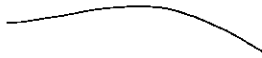


The Black Male Achievement Advisory Council

Meeting of Monday, March 30, 2015
Milwaukee City Hall

**Compilation of Recent Announcements and Remarks by
Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. on the
My Brother's Keeper Initiative and Related Programs**



Santelle, James (USAWIE)

From: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO) <USDOJ-Office.of.Public.Affairs@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:00 AM
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ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER DELIVERS REMARKS ON MY BROTHER'S KEEPER AT THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Remarks as prepared for delivery

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Neera [Tanden], for that kind introduction. It's a pleasure to be here with you today, and a privilege to join so many passionate citizens, committed public servants and dedicated advocates as we mark the one-year anniversary of the president's groundbreaking My Brother's Keeper initiative. There is no place I would rather be in my closing days as Attorney General than with all of you. Or, at least, these should be my closing days. Given the Senate's delays in scheduling Loretta Lynch's nomination for a vote, it's almost as if the Republicans in Congress have discovered a new fondness for me. Where was all this affection the last six years?

But seriously, it's fitting that one of my final events as Attorney General will be about My Brother's Keeper because it speaks to issues that have been at the forefront of my work and at the center of my thoughts throughout my professional career.

During my time as a judge on the Superior Court in Washington, D.C., I saw how people who were convicted of crimes too often had been previously trapped in a cycle of poverty, familial instability, juvenile criminality and adult incarceration. I observed how this cycle could weaken communities, tear already weak family structures apart and ultimately destroy individual lives. And day after day, I watched lines of young people—most often young men of color—stream through my courtroom. I began to recognize their faces, and to recall their too-common and recurring stories, because too many of the people I sentenced served their time, were released from prison, and sooner or later returned to the same behavior that had led them to my courtroom in the first place.

Many of these individuals were not fundamentally different from me, or from the people I grew up with in East Elmhurst, in Queens, New York City—friends, classmates, neighbors and peers—some of whom didn't catch the same breaks, made mistakes or poor choices, and got involved in the criminal justice system with no real ability to reclaim their lives or recast their futures. So when I returned to the Department of Justice, I

insisted on doing my part to make our criminal justice system more efficient, more effective and more fair—as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, as Deputy Attorney General and, for the last six years, as Attorney General of the United States.

During my tenure in the Obama Administration, particularly through the Smart on Crime initiative, we have worked to reform our criminal justice system at every level. Our primary responsibility—which we have never lost sight of—is public safety and individual accountability. But we have reduced our reliance on draconian mandatory minimum sentencing, increased our use of rehabilitation programs like drug courts and veterans courts, and expanded assistance for formerly incarcerated individuals as they re-enter society.

These are important improvements, and all available results demonstrate that our approach has been extremely effective. But in addition to modifying the way we charge, sentence and release men and women who are involved in crimes, we also have a vital role to play in preventing people from coming into contact with the criminal justice system in the first place. That means ending the school-to-prison pipeline that sends too many children on a well-worn path from the schoolhouse to the jailhouse. It means employing a developmentally-informed approach to prevent violence against children and to alleviate the devastating harm that comes from abuse. And it means addressing persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color through initiatives like My Brother's Keeper and ensuring that all our young people can reach their full potential.

The fundamental idea behind this initiative is that every child in America should have the opportunity to grow, to succeed, and to contribute to their community and their country. Because it is clear that, despite our best efforts, some children still face significant opportunity gaps that put them at a disadvantage—that make them less likely to graduate from high school; less likely to get a well-paying job; and less likely to join the middle class. It makes them more likely to slip below the poverty line, or to stay there; more likely to suffer violence and abuse; and more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.

The My Brother's Keeper initiative is designed to support the progress of these individuals—with mentorships, with support networks and with public-private partnerships that help our young people develop the skills they need to find a good job, to go to college, to raise a family and to succeed. Most importantly, on a fundamental level, My Brother's Keeper sends a message that these young people matter to us. They matter to their country. They matter to their president. And they matter to me—an Attorney General who is so much like them. We as a nation will never give up on them—and we must refuse to let them give up on themselves.

