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Effective
May 1, 2014**

Martin Cleaning Service

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Cleaning
Residential &
Commercial Services**

Minimum Service CHG.

\$45.00

A small distance/travel charge may be applied

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Pre-Spray Traffic Areas

(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only)

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Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area

(Hallway Extra)

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Area/Oriental Rugs:

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Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):

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Heavily Soiled Area:

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(Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

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OPINION

A State of Emergency for Police Reform

Shaping a more just system of justice

BY MARC H. MORIAL

A tragic déjà vu is playing out in communities all across America, particularly in the growingly skeptical streets of black and brown neighborhoods.

Once again, our nation is forced to grapple with fresh accounts of police misconduct in its deadliest incarnation. Once again, the victims are unarmed black men and the perpetrators are the very public servants charged with keeping them—in fact, all of us—safe; it seems only the states and the circumstances change.

On April 4, Walter Scott was driving a Mercedes-Benz with a busted taillight through North Charleston, S. C.. Officer Michael Slager pulled Scott over. Said to be in fear of being arrested, the 50-year-old ran away from the car. A cellphone video shows Officer Slager chasing Scott and shooting at him with his stun gun, when that failed to stop him, he used his gun to fire eight shots at Scott's back, killing him on the

scene.

Weeks later, in a west Baltimore neighborhood, witnesses used cellphone video to capture parts of Freddie Gray's arrest. Police say the 25-year-old was arrested after making eye contact with the police and then running away. Gray can be heard screaming in pain as he's being dragged into a police



van. While the mystery of what happened in the van has yet to be solved, we do know that his encounter with the police left him with serious spinal cord injuries. He died of those injuries a week later.

This unjust treatment of our nation's citizens by law enforcement officials sworn to dispense justice should stir, if not shock, our collective conscious. These heavy-handed, sometimes fatal, police tactics should inspire outcry from all corners of our country—and the world.

But we can't leave our frustrations—and our fight—at the doorstep of outrage. Our challenge is to make the Scotts and Grays of this nation the rarest of exceptions, not the fatal rule. Anger has its place, but it is in action—strategic, comprehensive action—that we will begin to at-

tack the cancer of police misconduct.

In light of the most recent deaths, and our nation's desperate need for solutions during this state of emergency that calls for action, and an action plan, I want to reintroduce the National Urban League's 10-Point Justice Plan for police reform and accountability calling for widespread use of body cameras and dashboard cameras; the implementation of a 21st Century community policing model; the review and revision of police use of deadly force policies and the comprehensive retraining of all police officers.

The other points of the plan support a comprehensive review and strengthening of police hiring standards; the appointment of special prosecutors to investigate police misconduct; mandatory, uniform FBI reporting and an audit of lethal force incidents involving all law enforcement; the creation and audit of a national database of citizen complaints against police; the revision of national police accreditation system for mandatory use by law enforcement to be eligible for federal funds; and a nationwide comprehensive anti-racial profiling law.

The rage that has spilled out onto so many of our streets since the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., last year makes it clear that the issue of police-involved killings is one that will not be easily swept under a rug of unawareness and indifference. When we, as a nation, address the problem of police officers using deadly force, particularly against people in communities of color, we know that we are saving lives—perhaps our own—and shaping a more just system of justice for all.

When officers are held accountable for using excessive force—as they have thankfully been held in the cases of Scott and Gray—we are encouraged and know that change is possible, but our work does not end there.

To deliver on the promise of fair treatment by law enforcement for every American, we citizens, community stakeholders, policy-makers and politicians, must all commit to play our part for the long haul to right the historic wrong of the unequal treatment of people of color by police under the law.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

Mother's Day and the Fight for Immigration

Giving moms and their children hope

BY CECILIA VELASCO

This Mother's Day, I can hug my mother tightly and celebrate with her. I'd like to thank our 40th president for that.

Seriously: As a progressive young Latina from a working-class background, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico without papers, I'm actually thankful for something Ronald Reagan did.

He signed into law legislation that's allowed me to share this special day with my mom every year without the worry of it being our last one together.

My parents legalized their status after Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986. They had green cards by the time I was born four years later and became citizens before I started kindergarten.

That landmark law granted them the right to get driver's licenses, become homeowners, and vote in elections. This, in turn, empowered them to establish their own businesses, make investments, and afford out-of-pocket payments for health insurance.

These changes opened a new world of opportunity not just for them, but also for me and my brother. It gave us a worry-free and "normal" childhood that my friends with undocumented parents who arrived a few years later didn't get.

Unlike those friends and classmates, I never had nightmares about my mom being taken away from me—or of coming home to find her already gone. For people I knew growing up, that wasn't just a nightmare. It was reality.

My worries were of the more stereotypical teen variety: what to wear, how to do my makeup, and whether to swap my latest celebrity crush for another one.

My mom always drove me and my friends to the movies, to the mall, or anywhere we needed to

go, no matter the distance. She reliably carpooled for years of softball and basketball games and supplied the team's snacks.

When I got my license at 17, I didn't need to drive my parents to their jobs, doctors' appointments, and my own school events to reduce their risk of deportation. I would have gladly done it, but unlike my friends whose parents lack papers after living here for years, I didn't need to.

In short, I'm lucky that my parents were present throughout my childhood and adolescence. And I never had to worry that they wouldn't be. This isn't the case for 4.5 million children and young adults who live in fear of seeing their parents deported.

President Barack Obama has tried to provide some relief to these undocumented parents and their citizen or permanent resident children. His program, known as DAPA, wouldn't go as far as Reagan's immigration reform. But by granting applicants a two-year renewable work permit and reprieve from deportation, it would provide them the ability to obtain driver's licenses,

credit cards, better paying jobs, and a shot at a more stable life.

My friends whose parents qualify would no longer have to stay up late to make sure their parents got home safely. They wouldn't have to worry that an unexpected police encounter or parking ticket could lead to the separation of their families. They could say goodbye to their parents before going to school knowing that they'll be there when they get home.

Over 60 percent of Americans support Obama's effort to bring immigrants out of the shadows and give them a chance to fully contribute to this country. But anti-immigrant forces have filed lawsuits to block it, leaving many hardworking American immigrants and their families in limbo.

The courts have the power to break this impasse. This Mother's Day, that would mean giving millions of immigrant moms—and their children—plenty to celebrate.

Cecilia Velasco is the New Mexico Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.