

# **Al-Malik Farrakhan, Founder, Ex-Prisoner**

The Honorable Al-Malik Farrakhan is the founder and Executive Director of CEASE FIRE... DON'T SMOKE THE BROTHERS, INC. He was born Leroy A. Green to the late Leroy Green and Agatha Green on January 28, 1947 in Washington, DC. In the late 1960's he joined the Nation of Islam under the guidance and leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and soon thereafter became Leroy 8X, then ultimately Al-Malik Farrakhan.

As a young child, Mr. Farrakhan was educated in the Catholic and public school systems of the District of Columbia. However, much of his early education also came from the streets and youth detention facilities. Even then he was a leader and was well respected by those who had the privilege of knowing him. Farrakhan (known then as Leroy Green) was a member of the LeDroit Park junior gang and a leader of the 14th Street Gang. Wherever he lived, Farrakhan took on the position of leader and protector in his communities, something that continues to this day. Unfortunately, his early years were plagued by long periods of incarceration. Those periods ended in 1993 after having spent a total of 21 (youth and adult) years behind the walls of prisons in the belly of the beast. Although the records will reflect otherwise, Farrakhan's fight for social justice was the inducement for activities that were deemed criminal by the unjust social system in power.

During his last incarceration, Farrakhan was unmercifully beaten by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on 10 separate occasions as he tried desperately to end violence between rivaling gangs in and out of the Los Angeles County Jail and to expose the county sheriffs who were active members of the Ku Klux Klan. The last beating on June 6, 1986 left him unable to speak, paralyzed from the neck down for 3 ½ years, and ultimately confined to a wheelchair. It would be a serious understatement to say that Brother Farrakhan knows and understands

the travesties that place our youth of today in a state of disenfranchisement and confusion. He has lived the life, walked the walk and talked the talk. Although much has changed since Farrakhan was a youth, the issues of our youth remain multitudinous and complex, particularly so in the African American community.

Upon his return to Washington, DC in 1993, Mr. Farrakhan found our youth engaged in ongoing attacks on one another which often ended in death. The daily news, whether televised or reported by the residents of our communities continually broadcast and report violence and killings (including the murder of his God Son, Pharaoh "Fady" Hunt, the first recruiter for the organization). As Mr. Farrakhan had done so many times, he determined that it was once again time to take leadership in the effort to bring about peace. Earlier, he had resolved differences between rivaling gangs in New York City and Los Angeles.

As any leader would do, Farrakhan immediately consulted with other leaders and advisors in order to apprise himself of the community's intimate needs. The leaders he consulted were the youth in the streets who lived the life of violence on a daily basis. He canvassed the streets and back alleys, "red light" districts and "hot spots" to find the population of youth at-risk. Farrakhan carried a message of peace and love, convincing many that they were not one another's enemies. He told them that they had the answers within themselves if they truly searched. He showed them, through his good deeds, non-judgmental attitude, open mind, heart and ears of compassion and concern, that somebody cared and was willing to help them to help themselves to make a difference.

He also sought the support of the Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr. who was actively seeking his fourth term as mayor of Washington, DC. Mr. Barry understood the travesties of the fallen, the circumstances that often emanate from substance abuse, the wrongs that are exercised daily through our judicial and penal systems, and the failures of our communities and government elected officials to embrace and support our youth at-risk. Likewise, Mr. Barry recognized and respected the leadership qualities and positive impact that Mr. Farrakhan possessed. The two dynamic forces quickly joined to bring about positive change.

They shared a fiery spirit, a willingness to go the “extra mile,” an “in your face attitude,” and an “old school” value system which embraced the village concept, taught the necessity for unity and group operations, challenged the oppressors “by any means necessary,” and generated a sincere love for their people.

Mr. Farrakhan supported the mayoral campaign efforts of Marion Barry with unprecedented zeal. He was recognized as a “most outstanding Barry supporter,” as he hung 1,500 posters; solicited the votes of hundreds of youth, and ex-offenders (to include those confined in half-way houses and shelters) and their families who had never before voted in any election; co-facilitated the Ex-offenders in Support of Barry Rally and the Persons with Disabilities and Ex-offenders Awards Program for Outstanding Citizens, another Barry supporters’ event; and served tirelessly on the Corrections Transition Team.

Soon after the mayoral inauguration of the Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr., Brother Farrakhan requested the audience and support of the first gang meeting ever to be held in the office of the mayor of any U.S. city. The prayer was that the gangs that accompanied him to the office of Mayor Barry would resolve their differences and vow to stop the Black on Black killing and violence among themselves. That prayer was answered. On February 28, 1995, Al Malik Farrakhan escorted 50 youth at-risk who were the leaders and members of five rivaling gangs to the to the office of Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr. There under Farrakhan’s guidance and with the support of Marion Barry, the youth drew a truce amongst themselves and promised to support the efforts of other groups through the nation who shared in their endeavor to CEASE FIRE...DON’T SMOKE THE BROTHERS!

From that day to the present, the group which we now know as CEASE FIRE...DON’T SMOKE THE BROTHERS, INC has continued to spread its message of peace while saving the lives of other youth at-risk. Their first formal group initiative drew the attention of hundreds as they marched the four quadrants of Washington soliciting the support of other youth at-risk and concerned citizens. Marion Barry, himself, marched through the southeast quadrant with the group.

Mr. Malik, as Brother Farrakhan is affectionately known, has also continued to lead the young people as they persevere in their endeavors to create and maintain a peaceful co-existence for all of our children. Today's event, The Fight for the Fighters Celebration, is yet another example of Al Malik Farrakhan's love for youth and shared commitment to give back to our community. The struggle continues!

In closing, it is my personal prayer that the youth of Washington, DC and the world will appreciate the legacy and dynamic character exemplified in the person of Al Malik Farrakhan. He remains an inspiration to me, my family, our community, persons with disabilities, the convicts within the penal system, ex-offenders, and most of all the population of youth at-risk wherever they may be.

**LONG LIVE THE FIERY KING – BROTHER AL MALIK FARRAKHAN!**

Affectionately written by Lorraine D.H. Al-Mahdi, MHS,  
Assistant Director, CEASE FIRE...DON'T SMOKE THE BROTHERS