Over the last year, we have made significant progress. We have joined with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations that are taking steps to connect young people to the resources they need to get a good education, to improve their lives and to work their way into the middle class. We have launched the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge—an important call for communities to implement long-term strategies for improving the life outcomes of all young people. And we have established the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice—a nationwide program designed to enhance procedural justice, reduce implicit bias and support racial reconciliation.

Just last week, I was proud to announce six cities selected to serve as pilot sites under this initiative—to develop programs that will work to dispel the mistrust that plagues too many neighborhoods, and to create innovative new efforts that will help build and maintain the bonds between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, wherever those bonds have been broken. Those six cities—Birmingham, Alabama; Stockton, California; Gary, Indiana; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Fort Worth, Texas—will stand on the front lines of this effort. And by helping to develop programs that serve their own diverse experiences, these cities will provide trailblazing insight and essential information for our ongoing efforts to confront pressing, similar issues in other communities across the country.

As you know, these are not abstract concepts—they are vital steps that we must take to improve our communities, to strengthen our public safety programs and to save lives. Recently, we've received painful reminders about the importance of initiatives like this one. We've endured sudden, rancorous challenges to the idea that we are one united people. And we've seen how quickly and how easily a split-second local incident can give way to enduring national strife and tragedy—to parents who are left without their children; to young people forever deprived of a role model; to brave officers killed while serving their communities; and to citizens across the country who fear walking their neighborhoods and cops who fear patrolling their beats.

That is a reality that is incompatible with the spirit of this country—a country founded on the notion of brotherhood; of shared vision and common effort. A country that views “we the people” as a declaration of the inextricable links that connect us to one another. As then-State Senator Obama said in a convention hall in Boston just over a decade ago, “it is that fundamental belief—I am my brother’s keeper, I am my sister’s keeper—that makes this country work.”

Now, our society has not always lived up to that promise. America has been sorely tested—by long-ago injustices that nearly split our Union, and by systemic biases that still fester in too many institutions today. But over nearly 250 years of debate, of argument and of slow and deliberate progress, there can be no doubt that we have moved closer to our highest ideals; that we have advanced toward a brighter horizon; and that we have bent the arc of the moral universe—haltingly, but with great determination and clarity of purpose—toward justice.

From revolution to emancipation; from the suffragists to the Freedom Riders; from Selma to Stonewall, countless men, women and children of strong character and enduring faith have pulled this country forward, toward a new day when all Americans can succeed no matter who they are, no matter what they look like, no matter where they're from, and no matter whom they love—whether they are rich or poor, young or old, gay or straight, famous or unknown. Whether they are an individual born with all the advantages this country has to offer, or a young man of color faced with difficult choices and an uncertain future. We're not there yet. But today—right now—it is up to all of us to take up that challenge, to continue that effort and to resume the march that so many have sacrificed so much to advance.

I know that this work will not always be simple. Longstanding inequities will not be easily corrected, historic divides will not be healed overnight, and leaders in government, no matter how committed, cannot do this work alone. That is why the private partnerships being forged in response to My Brother's Keeper are so crucial, and why I have been proud to work with—and in some cases, to help establish—extraordinary nonprofit organizations that extend a hand to at-risk youth across the country—organizations like the See Forever Foundation, Safe Shores, and The Alliance for Concerned Men.

In conversations with public safety officers, community and business leaders, activists, and young people across the country—in Atlanta, Cleveland, Memphis, Chicago, Philadelphia, Oakland, and San Francisco—I have found broad agreement that we can work together to create safer, more prosperous communities. I have encountered an overriding desire to collaborate toward that end. And I have been struck not by our divisions, but by our common interest in creating the more just society that all Americans deserve.

As I look around this room today—at the dedicated citizens who have a hand in this country's direction and the young people who will guide it for years to come—I cannot help being optimistic. I cannot help anticipating that brighter day. And I cannot help feeling confident about all that we will achieve together.

In the coming days, my tenure as Attorney General of the United States will come to an end. But whenever I do depart the Obama Administration, I will never leave this work. I will never abandon this mission. And I will never relinquish this effort to help build the more equal country—and the more just

society—that all Americans deserve. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as we seek to make our Union more perfect.

