

Ten Steps to Destroy the Black Community

 RYAN MACK · THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

Written By Ryan Mack

Thursday, March 28th...I was getting prepared to come on the Karen Hunter show. I always discuss an economic angle and this particular show I was asked to discuss the Trump budget, “A Budget for a Better America”. As I read through the budget proposal, I began to get more and more pissed off. I began to think about having a self-admitted White “Nationalist” in the White House and what that really meant to the Black community. He has already said tons of racist statements such as the following:

- He called Mexican immigrants “rapists” that are “bringing crime” and “bringing drugs” when he launched his campaign.
- He called for a [travel ban of all Muslims](#) and eventually got a watered down version of this racist policy passed.
- He said [Judge Curiel couldn't do his job](#) because he was “Mexican”. Can't get much more racist than that.
- He reportedly claimed that [Haitian people](#) “all have AIDS” and Nigerian people who come to America would never “go back to their huts”.
- Referred to Haiti and Africa nations as “shithole countries”.
- Called out those who protested [racism by kneeling and referred](#) to them as “sons of bitches”.
- Compared people who protested against Nazis to Nazis by saying there were bad actors “[on many sides](#)”.

The list can go on and on so if you would like to see a pretty good list I found one on Vox.com you can check out at your leisure...it's exhaustive and exhausting at the same time! It's the type of read you can't get all the way through without rubbing on your forehead. Check it out by [clicking here](#).

The man is obviously a racist, misogynist, xenophobic, and full of hate...how does this translate into policy? As I read his budget proposals I saw many things that played into destroying Black America. On the subway on the way to the show I started to write out a list of how this budget, along with things already in place, are perfectly designed to make sure they can achieve the following goals.

Goal One: Create a cheap labor force of Black America.

Goal Two: Maximize the exploitation of the youth and adults within the Black community.

Goal Three: Revert as close to slavery conditions as legally possible.

Here are the ten things I came up with on the train that will help destroy Black America... some supported by Trump and most were already in place.

Step One: Take Away All Viable Healthcare Options

Trump's budget is taking away **almost \$2 trillion in** savings by cutting Medicare, Medicaid, and other safety net programs. Obamacare would be repealed and replaced with a conservative **Graham-Cassidy plan** that would allow insurers to discriminate against those with preexisting conditions as well as significantly cut insurance subsidies for low- and middle-income Americans. An estimated 20 million would be dropped from coverage by the repealing of Obamacare.

Contrary to a lot of people who like to spout talking points, but don't know the facts, Obama actually did a significant amount for the Black community by implementing Obamacare. Uninsured Blacks decreased from 24.9% in 2013 to 15.1% in 2016 (for ages 18-64); and Black women received a tremendous amount of benefits. See stats on how the Black community is impacted by [clicking here](#).

This coupled with the already present problem of food deserts in Black communities where you can find plenty of sugar snacks to eat, but hardly any healthy food options creates a perfect storm. I've written about the "**Four Corners of Heart Disease**" in my hood, and I would challenge anybody to see if they can find more stores that sell carrots than stores that sell Twinkies in their hood...it just doesn't exist in large urban cities. If they can keep us losing our feet to diabetes, using the emergency room for medical care, while keeping us pumped with cancer feeding sugar the Black community will continue to operate in a deficit.

Step Two: Flood Communities w/ Alternative Financial Services

Take a walk with me down the street where we can see the purest of the purest exploitation of ignorance.

- The check-cashing store prays you don't learn about repairing your credit and getting a bank account so they can keep taking 1-5% of YOUR money to cash your check.
- The cash advance store prays you don't learn about budgeting your resources so they can keep charging you 200-300% interest rate to borrow money from them. They love those people who are living check to Tuesday.
- The refund anticipation loan prays you don't learn about direct deposit so they can charge you 200-300% interest to get an ESTIMATED tax return.
- The pre-paid debit card prays you don't learn about responsible alternatives like secured cards that can actually establish your credit. They hope you follow Russell Simmons and his Rush Card to the poor house.

- The rent-a-rim store prays you continue to get your values from broke artists on videos so they can charge you more than 30% interest to make your car, that you still don't completely own, look "dope".
- The rent-a-weave shops pray you place more of a value in looking good on your head than having money in your pocket.

