

# LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD™



*A Quarterly Publication*

## Let the Truth Be Told

*A Mission Statement Indicating What Let the Truth Be Told is All About, the Audience and the Outcome*

**Let the Truth Be Told** is intended to give African Americans the opportunity to speak “truth to power” through a variety of media including, but not limited to, commentary, essays, poems, history and art. These truths may be provided by parents, teachers, students, ministers, historians, and any other citizens who wish to have their truth be heard. This platform aims to transform our words into empowered activism and describes a mobilized African American community which is actively involved in insuring our liberation and our quest for equality in America. This also means energizing our family members, friends, church members and others to get involved in activities which are about shaping a democratic society equally open to all African Americans. More deeply, **Let the Truth Be Told** aims to encourage African Americans to participate as office holders, as well as to become outspoken attendees in town council meetings, general assembly sessions, school board meetings, and to be participants in all public venues. **Let the Truth Be Told** will make it abundantly clear the African American community is not stuck in the “victim mentality” and is quite willing and capable to contribute to all aspects of public service. **Let the Truth Be Told** will demonstrate, boost and illustrate how, as was the case with our ancestors, our demand is not something for nothing. Our quest was, and still is, to be recognized as viable contributors and to have equal rights as human beings. Despite lynching, police brutality and the psychological trauma created by enslavement, African American communities have built successful and profitable businesses, banks, schools and self-sustaining churches and we want/need to continue in these efforts by continuing to work together toward becoming even stronger. We can only become stronger by knowing and passing on the truth.

We are seeking contributors to **Let the Truth Be Told**. We are looking for people of all backgrounds to lend their truth and gain the opportunity for their truth to be heard. We invite you to submit narratives, essays, biographies, poems, art work, etc. Even if you feel you have something to say, but do not believe you write well enough, don't let that stop you. Please submit what you want to say and you will be given support which will lead to your voice being heard. **Let the Truth Be Told!**

### Tenets of Let the Truth Be Told

- To encourage activism
- To encourage participation and involvement
- To inform
- To get the truth out
- To empower
- To energize
- To promote the quest for equality
- To celebrate our successes

**Let The Truth Be Told (TM)** is a quarterly newsletter.

**Let the Truth Be Told** is intended to give African Americans the opportunity to speak “truth to power” through media such as commentary, poems, history and art, among others, which will be provided by parents, teachers, children, ministers, historians, and other citizens. This platform aims to transform our words into empowered activism.

We are seeking contributors to **Let the Truth Be Told**. If you feel you have something to say but do not believe you write well enough, don't let that stop you. Please submit what you want to say and you will be given support which will lead to your voice being heard. Let the Truth Be Told!

Submissions are reviewed by the editorial board and may be edited for brevity and clarification. We regret we cannot return any unsolicited articles, photos or other materials.

## Let The Truth Be Told Editorial Board

- **Toni A. Barrett**
- **Debra A. O'Neal**
- **Dr. Marlene A. Saunders**
- **Sylvester (Syl) Woolford**



Contact us at:

[LetTheTruthBeTold2026@gmail.com](mailto:LetTheTruthBeTold2026@gmail.com)

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# TRUTH TO POWER

*“We must tell the truth until we can no longer bear it” - James Baldwin, 1963*

BY DR. MARLENE A. SAUNDERS

Having read the opening statement describing what “Let the Truth Be Told” is all about, the managing board wants you and our other readers to rely on this publication for informed, relevant and insightful truths regarding African American’s struggle for equality as human beings and American citizens, and for barrier free inclusion in American society. The ultimate goal of “Let The Truth Be Told” is to provide African Americans a variety of eye-opening facts, as well as familiar and fresh perspectives for unraveling and developing approaches which can be adopted by African American citizens in order to achieve the capacity to influence decisions that are made by this country’s major institutions. Under our definition, influence leads to power resulting in political, legal, economic and educational decisions that affirm African Americans as essential to America’s future in remaining a thriving society, while guaranteeing life enhancing rights, privileges and benefits to all citizens.

Upcoming editions will draw from factual American history which will answer several key questions: Why is embracing the U.S. Constitution as a testament of American ideals of justice and equality difficult for so many African Americans? What is the legacy of African Americans’ incomplete status as a person in the 18th century and the group’s economic exploitation during enslavement for African American and white citizens in 21st America? Despite advances made by African Americans in every sector of American life, the has the group remained

at the bottom of nearly every social and economic index of well-being (e.g., health, income, employment, etc.)? Why do recent data indicate African American consumers spend more than \$1 trillion year; nevertheless, the inequality that separates the finances of African Americans and whites is still as wide in 2020 as it was in 1968?

