

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Citizen who opposed tax for cops has crime solution

To the Editor:

I did not vote for the tax increase to provide additional police officers because of my own personal feelings about how local police officers treat people of color.

I am the parent of a young African-American son who has been pulled over by the police more than once because profiling is very much alive and well here in our community.

My rationale for voting against the tax increase is that additional police officers translate into more African-American males experiencing the same indig-

nity because there will be more officers to engage in this behavior.

If pay increases, it means that we are paying them more to profile, mistreat, and even harass us.

I am further appalled at the notion of increasing the salaries of existing police officers by such an astronomical amount.

Ahead of any binding agreement that will impact on tax payers for long into the future, it seems more prudent for the appropriate officials to ask the question of whether the LVMPD is adequately managing its fiscal, technological and human re-

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sources.

I suggest that the department should demonstrate that it is adequately managing the vast resources that it already has before sticking its hands out. This probably should have been more thoroughly addressed before asking the citizens for a tax rate increase to fund the hiring of additional police officers.

If raises are provided for the existing police force, the

funds have to come from somewhere: revenues from a new tax increase; another type of tax initiative, or diluting and sacrificing existing programs.

I suggest, however, that it may not be necessary to pursue any of these options with this proposal:

It is a common occurrence to see drivers speeding through the red light. Many intersections have cameras

already in place on all four corners. Why are they there? Can they not be used to take photos of these traffic outlaws' license plates as they run these lights?

If the cameras are not operating to perform this function, can they not be modified to do this?

I am not sure of the cost of a ticket for running a traffic light, but let's say that the cost of a fine is \$100.

Based on a conservative estimate of 500 traffic light violators per day captured on camera, at a ticket cost of \$100 each, this would equate to \$50,000 in revenue per day, which equates to ap-

proximately \$18.2 million per year.

This type of system would pay for itself after one year to two years, while providing a strong financial base to fund the proposed raises or the hiring of additional officers (well into the future).

Furthermore, with government and municipal organizations, there are also some possibilities of infrastructure grants at the state and federal levels.

This type of initiative would certainly be worthy of consideration.

Bob Fain
Las Vegas, NV

Statue

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Rights Act into law on Aug. 6 that year. In 2007, significant parts of the act will come up for renewal by Congress, including the clause that requires some states to seek approval from the Justice Department for changes. President Bush, who will still be in office, has not said whether he will support renewal. In a meeting with the Congressional

Black Caucus earlier this year, Bush told Jackson that he knew too little about the act to discuss it at that time.

That was the president's second meeting with the CBC. Civil rights leaders have complained that Bush has refused to discuss issues with heads of any major civil rights organizations.

If nothing else, Jackson said he is proud

that the statue will change the image of the Capitol that thousands of school children and tourists see every day.

A bronze bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was dedicated in the Capitol Rotunda in 1986, but no life size statue of a Black person has been erected in the National Statuary Hall since Congress established the Hall to honor two heroes from each state in 1864.

"That was before the end of the Civil War; it was before the 13th amendment [abolition of slavery] which is 1865; it was before the 14th amendment [equal protection of U.S. citizens] of 1868 and before the 15th amendment [right to vote] of 1870," said Jackson. "So, African-Americans weren't even citizens then... To place her there, it really

speaks volumes as to who Rosa Parks was and about her extraordinary contribution to human rights in this country and in this world."

He adds: "What it's going to do is teach future generations that a single person who believes in human rights can stand up against that system and succeed and actually build a better country for all Americans."

Kerry agrees in a statement urging the Senate to pass the bill: "I think it is important that we ensure that the memory of Rosa Parks is honored by placing a statue of her in the United States Capitol so future generations can understand her monumental efforts for civil rights and know the importance of living by her example, still today."

Professor

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that repeatedly," Gibson said.

Despite her credentials and her base of support, Sirleaf's victory was by no means certain, since she had to compete with 21 other contenders for the office.

But Gibson said he devised a plan that took the length of the race into consideration, and that was the key to her victory.