We estimated in Detroit that ONE grocery store was earning an ADDITIONAL \$500,000 per year on check cashing fees alone. Many liquor stores have also added these items to their revenue streams because they know they can capitalize off of us. How much does this industry make annually through the exploitation of ignorance...the FDIC estimates that number at [\\$320 billion!!!](#)

In order for this to work the people must demonize what actually works (banks), and embrace what is actually working against them (pawn shops, payday loans, etc.). I did a tour through American Jewelry and Loan. I have to say, they are really a cool group of people. You might have seen them in the TV show "[Hardcore Pawn](#)". I reached out to them because I like to teach where the people need it most, and this shop gets over 1000 people coming through their doors almost daily. They actually agreed to allow me to do some financial education workshops in the store. While touring the store they allowed me to check out their storage unite where they keep their pawned items...it was simply amazing! One example of what I saw was a huge rack of fur coats. There was a trend in Detroit to buy the fur coat in the Fall, wear them in the Winter, pawn them in the Spring, pay fees on them in the Summer, take them back out in the Fall, and the cycle starts all over again...and again...and again. Between the fees they end up paying for the coat multiple times.

There is nothing wrong with being ignorant, but there is something wrong with staying ignorant. Ignorance is a precious commodity and the exploitation of this ignorance in the Black community is critical to its demise.

Step Three: Flood Communities w/ Lottery Gaming

When that man or woman scratches that ticket...the feeling of expectation is what they are buying. For that moment they are scratching they are also thinking of all they could do with that sudden windfall of money. Ahhh...what a great thought! When the Powerball gets big enough the conversations at work are consumed with wishful thinkers. Feelings of euphoria fill the Black community daily as they are being trained to focus more on luck, and less on the skills that God has put inside of them to be successful.

However, when you look at the stats you can see why Ambrose Bierce called the lottery "a tax on people who are bad at math". Check these stats out from the [following site](#):

- Low -income households spend a higher percentage of their income chasing the lottery dream. The average household spends \$162 on lotteries on average. For low-income households the figure is \$289 per year. For those who make less than \$10,000 per year the figure is an astounding \$597! That's almost 6% of their yearly income chasing a dream.
- Poorer zip codes [play the lotto more](#) frequently AND the largest marketing budgets for

lottery games are spent to market towards those in low-income neighborhoods (they are exploiting the lack of hope people!).

- 21% of adults in America believe participating in a lottery is their MOST PRACTICAL way to accumulate \$200,000 in net worth. Among low-income participants, 38% believed the same!
- The average \$1 spent gets you \$0.55 in return. I don't know where it's a good investment to spend \$1 and get back \$0.45 less than what you spent.
- Blacks spend FIVE times more on lotto tickets than Whites.

You will notice that in many stores in Black communities nowadays that sell lotto tickets AND have a check cashing services...THEY ARE BUNDLING POVERTY SERVICES...HOW CONVENIENT!!

Step Four: Increase Incarceration Rates (The New Jim Crow)

If you haven't read the book "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander...STOP...SHAME ON YOU...go buy and read it! This book was by far the clearest breakdown of stats that demonstrate the mass incarceration tendency in Black America. Below are just a few stats from this great book:

- We imprison more people **than any other country**
- The U.S. has over 2.4 million behind bars, **an increase of over 500%** in the past thirty years
- We have 5% of the world's population; **25% of its prisoners**
- People of color represents **60% of people in cages**
- **One in eight** black men in their twenties are locked up on any given day
- 75% of people in state prison for drug conviction are people of color although blacks and whites see and use drugs at roughly the same rate. **In NYS, 94% of those imprisoned for a drug offense are people of color.**

Here are a few stats from the [NAACP site](#) that will piss you off:

- In the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 17 million whites and 4 million African Americans reported having used an illicit drug within the last month.
- African Americans and whites use drugs at similar rates, but the imprisonment rate of African Americans for drug charges is almost 6 times that of whites.
- African Americans represent 12.5% of illicit drug users, but 29% of those arrested for drug offenses and 33% of those incarcerated in state facilities for drug offenses.
- See [more here](#).

A part of the reason Travis, Trinity, and I put together the “[Stop and Frisk Handbook](#)” was because there was a disproportionate amount of people of color being pulled over and arrested for doing nothing but standing. People with arrest records will have a harder time getting employment, families (the strongest foundation of the community) are broken daily by this industrialized prison system, and yet we have another obstacle for the Black community to overcome.

