



THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

A Letter to Mr. Donald Trump

Written by Robert Woodard

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Dear Mr. Trump:

My name is Robert Woodard and I am a Barber in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia. Black people only make up 12 percent of the overall population of this country, yet they have the largest number in the prison population. In your call for African-American votes, you must give them a reason to want to vote for you. First thing I believe that can help you is to realize that an African American is a person, who freely comes to America to become a citizen and once they are a citizen, they are considered immigrants. However, those Blacks whose ancestors arrived on slave ships arrived dead as human beings according to the law. "Being dead on arrival" as human beings, made them "non-immigrants," considered property of their owner. "Chattel Slavery" meant you were looked at as part animal and only 3/5ths of a human being. As a Slave, you were taught to not pick up a book or try to read. If you were caught reading, your punishment was extremely severe. The Slave Masters also refused to allow you to pass on any valuables to your family. Presently, gentrification is taking away wealth from the "children of former slaves" by making it difficult for them to pass on their homes to their children. Real Estate Taxes rise at a highly accelerated level. It's happening in inner cities all around this country. Controlling the acceleration process of Real Estate Taxes is key. Long-term Residents should receive protection from Total Real Estate Value.

There needs to be more of a focus on the damages of Slavery in this nation. Many of the "children of former slaves" living in America today are suffering from an inferior education from public schools. Millions of these public school graduates were pushed onto the next grade and in many cases cannot read, write, spell or even count well enough to fill out an application for a job. However, they have graduated with a diploma as a receipt from their high school for services never truly rendered.

You, Mr. Trump, are a businessman and I know you understand that graduating with a diploma, without the proper scholastic skills, is counterproductive for the community, as well as the graduate from the public school in that community. This is a bad business practice and its results show on our streets, with many crimes and murders, that we continually see in most of our major inner cities; where many undereducated students, without a job or skills to get or keep a job, live. As a result of an inferior education, our prisons have become "musical chairs of recidivism" and the only beneficiaries of this crime is the business of prisons. My question becomes, "Who pays for the crime of the miseducation of millions of Black students who have graduated uneducated and who are now adults, with children on our inner-city streets, who have low self-esteem, emotional issues and nothing to do, all over this country?"

Gun violence is psychological. It gives a person with low self-esteem a false sense of power. This ignites the explosion of much of the violence we see on our inner-city streets. I know it takes a village to correct most problems, Mr. Trump. So, it is going to take all Americans in this nation, working together, to face the fact that the "children of former slaves" in this country got a bad deal. My question as a Black Male is, "What are you going to do about fixing it?"

I, as a citizen of the United States of America, have created a "RACE Test" that may help most Americans see how they as individuals view Race. The "RACE Test" is a 10-minute video of an unscripted conversation between a Professor of Race Relations from La Salle University in Philadelphia and myself. The only question at the beginning of the video and at the end of the "RACE Test" is, "How do you view Race? Is it singular or plural to you?"

Race is a huge issue in this nation. The "RACE Test" will help us as Americans to see the bigger picture, that there is only one Race called "Human", with many cultures and there is only One Color called "Melanin", with many shades.

Please view this 10-minute video of the conversation at www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org, as I believe it can put the average American on the right foot forward, toward a self-analysis on how they as an individual view Race.

Hence, if America is going to truly be "great," it's going to have to start with how we educate not just some of the people, but all of the people.

P.S. Georgetown University has apologized for Slavery and the condition it has left the "children of former slaves" in this country. Mr. Trump, I thank you for bringing to the attention of the world, about how you view the condition of Black America, because the world needs to know that the true condition of the "children of former slaves" living in America today is much worse. I look forward to an apology from the Republican Party as well as the Democratic Party for the damages of Slavery. My question is, "Who will be first to truly apologize? Republican or Democrat?"

Robert L. Woodard, "The Wynnefield Barber"