

## ~~INTRODUCTION~~

The Black and Latino Policy Institute (B&LPI) commends the African American Coalition of Indianapolis (AACI) for its effort to propose a much needed Black Agenda for Indianapolis.

We also recognize the coalition's efforts to raise funds to publish updated reports. This analysis, with recommendations, is a response to requests for additional input from the Black community.

Due to our international experiences regarding similar matters, here are comments on issues about community violence, as well as education.

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Over the past 10 years, B&LPI has presented on the topic of community violence, and education, during international conferences in Sydney, Sao Paulo, Vancouver, Caguas, Tel Aviv, Seoul, London (2011 & 2013), Pretoria (2014 & 2018), and Rotterdam.

**As the former director of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, I support the proposal to start an Indianapolis Commission for African American Males.**

Through our conversations with mainly educators, students, and youth advocates we propose the following additions to the Black Agenda published in the May 15, 2020 edition of the *Recorder*.

“I woke up in the middle of the night screaming from a dream. This had never happened to me before. I was running in downtown Indianapolis through a park filled with war memorials and tombstones, giant obelisks and monuments to the dead, and a small man stood on the marble steps, his face covered by a hood and he told me to turn around, but I did not.”

~ Transcript from Caller #12, *The Manufactured History of Indianapolis*, J. Reeves

“For a span of my memory [Indianapolis] has been a city of opposing wills, two faces firmly set toward different directions—one covertly determined to maintain the status quo, to continually block any access to power, or to parity; the other advocating an active morality and its right to inclusion as an equal entity rather than a colonized one. This has been a city of perpetual confrontation, however cloaked, between the powerless and those who influence, control, and engineer the city's movement in the inexorable and often ruthless march toward ‘greatness’...” ~ Mari Evans, *Clarity as Concept*

“The city [Indianapolis] shows us the things we want to see while we ignore the things you cannot face. In this way the city becomes a fractured mirror.”

~ Axes & Mirrors, *The Manufactured History of Indianapolis*, J. Reeves

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