

Elmer, Linda

From: Owczarski, Jim
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 8:32 AM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: FW: Testimony from Paul Mozina regarding Steering and Rules Committee Item #1 190098 actions towards achieving racial equality

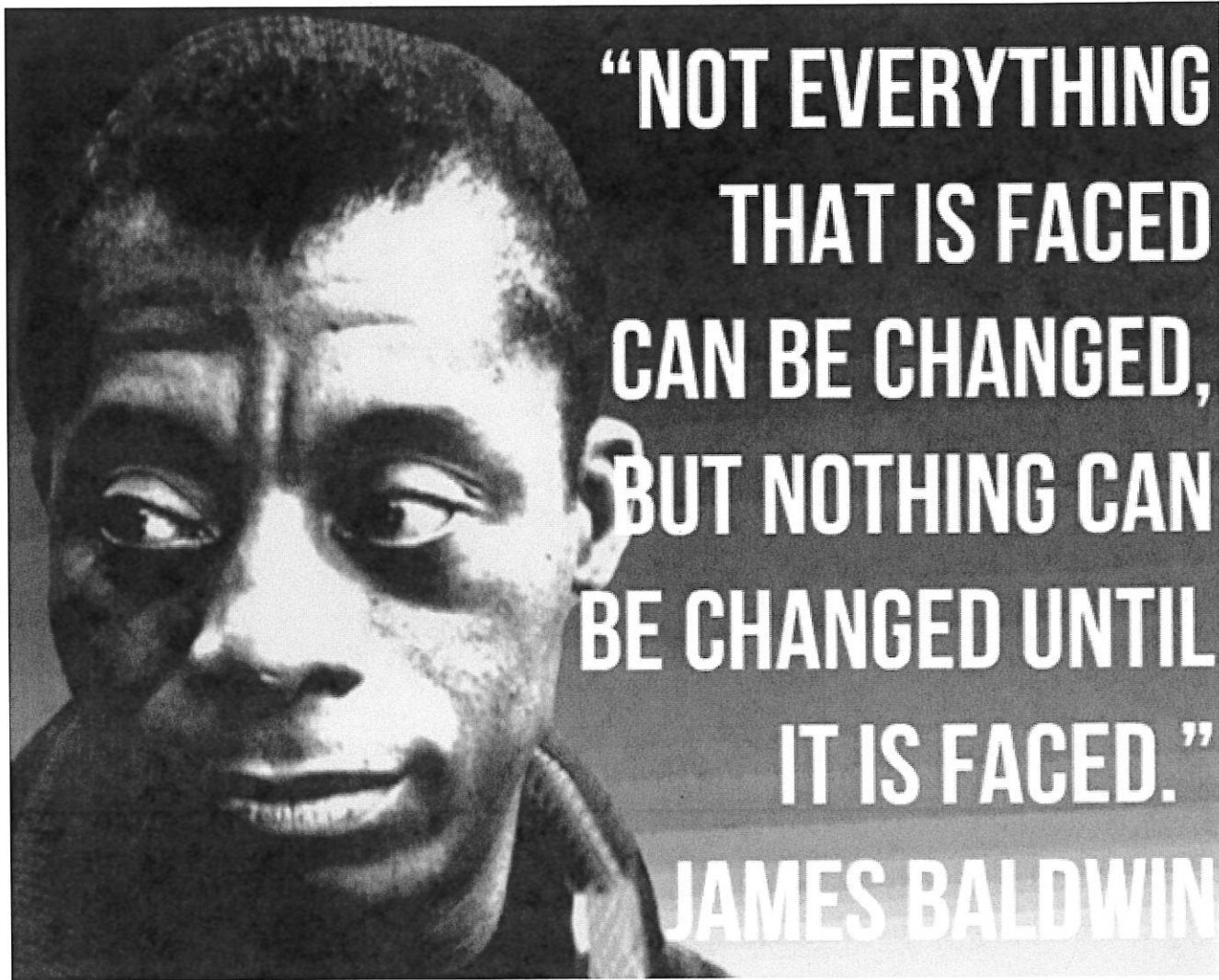
For the file, I believe.

Jim

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From: Paul [mailto:paulmozina@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 7:41 AM
To: Stamper II, Russell; Donovan, Robert; Coggs, Milele; Perez, Jose; Borkowski, Mark; Rainey, Khalif; Bauman, Robert; Hamilton, Ashanti; Murphy, Michael (Alderman); Kovac, Nik; chez.ordonez@live.com; Robinson, Sharon; Kowalik, Jeanette; Zielinski, Tony; Johnson, Cavalier; Lewis, Chantia; Dodd, Nikiya
Cc: Fears, Sakuri; Miller, Todd; Cervantes, Amanda; Lemmer, Jodi; Johnson, Dorothy; Dantzler, Akuwa; Morton, Sherman; Doherty, Patricia; Moore, Deborah; Kenney, Kailyn; Prochaska, S L; Murillo, Maribel; Peterson, Todd; Ellzey, Dameon; Owczarski, Jim
Subject: Testimony from Paul Mozina regarding Steering and Rules Committee Item #1 190098 actions towards achieving racial equality

Dear Alders and City Leaders,



I asked President Hamilton if I could make a public comment at yesterday's Steering and Rules Committee meeting regarding:

1. 190098 Resolution committing the City of Milwaukee to take actions towards achieving racial equality, and transforming the systems and institutions of racism that impact the health and well-being of the community.

