



2017 INSTALLATION STATEMENT

January 27, 2017

WE MUST BE VIGILANT

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, GOOD EVENING.

LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE IN THIS PLACE, FOR THIS OCCASION, TO BEGIN ANOTHER SEASON, THE WORK OF THE DETROIT BRANCH NAACP.

MY THANKS TO THE MAYOR FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS CEREMONY, MARKING OUR NEXT JOURNEY.

TO JUDGE VICTORIA ROBERTS, WE DO APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT ON THE BENCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY, TO ADMINISTER JUSTICE AND A GREATER DIVERSITY, IN RELATIONSHIP TO JURIES AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, BY THOSE WHO ARE OFTEN AFFECTED BY ITS IMPACT.

TO THE OFFICERS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION, WE APPRECIATE YOU AND THE WORK YOU DO TO KEEP FREEDOM ALIVE. THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A JOB. IT IS A VOCATION AND A WAY OF LIFE.

TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS, THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND AIDE IN WHAT HAS BEEN NOW A 24-YEAR JOURNEY INTO THE ARENA OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AS NAACP PRESIDENT. I TOLD YOU WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR THE POSITION IT WOULD BE OUR VICTORY AND OUR WATCH, NOT MINE ALONE. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME TO DO THIS WORK FOR I COULD NOT HAVE DONE ANY OF THIS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY AND MY CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL, FOR ALL THESE YEARS.

- A. FROM OUR FIRST MAJOR PROJECT IN THE COMMUNITY, WHICH WAS THE COMMEMORATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S FIRST *I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH*, GIVEN IN DETROIT IN 1963, AND REINACTED BY US IN 1993 WITH OVER 250,000 PERSONS GATHERING IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT.
- B. REMEMBERING THE TRIBAL WARS IN ZAIRE AND RWANDA WHERE WE DELIVERED AND RAISED ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOOD, MEDICINE, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, PROSTHETIC MATERIALS, AND CARGO VANS.
- C. REMEMBERING PROJECT D.R.E.A.M.Z.S., PROVIDING FLOOD VICTIMS IN MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH RESOURCES AND OVER \$300,000 DOLLARS IN AID.
- D. TO PROJECT LOVE, A HAITIAN RELIEF EFFORT TO PROVIDING FOOD, MEDICINE, AND SUPPORT TO THOUSANDS DURING THE 2010 HURRICANE AND EARTHQUAKE.
- E. TO THE REBUILDING OF BURNED-OUT BLACK CHURCHES IN NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA BY SEGREGATIONIST AND TERRORISTS.
- F. TO THE FOCUS ON BUYING FROM BLACK BUSINESSES IN DETROIT,

G. TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION BY MINORITIES
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMERICA PARK AND FORD FIELD.

H. TO THE FOUNDING OF TAKE YOUR SOULS TO THE POLLS, OUR VOTER EDUCATION
AND MOBILIZATION PROGRAM, NOW THE CLARION CALL AROUND THE NATION.

THE DETROIT BRANCH NAACP CONTINUES TO REMAIN THE FLAGSHIP BRANCH OF ALL UNITS IN
THE ORGANIZATION.

AS A STUDENT AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, FOR ENGLISH LITERATURE AND LOVING TO
READ ALOUD IN CLASS, THIS WAS AMONG MY MOST FAVORITE NOVELS. IT HAS INDEED COME
BACK TO HAUNT NOT ONLY ME BUT OUR NATION AS WELL. IT READS, THE PERIOD THEN, THE
PERIOD NOW! *"IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES. IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES. IT IS THE AGE OF WISDOM.
IT IS THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS. IT IS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF. IT IS THE EPOCH OF INCREDULITY. IT
IS THE SEASON OF LIGHT. IT IS THE SEASON OF DARKNESS. IT IS THE SPRING OF HOPE. IT IS THE
WINTER OF DESPAIR. WE HAVE EVERYTHING BEFORE US. WE HAVE NOTHING BEFORE US. WE
ARE ALL GOING DIRECT TO HEAVEN. WE ARE ALL GOING THE OTHER WAY."* THE WORDS OF
CHARLES DICKENS DEPICT NOT ONLY A TALE OF TWO CITIES BUT THEY REALLY DESCRIBE A LIFE
REFLECTING TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES. NO, THE CITY IS NOT LONDON, BUT IT IS WASHINGTON,
DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, PHILADEPHIA, CLEVELAND, WINSTON SALEM, NEW YORK, OR
CHARLESTON.