In an article titled “Who Needs the Negro”, Sidney M. Wilhelm and Edwin H. Powell maintained looking at the friction between African Americans and whites as a fight for equality “is too narrow in scope.” They, therefore, raised a question that takes ones thinking in another direction: “Is the fundamental conflict between black and white people?” This question is even more interesting when one considers civil rights legislation which outlawed racial discrimination and legal actions that are available to African Americans to challenge alleged racial discrimination and statistics indicating the steady rise of African Americans in all sectors of American society. Moreover, that African Americans have not done anything to take away from America’s development as a giant in industry, business, science, the arts, sports, etc. is unarguable. So, what is the real issue? What is the root cause of the economic and health disparities in black communities? Is it less need for low-skilled jobs where African Americans are concentrated and underrepresented in skilled positions? “Let The Truth Be Told “will answer these and other questions in upcoming editions. To do so, the publication will not soft-pedal enslavement and structural racism as valid explanations for the inequities that are still glaringly apparent in the socio-economic

## Truth to Power...continued

status of African Americans in the United States. Rather, our articles will utilize analyses of thoughtful people, like our readers, to answers these questions for solutions for true freedom and upward mobility. We will also look to persons like Heather McGhee. In her book, “The Sum of Us...”, she asserted “The truth is we have never had a real democracy in America. The framers of the Constitution...compromised their own ideals from the start. Since then, in the interest of racial subjugation, America has repeatedly attacked its own foundation.”

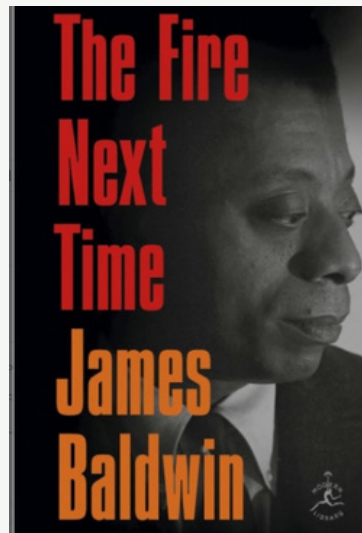
“Let The Truth Be Told” will also introduce readers to the writings of African American advocates for liberation, sociologists, playwrights, and sharecroppers, whose thinking dates back to David Walker’s Appeal (1829), and Fannie Lou Hammer (1964) as well as white scholars like Gunnar Myrdal’s American Dilemma (1944). We certainly cannot overlook DuBois’ genius represented by his prediction of a problem that could lead to the downfall of America, “The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line.”

“Let the Truth Be Told” believes that Kwame Ture (Stockley Carmichael) was right in 1966 when he boldly declared that African Americans are oppressed because they are black. We believe this thinking applies today. In fact, Martin Marger, a respected sociologist, thirty years later observed, “Today, even those African Americans who have attained middle-class status have not been able to reverse the order of their social identity as “black first” and “middle-class” second.”

“Let The Truth Be Told” will certainly answer the big question: How do African Americans continue the march upward

despite race-based barriers that are likely to persist for a long, long time? In the “Fire Next Time”, James Baldwin said, “The only thing white people have that black people need, or should want, is power...”

The next edition of “Let The Truth Be Told” will focus on answering this complex question by examining “The Fire Next Time.” The book is only 106 pages. We encourage you to read it before the April edition.



### References

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- Hamer, F. (1964). *Speech delivered at the Democratic National Convention*
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- Myrdal, G. (1944). *An American Dilemma*. New York: Harper & Brothers.



"Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the earth."

William Faulkner

# Getting HB 198 Passed Is Not the Same as Getting It Implemented

By Syl Woolford

House Bill 198 requires each school district and charter school in Delaware to establish and implement a curriculum on African American history for students in grades K through 12. The history the bill identifies for inclusion aims to educate all students on the experience of Americans of African descent from their arrival in the New World in 1619 to the present. The curriculum will provide students an in-depth, age-appropriate history of the African American experience in the U.S., including the effects of racism (individual, cultural, institutional and structural), prejudice and discrimination. By doing so, HB 198 ensures that students who graduate with a high school diploma have received comprehensive and accurate instruction in African American history.

