

18 We saw it with COVID-19, and we are going
19 to see it time, and time again unless we do what is
20 necessary to repair these fault lines. I am looking
21 forward to the work of this Commission coming forth
22 in such a way that will arm the United States Congress
23 with the wherewithal it needs to put in place
24 programs, and funding that will allow us to stabilize
25 communities, to educate young people, to provide the

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1 resources as we say in Congress, the ways, and means
2 in order to develop productive citizens.

3 I am looking forward to the results of
4 your work, and I want to thank each, and every one of
5 you for heeding this call, and thank you Frederica
6 for your perseverance. I know what you went through
7 to get this Commission established, and quite
8 frankly, I guess I might be among those who doubted
9 that you could ever get it done, but you did it, and
10 by God, I thank you for it. And I yield.

11 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you very
12 much Representative and Majority Whip Clyburn for
13 your insightful, and informative perspectives
14 regarding the history, and the how that history has
15 laid a lot of the foundation for where we see
16 ourselves as a society. And thank you again for your
17 leadership in being able to move forward important
18 legislation, including the recommendations that will
19 come from this Commission under the leadership of
20 Chair Wilson, and the Commissioners.

21 So, thank you very much for your
22 contribution today, and for your commitment to Black
23 men and boys in the United States, and for everyone.
24 Now, before we get into the thick of today's
25 discussion on the impact of the criminal justice

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1 system on Black men and Black boys in America, let us
2 take a moment to listen to Commissioner Clarke's
3 perspective on the over representation of Black men
4 and boys within the criminal justice system.
5 Commissioner Clarke?

6 **IV. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

7 **B. WHY CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

8 COMMISSIONER CLARKE: Thank you so very
9 much Representative Horsford. I want to also thank
10 Chair Wilson for her leadership, program manager
11 Williams, and House Majority Whip Clyburn for setting
12 the stage today, and my fellow Commissioners, it is
13 a real pleasure to be here today. My name is Kristen
14 Clarke, I serve as the Assistant Attorney General for
15 the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department,
16 and I appreciate the important mandate of this
17 Commission.

18 Figuring out how we can confront some of
19 the grave challenges and crises facing Black men and
20 Black boys today. And I want to talk very briefly
21 about some of our core priorities inside the civil
22 rights division that I think can help set a framework
23 for our discussion. And that is our work to ensure
24 accountability in the public's interactions with law
25 enforcement.

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1 And the conditions, the unconstitutional
2 conditions that we see inside state, and local jails,
3 prisons, and juvenile detention facilities across our
4 country. But before we talk about that, I just want
5 to note that we know that Black people, including
6 Black men and boys are subject to hate crimes,
7 including racially motivated threats, and racially
8 motivated violence at alarming rates.

9 FBI statistics show that during the
10 pandemic there was a rise in hate crimes committed
11 against Black Americans, already the group most
12 frequently targeted in other groups. The tragic
13 killing of Ahmaud Arbery is one recent example, and
14 just last month the Justice Department secured
15 federal hate crimes and attempted kidnaping
16 convictions against the three men who were
17 responsible for the murder of Mr. Arbery.

18 And these convictions make clear that Mr.
19 Arbery, was murdered because of his race. So, from
20 Emmett till to James Byrd, to Ahmaud Arbery, we
21 continue to see evidence that makes it clear that
22 hate crimes, and racially motivated violence have
23 been intractable problems for our country, and we
24 must continue to do all we can to confront this
25 crisis. Turning to our criminal justice system, we

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1 know that most of the nation's 18000 law enforcement
2 agency's police our communities with professionalism,
3 respect, and integrity.

4 But we also know that there are incidents
5 of unlawful uses of excessive force, and deadly force
6 by individual officers, and we also see systemic
7 unconstitutional policing practices conducted by
8 agencies. And these problems undermine community
9 trust, and public safety. The world watched in the
10 summer of 2020 as Americans from every corner of the
11 country took to the street to demand justice for
12 George Floyd, and so many others who have needlessly
13 lost their lives.

14 And these protests were about shining a
15 light on the need for a fairer criminal justice
16 system, a fairer policing system in our country. The
17 Civil Rights Division that I lead has worked to hold
18 individual police officers accountable for
19 misconduct, and that includes recent convictions
20 secured against all four former Minneapolis police
21 officers on federal civil rights violations tied to
22 the death of Mr. George Floyd.

23 And those convictions send a clear
24 message to officers across the country that they must
25 use only reasonable force. That they have a proactive

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1 duty to intervene, to protect the constitutional
2 rights of all people in this country, and that they
3 can be held, and will be held accountable when they
4 violate our federal civil rights laws. Alongside
5 these prosecutions is our work to look at police
6 departments that are engaged in an unlawful pattern,
7 or practice of violating the constitution.

8 We have opened pattern, or practice
9 investigations into police departments in Louisville,
10 Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Mt. Vernon, New York, and
11 just last week announced a consent decree with the
12 Springfield, Massachusetts Police Department. Our
13 work to investigate allegations of unconstitutional
14 policing is a top priority. Jails, and prisons. For
15 the more than two million people who are residing in
16 prisons, and jails, it is imperative that we remedy
17 the unconstitutional conditions that we too often
18 see.

19 Black men are overrepresented in the
20 country's penal institutions by a factor of five
21 compared to White men. As one example in Georgia,
22 where last year we opened a civil rights
23 investigation into the state's prisons, the
24 percentage of incarcerated people is close to twice
25 the percentage of Black residents overall. And we

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1 opened an investigation looking at issues that
2 include prisoner on prisoner violence, severe staff
3 shortages, and more.

4 And earlier this week we opened an
5 investigation into Parchman, the Mississippi State
6 Penitentiary. This is the state's oldest state
7 prison, and we uncovered violations of the eighth,
8 and 14th Amendment. Black Mississippians account for
9 70 percent of Parchman's incarcerated population
10 despite making up only 37 percent of the state's
11 population.

12 The conditions at Parchman are so dire
13 that they have resulted in twelve suicides, and ten
14 homicides since 2019. We found inadequate mental
15 health treatment, inadequate suicide prevention
16 measures. Over reliance on solitary confinement, and
17 more. The constitution safeguards the inherent
18 dignity of every human being in our country,
19 including those detained in our prisons, and jails.

20 Indeed, the Supreme Court has observed
21 that there is no iron curtain drawn between the
22 Constitution, and the prisons of this country. All
23 the issues that I have noted illustrate some of those
24 fault lines that Congressman Clyburn mentioned a
25 moment ago. True justice, true racial justice

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1 requires that all people be able to trust that their
2 interactions with the criminal justice system are
3 constitutionally sound, and just.

4 And it requires that we give new focus on
5 the ongoing problems of racially motivated hate
6 crimes, and violence that we see in our country. While
7 there is more work to be done, know that the Civil
8 Rights Division, and my colleagues across the Justice
9 Department stand ready to confront these challenges.
10 We are committed to using every tool at our disposal
11 in the pursuit of a more racially just, and equitable
12 society.

13 And I look forward to continued work with
14 this Commission to help shine a light on these
15 atrocities, and to identify new robust strategies
16 that can be deployed in this fight. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you
18 Commissioner Clarke, we are extremely fortunate to
19 have you leading the Civil Rights Division within the
20 Department of Justice, and to have you as an active
21 member of this Commission. So, thank you for your
22 tremendous leadership.

23 **IV. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

24 **C. DISCUSSION WITH PANELISTS**

25 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: So, we are going

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1 to jump into this conversation now with our panel and
2 given the insightful comments from both Majority Whip
3 Clyburn, and Commissioner Clarke, we want to frame
4 the discussion on the criminal justice system by
5 posing a question to each of the panelists that
6 focuses on their area of expertise. First, I am going
7 to go to my good friend, and colleague,
8 Representative Hank Johnson from the great State of
9 Georgia.

10 You have been a pioneer in criminal
11 justice reform. You have been a key advocate for the
12 Marijuana Legalization Bill, as well as the Anti-
13 Lynching Bill, which was just recently signed into
14 law by President Biden. These are landmark victories
15 for the Black community, especially Black males.
16 Given the disproportionate rate of incarceration, and
17 violence imposed on Black men, what impact will these
18 laws and legislation have on the changing the
19 treatment of Black men in the current judicial
20 system?

