



January 23, 2008

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES:

WHAT ARE YOUR PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS ISSUES
IMPACTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES?

Dear Candidates:

During the past few weeks, indeed the past few months, much political rhetoric has been expressed by each presidential candidate. A major part of the political debates has focused on the war, the economy, immigration, taxes, the environment, and health care. Clearly, all of these issues are important to every American, including African-American males. For political candidates, these topics engender voter interest and ultimately votes.

African-American males, however, are concerned with other major pressing issues which are being totally ignored or only discussed in a superficial manner. Indeed, the political candidates have engaged in very little political discourse on the deplorable status of African-American males in this country - who have in large numbers become invisible or marginalized.

Issues such as the mass incarceration of African-American males, the failure of public schools to educate African-American males, the high unemployment rate among African-American male workers, the disproportionate number of African-American males who are homeless, a juvenile justice system which houses African-American male youth for prisons, voter disenfranchisement, and the alarming rate of homicide of African-American males in the black community are just a few of the realities that negatively impact the social and economic status of African-American males in this country.

To that end, what are your positions on these issues? If elected President of this country, what proposals and initiatives do you plan to implement to adequately address these issues?

Unfortunately, African-American males are neither influential in the political landscape nor collectively able to employ lobbyists to put those issues before the candidates. It is hoped that as a political candidate, you will take the initiative and have a meaningful conversation regarding these issues. Moreover, we all await your proposals and ideas addressing these important, yet currently ignored issues.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Floyd Weatherspoon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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