"It was clear that no candidate was going to win in the first round, so she should have a game plan that covered more than one round," Gibson said. "I told her, 'Don't alienate people who are not with you [initially].' That was the key. She was able to get people who weren't with her from the

beginning. It was about staying very positive and not being negative toward the other candidates.

"What was important to her was to run the race to be a lot of people's first choice but most people's second choice," Gibson added. "Weah didn't understand the length of the race. He ran as a sprinter in a race that was a mile long."

Gibson designed almost every aspect of the campaign, including the posters. Working with longtime associate Joe Yoor of New World Graphics in Baltimore, Gibson designed the look of the 850,000 posters, 20,000 ponchos, 4 million stickers, 300,000 shopping bags, 600 banners and other materials

used in the campaign. He went to China to oversee their reproduction and distribution, as well.

To him, this process was nothing new. Gibson's reputation as a campaign maven began in 1968 when he ran the campaign of Joseph Howard, who was vying for a judicial bench.

Over the years, he ran the campaign of former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke and all his other campaigns; ran the successful campaign of Marc Ravalomanana, who beat out a 23-year incumbent to become the current president of Madagascar; and was the state chairman of the Bill Clinton campaign in 1992.

Zenitha Prince writes for *Afro Newspapers*.

Clingman

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Boycotts called by Blacks also suffer because in many cases some Black "leader" will take some money from White folks to put an end to the boycott. (I wonder if the government of Aruba will offer the governor of Alabama or the talking-head commentators some money; and I wonder if they will take it.)

Compare: one missing White girl. The answer: Boycott the entire island of Aruba until justice is won.

Five dead Black men and economic apartheid? The answer: Boycott Cincinnati until justice is won. It is obvious, as we look back at recent boycotts called by Whites and

Blacks, that White people are definitely more serious about getting what they want than Black people are. And when you add the reasons for boycotts called by both groups, we can also see that White folks understand the economic implications of boycotting a whole lot better than we do.

Just as the people of Ireland boycotted their Boycott—Charles C., that is—maybe Black people should consider boycotting boycotts for a while, until we learn how to conduct and support them properly.

James E. Clingman is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies Department.

Segregation

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to absorb those students."

Berry, who was instrumental in making program uniqueness at HBCUs part of the Office of Civil Rights agreement, said the state's decision was no surprise.

"This has been a problem since desegregation plans were consummated," she said. "States and institutions have [always] tried to find a way around this."

Those continued attempts to use loopholes in the law are a sign of the market-driven nature of higher education, said Raymond Pierce, dean of the School of Law at North Carolina Central University.

"Higher education is becoming increasingly competitive," he said. "State-supported budgets for higher education are becoming tighter, so colleges and universities are picking at each other to see what they can get."

Hauzer, the Alabama A&M official, said in such an environment, Black institutions cannot survive, given the historic and continued inequitable distribution of funds.

"Black schools don't have the same opportunities to make the links and get the levels of contributions like majority institutions," she explained.

"In terms of resources, we are never going to be on the same level as them, so the expectations cannot be the same as long as we face those prejudices."

Hauzer added, "It's still a political issue and it will continue to be a political issue.

The application of the law is determined by who is in power."

Pierce, who ran the OCR office and wrote the legal notice for the Fordice case under the Clinton administration, more pointedly attributed blame to the current Bush White House.

"The current administration is not upholding civil rights laws," he said.

Berry and Pierce said state and federal governments must be held responsible for skirting desegregation mandates.

"If this is allowed to continue, it will keep the predominantly Black schools in a state of not being able to expand their missions and build their programs to ensure their future," Berry said. "The only programs they will have are what everybody else doesn't want."

Pierce went a step further.

"If this is not challenged, the next step is to basically phase out programs at historically Black schools," Pierce said. "The argument would be that we don't need it because there is one at the [proximate White institution]."

Diverting program failure and extinction at HBCUs will take the concerted effort of African-Americans in power, Berry said.

"It's going to take some political clout from African-Americans in the legislature," she said. "Someone is going to have to step up to the plate."

Zenitha Prince writes for *Afro Newspapers*.