Santelle, James (USAWIE)

From: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO) <USDOJ-Office.of.Public.Affairs@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 9:26 AM
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ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE NATIONAL CONVENING

Remarks as prepared for delivery

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Taj [Atkinson], for that kind introduction – and for the commitment you've shown to ensuring that Central High School in Newark is the kind of place where you and your classmates can learn, grow, and thrive.

I applaud you for striving to build fellowship and trust among law enforcement and the youth in your community. And I want to thank you for serving as an inspiring role model for other students at your school – and far beyond.

It is a pleasure to help welcome you to our nation's capital this morning.

And it's a privilege to join this distinguished group of community leaders, private sector partners, and honored guests, for today's working session – as we advance the President's groundbreaking My Brother's Keeper initiative; as we share insights and exchange ideas about common challenges; and as we seek ways to leverage the considerable expertise of the stakeholders in this room to strengthen the work we must do – together – across the nation.

Your enthusiasm for progress, your insistence on advancement, and your eagerness to strengthen your individual communities are precisely the qualities that My Brother's Keeper – and the Community Challenge in particular – hope to cultivate in both leaders and young people throughout the country. And I am proud to see these qualities reflected in abundance here at the White House today.

That's why it's such an honor for me to join the President, my good friends Valerie Jarrett and Broderick Johnson – and so many of our colleagues from throughout the Administration – in thanking you, personally, for the hard work that you and your communities are already doing. By answering the call to action, accepting the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, and taking concrete steps to bring public and private

leaders together to chart the next steps forward, each of the cities you represent has already stepped to the forefront of a growing, national movement.

As we move forward, these ongoing efforts – and your involvement in them – will be absolutely essential in securing the outcomes we seek. Our continued progress must be driven not just by leaders here in Washington – though we are firmly dedicated to supporting you any way we can – but by entire communities coming together to take ownership of unique challenges, and to implement locally-tailored solutions.

My Brother's Keeper can *only* make a positive difference, and drive necessary change, with the support and dedication of passionate, engaged citizens like each of you. And it's clear, as we approach the first anniversary of this initiative – and as we gather today to drive our efforts into the future – that your leadership has never been more vital.

As you know as well as anyone, the promise – and the great potential – of the work we're doing through My Brother's Keeper lies in its tremendous power to strengthen communities that are too often divided. One of the key components of this initiative is building and maintaining relationships of trust between law enforcement officers and the citizens that these brave men and women are sworn to serve and protect.

Especially in recent months, with the heart-rending tragedies our country has witnessed, we've seen long-simmering divides, and deep distrust, rise to the surface of our national consciousness. And these terrible incidents have opened a profoundly important national conversation.

We know that these issues and tensions are not confined to any particular city or geographic region.

They are American issues, implicating concerns about the fairness and effectiveness of our criminal justice system as a whole. And they demand a constructive and inclusive national response. That's why, over the last couple of months, I have been traveling throughout the country to convene a series of roundtable discussions – in Atlanta, in Cleveland, and in Memphis; in Chicago, in Philadelphia, and most recently in Oakland and San Francisco – to engage with Americans from all backgrounds and perspectives.

I have spoken with police officers, elected officials, and young people; with faith leaders, civil rights advocates, concerned citizens, and many others. I've often been moved by the stories they've shared. And I've been struck not only by the commonalities that have emerged – in terms of shared values, and the common desire for safer neighborhoods and reduced violence directed at law enforcement – but also by a consistent drumbeat of concern about the future.

By worries about the opportunity gaps faced by far too many people throughout the nation – and by boys and young men of color in particular. And by the obstacles and disadvantages that these individuals, and often entire communities, can encounter from a very early age.

Clearly, our comprehensive response to these challenges must begin in the classroom – with efforts to ensure that our educational system is a doorway to opportunity, rather than a point of entry to our criminal justice system. Too often, so-called zero-tolerance policies, however well intentioned, make students feel unwelcome in their own schools.

And they can have significant and lasting negative effects on the long-term well-being of our young people, increasing their likelihood of future contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

That's why supportive school discipline efforts have been a priority for the Administration since President Obama took office. They have been a consistent focus for the Department of Justice – as well as our colleagues at the Department of Education, under the leadership of Secretary Arne Duncan – over the past six

years. And this work was significantly strengthened, and expanded, when the President launched My Brother's Keeper last year in order to help bridge persistent gaps and widen the circle of opportunity – so that *all* of America's young people can have the chance to reach their full potential.