Step Five: Import Drugs and Guns Into Black Communities

Drugs are amongst the largest debilitating factors of any community. If you can get the people addicted to a substance that can most certainly keep them impoverished. If you are going to destroy the Black community you will do what it takes to get them addicted to some of the most addictive drugs made by man. [See here...](#)

Then, just in case those drugs start getting used by the White community, they will make the [penalties less harsh in the White](#) communities than the Black communities. Whites get a party, a slap on the wrist, and a good time; Blacks get prison.

Step Six: Increase Presence of Liquor Stores

If you take a walk down the street in any community, the evidence of how people feel about the community is clearly demonstrated on the types of products being sold in the community. We can complain about the high quantity of liquor stores, but business owners are simply target marketing based upon demographic research in that community. Let's look at my hometown Detroit which is 82.7% Black. According to Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies, of the 1130 liquor license holders, 60% (683) of them were located in areas where the poverty rates ranged between 25.1% and 50%. Throughout the entire city of Detroit, there were 205 liquor license holders in areas where poverty was less than 25%. When you see a liquor store on the corner, know they have done their research of the habits, poverty levels, and crime in the community. Detroit's crime rate was 2,122.9 per 100,000 residents compared to 454.4 per 100,000 in all of Michigan according to the [Federal Bureau of Investigations](#). Hence you will see the addition of bulletproof glass to the store. They might perceive us as a risk to do business with, but the money they make exploiting our bad habits makes the risk worth taking.

I've been to ALL of the largest urban cities in the USA, and the one thing I never found a shortage of seeing were liquor stores. What better way to let the poor Black people escape from their reality than keeping them drunk? When you are drunk, you forget about your worries and concerns...for the moment. When you are drunk, you get to escape from your current reality...until you sober up and come back to reality. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) publishes that nearly one-quarter of all public substance abuse treatment admissions in 2008 were African Americans...much of that is due to alcoholism. Check out that stat and other stats that result from alcohol abuse in the Black community across America by [clicking here](#).

Step Seven: Legalize Weed, Keep the Profits, & Keep Blacks in Prison That Sold Weed While Illegal

As we celebrate another state making weed legal, I can't help but wonder, "That seemed to be a bit too easy!" Here are my concerns:

1. What about the Black people the locked up for selling it? Since it is now legal do we really trust them to clear the records of those who are now in prison? There are already states where [lawmakers fell short](#).
2. There weren't any laws passed that made the urine test illegal for employers. Now that it is legal how can those, especially in low-income communities, get jobs that require them to pass a urine test?
3. As much as the Black community needs to be focused, the last thing we need right now is another drug that makes us lose focus.
4. With the [high racial wealth gap](#), Whites having at least 10x the net worth of Blacks, Black business owners are far less likely to get loans and have the funds to overcome the high costs to get into the business. If we are going to do this, we MUST focus on this component so we can at least capitalize on this industry and not just get exploited by it.

Step Eight: Dismantle Public Education

The core of any economic advancement in any community is education. If you can dismantle education you can almost certainly crush the economic viability of the community.

Trump is [calling for a \\$7.1 billion \(12%\) reduction](#) in funding to the Department of Education. This is the third straight year Trump has asked to cut spending on education. However, the deeper story was his appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education who is part of a family that has a long history of seeking to privatize education. Here is a great report that gives some good data on the movement to private education if you [click here](#).

Black communities need a strong public education system to remain viable. There are a few reasons that I believe charter schools and privatization of education as a whole are harmful to the Black community:

- Charter schools don't have the same level of accountability as public schools in many districts across the country. As of today thirteen states don't even have [conflict-of-interest requirements](#) between charter school board members and service providers.
- There really isn't a mechanism, in many urban cities, which can stop a charter school from opening up their doors, siphoning money from the state, siphoning the best students from other schools, and then closing their doors in a few years due to poor performance leaving the students and parents high and dry (Charter schools have not statistically performed better than public schools).
- When the public school, which has much more regulation than your average charter school in many urban districts, has to close its doors you create school deserts. Many students in

Black communities are finding themselves having to travel over an hour just to get to school. There are two strong reasons families move to a community...low crime and good education. Inadequate education is best way to stop new entrants from coming into a community.