21 Additionally, what new reforms are needed
22 in these areas, or will help with the implementation
23 of these bills? You are on mute Commissioner Johnson.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you so much
25 Representative Horsford, and it is very great to be

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1 here with all of you all. I want to give my kudos to
2 Representative Frederica Wilson out of Florida, who
3 has made the salvation of Black men and boys her
4 life's work. It is a topic, and an issue that often
5 gets left on the sidelines, but Representative Wilson
6 has worked tirelessly to ensure that this issue
7 remains at the forefront.

8 And receives the kind of attention that
9 it desperately needs and deserves. And so, I want to
10 thank her for inviting me to participate in this
11 roundtable. And I bring 27 years of criminal law
12 experience as a criminal defense lawyer, and as an
13 associate magistrate judge to the equation that we
14 are talking about today.

15 I understand how it is a gateway into the
16 criminal justice system. Catching a charge of
17 possession of less than an ounce of marijuana has
18 been historically for our Black men, and for our boys.
19 Law enforcement catches someone using recreational
20 marijuana, or using marijuana for recreational use,
21 charges them, that enters them into the criminal
22 justice system.

23 Next thing you know, they're targeted
24 when they are riding in their car, because police run
25 the tag, see that so, and so is on probation for

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1 marijuana possession, they pull the person over,
2 might be someone in the car with a weapon, or whatever
3 the case might be, then that young person gets charged
4 with the weapon, pleads out, can't afford an
5 attorney. Pleads out, and ends up with another
6 offense, which leads to a felony offense at some point
7 down the line.

8 And then incarceration, which has such a
9 tremendously devastating impact on families, and on
10 communities, and on states, and on the nation. And
11 this has been something that has been taking place
12 historically among the Black people of this country.
13 And so, when we do something to shut down that
14 gateway, or to begin the shutting down of the gateway
15 from the use of marijuana into the hard life of the
16 criminal justice system, then we are benefitting our
17 society.

18 Statistics show that Black men and boys
19 use marijuana at the same rates as White men and boys
20 but are four times more likely to be under arrest for
21 cannabis possession than our White counterparts. And
22 in the United States, six hundred thousand people are
23 under arrest every year for cannabis related
24 offenses. The federal government criminalized the
25 possession of marijuana, or cannabis in 1937.

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1 And when it did so, it listed cannabis as
2 a schedule one controlled substance for purposes of
3 criminal prosecution, alongside hard drugs like
4 heroin, LSD, and ecstasy. And in 1951, Congress
5 passed a law that set harsh mandatory sentencing of
6 two, to ten years in prison, and a fine of up to
7 twenty thousand dollars for a first offense
8 possession of cannabis case.

9 And people of color have been
10 historically targeted by discriminatory sentencing
11 practices resulting in Black men receiving drug
12 sentences that are 13.1 percent longer than sentences
13 imposed on White men for the same offense. So, I am
14 glad that societal norms, and laws are beginning to
15 change. A total of forty-seven states have reformed
16 their laws pertaining to cannabis, despite marijuana
17 remaining a schedule one drug.

18 Cannabis is now a big business, and with
19 legal cannabis sales totaling twenty billion dollars
20 in 2020, and with projected sales reaching forty
21 billion by 2025. It is big business, but not
22 surprisingly, only four percent of cannabis business
23 owners are Black. It is also ironic that the people
24 most hurt by the criminalization of cannabis get
25 excluded from the legal cannabis marketplace because

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1 of prior cannabis related convictions.

2 So, on April Fools' Day of 2022, the
3 House passed the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment
4 and Expungement Act, also known as the MORE Act, which
5 decriminalizes cannabis as a controlled substance.
6 The MORE Act establishes a process to expunge
7 convictions and conduct sentencing review hearings
8 related to federal cannabis offenses.

9 And it prohibits the denial of federal
10 public benefits to a person based on certain cannabis
11 related conduct, or convictions. And the law also
12 authorizes the Small Business Administration to make
13 loans, and services available to entities that are
14 cannabis related legitimate businesses, or service
15 providers. And it requires the Bureau of Labor
16 Statistics to regularly publish demographic data on
17 cannabis business owners, and employees.

18 So that equity, and inclusion rates can
19 be tracked, and dealt with. And the act also
20 establishes a trust fund to support various programs,
21 and services for individuals, and businesses in
22 communities impacted by the war on drugs. So, the
23 MORE Act is a huge step forward as we shut down the
24 gateway from recreational use of cannabis into the
25 criminal justice system, and move towards equity, and

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1 inclusion in the legal cannabis market. So, I thank
2 you for that question.

3 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you
4 Congressman Johnson, I know you're one of our
5 panelists today, and I want to move now to Attorney
6 Benjamin Crump, who as the Chair indicated, has been
7 just a leader on so many fronts, and you have walked
8 the painful journey with far too many families
9 unfortunately across this country, and publicizing,
10 advocating, and litigating for the civil rights of
11 Black men who have lost their lives.

12 So, you have a unique perspective to view
13 the underlying systemic patterns that are present in
14 many of these cases. What would you propose as the
15 first steps for the transformative and constructive
16 reform of the criminal justice system and its impact
17 on Black men and boys? Attorney Crump?

18 CHAIR WILSON: Commissioner Horsford,
19 Attorney Crump is also attending the funeral of Mr.
20 Lyoya, but he is going to call in, and when he calls
21 in, we will take him, so thank you. You can proceed
22 to Mr. Desmond Meade.

23 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you Chair
24 Wilson, all right. So, Desmond, in discussions on
25 criminal justice reform, your organization, the

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1 Florida Rights Restoration Coalition is a prominent
2 voice for Black males that navigates the complexity
3 between punishment, and rehabilitation. As you have
4 outlined, restoration of voting, and other rights of
5 citizens returning to society after incarceration
6 embodies the American spirit on both spiritual, and
7 secular grounds.

8 So, what solutions do you propose,
9 including post, and pre-release policies, or Criminal
10 Justice Reform Act that would minimize the obstacles,
11 and help facilitate national restoration of voting
12 rights for Black men and boys with felony
13 convictions?

14 MR. MEADE: First of all, thank you for
15 that question Representative Horsford. I would like
16 to extend my gratitude to Chairwoman Wilson for
17 inviting me to be on this panel, and a sense of joy
18 to see an old colleague, Assistant Attorney General
19 Kristen Clarke on, it is very comforting to see you.
20 As you were talking, you used some words about
21 uniquely positioned when you were talking about
22 Attorney Crump.

23 And I was smiling because this topic of
24 discussion hits very deep, and it goes even beyond
25 just voting. And the reason it does is because in the

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1 way of qualifying myself, I am a returning citizen.
2 I am a person that has experienced the other side of
3 the criminal justice system. Been in, and out of
4 jails, and prisons, and even had to battle substance
5 abuse addiction.

6 To a point where in August of 2005, I was
7 standing in front of railroad tracks waiting on a
8 train to come, so I could jump in front of it. And I
9 am here today with my head held high, and my shoulders
10 thrown back a little bit, and my chest out because of
11 the unique qualifications that I know I can bring to
12 this discussion as a person that has been on the other
13 side of the criminal justice system, as an addict.

14 But also, as a person who has been able
15 to transform his life and navigate the challenges
16 that this Commission will be addressing to serve on
17 many boards. Most recently I served with a former
18 attorney general, Loretta Lynch, and Alberto Gonzales
19 in the National Task Force on COVID in Prisons. To
20 leading of course the effort that you mentioned,
21 alluded to, the Amendment Four effort that restored
22 voting rights to 1.4 million people with felony
23 convictions in Florida.

24 To being named, by TIME magazine, as one
25 of the 100 -- let me say that again, one hundred most

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1 influential people in the world. And to most recently
2 be named a MacArthur Genius Fellow. So, now I am
3 officially a genius. But I think what -- the point
4 that I am trying to make is I am bringing all of me
5 to this discussion, and to your question. And what I
6 believe, through my journey on both sides, like I
7 said, I have been the target of prosecutors, and
8 judges.