Since then, the Obama Administration has joined with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations that are taking steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find a good job – or go to college – and work their way into the middle class. We have been doing important work on a variety of fronts to bring President Obama's vision, and the initiative's goals, closer to reality. And we've placed an increasing reliance on the leadership that people like you are uniquely situated to provide.

In September, as you know, the President took this collaboration to a new level when he issued the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge – a call for cities, counties, and tribal nations to implement coherent “cradle to college and career” strategies for improving the life outcomes of *all* young people – regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they were born.

As leaders who have accepted this Community Challenge, I know you've all been busy helping to spearhead locally-tailored strategies for improving the likelihood that at-risk young people will be able to graduate from school, find good jobs, and stay safe from violent crime.

Also, last September, acting on an announcement I made back in April – months before the events of Ferguson and New York City captured the nation's attention – I launched a new National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. This initiative comprises a wide range of multi-faceted approaches for resolving longstanding tensions in communities where mistrust has been exposed.

And it is helping us to forge and reinforce relationships between our courageous law enforcement officers and area residents – by investing in evidence-based strategies for combating distrust and hostility; by helping to provide training for police and community members on bias reduction and procedural fairness; and by driving new research and development of state-of-the-art policing practices.

After meeting with community leaders and taking a close look at the challenges being faced in neighborhoods across the country, as part of this National Initiative – in March – we expect to announce several pilot sites where new and innovative strategies will be implemented – and rigorously tested. We'll also launch an online clearinghouse where communities can get information and resources on building trust in the criminal justice system. And as this work unfolds, we intend for it to complement, and to be informed by, the efforts that all of you are leading – as well as our ongoing commitment to building a stronger and fairer criminal justice system across the board.

It's important to note that *none* of these reforms are directed at individual police officers *themselves*, who perform their dangerous jobs with valor each and every day.

Like the Justice Department's “Smart on Crime” initiative, to reform the federal criminal justice system – and the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which will provide strong, national direction to the law enforcement profession on a scale not seen since the Johnson Administration – this work is aimed at strengthening procedures and institutions. And our hope is that it will improve both outcomes and public confidence – while allowing law enforcement to operate with maximum safety, effectiveness, fairness, and trust, in every case and circumstance.

Like you, I'm here today because I believe our collective efforts show significant promise.

And they have the potential to make a real difference in the lives, and the futures, of countless Americans. Going forward, the success of these efforts will depend on the deep experience, the committed leadership, and the public-minded spirit of local and private partners alike. Your continued involvement will be

vital if we are to empower our young people to lift themselves to greater success, to bolster the ties between disparate communities, and to strengthen our neighborhoods from coast to coast.

Of course, this work will not always be easy. Deep divides and historic inequities will not be erased overnight. But as I look around this auditorium today, I see good reason for optimism and confidence that – by standing and working together – we will continue to build trust and promote opportunity while decreasing crime and violence.

We will continue to achieve progress in fostering the ambitions – and securing the futures – of young Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life. And through the dedication, the tenacity, and the sheer passion of everyone here, we will continue to bring about the changes that *all* of our citizens, including bright, driven young people like Taj, need and deserve.

I want to thank you all, once again, for your leadership – and your partnership – in these important efforts. I am both honored and humbled to count you as colleagues. And although my tenure as Attorney General will soon draw to a close – and my individual path will take me in a new direction – I will *never* stop working to achieve the goals we share.

I look forward to all that we will do and accomplish together in the months and years ahead. And I urge you all to keep up the great work.

Santelle, James (USAWIE)

From: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO) <USDOJ-Office.of.Public.Affairs@usdoj.gov>
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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER
SUMMIT CLOSING SESSION**
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Thank you, Mayor [A.C.] Wharton – and thank you all for being here today. It's a privilege to join you in convening this important summit – to discuss and advance the groundbreaking My Brother's Keeper initiative. And it's a particular pleasure to do so here in the great city of Memphis – a city whose history is bound up in the work we gather to continue, and whose future will be written by the leaders, and especially the young people, in this crowd.