Governor's Carney's signing of HB 198 in June 2021 marked a major achievement for many African American community leaders and white Delawareans who recognized that substantial segments of African American history were not taught in Delaware's public schools. This was the case when the state's schools were segregated and following the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954. Thus, the need for a comprehensive integration of African American history in Delaware schools spans decades.

HB 198 rose from the ashes to correct a serious disparity in primary and secondary education in Delaware, or did it? As the bill was debated in the Delaware House of Representatives, many community leaders

asked, "Who is responsible for implementation?" The response was, "Each of the nineteen school districts and each individual charter school." "Where is the funding to implement the bill?". The response was, "There is no money." Many community leaders asked, "What penalties will school districts and charter schools bare when directives prescribed by the bill are not met?" The response from education officials was, "We will have to see."

These questions are valid for several reasons. First, It is important to understand that



before HB198 as passed, House Amendment 1 was attached to the bill. This addition states, "The instruction required...is provided through instruction developed or identified by the school district or charter school." In other words, school districts and charter schools can determine the depth and scope of African American history taught to their students. This means that instruction across school districts, throughout the counties, will be uneven, inconsistent and open to gaps in content. Therefore, the individuals who fought hard for HB 198 should be seriously concerned that critical omissions in African American history will remain in social studies curriculum.

Furthermore, a fiscal note committing funding to ensure the bill's implementation is not attached to HB 198. Consequently, no one can realistically expect the bill to achieve its objectives without resources (e.g., experts, paid staff, materials, etc.) necessary to develop, test,

## Getting HB 198 Passed continued

implement and evaluate the curriculum the bill mandates.

Twelve years of experience as a respected researcher and lecturer in the area of African American history does not support the assumption that HB 198 will be implemented as conceived by the legislators who sponsored the bill and the parents, students and community leaders who supported the effort to obtain its passage.

In addition, consider in 2020, CBS News conducted an investigation into the ways African American history is taught in the U.S. Since there are no U.S. social studies standards, the research concentrated on state standards. Among other things, the investigation uncovered that seven states do not mention the enslavement of Africans in America and eight states do not even address the civil rights movement. Some history textbooks designate African Americans as immigrants, classifying them with ethnic groups who came to the U.S. of their own free will.

HB 198 has friends as well as enemies, some of whom are twisting the bill's objectives in negative ways. For instance, during the House debate, Senator Colin Bonini asked, "Will this bill require the teaching of Critical Race Theory?" State Representative Sherry Dorsey-Walker quickly responded, "No.". What is Critical Race Theory? Most community leaders understood that this question was "code talk" deliberately designed to stir up opposition based on the notion that infusing African American history in curricula in substantial ways will destroy America.

**So, how should the African American and white parents, community leaders, politicians, and students who supported HB198 respond to this situation? You must:**

- (1) Hold the Department of Education accountable for the implementation of HB198.
- (2) Make sure your local school district and/or charter school designates an individual responsible for overseeing the development of the curriculum no later than September 15 of each year.
- (3) Push the Department of Education to make sure the requirements for curriculum are implemented during the 2022-2023 academic year.
- (4) Press the Department of Education to answer critical questions regarding funding earmarked for adequate implementation of HB198. If there is some funding, what amount of funding has been appropriated? What amount of additional funding is necessary and what is happening to secure the necessary monies? If there is no funding to ensure curriculum development and implementation, how does the Department of Education really expect the spirit, intent and content the bill represents to be visible in the lessons that are taught to students?
- (5) Hold the Department of Education accountable for the curriculum the bill HB 198 requires. The bill requires age-appropriate instruction about the African Americans who significantly contributed to America. Such content should include advances and discoveries in mathematics, and science that are attributable to those African American women responsible for the calculations that catapulted American astronauts into space. All students, for example, need to know the contributions of George Washington Carver whose development of over 300 products made from peanuts saved the economy of the rural South.

Let the Truth Be Told must emphasize just being "WOKE" will not deliver the African American history children should be taught in Delaware schools. Actions that demand measurable and concrete progress toward full implementation of HB 198 are necessary.