9 But now I am also a colleague of
10 prosecutors, and judges. There is so much -- I mean
11 we hear the same mess day in, and day out. So much
12 that a lot of us can just rattle off these stats about
13 the disproportionate impact of policing, especially
14 statistics on Black men and boys. But I want to start
15 from somewhere different. I passionately believe that
16 -- and we all can agree with the adage that a chain
17 is only as strong as its weakest link.

18 That no matter how much weight we want a
19 chain to bear, it would only be able to hold as much
20 weight as that weakest link could manage. And this is
21 true in our society, in our communities, in our
22 states, in this country. That if we do aspire to be
23 greater than what we are today, that it is imperative
24 that we focus on the segments of society that have
25 been most weakened by systems of oppression, and

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1 systems of discrimination, and narratives that say
2 that some lives are less valuable than others.

3 And I really believe that the segment of
4 our society that has been most weakened have been
5 Black men and boys. So, we are that key, that we
6 cannot get greater, you cannot get greater, this
7 country cannot become great until the Black men and
8 boys that have been impacted by the criminal justice
9 system are properly empowered. One thing I do know is
10 that what I believe drives the challenges that we
11 have to the empowerment of Black men and boys is the
12 narrative.

13 It is the narrative, and I believe that
14 if we can address that narrative -- and some folks
15 might be like where is he going with this? What I do
16 know is this, and there is a book out there called
17 Black Americans and the Atomic Bomb that speaks about
18 the African American's response to the bombing of
19 Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. And in the book, it talks
20 about the campaign that the United States engaged in
21 prior to the bombing of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

22 Where the Japanese people were depicted
23 as violent, dangerous individuals, caricatures that
24 were drawn of them were grossly exaggerated. And
25 engaging in this propaganda campaign, what the United

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1 States was able to do, was they were able to
2 dehumanize the Japanese people, and they were also
3 able to desensitize us as to their humanity. So, when
4 they did drop the bomb, and killed thousands of
5 innocent children, women, and men, rather than there
6 being public moral outrage, there was public
7 celebration.

8 That is the power of a narrative, and
9 that is the same narrative that we have been the
10 subject of for so many years. And we can go back to
11 the days of slavery, that Black men are dangerous,
12 they are not as smart, and strategic, there could be
13 super predators. And we must keep Black men and boys
14 at heels so we can put our foot on their neck for 8
15 minutes, 46 seconds, because that is how we control.

16 And so, that narrative is still the same
17 narrative that allows us not to look at people who
18 have been impacted by the criminal justice system
19 differently, and as if they are other people. I was
20 fortunate enough that God had chosen me for this
21 mission of his in liberation to allow me to go through
22 this metamorphosis to demonstrate to everyone that
23 just because I have a felony conviction does not
24 minimize the value that I can bring to society.

25 It does not limit the heights that I can

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1 reach. And because a lot of times what we face today
2 is that because it is a felony that is associated
3 with our name, we are limited in education, we are
4 limited in access to jobs, we are limited in
5 democracy. Like you are not good enough, you are not
6 one of us. It was that same attitude, along with, I
7 guess technology, which delayed the immediate
8 attention needed for police interactions with Black
9 men and boys of color.

10 And part of the reason was you go to the
11 ACLU for help, but we were not, even to the NAACP, we
12 were not good complainants. We needed the perfect
13 complainant to really launch an investigation, or a
14 case of police brutality against some law enforcement
15 agency. It was not until the technology started
16 bringing this thing to the public's light that we
17 were forced to deal with it.

18 Now that we have it, what is the first
19 thing? And I am sure Attorney Crump may touch on it
20 when he speaks, but the first thing that happens when
21 there is a killing of an unarmed Black man, is that
22 there's reference to a prior criminal history. As if
23 what he did 10, 20 years ago is justification for him
24 to be murdered on the street. That is the power of
25 the narrative.

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1 And I am going to tell you, you as -- I
2 will say a Commission, I would challenge you to be
3 even more courageous. Because the narrative shift
4 does not start with those out there, the narrative
5 shift starts with us, within us. And how are we
6 looking, how are we viewing that person that just did
7 a drive-by? Are you looking at them in the same light
8 that you would look at this MacArthur Genius Fellow?
9 This TIME 100 person?

10 And I submit to you that we do. Because
11 we must figure out how do we love the most despised
12 among us to get our country, our community to a place
13 that we desire to be? That is what I submit to you
14 all today. And I am going to end with just this little
15 story I tell, it is controversial. But when Chairman
16 Wilson invited me on, she knows she gets what she
17 gets with that.

18 I refer to everybody -- a lot of times
19 when I talk, I refer everybody back to the Michael
20 Vick incident. Everybody knows Michael Vick, the star
21 football player, which I was fortunate enough to
22 help, because of the passage of Amendment Four, I
23 personally was able to help him register to vote in
24 2020, and he was able to vote in the 2020 election.

25 But Michael Vick went to jail for dog

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1 fighting. Now, anyone that knows anything about dog
2 fighting, knows that it is a very vicious, violent
3 sport. In South Florida, and Chairman Wilson knows
4 this, we have cockfighting, where they tie these
5 blades on the talons of roosters, and these dogs, or
6 these roosters, they fight to the death. And that
7 scene is very horrific, it is very violent, it is
8 very gory.

9 I always ask people one important
10 question. In the Michael Vick incident, how many
11 people got mad at the dogs? Stop and think about that
12 for a minute. How many people got mad at those violent
13 dogs that were going back and forth and killing each
14 other and doing drive-bys, and whatever it was that
15 they were doing, to be locked up and selling dope,
16 how many people got mad at those dogs?

17 No one. What they got mad at was the
18 person that created the conditions in which those
19 dogs went at each other. What they got mad at was the
20 person that trained the dogs to fight each other to
21 the death. You know what their response was to the
22 dogs, those violent dogs? How can we find them loving
23 homes? The part where we must be courageous, is how
24 do we respond to people with felony convictions not
25 with hate, or anger, or animosity, but with love.

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1 And when we figure that out, and it is
2 easy, because all you must do is ask yourself, how
3 would I react if that was my son, or daughter? When
4 we can respond to people with felony convictions with
5 love, that moves the narrative, and it changes policy
6 that treats every person, regardless of their sexual
7 orientation, immigration status, color of their skin,
8 or even political affiliations with dignity, and the
9 respect that all of us deserve. Thank you for letting
10 me speak.

11 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you Mr.
12 Meade for bringing all of yourself, for being a
13 genius, and for also reminding us about the human
14 nature of what it is we are talking about. Black men
15 and boys first, and foremost are human beings. And no
16 matter what condition we find ourselves in, we need
17 to be reminded that we are human, and that means that
18 mistakes are made, but that does not mean that purpose
19 should be denied.

20 So, I think that you have brought that
21 perspective to this discussion for sure. So, thank
22 you for all your contributions. I want to make sure
23 that we have enough time to hear from all the panel,
24 and then to open this conversation up to the
25 Commission. So, I am going to ask Dr. Raymond Hart,

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1 who is the executive director for the Council of the
2 Great City Schools to talk to us.

3 Because I know you recently released a
4 report, the academic key performance indicators from
5 your 2021 report, which included data detailing the
6 disciplinary actions taken against Black male
7 students. In your research, has there been any
8 emerging trends that indicate a relationship between
9 public school discipline, and the increased
10 likelihood of a Black male student entering the
11 criminal justice system?

12 And how can you expound further on the
13 role that education has in the school to prison
14 pipeline? Thank you.

15 DR. HART: Thank you Representative
16 Horsford, for that question, and thank you all for
17 having me on the panel. It is an honor, and a pleasure
18 to join you this afternoon. And I also want to thank
19 Congresswoman Frederica Wilson as well for her
20 untiring advocacy on behalf of our Black men, and
21 young boys of color. I too have had an opportunity to
22 share with you on your five thousand role models
23 program.

24 And take that program to other school
25 districts around the country, but your partnership

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1 over the years has been invaluable to supporting the
2 Black and brown students that we serve in our member
3 districts. And what we know from the data that has
4 been shared, for example Assistant Attorney General
5 Kristen Clarke has already shared data on the
6 disproportionate experiences that our Black men and
7 young boys have.

