

How To Petition the President at “We The People...”

The First Amendment gives all Americans the right to “petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” So in the age of the Internet, the Obama White House has created a petition website to make it easy to exercise that right. The “We the People...” website:

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

offers a place to post petitions and/or sign them if you agree. Any petition that gets enough support, currently set at 100,000 signatures, will automatically receive an official response. Petitions must be short to meet the website guidelines.

The Skanner News decided to post the following petition:

“Create a Marshall Plan for Black America”

African Americans as a group remain enormously disadvantaged in the United States of America.

The 2010 census showed that the median wealth owned by White families was \$110,000, yet an average Black family owns less than \$5,000.

Black unemployment is generally twice that of Whites. In fact, racial disparities, rooted in America’s shameful history of slavery and discrimination, affect every major economic indicator, as well as health and education outcomes.

America has failed to live up to its promise of equal opportunities for all. This wrong must be put right.

After WWII, the Marshall Plan rebuilt Europe. We call on President Obama to create “Create a Marshall Plan for Black America.”

We ask the president to fund a grassroots economic development plan that will create true equality for all.

Editorial: We the People

By Bernie Foster
Of The Skanner News

We’re thankful for President Obama’s leadership during the Great Recession, and we appreciate what he’s done to make America a better place. Here’s just some

Latino brothers and sisters in supporting immigration reform, and Obama has signaled that will be part of his agenda.

We applaud the president for Obamacare, for rescuing America’s automobile industry, and for the American Recovery Act funds that delivered intensive care to our mortally

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday and President Obama’s inauguration –we’re launching a petition at the White House website, “We The People,” that will ask President Obama to create a Marshall Plan for the Black Community. From there we will have 30 days to gather 100,000 signatures. The Skanner News will post a link to the petition on our website for 30 days –from Jan. 17 to Feb. 15, 2013.

of his best work:

His first achievement was to sign the Lily Ledbetter Act that guarantees equal pay for women.

He moved to stop anti-gay discrimination in the military by ending “Don’t ask Don’t Tell.”

He put a stop to the breaking up of immigrant families and the deportation of thousands of young people who grew up here and are American in every way, except on paper. We stand with our

wounded economy.

Those achievements prevented some misery and poverty for African American families, as they have for every other group of Americans.

But we wonder why the crisis facing America’s Black communities has received almost no attention.

Where are the policies that will reduce

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“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



At Home Forward, we are committed to answering Dr. King’s urgent question. We support participation of minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses on Home Forward projects. Contact us to learn more about what we are doing for others and how you can get involved.

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homeforward
hope. access. potential.
A new name for the Housing Authority of Portland

Celebrating diversity, equity and inclusion



Jean Malary, owner of Affordable Electric

TriMet’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program encourages and supports businesses owned by people of color and women. We are committed to inclusive contracting practices and a workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

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DBE firms*

trimet.org/dbe
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*as of December 10, 2012, currently working on the Portland Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project