## Getting HB 198 Passed continued

Advocacy and mobilization must include actions that include regularly calling and writing your State Representative and Senator. In similar fashion, write to Governor Carney and send messages to his office expressing your questions, concerns, and expectations regarding HB 198. In this manner, decision makers will know that the supporters of HB198 will not be satisfied until “justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” (MLK, 1963)

We have provided the links to contact information for Delaware Senators and Representatives and the Governor’s office:

### Senate Assembly Members - Delaware State Senators:

<https://legis.delaware.gov/Chambers/Senate/AssemblyMembers>

### House Assembly Members - Delaware State Representatives

<https://legis.delaware.gov/Chambers/House/AssemblyMembers>

### Email Governor Carney - Governor John Carney - State of Delaware

<https://governor.delaware.gov/email-governor-carney/>



**December 8, 2021**  
**6:30-8:00 PM**  
**via Zoom (virtual)**

## AN UPDATE & DISCUSSION ABOUT HB198: NEXT STEPS

### A Panel Discussion Including

- Sherry Dorsey Walker, State Representative, District 3
- Bill Collick, Cape Henlopen Board of Education
- Harold Ingram, Principal, Glasgow High School
- Donya Maull, Teacher, Social Studies, William Penn High School

***Interested in attending?*** Click this link to register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-update-discussion-about-hb198-next-steps-tickets-209025620257>



# Michelle Alexander and the Death of the New Jim Crow

By Syl Woolford

In 2010 Michelle Alexander published the book **“The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness”**. The book was at the top of the best sellers list for 283 weeks, it received many notable literary awards and many acknowledgements from the criminal justice reform movement who had been looking for more attention for their noble cause.

In many book signings, lectures and a “Ted Talk”, Michelle Alexander talked about her awakening to the reality that defending the innocent was not going to fix the injustices within the criminal justice system. She told of how she was transformed to believe that she not only had to defend the innocent, but she had to defend the guilty. She was enlightened to the fact that only by removing the “Felon label” from the resume of too many minority men, could the damage to minority communities be reduced.

Michelle Alexander began to stop talking about reforming the criminal justice system and began talking about a social movement which acknowledged the harm labeling millions of minority men as felons, did to minority communities. They could no vote, they could not hold office, they were disqualified from getting many good jobs, they were denied access to food stamps, they were denied Medicare and they were barred from public housing as tenants or guests.

The **“Dismantling the New Jim Crow Movement”** grew into a national force with chapters all over the country and millions of converts demanding a change to the criminal code and demanding that anyone who had paid for their crime be restored their full unblemished citizenship. There was finally an answer to the question which many had been asking for years. Michelle Alexander reached the point of being a “Rock Star”, a one-eyed woman in the land of the blind and a diva among those who had been talking for years and had gotten nothing done.

What happened to Michelle Alexander?

What happened to the Jim Crow Movement?

In 2016 the country elected a new president. The campaign began in 2015 and was looking like the normal Bush vs Clinton contest. The results were predictable. Hillary Clinton would defeat Jeb Bush and the country would have its first women president. The African-American community loved

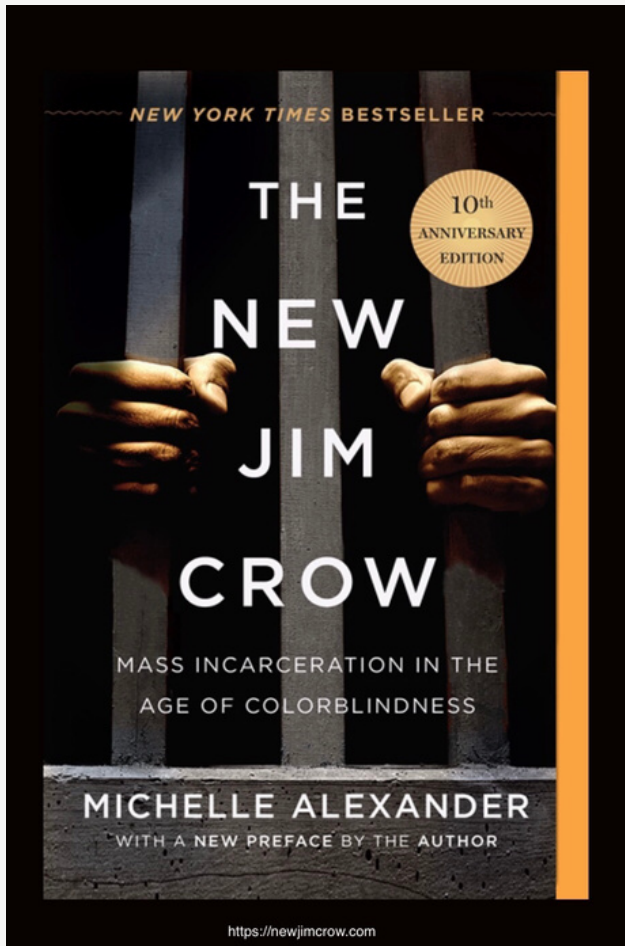


Source: Courtesy of Zocalo Public Square  
<https://thenewjimcrow.com/about-the-author>