8 Particularly as it relates to negative
9 outcomes in society, in our schools it starts with
10 our suspensions, which you mentioned about the data
11 that we have collected. It starts also with
12 sentencing, which was also addressed by one of my
13 colleagues on the panel a few moments ago, in the
14 criminal justice system. We must focus on correcting
15 those negative perceptions of men of color in our
16 society that result in that unequal treatment as
17 evidenced by a number of different things.

18 My colleague just spoke about the
19 sentences being 13 percent longer for the same
20 criminal activity as are White females. What we have
21 also seen, and my colleague Desmond Meade just spoke
22 about the narrative, and so I want to address that as
23 well. We see that in our young people, in our young
24 men of color, as evidenced by the video that we all
25 witnessed in a New York mall.

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1 Where in that mall, a White male and a
2 Black male were in an altercation. The White male was
3 asked to sit politely on the couch, while the Black
4 male was pinned to the floor and handcuffed. And so
5 it is that narrative, it is that perception that we
6 have of our young men of color that even just walking
7 up to them in a mall, we perceive them as being quite
8 different.

9 So, we need to work on those perceptions.
10 But in addition to addressing those disparate
11 consequences for men of color, we must also invest in
12 supports for our families, and children of color. And
13 our school districts, and I will talk more about this
14 in a moment, are taking some of the investments from
15 the American Rescue Plan to really address some of
16 the disproportionate outcomes, and the disparities
17 that you see in the data that you just referenced
18 from our reports.

19 And I will talk more about that in a
20 moment, but first I wanted to say rather than
21 criminalizing the behavior of our young people, we
22 need to make additional resources the consequences of
23 the behaviors that we observe. We criminalize the
24 behavior of young people, particularly young Black
25 men in ways that we do not for other young people of

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1 color. And we have all seen the troubling video of
2 the eight-year-old young man from Syracuse, New York.

3 Who cried out for help because of the
4 police called to address his taking of a three-dollar
5 bag of potato chips from the store? And that young
6 man, the police response was not ideal, but what I
7 want to ask is what community support helped that
8 young man, and his family address the underlying
9 needs that they might have?

10 And just a 15-minute conversation between
11 the police, and his father, again, first we
12 criminalize that behavior of that eight-year-old
13 rather than treating that behavior as a behavior that
14 needs additional supports, additional wrap around
15 services, additional social work services. So, what
16 we allowed was the police to step in and address that
17 young man's behavior.

18 But the police are not qualified to
19 address the social, emotional needs of the children
20 that we serve. So, helping this young man grow is not
21 the responsibility of the police department. It is
22 really the responsibility of our communities. And so
23 how are we addressing that behavior by addressing
24 that? And as a Commission, I hope you will begin to
25 advocate for the additional resources that we need,

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1 particularly as we, I represent the seventy-seven
2 largest urban school districts in the country.

3 But as we begin to attempt to wrap our
4 arms around students, provide supports to our
5 students, to our young men in both the community, as
6 well as in our schools, we need additional resources
7 to help ensure that we can provide those wraps around
8 supports so the activities that we see are not
9 criminalized, but supported with resources. The
10 Council of Great City Schools has established a
11 partnership with the International Association of
12 Chiefs of Police.

13 And we are specifically working to
14 develop a blueprint to support both our schools, and
15 our communities, address the challenges that we
16 currently face. And I want to quote one of the police
17 chiefs that is on the committee that we have put
18 together to develop this blueprint, and that is Chief
19 Cerelyn Davis from Memphis, Tennessee. And one of the
20 things that she shared is we the police, we being the
21 police do not want to drive around the city arresting
22 students, and juveniles.

23 To prevent the police involvement, we
24 must decriminalize juvenile behavior, and bring
25 resources to bear that ensure that the observed

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1 behaviors are addressed with community support. And
2 dare I ask, for the young man who is in Syracuse,
3 dare I ask, how many community supports have been
4 brought to bear on his circumstance? The trauma that
5 that young eight-year-old faced.

6 How much support has he received from the
7 community? Were there social workers, were there
8 others in the community who went to provide support
9 to that young man? Not only to address the behavior
10 that we saw, but to ensure that as an eight-year-old,
11 that behavior does not continue. And so, you talk
12 about the things that escalate into higher, and
13 higher behaviors.

14 As an eight-year-old, it is the supports
15 that he needs that are critical. I want to talk a
16 little bit about our school districts. And so, one of
17 the things that you asked Representative Horsford, or
18 through some of the things that we're doing, I want
19 to talk in particular about the Dallas Independent
20 School District, and the superintendent there
21 recently established a program called reset centers
22 to deal with student classroom behaviors that
23 required students to be referred out of the
24 classroom.

25 And what he looked at was the suspensions

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1 in his schools, and again, the disproportionate
2 suspensions for our young Black men were much higher
3 in Dallas than they were for their peers in the school
4 district. But what he did in those reset centers is
5 establish an opportunity first to hire behavioral
6 support counselors, and support specialists who sit
7 in a room.

8 Where if a child who traditionally would
9 have a behavior that would result in a suspension be
10 sent to that reset center to de-escalate, to deal
11 with the issues, and the trauma that that child was
12 facing for that day. And then to ensure that that
13 child, after going through the experience at the
14 reset center would go back to the classroom. It
15 resulted in -- from the district having thousands of
16 suspensions of their young Black males to having
17 those same suspensions now eliminated.

18 Having students go to the reset center,
19 but the overwhelming majority, over 90 percent of
20 those students being able to return the classroom
21 that very same day, and to return to a structure. So,
22 that we are not removing kids by suspending them,
23 keeping them out of the classroom, but we are enabling
24 them to go back into the classroom. And so, it is
25 those types of activities that I think are important.

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1 And we must also address, and lift up in
2 our schools, and Congresswoman Wilson, you know this
3 well, recently in the State of Florida, there were a
4 number of books that were banned in the State of
5 Florida that contain the very materials that provide
6 the supports for our students, the supports for their
7 social, and their emotional learning, their social,
8 and emotional growth.

9 The very same supports that our students
10 need are being banned in some of our states around
11 the country. And so, one of the things that we need
12 to do is to make sure that we speak out when those
13 things occur. That we speak out, and we support the
14 necessary instructional practices in our schools that
15 help our students become better citizens.

16 And with that, I want to make sure that
17 I wrap up by saying that our schools are engaged in
18 making sure that we provide the supports to our kids
19 using the American Rescue Plan funds, and other
20 resources. But the American Rescue Plan funds are
21 temporary resources, they are going to go away
22 shortly. And when they go away, what types of
23 resources are we going to bring to bear to help our
24 communities, to help our schools, and our school
25 districts continue to provide the supports for our

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1 young men?

2 Particularly our African American men,
3 and young boys of color in our schools, and in the
4 community together. And when we develop the
5 blueprint, and publish it, I hope that you will look
6 at it as a Commission to see the recommendations that
7 we have made in that blueprint for really supporting
8 our students not just in school, but in school, and
9 in the community.

10 Because it is that combined support that
11 is beneficial. So, let us focus on making sure that
12 the resources that we bring to bear address the
13 consequence -- or that we replace the consequences,
14 the penal consequences of juvenile behavior with
15 resources to address those behaviors directly. And
16 thank you for the opportunity to share, and I look
17 forward to answering other questions as the debate
18 continues.

19 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you Dr.
20 Hart, for your leadership, and for centering the role
21 that schools, particularly public education provides
22 to our students, Black boys, and young men, and the
23 kind of systemic issues that we must address to make
24 sure that they have an equal, and equitable access to
25 a complete education.

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1 I want to move next to Commissioner
2 Calvin Johnson, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of
3 HUD. In 2014, HUD published a report that is called
4 Gender Neighborhood Context and Youth Development.
5 Which found that boys struggle significantly more
6 than girls to adjust to any type of neighborhood
7 change, and can engage in violence, and criminal
8 behavior as a response to their unfamiliar
9 environment.

10 Has HUD found any new data regarding this
11 issue? And have any policies implemented provided
12 intervention services to boys who grow up in unstable
13 housing circumstances?

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you
15 Commissioner Horsford for that question. Before I get
16 started, I want to acknowledge Chairwoman Wilson for
17 her leadership on this Commission, and thankful to be
18 a part of this discussion. So, let me first start by
19 providing some background on this report that you
20 mentioned. And to do that, I need to talk about the
21 actual study.