Over the centuries, Memphis has undergone a remarkable series of transformations – from a hub in the immoral slave trade, helping to fuel a 19th-century economy founded on oppression and built on the backs of those our nation held in chains; to a diverse, inclusive, and thriving urban center – known for its legendary music; vibrant, wonderful culture – and even better barbecue.

The Memphis of today is in some ways barely recognizable as the city it was just a few short decades ago – near the height of the Civil Rights Movement – when the struggle for equality played out in the streets and in national headlines. Yet the scars of this struggle, and the lingering impacts of legal and institutional discrimination, remain all around us. Over the years, the changes we've seen in Memphis have mirrored the ones that have swept across the nation – tearing down barriers and affirming the equality of all men and women. And all of this progress has come thanks to the power of engaged citizens like you, the promise of America's founding documents, and the passion of leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Like so many cities across the American South – from Selma, to Greensboro, to Birmingham; from Tuscaloosa, to Atlanta, to Meridian – Memphis is home to a number of historic sites of great importance to the Civil Rights Era. It was here, in 1968, that sanitation workers went on strike to call for higher wages – and to protest discrimination and dangerous working conditions. It was here, at the Mason Temple not far from where we now stand, that Dr. King famously declared that “[s]omething is happening in Memphis; something is happening with our world.” It was in that very same speech that he told us he had been to the mountaintop and had seen the Promised Land. And it was here, of course – the very next day, at the Lorraine Motel that's now a

museum to the cause he championed, and the work we all must continue – that Dr. King was taken from us, far before his time.

In the decades since then, this city – and our nation – have taken extraordinary steps forward along the road to civil rights and equal justice. Let me be very clear: to discount this progress would be a grave disservice to those who peacefully marched, and organized, and sacrificed so much to make it possible. Yet it's equally true, as we gather today, that the work that these generations have left to us – of forging a more inclusive future and building a more perfect Union – is far from over. A great deal remains to be done. And as we speak – once again – something is happening in Memphis. Something is happening with our world.

In recent months, with the tragic deaths of Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner, in New York City, we've seen the beginning of important national reflection and conversation. These incidents have brought long-simmering divides to the surface. They have sparked widespread public demonstrations. And they have focused a spotlight on the rifts that can develop between police officials and the citizens they are entrusted to serve and protect.

None of these concerns are limited to any one city, state, or geographic region. They are American issues that are truly national in scope. They demand a constructive response from our entire country. And, at their core, they are far larger than just the police and the community – implicating concerns about the fairness of our justice system as a whole, and the persistent opportunity gaps faced by far too many people throughout the nation – and by boys and young men of color in particular.

I know you heard from President Obama, via video message, earlier today. And I want to join him in expressing my gratitude – and admiration – for all that Memphis has done to assume a mantle of leadership befitting your unique history. Since the President launched his My Brother's Keeper initiative, in February – to address opportunity gaps and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential – the Obama Administration has been relying on leaders like you to help make a difference. We have been joining with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations that are taking steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find a good job – or go to college – and work their way into the middle class. And we've been encouraged by the great work that you're doing – under Mayor Wharton's leadership – to improve education, employment, healthcare, and justice. To help advance the work of our groundbreaking Defending Childhood Initiative and National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. To expand mentoring and leverage new partnerships to increase access to post-secondary education. And to take up the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge – an important call for communities to implement coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategies for improving the life outcomes of all young people – regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born.

All of this is vital, commendable, and extremely promising work. It has the potential to make a real difference in the lives, and the futures, of countless Americans. And as we gather this afternoon to advance it, to address concerns raised by peaceful protesters, and to rebuild trust where it has been eroded – I believe we also need to broaden both our focus and our impact. Make no mistake: out of the tragedies of the past few months and weeks comes an opportunity for this great nation that we must not – as we have too often in the past – squander. Our needed conversation must result in concrete action.

