

Supporting Education and Public Safety Reform

WHEREAS, educational achievement is absolutely necessary for our children to achieve the American dream and have the opportunity to succeed in life; and

WHEREAS, 4 out of 5 African American students do not read at proficient levels by the 4th grade; and

WHEREAS, 2 out of 3 African American students do not perform at proficient levels in 8th grade math; and

WHEREAS, among elementary and middle school children, African Americans represent the lowest scoring group taking the National Assessment for Education Progress; and

WHEREAS, African American students are three and a half times more likely to be suspended from school and twice as more likely to not graduate from high school in comparison to Caucasian students; and

WHEREAS, African American males make up only 5% of the college student population, but approximately 35% of the prison population; and

WHEREAS, recidivism and other discriminatory policies have led to the disproportionate overrepresentation of African American males in our nation's prison systems as well as a lack of adequate representation in our nation's high performing schools; and

WHEREAS, African American males are 9 times as more likely to be incarcerated than Caucasian males and African American females are nearly 5 times as more likely to be imprisoned than Caucasian females; and

WHEREAS, the My Brother's Keeper initiative advocates for the support of city-based and state-level policies to achieve the following goals:

- Ensuring that all children enter grade school prepared on a cognitive, physical, social and emotional level;
- Ensuring that all children read at grade level by the 3rd grade;
- Ensuring that all youth graduate from high school;
- Ensuring that all youth complete post-secondary education or training;
- Ensuring that all youth out of school are employed; and
- Ensuring that all youth remain safe from violent crime.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Corporation to adopt K-12 education reform and public safety reform as platform issues for the Corporation in 2015; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Corporation to assist in the coordination of national, state, and local initiatives designed specifically to further progress My Brother's Keeper work by the Corporation's members as designed to improve educational outcomes for African American students and to increase public safety for young African Americans.