...but, it didn't work out. I do have a powerful testimony to give and beg your indulgence. This is what I would have said...

I am 62 years old and started reading the newspaper when I was very young. I made a scrapbook with all of the cool articles about intoxicating substances that were being debated, mystified, criminalized and romanticized. I watched the War on Drugs unfold and started my personal explorations with alcohol and tobacco stolen from my friends parents beginning around age 7-8. By the time I was 15 I was smoking cannabis and trying whatever forbidden substance I could get my hands on. I confess that I highly valued exploring alternate states of consciousness.

I watched the War on Drugs heat up and had many encounters with the police before I turned 18. But thanks to White Privilege, and the fact that I was running wild in the suburbs and had both of my parents there to stand up for me and bail me out of trouble, I miraculously escaped my teen years without a felony conviction. If I had grown up in District 15, or District 6 or District 7, I would surely have been caught up in the juvenile justice

system and most likely would have acquired a felony record. My life would have turned out completely differently. I would never have gotten the plum job at Northwestern Mutual, the Pension or the 401k. **This is what White Privilege means to me.**

And this is why you see me hanging around the Common Council: I want y'all to stop participating in implementing the War on Drugs. I want y'all to recognize the role you play in perpetuating the institutionalized racism that is abundantly manifested in the War on Drugs. Thanks to White Privilege I escaped, but I have a bad case of survivors guilt. I have watched with a broken heart how my black and brown brothers and sisters have been unfairly targeted by the Drug War. Like the existence of racism itself, the the disproportionate effect of the War on Drugs on black and brown people is too obvious to ignore or waste time debating. For **three generations now** the War on Drugs and the mass incarceration, violence and crime that accompany it have exerted a crushing force on people of color.

When it comes to: “transforming the systems and institutions of racism that impact the health and well-being of the community”, the War on Drugs is the Elephant in the Room. You can go back to the British forcing Opium on the Chinese that lead to the Opium Wars, to the role that Heroin played in the politics of China after World War II, to the role heroin played in the politics of the Vietnam war, especially Nixon's documented, explicit targeting, of the Black Power movement and anti-war protesters, to the Iran/Contra/Cocaine nexus that led to the crack cocaine explosion, and lastly to the cynical way the U.S. partnered with the opium growers in Afghanistan to “defeat” the Taliban. Time after time we see the hypocrisy of the U.S. War on Drugs. Is there any debate or doubt that the U.S. government has been systematically targeting people of color in its prosecution of the Drug War while at the same time using the trade in illegal substances as a political tool when it suits its purposes? Did I forget to mention Big Pharma pushing opioids?

I talked to the Director Robinson and President Hamilton after the meeting yesterday and expressed my concern that any attempt to achieve racial equality and transform systems and institutions of racism that does not address the War on Drugs will miss the mark. I have been carefully observing both the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County government with an eye to identifying how the collateral damage from the drug war affects departments, budgets and real people. Here is a partial list:

- Drug War related homicides and shootings and the trauma that accompanies it (as documented by Mallory O'Brien's Homicide Review Commission)
- Mobile Drug dealing and reckless driving
- Crime in general (because of artificially high prices for illegal substances)
- Drug addiction fueled prostitution and human trafficking
- Overdoses from adulterated substances
- Increased HIV and Hepatitis C
- Mass Incarceration, which has ripple effects in employment, housing, education, child care, mental health
- The huge expense of police, courts, jails, supervision etc... that accompany the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act.
- The destruction of respect between the people and law enforcement (If you want the laws to be respected, make them respectable)

The War on Drugs is a trauma producing engine.

The philosophic underpinnings for my stance are most eloquently expressed by Lysander Spooner in his essay “Vices Are Not Crimes” <https://mises.org/library/vices-are-not-crimes>

The War on Drugs is one of the tools used by the White Supremacists (yes, I know -- strong language) who control the systems and institutions y'all want to change. And y'all are participating. It is your votes and acquiescence in enforcing the Controlled Substances Act and using the taxes you collect from the people to

enslave them. You may protest that the Controlled Substances Act is the law and you are duty bound to enforce it. Well, the Fugitive Slave Act was the law and Supreme Court decided that Dred Scott was not a citizen... We are living in a time when the Natural, Inherent and Inalienable Human Rights we all possess have been supplanted by a "Might Makes Right", "Majority Rules" form of tyranny institutionalized and by the White Supremacists who founded this country and dominate the courts and the halls of power TO THIS DAY.

I will be offering you a companion resolution that compliments CC File no. 190098 for your consideration that acknowledges the role the War on Drugs plays in perpetuating racial injustice and inequality and the need for y'all to work for the legislative and policy changes needed to reestablish justice in the realm of a **Human Being's Right to Choose**.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Paul Mozina
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