Last August, with these goals in mind, I launched a new “Smart on Crime” initiative to help strengthen communities, to improve public safety, and to make America's criminal justice system more effective – and more equitable. Our actions under this initiative are born of the crucial recognition that growing both tougher and smarter on crime means investing in innovations; striving for more just and more equal outcomes; and rejecting any policy or practice that has the potential to undermine sound law enforcement – or erode the sense of trust that must always exist between police officials and the citizens they serve.

As the My Brother's Keeper Task Force reported to the President last May – months before events in Ferguson captured headlines – we need to do more to strengthen the relationships between law enforcement and their communities. America's law enforcement leaders must ensure that every community can see that we are firmly committed to the impartial and aggressive enforcement of our laws – and the unbiased protection of everyone in this country. Bonds that have been broken must be restored. And bonds that never existed must now be created – because this is the fundamental promise that lies at the core of who we are, what we do, and what so many brave law enforcement officers sacrifice so much, every day, to achieve.

This is why I've been traveling around the country, in recent days and over the coming weeks and months, to meet with law enforcement, faith, and community leaders to strengthen our dialogue about cooperation and mutual trust. I'm pleased to note that we're holding the latest in this series of meetings later today, here in Memphis. And I want to emphasize that our shared dedication to integrity, equal justice, and the highest standards of fair and effective policing has always been at the heart of the Justice Department's efforts in every sector – and in every city and town – that our work touches.

This is the dedication that drove me, shortly after taking office as Attorney General, to order an extensive review of the Justice Department's Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies – a directive that was issued by the previous Administration in 2003. This guidance expressly prohibited federal agents from using race as a factor in their investigations unless they encountered specific, credible information that made race relevant to a particular case. But it did not prohibit the consideration of factors such as national origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. And it broadly exempted investigations and operations that implicated America's national security – an unduly expansive exemption that was the subject of legitimate criticism.

As Attorney General, I have repeatedly made clear that racial profiling by law enforcement is not only wrong, it is misguided and ineffective – because it can mistakenly focus investigative efforts, waste precious resources, and, ultimately, undermine the public trust. Like some of you, this is something I experienced, as a younger man, in a deeply personal way. I will never forget the frustration I felt at being pulled over twice, and my car searched, on the New Jersey Turnpike, even though I'm sure I wasn't speeding. Or the humiliation of being stopped by a police officer while simply running to a catch a movie – at night, in Georgetown, in Washington, D.C. – even though I was a federal prosecutor at the time.

These experiences bear out what research has consistently found: that, when those who come into contact with law enforcement feel that they are treated fairly, and that official actions are both appropriate and warranted, they are more likely to accept decisions by the authorities. They are more likely to obey the law. And they're more likely to cooperate with law enforcement in the future – even if they disagree with specific outcomes. This is especially true in communities where crime challenges are at their most acute – and where interactions with police officials are too often characterized by discord and distress. And that's why it is incumbent upon Justice Department leaders and others in law enforcement at every level to help bridge this divide – because trust in the system and compliance with the law must begin not with the fear of arrest, or even the threat of incarceration, but with respect for the institutions that guide our democracy – and for the laws, policies, and courageous men and women who keep us safe.

Over the past five years, we scrupulously reviewed the 2003 Guidance with an eye toward ensuring that all federal agents can fulfill their core law enforcement, public safety, and national security responsibilities with maximum legitimacy, accountability, and transparency. I am here to report that this review has reached its conclusion. And we have determined that – although the department's 2003 Use of Race Guidance prohibited racial profiling in a broad sense – it is time for us to do even more.

It's time to expand upon the safeguards that are currently in place. It's time to institute new protections for those who come into contact with federal authorities. And it's time to bring enhanced training, oversight,

and accountability to this process – so that anyone responsible for isolated incidents of profiling can be held responsible, and singular acts of discrimination do not tarnish the exemplary work that’s performed by the overwhelming majority of America’s federal law enforcement officials each and every day.

Particularly in light of the recent incidents we’ve seen at the local level – and the widespread concerns, about trust in the criminal justice process, that so many have raised throughout the nation – it’s imperative that we take every possible action to ensure strong and sound policing practices. We must instill the absolute highest standards of professionalism and integrity. And that’s why – yesterday – I announced new Guidance that will supersede the directive issued in 2003, and will apply to all federal law enforcement agents conducting law enforcement activities, including when those activities relate to national security and intelligence.