22 So, in 1992, Congress appropriated
23 seventy million dollars of section eight rental
24 assistance to fund additional vouchers to support the
25 actual study where these findings are from. And that

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1 is the Moving to Opportunity for Fair Housing
2 Demonstration. Now this demonstration set out to
3 assess the impact of neighborhoods on adult, and
4 child wellbeing.

5 Specifically, what we were trying to
6 learn is when families move from public housing in
7 extremely deprived areas to private housing, or
8 private market rental housing in areas with lower
9 poverty rates, do we see improvement in wellbeing?
10 Now this demonstration was open to the largest public
11 housing authorities, five were selected. We have
12 Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York.

13 Now eligible families had to have at
14 least one dependent child, and they had to be living
15 in public housing projects located in the poorest
16 neighborhoods in the city. That is 40 percent
17 poverty, or higher. 46000 families were deemed
18 eligible, and they were assigned to three groups. So,
19 this is like a lottery of sorts, they were assigned
20 to three groups.

21 The first group was they could receive
22 one of the housing choice vouchers, but that housing
23 choice voucher could only be used in a low poverty
24 neighborhood, less than ten percent poverty. So, they
25 were moving -- the idea here was that they were moving

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1 from extremely poor neighborhoods to low poverty
2 neighborhoods. And so, let us just call that the low
3 poverty voucher group.

4 You had a second group also receiving a
5 housing choice voucher, but without any geographic
6 restriction. So, it is just a regular voucher, they
7 could use it wherever they would otherwise use a
8 voucher, we can call that the regular voucher group.
9 And then there was a third group, and that group were
10 folks, again we are talking about families living in
11 public housing.

12 That group just remained in public
13 housing. So, when we fast forward now, and we talk
14 about Gender Neighborhood Context and Youth
15 Development, which is a summary report from an expert
16 convening that we sponsored to discuss the surprising
17 findings from the study. Specifically, the
18 differential impact for boys, and girls that you
19 mentioned.

20 And let us talk about those findings. The
21 findings were that their reduced rates of mental
22 health problems for girls whose family moved to low
23 poverty areas. So, they had low poverty vouchers. And
24 for boys, there was an increased rate of post-
25 traumatic stress disorder for those boys with

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1 families who had the regular vouchers.

2 Now, when we talk about crime and
3 delinquency, or the delinquent activities, the data
4 shows us that there was no effect of low poverty
5 vouchers on actual arrests. That is, those reporting
6 having ever. However, compared to girls in public
7 housing, so now we are looking at girls, so girls who
8 were living, who had vouchers to move to low poverty
9 areas.

10 Comparing them to the girls in public
11 housing, the girls who moved to low poverty areas had
12 engaged in more assaultive behavior. And when we look
13 at boys in public housing, and we compare them to
14 boys who had the low poverty voucher, or they were in
15 the low poverty voucher group, they more than likely
16 were under arrest for property crimes.

17 Now, keep in mind that these were groups
18 of boys, and girls, which received a survey four years
19 after they had received the vouchers, and moved. So,
20 if we fast forward six years, we look at a different
21 group of kids, these would have been younger kids
22 back in 2001. When the actual results generated, if
23 we now fast forward six years, we look at the younger
24 kids now, who have had a longer time in these low
25 poverty neighborhoods.

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1 And we do not see the same pattern of
2 assaultive behavior, we do not see the same patterns
3 of property crime. So, it is important now to think
4 about two things. One, that only about neighborhood,
5 neighborhood context matters, and it matters the
6 longer you are in a neighborhood. All right, so low
7 poverty neighborhoods, the longer you are in them,
8 you may benefit from that.

9 Extreme poverty neighborhoods, the
10 longer you are in them, you will not benefit. And
11 there's huge literature in there that looks at the
12 impact of poverty and high crime on mental wellbeing.
13 Now to be clear about all of this, parents did receive
14 the opportunity to move. And so, let us talk about
15 why parents moved. Parents moved because they thought
16 that by moving, they would be moving to a safer
17 neighborhood.

18 Check, that happened. They also thought
19 that their children would have access to better
20 schools. So, parents were making these moves because,
21 or they wanted to participate because this gave them
22 an opportunity to move to safer neighborhoods, and
23 neighborhoods where kids would have access to better
24 schools. Now, we find from parents reduced rates of
25 mental problems for parents.

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1 Lower psychological stress, depression,
2 and anxiety, and there was an increased rate of calm,
3 and peacefulness amongst these parents. So, what do
4 we gather from all of this? Well, what we gather from
5 this is that we have long known that our housing
6 interventions have a greater impact on children. So,
7 we need to focus our attention, we need to provide
8 additional attention to that finding, and the fact
9 that we see findings that really affect children.

10 There was truly negligible impact, other
11 than the ones I just mentioned for the parents, and
12 so we need to do that. So, when you ask the question
13 about policies, and activities, I can tell you some
14 of the things that we are doing, that I think points
15 to how the findings from the study is really having
16 us think about policies, and programs within the
17 agency.

18 So, I can talk about programs that we
19 have in public housing that we are since a model. So,
20 we have service coordinators in public housing that
21 really serve as a place where residents can go, and
22 be assessed, and then link to services. We call those
23 raw service coordinators. They develop strategies,
24 and they plug residents into a broader ecosystem of
25 services within the community.

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1 And so that is a model that we might
2 explore to figure out how that might work for the
3 voucher side of the house. We also have community
4 health workers. We are working with the Office of
5 Minority Health in five communities specifically to
6 use community health workers to do the type of work,
7 to do the type of outreach, and collaborating with
8 residents to plug them in to the types of services
9 that they need.

10 Many of you may not know, but community
11 health centers, the federally qualified health
12 centers, there are over 300 of these in, or nearby
13 housing authorities, and making connections with
14 those community health centers to ensure that they
15 are kind of providing services, and doing the
16 assessment so that when parents have issues with
17 kids, that those are actually flagged, and they're
18 linked to services.

19 And then finally in our 2023 budget, we
20 are hoping that we will have funds appropriated that
21 will allow us to do technical assistance for mental
22 health first aid. That is working with housing
23 authorities to train the front-line workers in
24 housing authority to identify mental health issues,
25 and start flagging them, and then linking them to

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1 services. Now, it would be remiss if I did not tell
2 you about the longer-term studies.

3 We talked about the impact on children in
4 2001, and 2007, let us fast forward a little bit.
5 When we now look at these children who were part of
6 this demonstration, and we look at them when they
7 were in their teens, we fast forward now to when
8 they're in the late 20s, early 30s, and what we find
9 using IRS data, is that those kids who had vouchers,
10 and moved to low poverty communities, or had
11 vouchers, and just moved anywhere had higher levels
12 of income than the kids who stayed behind in public
13 housing.

14 Had higher rates of college participation
15 than the kids who stayed behind in public housing.
16 And that that difference was greater for kids who
17 moved to low poverty communities, or they were in the
18 group that had vouchers restricted to low poverty
19 areas. Now, what that tells us is that place matters.
20 Place matters, and I will stop there.

21 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Well, I was just
22 going to ask if you could wrap up any other final --
23 I do not want to cut you off, because what you are
24 saying is especially valuable information around how
25 ZIP codes should not have to dictate a person's

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1 success in life.

2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Exactly right.

3 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: And I know
4 Secretary Fudge, and the leadership that you all are
5 providing in HUD is addressing that. But we really -
6 - I mean one of the policies that Congress has passed,
7 that has lifted 50 percent of children, particularly
8 Black children out of poverty, was the Child Tax
9 Credit. So, if we really want to talk about policies
10 that would help move people out of poverty, we just
11 must keep them out of poverty by leveraging the
12 policies that really work.

13 But I wanted to make sure that you have
14 time to wrap up your comments. We have one more person
15 that needs to go, and then I want to open to
16 conversation. All right, thank you. So, next, and to
17 come back to Commissioner Clarke, the Assistant
18 Attorney General, you recently delivered a keynote
19 speech regarding the civil rights implications of
20 artificial intelligence.

