



Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

Maryland Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

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Condemnation of Recent Pejorative Statements Regarding the City of Baltimore by the President of the United States

MARYLAND – The Maryland Poor People's Campaign stands united with the citizens of Baltimore in absolute condemnation of the racist and derogatory tweets made by the President of the United States. As a non-partisan, fusion movement of organizations and people committed to fighting against the injustices of systemic racism and poverty, we recognize the rhetoric and coded-language contained in the President's statements.

In the President's recent vituperative attack on Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings, Donald Trump tweeted that "...his Baltimore district is far worse and more dangerous. [Baltimore] is the WORST in the USA. ...very dangerous and filthy place...worst run in the United States...No human being would want to live there." This demeaning rhetoric implies that the inhabitants who live in this "disgusting rat and rodent infested mess" are less than human.

The fact of the matter is that we, the citizens of Baltimore, are human beings. We deserve to have a President who respects our rights to live just as much as any other American city. We deserve to have a leader of the Executive branch of government who looks at the challenges we face and seeks to improve them. Instead, we have a President who consistently seeks ways to stoke racist fears and promote tropes and stereotypes regarding the poor. Our city is one of resilience, creativity, and love. We are a community who, time and time again, has shown the ability to rise above the challenges put before us and will continue to do so.

Three weeks ago, the President decided to hold an impromptu parade in celebration of the independence of our Country. He diverted budgeted taxpayer dollars from the military and

other Federal agencies to pay for this unnecessary charade. To date, the American people have been given no clear number of how much was spent, and this Administration is fearful of Congressman Cumming's Oversight Committee bringing that information to light. But sources estimate that the tab is at least \$5.4 million dollars. That figure does not take into account the \$102 million dollars that the American taxpayer has had to pay for the President to have his frequent golf weekends and take his family on lavish trips (more than any other president in U.S. history).

Instead of the President wasting \$107.4 million on himself, here's what that money could have done for the city of Baltimore:

- 1,967 adults could receive low-income healthcare for TWO years; and
- 390 University students could receive full-tuition scholarships for FOUR years; and
- 1,500 pre-school children could receive Head Start; and
- 245 jobs with support could be created in high poverty communities; and
- 300 new Elementary school teachers could be hired.

Instead of criticizing Representative Cummings and disparaging the great city of Baltimore, the Maryland Poor People's Campaign invites the President to replace his mouth with his money and join the effort as we work to make our nation great for ALL her people.

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