We have many scenarios where the public schools in urban cities are left with the lowest performing students, the most troubled students, the least amount of funding due to student flight (due to the per-pupil grant system in many states), stressed out teachers, and a lack of funds to adequately resource the school. I believe this is by design because many see Black youth as exploitable commodities to make a mint off of; if the charter school closes it can leave the district with a heavy pocket to hit another Black school district "cash cow".

Step Nine: Perpetuate Division

This step we do to ourselves, but I have to believe those who mean to oppress the Black community smile when it happens. The struggle the Black community faces, if we are to over simplify the situation, is simply:

The Community Vs. Those w/ Money

- Those w/ Money have the advantage of...MONEY! They can buy what they want and UNLESS THE PEOPLE ORGANIZE can't be stopped. They can claim things like imminent domain and when the people have a protest against it, they always win because A PROTEST WILL ALWAYS LOSE TO A PLAN!

- The Community has a distinct advantage of...PEOPLE! They have more people and can use local political/economic organizing to empower the populous with a movement that favors the majority over the financially favored few. However, we always find a way to mess it up don't we? You know how we do...here are some of the things we will do to divide the people.

- o If you are comparing your activism to that of another because you think you are the best activist in the world...you are a part of the divisive problem.

- o If you find yourself not talking about issues, but demonizing someone else in the Black community because you would rather talk gossip than empowerment...you are a part of the divisive problem.

- o If you find yourself discrediting youth because you feel they are too young and they haven't done enough to appease your ego...you are a part of the divisive problem.

- o If you find yourself discrediting the elders who have come before you because you feel they are out of date, old, and you think they just don't know how it is anymore...you are a part of the divisive problem.

- o If you think someone is too rich to participate in the discussion and they are out of touch simply because they are successful... you are a part of the divisive problem.

- o If you think someone is too poor and their lack of success is clear because they have yet to

clear the ladders of success you have climbed... you are a part of the divisive problem.

o If all you can do is criticize the efforts of others from your laptop or phone and don't do anything but do heavy posting on social media... you are a part of the divisive problem.

o If you don't like someone because they are from a particular part of the city (West Side, East Side, North Side, South Side, etc.)...you are a part of the divisive problem.

o If you demonize people who disagree with you on trivial issues, but still are in line with you on the ultimate goal but might just have a different opinion of how to get there... you are a part of the divisive problem.

o If you have a hard time trusting someone new and are always looking for a way to distrust people who are new to the community or looking to get involved for the first time...you are a part of the divisive problem.

o If you always choose antagonism over progress because you need to have an enemy more than you need to see the people move forward... you are a part of the divisive problem.

In Matthew 12:25 Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand." I wish the Black community would heed these words. The ONLY currency the community has is UNITY...if we give that up we lose...every time!

Step Ten: Increase Skepticism of Economics and Politics

The coup de grâce...when you can get the people to begin to doubt the very systems that can remove them from oppression.

There is a growing movement of people in the Black communities who believe voting doesn't matter. They say things like, "There is no difference between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump." The lack of enthusiasm for national politics rolls down to local politics and they refuse to participate in local elections as well. I know many who marched with me for Black Lives Matter causes, but refused to vote in local elections...even though they had the ability to elect local judges who can enforce the notion that Black Lives Matter with their more fair and just rulings. This MUST change! We MUST participate in national AND local elections!

There is a growing movement of people who refuse to identify with capitalism, but don't have any effective means to empower themselves economically. I actually believe capitalism and socialism can and should coexist, but to give money like a socialist you must first earn it like a capitalist. My mentor Andrew Young stated, "The very definition of slavery is living in a capitalistic system and not knowing the rules." We MUST learn and implement the rules in our communities for the sake of our local economies. We can't circulate the Black dollar effectively if we aren't 1) creating businesses to circulate our dollar to and 2) managing our money more efficiently by saving more, producing more, and consuming less/smarter. The enemy isn't capitalism...the enemy is greed.

Those who mean to oppress the Black community like White Nationalists want to leave us ignorant, high, divided, hopeless, uneducated, and consequently impoverished. They want Black people fighting for \$15/hour pay at McDonalds. Why? The more time we spend fighting for \$15/hour pay at McDonalds the less time we are spending on fighting to improve the intellect of the populous, which will create more engineers, who can design the computers that will eventually replace the \$15/hour cashiers. The good news? ALL of this can be fixed; ALL of this can be changed; and ALL of this is not etched in stone. The work begins RIGHT NOW; by recognizing the problem and realizing we ALL have the capability to be a part of the solution!

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