21 Which is a hot topic. Can you discuss the
22 potential impacts that this modern technology could
23 have on the impartial, and fair treatment of Black
24 men and boys? Specifically, any data that many
25 indicate racial bias in police surveillance

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1 technology that the Commission should be aware of?
2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER CLARKE: Thank you very much
4 for the question. We are looking at algorithmic bias,
5 and algorithmic discrimination in many different
6 contexts. We are looking at the barriers that this
7 can present in accessing jobs, and accessing housing,
8 in accessing educational opportunity. What we are
9 finding is that there are entities that are
10 increasingly relying on data to make predictive
11 judgements.

12 And that often the algorithms that are
13 employed to make these predictive judgements have
14 bias baked into them. We have all seen the problems
15 of the use of this technology in the policing context,
16 and we are overly concerned about jurisdictions that
17 are increasingly relying on data to surveil, to
18 determine which communities they are going to focus
19 attention on.

20 We are in the process looking at this
21 issue across the civil rights division, and working
22 with partners at other agencies, including the EEOC,
23 the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and other
24 agencies to figure out how we can use the tools that
25 we have to confront some of the new, and emerging

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1 problems, and biases that we see in this context.

2 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you
3 Commissioner Clarke, and I know it is an emerging
4 issue, and we look forward to hearing more from you.
5 So, Dr. Williams I want to be sensitive, I know there
6 is a business meeting that we must complete as well.
7 So, how much time do we have for the dialogue portion
8 of this?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: You have about 25 minutes.

10 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: That includes the
11 business agenda? I thought there was --

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Commissioner Horsford, the
13 business agenda is noticeably short. It will not take
14 any more than about seven to ten minutes.

15 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: All right, okay
16 then good, we have plenty of time. We have covered a
17 lot already today, so I want to open it up to the
18 panel, and to the Commissioners at this time.

19 **V. COMMISSIONERS' REMARKS**

20 **ON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

21 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: I think the best
22 way, if you can raise your hand, or flag for me that
23 you are interested in talking, and again, I want to
24 defer first to Chair Wilson, from your leadership.
25 And then based on the dialogue that we have had; we

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1 are centering today's discussion on the criminal
2 justice system.

3 But part of what we have heard is there
4 is so many elements that contribute to how Black men
5 and boys are affected by the criminal justice system
6 that start in education, and housing, and healthcare,
7 in access to employment, and jobs. And these
8 contributing elements, and lack of opportunity, and
9 how people are perceived in the public from a human
10 nature is all of what we are trying to confront on
11 this issue.

12 So, first if we could go to Commissioner
13 Joseph Marshall for your question.

14 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Got on mute here.
15 Okay, can you hear me, everybody hears me? I turned
16 off my camera at the same time, okay. Everyone hears
17 me.

18 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Yes, we can.

19 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you
20 for the discussion, just a couple of things, you did
21 cover a lot. First, I have to say to Desmond Meade,
22 congratulations on everything, and I have to say as
23 a fellow MacArthur Award recipient, which is cool, so
24 I am glad for you brother, which is going to help.
25 One of the issues for me, in the work that I do as an

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1 educator, been to a lot of prisons, work with a lot
2 of brothers that have been in prison.

3 Recidivism is often high, and one of the
4 things about prison is that it is way more about
5 punishment than about rehabilitation. And I am
6 wondering if there is something that - Well, a
7 reintegration needs to take place, preparing men to
8 enter back into society, and it must be done with
9 specific intention. Often what I see with working
10 with men who get out of prison, is that they are not
11 prepared to get out of prison.

12 And unless they bump into somebody, many
13 times a lifer, or an OG who happens to begin to get
14 their mind in order, so that they can come back into
15 society, and not go back in, that just does not
16 happen. So, I do not know if there is anything we can
17 do policy wise. I know years ago they took out Pell
18 grants, I do not know if that's back in. They removed
19 a lot of things that would prepare men to reenter.

20 But we must get past this, I think, this
21 punishment mind set, and to a rehabilitation mind
22 set. To me, that should not be hard to do, but again,
23 that is the narrative about which we are talking. And
24 it is tough anyway, but if in fact you are in a system
25 that only wants to punish, does not see any value in

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1 preparing you to return, it is going to be
2 increasingly tough.

3 And that is why, to me, anybody that gets
4 out, and turns their life around -- I call it getting
5 out, and staying out, I congratulate. Because I know
6 that system does not want you to do that. In fact, I
7 am sure you know this. I have seen people in there
8 say to people when they get out, I know you are coming
9 back, I will hold your bed for you. That whole
10 conversation has happened.

11 So, I would be happy to advocate for any
12 kind of policies that went from strictly punishment,
13 overwhelming punishment to rehabilitative efforts
14 inside the system. I hope that makes sense to you.

15 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: And let me go to
16 Dr. McIver, and then have Desmond Meade respond. I
17 want to get as many questions from the Commission as
18 possible.

19 COMMISSIONER MCIVER: Thank you and thank
20 you so much Chairwoman Wilson for starting us with
21 this powerful roundtable that we have had today. I
22 worked for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
23 Services, and one of the first assignments I had at
24 the Baltimore City Health Department was to stand up
25 a youth violence prevention program that intervened

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1 for adolescents, who at that time, when I was working
2 in Baltimore, homicide was the number one cause of
3 death for these young men.

4 And it was not just about those who were
5 victims of the violence, but those who perpetrated
6 the violence, which entered in through some of the
7 ways which we have discussed today, and the life-long
8 effects of those things. So, much of what you have
9 talked about today resonates with the work I have
10 done over the years in these areas. I have a question
11 that I really would like to hear perspectives from
12 some of the panelists.

13 As we think about the social status of
14 Black men and boys, social determinants of health, so
15 where we live, work, grow, and play, these have a
16 tremendous impact on the health of our Black men, and
17 our boys. And some of you touched on, for example,
18 the importance of mental health resources, and
19 linking individuals to care.

20 But I would like to hear if there's
21 considerations that you have from your perspectives
22 on what the Commission should be thinking about as we
23 explore the connection of health, and the criminal
24 justice system. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: All right, Mr.

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1 Meade, would you like to touch on the first question,
2 and then if a panelist would like to respond to Dr.
3 McIver?

4 MR. MEADE: All right, well first thank
5 you Mr. Marshall for your question. There was a study
6 conducted in Florida in 2011 that looked at around
7 forty thousand individuals that leave prison and what
8 they found was at that time Florida had a recidivism
9 rate of around 33.1 percent. But, when they looked at
10 individuals whose civil rights were restored, where
11 they were able to vote, able to get occupational
12 licenses, and further their education, there was a
13 reduction of the recidivism rate from 33.1 to 11.4
14 percent.

15 And so, we do know, at least as it relates
16 to recidivism, the earlier an individual receives
17 assistance reintegrating back into their community,
18 the least likely they are to commit another offense.
19 Now, when looking specifically at the aspect of
20 former felons receiving their right to vote, because
21 it is during election season that people like me feel
22 most ostracized.

23 It is not during Christmas, or Easter, or
24 Labor Day, it is always during the elections, when we
25 are painfully reminded, that you are not part of this

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1 society. Because of the feeling of people being
2 ostracized, this increases the likelihood of us going
3 back to prison. This along with a study that was done
4 by Florida State University that shows what we have
5 all heard that if you call a child stupid, they are
6 going to grow up thinking what? That they are in fact,
7 stupid. And the Florida State University found that
8 there was a correlation between calling someone an
9 offender, or felon, or convict, to prison return
10 rates. So that's why organizations throughout the
11 country have been fighting so hard to change what
12 people who have been in prison are now being labeled.

13 In some areas it is justice impacted
14 people, and in some areas, it is like returning
15 citizens, but that is a crucial factor when we talk
16 about dealing with recidivism. I understand that
17 there are issues with whether, or not our carceral
18 system is rehabilitative, or retributive, but while
19 we are dealing with policies to change whatever
20 approach incarceration needs to have, that there is
21 also the ostracizing of individuals on the outside.

22 And there are some things that we can do.
23 Chairwoman Wilson, you know even in Dade County,
24 there are organizations, one led by Leroy Jones,
25 Circle of Brotherhood, there are organizations of

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1 returning citizens, or people that were impacted by
2 the criminal justice system that can form a support
3 network. And the beautiful thing about it is while
4 they are forming a support network, and helping
5 address issues about jobs, and education, they are
6 also getting them more civically engaged.