the Clintons. Bill Clinton had all ready been labeled “America’s First Black President” and Hillary Clinton was part of the team. The African-American Community could take this election off.

On February 10 of 2016, Michelle Alexander said, “Stop planning the election night celebrations, stop planning the inauguration day parade and hold off on the inaugural speech”. Michelle Alexander wrote an article in “The Nation” which said, “Hillary Clinton doesn’t deserve the Black vote.” Not only did Michele Alexander’s “groupies” fall out of their chairs, but the nation gasped a collective “What?”

As Michelle Alexander has always done, she had her facts straight, she made her words clean and she had her knife sharpened. She ended her article with a crescendo which could be heard around the world. She said, “Hillary Clinton may be surprised to discover that the younger generation no longer wants to play her game. Or maybe not. Maybe we’ll all continue to play along and pretend that we don’t know how it will turn out in the end. Hopefully, one day, we’ll muster the courage to join together in a revolutionary movement with people of all colors who believe that basic human rights and economic,



racial, and gender justice are not unreasonable, pie-in-the-sky goals. After decades of getting played, the sleeping giant just might wake up, stretch its limbs, and tell both parties: Game over. Move aside. It's time to reshuffle this deck."

Michelle Alexander yelled **"Fire"** in a dark, crowded movie theater and all the exits were blocked.

On November 8, 2016 Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States. It was unthinkable to think this could happen in America and unimaginable what harm he could do to the country. Shock, disbelief and fear prettified those who were pro-life, those who still chanted the Hillary slogan "We are Stronger together!" and the criminal justice reform movement could hear its slogans being drowned out by the chant "Locker her up!" The revolution had begun and instead of fighting to reform the criminal justice system, we would spend the next four year trying to take a cop's knee off a Black man's neck. We would spend four years just trying to breathe.

The African American community deserves an apology from Michelle Alexander, we deserve a criminal justice system in which race is not a deciding factory. We deserve leaders who when they lead us on a path of destruction, return to clean up the mess.

**"NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR SILENCE".**

# THERE'S MORE to the Story



## **MARVIN R. ELLISON** **Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer**

Marvin Ellison is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Lowe's Companies Inc., a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company with more than 2,200 stores and approximately 300,000 associates in the United States and Canada.

Marvin has more than 35 years of retail leadership and operational experience within Fortune 500 companies. Prior to joining Lowe's, Marvin served as chairman and CEO of J.C. Penney Co., where he delivered positive sales growth, reduced debt and generated positive adjusted earnings per share.

He has extensive experience in the home improvement industry, having spent 12 years in senior-level operations roles with Home Depot Inc. Most notably he served as executive vice president of U.S. stores from 2008 to 2014, dramatically improving customer service and efficiency across the organization as he oversaw U.S. sales, operations, installation services, tool rental and pro strategic initiatives. Prior to Home Depot, Marvin spent 15 years at Target Corp. in a variety of operational and leadership roles.

Marvin earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from The University of Memphis, where he currently serves on the board of trustees. He also holds an MBA from Emory University. Marvin serves on the board of directors for FedEx Corporation and the Retail Industry Leaders Association.

Marvin's professional and civic leadership has earned him many accolades; most notable are Barron's "Top CEOs" in 2021 and 2020, "2017 Father of the Year" by the National Father's Day Council, Fortune's 2016 "World's Greatest Leaders," and "Corporate Executive of the Year" in 2016 by Black Enterprise.

Marvin and his wife Sharyn are committed to being of service within their faith and communities, primarily through the support of organizations that promote higher education, self-empowerment and excellence for minority youth.

**Source:** <https://corporate.lowes.com/who-we-are/lowes-leadership/executive-leadership/marvin-r-ellison>



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