This new Guidance will expand prohibited profiling criteria by explicitly banning profiling based not only on race – but also, for the very first time, on gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It will apply the same uniform standard to all investigations, national security operations, and intelligence activities conducted by federal law enforcement. It will govern the actions of every single FBI, DEA, and ATF agent; every U.S. Marshal, and every other federal law enforcement agent conducting law enforcement activities, including state and local law enforcement officers assigned to federal task forces. And it will include training, oversight, and accountability measures to ensure that all federal law enforcement activities and operations reflect our commitment to keeping the nation safe while upholding our most sacred values and the rights of all communities and individuals.

This constitutes a major and important step forward to ensure effective policing by federal authorities throughout the nation. It will institutionalize clear and critical strategies that are already in place in the field – and are currently enabling us to protect the safety of our nation and maintain the trust of our citizens. And it codifies positive policies and practices that are now being observed by the FBI, ATF, DEA, and U.S. Marshals Service.

Today, I urge state and local law enforcement agencies to look to this new federal guidance as a model – and to develop their own rigorous policies along similar lines. This will promote sound law enforcement techniques. It will help to move us toward the ultimate goal of ending racial profiling, once and for all. And it will enable every American to have greater confidence in the mechanisms in place to hold their government accountable; to work in concert with law enforcement to secure their communities; and to make public safety not only an obligation for those who have sworn to serve – but a promise that’s fulfilled by citizens and public servants side by side.

Throughout the country, my colleagues and I are taking meaningful steps to make good on this promise – and to expand our ability to protect and empower all of our citizens. In meetings with law enforcement and community leaders – like the ones I’ve convened in Atlanta, Cleveland, and soon Memphis – we’re opening new lines of communication and cooperation. Through the efforts of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division – which has opened more than 20 investigations into police departments across the country in the last five fiscal years – we’re striving to correct unconstitutional policing practices.

In conjunction with the President’s recent policy announcements – reforming the way the federal government equips state and local law enforcement, particularly with military-style equipment; investing in the use of body cameras and promoting proven community policing initiatives; and engaging law enforcement and community leaders to reduce crime while building public trust – I’m confident that all of these efforts will help to move us forward. And I can think of no better place to renew our shared commitment to this work than right here in Memphis.

Following today’s summit, I will visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King’s room is preserved just as it was on the night he lost his life. He knew, when he arrived here – on

April 3, 1968 – that threats had been made against him. He spoke frankly about these threats, and about his own mortality, in the Mason Temple speech that was to be his last. He acknowledged, at the age of just 39, that his life might soon come to a violent end. Yet his optimism did not waver. His dedication to nonviolence, and adherence to nonaggression, did not wane. And his unshakeable faith – in the Divine, in the promise of what this nation could become, and especially in his fellow citizens – remained stronger than ever.

Dr. King believed – as we believe – in the need for mutual respect, and the power of nonviolent, collective action. He recognized that nonviolence is the single best path to bring about enduring change. He once wrote that promoting nonviolence – and love – is the only way to “cut off the chain of hate.” And he called us all to remember that “the aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness.”

Today, in this moment of challenge – and far too much bitterness – let us reclaim these timeless principles. In this age of division, let us once more reach for peace. In this hour of darkness, let us live by Dr. King’s shining example. And in this time of trial, and great consequence, let us remember the assurance of his last public speech: that the power to achieve transformational progress lies within us – because, in his immortal words, “. . . somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so just as I say we aren’t going to let dogs or water hoses turn us around, we aren’t going to let any injunction turn us around. We are going on. We need all of you.”

As we take up this work anew; as we address the challenges now before us; and as we meet the great struggles of our time, I want you to know that we will continue to “need all of you” – in cities like Memphis – to keep pushing us forward. We will keep relying on you to honor the history of progress that lives in hallowed places across this city, as in so many others. And we will never stop working – with optimism, with commitment, and without delay – to build renewed trust and forge that more perfect Union – that beloved community – that remains our common pursuit. To keep walking, together, toward the Promised Land. And to do everything in our power to ensure that – in every case, in every circumstance, and in every community – justice is done.

Thank you.