7 And we know that a person that is going
8 to be engaged in voting is going to be even less
9 likely to engage in criminal activities and end up
10 becoming incarcerated again. So, I do like your
11 question. There are things that we can do during
12 incarceration, as well as post incarceration that can
13 help shift things around. And even if they still want
14 to punish an individual, it should not be that when
15 you walk out the prison gates, that is when the real
16 punishment begins.

17 It should not be that way. And so, if we
18 could eliminate that piece, it would go a long way
19 towards getting where you know we need to be. And
20 last, but not least, just to touch, I think the one
21 thing that we cannot lose sight of, and I'm telling
22 you, it took -- maybe several years ago it dawned on
23 me for the first time, is that mental health of Black
24 men and boys as it relates to a lot of people don't
25 understand, especially about boys, there's two things

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1 that stick out to me.

2 Number one, a lot of our Black boys, our
3 Black children are going to school hungry. Are going
4 to school hungry, and they are not able to really
5 focus in on their studies. But the other thing is
6 that they are suffering from post-traumatic stress
7 syndrome. We think that ailment is reserved only for
8 people who are in battles, but we have kids as young
9 as five, six years old, and taking that trauma with
10 them throughout their childhood into adulthood.

11 And we cannot ignore that, and so I just
12 wanted to make sure that I raised that issue up.

13 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you. Dr.
14 Hart, I did want to ask you if you could expound on
15 the issue of mental health, particularly as it
16 pertains to the question that Dr. McIver has. And
17 with the limited amount of mental health resources
18 that are already out there, what does that mean to
19 the situation for Black men and boys? And then I am
20 going to come to Congressman Johnson, and
21 Commissioner Rhodes for our final questions. Dr.
22 Hart?

23 DR. HART: I just wanted to quickly thank
24 you, and lift up that in our schools, and as it
25 relates to health, one of the things that we've

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1 recognized in a number of our communities is that our
2 communities have health deserts, and a number of our
3 schools are in health deserts where our children
4 don't have access. And as Desmond Meade just pointed
5 out, a lot of our students cannot access education
6 because they cannot get beyond the other challenges.
7 Health and other issues being some of those
8 challenges.

9 And I will give you some data, the first
10 of which is that a number of our schools have begun
11 to lift health clinics to provide supports to our
12 kids. Because they recognize that those supports, and
13 those services, again, are in need. The challenge is
14 funding them. In D.C., for example during the
15 pandemic, when the vaccines rolled out for the
16 pandemic.

17 In Washington D.C. for children 5 to 17
18 years old, when those vaccines were available, in
19 Northwest D.C., which is a far more affluent part of
20 D.C., the vaccination rate for children 5 to 17 was
21 75 percent, 65 percent in other wards. In southeast
22 D.C., in the wards that are majority Black, the
23 vaccination rates were around 20 to 25 percent.

24 What happened because of that, is because
25 of the CDC quarantine policies around exposure to

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1 COVID-19, those quarantines for kids who were in
2 African American communities, and this occurred
3 across the country, in Cleveland, in other cities
4 across the country, those students were quarantined
5 for longer periods of time because they did not have
6 access to the same healthcare as their peers. But
7 once they received the vaccine, their quarantine
8 periods began to decline, ten days initially down to
9 five days eventually.

10 But the amount of time that they missed
11 from school, and instruction was significantly
12 higher. That is just one example, but that example
13 plays out as it relates to health, mental health,
14 trauma, and PTSD, and other challenges that our
15 students face when they come to school every day. So,
16 lifting the health supports that our kids need is
17 vital to keeping them in school.

18 And then also in trying to prevent some
19 of these outcomes that we see later in life. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you,
22 Panelists. Congressman Johnson.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you,
24 Representative Horsford. I wanted to talk about the
25 fact that the war on drugs, which began under Richard

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1 Nixon in 1971, which is documented to have been a
2 political tactic, this war on drugs, which pitted
3 White fear against Black people, has been an abysmal
4 failure both in America, and to the south of our
5 borders. This war on drugs has criminalized what is
6 a public health issue: addiction.

7 I think you will find that most of the
8 people who are arrested in this country, have either
9 alcohol, or drugs in their system. So, there is
10 something to examine how we have and are currently
11 treated this scourge of substance abuse that plagues
12 America. When White folks tend to fall into substance
13 abuse, exhibit A: being the opioid epidemic that
14 ravaged the rural countryside in America.

15 Then, seeped into the suburban, and urban
16 communities, was treated as a public health issue,
17 opposed to being a criminal justice issue. But when
18 the crack cocaine epidemic ravaged the inner cities
19 of America's Black communities, it was managed as a
20 criminal justice issue, and in fact the penalties for
21 possessing crack cocaine, the disparity between
22 sentencing was 100 to 1 between cocaine and crack
23 cocaine, which contained just a speck of actual
24 cocaine.

25 And so, this criminalization of drug

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1 usage and addiction needs to end, and the nation needs
2 to shift its focus and resources into education and
3 drug treatment. And in that way, we would take the
4 brunt of the drug war off the Black and brown
5 communities of this country, and restore health to
6 the entire nation, because we are, as brother Desmond
7 talked, treating folks with love and compassion, as
8 opposed to vindictiveness and punishment. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Thank you.
10 Commissioner Rhodes, did you have anything? I saw
11 your hand up earlier.

12 COMMISSIONER RHODES: I did have a
13 question, which was addressed in part by our
14 colleague, Raymond Hart. Good to see you, sir, a
15 stalwart in the education community, one that we are
16 supportive of at the Department of Education. I am
17 Christian Rhodes, senior advisor to the secretary.
18 There was one piece I think kind of pulls some of
19 these issues together, that is important just to call
20 out for the public's purposes, but also something Ray
21 Hart said that I think is worth underscoring.

22 It is the role of the community in
23 setting the conditions in which our young Black men
24 and boys can thrive and succeed. And while the
25 schoolhouse is oftentimes a centerpiece of the

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1 community, likely because of the substantial number
2 of buildings that are within the city, or the
3 community, what happens after -- between 7:30, and
4 3:30 is important, what happens after 3:30 to the
5 next 7:30 a.m. is important as well.

6 And we did not speak a lot about the role
7 of quality youth programming as a preventative
8 measure to ensure that our boys, and youth are
9 afforded the opportunity to reach their fullest
10 potential. And Ray, I know that there is research out
11 there that speaks to the role of community schools,
12 which is an area that I think a number of us are
13 supportive of.

14 But let me get just your thoughts on
15 evidence of which hopeful service community schools
16 or promise neighborhood like activities support kind
17 of the entire child, but also provide a preventative
18 measure as it relates to the criminal justice system.

19 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: I will defer to
20 Dr. Hart. And I also see Attorney Crump is joining
21 us. And related to that legislation is the bill that
22 I know I am leading, and other members of the
23 Congressional Black Caucus around breaking the cycle
24 of violence, and the funding that is identified in
25 the president's budget around both community violence

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1 intervention to stem violence in our community
2 addressing crime.

3 But also funding community-based
4 solutions, including from our faith-based partners,
5 that we know would work, including summer employment
6 for young people, specifically Black men and boys
7 which have higher rates of unemployment. So, Dr.
8 Hart, can you speak to both of those elements? And
9 then Attorney Crump, I am going to come to you.

10 DR. HART: Representative Horsford, I
11 will defer my response to Attorney Crump.

12 CHAIR WILSON: Let us go to -- this is
13 special, he is at a funeral.

14 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Attorney Crump,
15 thank you so much for your dedication. I know you are
16 during yet another unfortunate funeral that you are
17 attending. But we wanted to have your perspective on
18 this panel today, and Chairwoman Wilson worked hard
19 to make sure you were a part of it, so we will bring
20 you into the conversation.

21 MR. CRUMP: Thank you so much. As
22 Representative Wilson knows, we are continually
23 battling on the front line, and my great fraternity
24 brother Representative Hank Johnson, I am here in
25 cold, rainy Michigan with your colleague,

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1 Congresswoman Lawrence. And we are leaving the
2 celebration of the life of Patrick Lyoya, a brother
3 who thought he was escaping a violent situation in
4 Africa to haven here in the United States of America.

5 But again, Representative Wilson, we saw
6 over policing in our community, police using
7 excessive force on unarmed Black people, especially
8 our men, and our boys. Patrick was never convicted of
9 any felony conviction, or anything like that. He was
10 a brother here pursuing the American dream, but this
11 police officer, who is unnamed to this day.

12 He escalated a simple misdemeanor traffic
13 stop, to one of deadly execution with him putting a
14 bullet in the back of Patrick Lyoya's brain while he
15 was unarmed and face down. And you do not have to
16 take Ben Crump's word for it, or Attorney Ben
17 Johnson's word for it. Look at the video for yourself.
18 And I say this, when we talk about the study of
19 violence against Black men and boys in America, you
20 know Congresswoman Wilson, we have been at this a
21 long time since Martin Lee Anderson in 2006.

22 And if we have all these world leaders
23 condemning Russian soldiers for shooting unarmed
24 citizens in the back of the head in Ukraine, then why
25 are they not condemning shooting unarmed Black

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1 citizens in the back of the head in Grand Rapids,
2 Michigan? We must fight for equal justice for our
3 Black men and boys like never before.

4 We thought that after George Floyd,
5 Representative Johnson, that we will see a deterrent,
6 that we will see some of these atrocities slow down.
7 We would not see so many hashtags Mr. Hart, yet I
8 tell you time, and time again we get the calls in the
9 middle of the night, and again there is another just
10 senseless killing of another young Black man and boy.

11 So, I thank you all for your leadership
12 of giving a voice to the voiceless, fighting for these
13 young Black men who do not have a voice, unless you
14 all have the courage to do it.

15 And as I go to the cemetery, I will let
16 the family know, Congresswoman Wilson, that you will
17 add Patrick Lyoya's name to the roll to say that we
18 must protect our Black men and boys and declare that
19 they have an equal opportunity at life, liberty, and
20 the pursuit of happiness.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much,
22 Attorney Crump. Chair Wilson, would you like to say
23 anything on behalf of the Commission?

24 CHAIR WILSON: Yes, I would, thank you so
25 much. And we just applaud your courage, your

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1 perseverance, and everything that you do to keep the
2 subject on the forefront of the national news, so
3 that this work that we're trying to achieve on the
4 Commission of the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
5 is amplified through your actions, and Reverend
6 Sharpton's actions as you carry on the work of what
7 is happening with our Black men and boys.

8 So, we send our condolences to the Lyoya
9 family. Let them know that we are on the case, and we
10 will not stop until we have resolved holding police
11 officers accountable. In cases such as these they
12 should be held responsible, sued, they need to be
13 arrested, and we as a Commission are dedicated to
14 that mission. Thank you so much for joining us today.

15 MR. CRUMP: Thank you, and God bless you.
16 And I apologize, I need to get to the cemetery. And
17 I will let Reverend Al know your message
18 Congresswoman Wilson, thank you.

19 CHAIR WILSON: Thank you so much.

20 COMMISSIONER HORSFORD: Well,
21 Commission, this has been quite an impactful
22 roundtable to say the least. And I want to close by
23 thanking Chair Wilson, and our entire panel for all
24 that they have shared today. I want you to know that
25 we will be taking all your insights that you have

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1 shared today, as well as some of the recommendations,
2 and it will help to inform the work of this Commission
3 going forward.

4 You have educated and helped provide
5 expertise and perspectives to the Commission, and to
6 the viewing public, I might add. We have had this
7 being aired, and this is information that will be
8 acted upon through formal recommendations for
9 legislation, and policy changes at every level, and
10 branch of government.

11 Not just in congress, but through the
12 executive branch, and hopefully through the courts.
13 So, I want to thank all our panel, let us give them
14 a round of applause for their participation today,
15 and to our chair, and all the Commissioners for their
16 engagement, and questions. And Madam Chair, I will
17 turn the meeting back over to you. I understand there
18 is some final business for us to take before we close,
19 thank you.

20 CHAIR WILSON: Thank you so much
21 Secretary Horsford, Commissioner Horsford, and all
22 our panelists for such an outstanding, and engaging
23 discussion. Let us give our commentator, Mr.
24 Horsford, who can join MSNBC as a commentator, let us
25 give him a great, big round of applause, you did an

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1 excellent job, thank you so much, just as I knew you
2 would.

3 **VI. BUSINESS MEETING**

4 CHAIR WILSON: Now we are going to turn
5 our attention to the business portion of the meeting.
6 Due to time constraints, given the roundtable, we
7 will move very quickly through these items.

8 **VI. BUSINESS MEETING**

9 **A. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

10 CHAIR WILSON: The minutes from the
11 Commission's January 2022 meeting is in the meeting
12 packets sent by the program manager. Are there any
13 corrections to the minutes as distributed? If there
14 are no further corrections, may I have a motion to
15 approve the previous meeting minutes?

16 COMMISSIONER MARSHALL: Move approval for
17 the minutes.

18 CHAIR WILSON: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER CLARKE: Second.

20 CHAIR WILSON: The minutes stand approved
21 as distributed.

22 **VI. BUSINESS MEETING**

23 **B. FORMATION OF 2022 ANNUAL REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE**

24 CHAIR WILSON: Today we will vote to
25 approve the appointments of Commission members to the

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1 2022 annual report subcommittee. I have appointed
2 Commissioner Fosten to serve as chair, given his
3 experience drafting comprehensive reports of this
4 kind. The other committee members are Commissioners
5 Marshall, Bowman Jeffries, Clarke, Johnson, and me,
6 and Reverend Sharpton.

7 Program Manager Dr. Williams, and
8 Commission staff will of course pull together the
9 necessary reports, research, and documents for the
10 reports, and transcribe our policy recommendations as
11 we move forward. We will ask Commissioner Fosten to
12 schedule a subcommittee meeting to review the
13 recommended timeline for completion of the report
14 that has been prepared by the Commission staff.

15 Is there a motion to approve the
16 appointments to the annual report subcommittee?

17 COMMISSIONER DILLARD: I move to approve
18 the annual report subcommittee.

19 CHAIR WILSON: Is there a second?

20 COMMISSIONER CLARKE: I second the
21 motion.

22 CHAIR WILSON: All those in favor? The
23 motion carries. For the record, please find in your
24 packet, the program manager's report.

25 **VI. BUSINESS MEETING**

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C. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

CHAIR WILSON: It is my understanding that the job description for additional Commission staff was developed and posted in the budget request for the Commission's FY 23 operation has been submitted. Is that correct, Dr. Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am, which is correct.

CHAIR WILSON: Okay, we will have a fuller discussion of these, and other matters at the next meeting.

VI. BUSINESS MEETING

D. NEW BUSINESS

CHAIR WILSON: Are there any matters, or new business the Commission should bring up this time? Adopted earlier in January, our next quarterly meeting will be on January 8th, 2022. We may schedule a short administrative meeting in the interim, but that meeting will focus on prevention. We are going to have roundtable on prevention, and Dr. McIver, you will be working with healthcare.

All that we can do to prevent all the catastrophic things that happen to Black men and boys, and we will be focusing on education, mentoring, fatherhood, family, children, we will have

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1 some children testifying. And you can question them
2 or have some children from as young as middle school
3 who have come about something with the law, and they
4 will be able to talk to you about what they feel could
5 have helped them not be in that position.

6 So, you will receive an email reminder
7 including all correspondence related to the quarterly
8 meeting from the program manager. In the interim, if
9 you have any questions, please feel free to contact
10 me, or Marvin.

11 **VII. CHAIR COMMENTS/ADJOURN MEETING**

12 CHAIR WILSON: At this time, I would like
13 to thank each, and every one of you for your
14 commitment to this Commission. Remember our mission.
15 If we continue to work with one mind, our work will
16 not be in vain. Thank you so much. This has been an
17 immensely powerful day, here in America and was
18 recorded, and shared. God bless all of you. Thank
19 you. Without objection, I move to adjourn.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Ma'am, this is Marvin, I
21 just have one -- you said January, the next meeting
22 is July 8th ma'am.

23 CHAIR WILSON: Did I say January?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes ma'am, you went too
25 far ahead of us ma'am.

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1 CHAIR WILSON: It is for July, okay,
2 thank you. Meeting adjourned.

3 (Whereupon the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 2:57 p.m.)
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