THE HOPES AND FEARS OF A PEOPLE ARE NOW HEIGHTENED BY THE RISE OF WHAT WE
HAVE VERY OFTEN ONLY WITNESSED IN OTHER NATIONS RATHER THAN OUR OWN. DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. MADE IT VERY PLAIN WHEN HE SAID, *"A PIECE OF FREEDOM IS NO LONGER
ENOUGH FOR HUMAN BEINGS. UNLIKE BREAD, A SLICE OF LIBERTY DOES NOT FINISH HUNGER.*

FREEDOM IS LIKE LIFE. IT CANNOT BE HAD IN INSTALLMENTS. FREEDOM IS INDIVISIBLE. WE HAVE IT ALL OR WE ARE NOT FREE." I SAY WE CANNOT DEPEND UPON WHO OCCUPIES THE WHITE HOUSE EVERY FOUR OF EIGHT YEARS, FOR US HOPE TO GET ANOTHER SLICE OR ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF FREEDOM. NO, SOJOURNER DIDN'T TELL THE TRUTH, FOR NO PIECE OF FREEDOM. HARRIET DIDN'T FREE 1,000 ENSLAVED AFRICANS, FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. FREDERICK DIDN'T SAY *"IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS,"* FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. MARY MCCLOUD BETHUNE DIDN'T BUILD A SCHOOL FOR BLACK CHILDREN ON TOP OF A TRASH HEAP, FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. DR. KING WASN'T SHOT DOWN ON A BALCONY IN MEMPHIS TENNESSEE, FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. FANNIE LOU HAMER DIDN'T GET SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK AND TIRED, JUST TO GET A PIECE OF FREEDOM. JOHN LEWIS DIDN'T GET HIS HEAD BLOODIED AND BATTERED, JUST TO RECEIVE A PIECE OF FREEDOM. YOUNG BLACK, BROWN, AND WHITE YOUTH ARE NOT IN THE STREETS CRYING OUT THAT *"BLACK LIVES MATTER,"* FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. NATIVE AMERICANS AREN'T PROTESTING FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA IN BELOW 0 DEGREE' WEATHER, FOR NO PIECE OF FREEDOM. WOMEN AND MEN DIDN'T MARCH ALL OVER THE WORLD THIS PAST SATURDAY, FOR JUST A PIECE OF FREEDOM. SCIENTIST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE NOW PREPARING TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON DC FOR SCIENCE, AND NOT FOR A PIECE OF FREEDOM. AND THE NAACP DIDN'T COME INTO EXISTENCE IN 1909, JUST TO GET A PIECE OF FREEDOM. WE WANT IT ALL, WE WANT IT NOW, AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO QUIT UNTIL VICTORY IS WON AND FREEDOM IS SECURE.

THOMAS JEFFERSON SAID, *"THE HIGH PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE."* THIS IS TRUE AND EVEN THOUGH OUR ANCESTORS WERE ENSLAVED WHEN HE SAID IT, IT IS BECAUSE OF THEIR VIGILANCE THAT WE ARE IN FACT FREE TODAY. THEREFORE, A MERE PRESIDENTIAL

ELECTION IN 2016, BY HOOK OR CROOK, CANNOT DETER FREEDOM. EVEN THOUGH ALTERNATIVE FACTS HAVE BEEN USED AND ABUSED TO PUT FORWARD AN AGENDA THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL IN ITS ATTACK UPON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SELECTIVE IN ITS RECOGNITION OF THE DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR EVERY GROUP AND SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY, OTHER THAN THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS. WE MUST NOT BOW DOWN. FOR THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE IS ALWAYS MUCH GREATER THAN THE PEOPLE IN POWER.

EVEN IN THIS GEORGE ORWELLIAN, ROD SERLING LIKE TWILIGHT ZONE, OUTER LIMITS ERA OF TODAY, WHEN 1984 SEEMS TO HAVE ARRIVED IN 2017, WE MUST NOT BE CONFUSED. LET US REMEMBER GEORGE ORWELL WHO SAID, "IF LIBERTY MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, IT MEANS THE RIGHT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR." WHEN THE LEADER OF THE COUNTRY SPENDS MORE TIME TALKING ABOUT NON-EXISTING VOTER FRAUD, WITH NO EVIDENCE, CALLING FOR A NATIONAL INVESTIGATION, RATHER THAN ADDRESSING A FOREIGN NATION WHICH HAS INTERFERED IN OUR DEMOCRACY WITH ACTUAL DOCUMENTATION AND DEMANDING NO INVESTIGATION, SOMETHING IS WRONG. THERE IS FRAUD ON VOTERS. IT IS CALLED VOTER SUPPRESSION. IF YOU WANT TO FIX SOMETHING THEN START IN YOUR OWN CABINET AND GET YOUR NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MR. MNUCHIN TO REGISTER IN ONE STATE, AND YOUR CHIEF POLITICAL STRATEGIST MR. BANNON, WHO IS HELPING YOU TO PLAN THIS WITCH HUNT, SEAN SPICER, YOUR PRESS SECRETARY, JARED KUSHNER, YOUR SON IN LAW, ALONG WITH YOUR OWN DAUGHTER TIFFANY TRUMP, TO ALL REGISTER IN ONE STATE. YOU CAN ACT NOW TO END PHONY VOTER ID LAWS, LAUNCH EARLY VOTING AND SAME DAY REGISTRATION, END THE ILLEGAL PURGING OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, STOP RECKLESSLY DRAWN LINES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, ELIMINATE BAD VOTING MACHINES

AND INEFFICIENT MANAGEMENT, CREATE BETTER TRAINING AND VOTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS. CERTAINLY, YOU MUST REINSTATE SECTION 4 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, WHICH ALLOWS SECTION 5 TO HAVE TEETH IN THE QUEST FOR VOTER PROTECTION AND PRE-CLEARANCE OF STATES GUILTY OF VOTER SUPPRESSION.

IF YOU WANT TO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING, INVESTIGATE THAT. LET'S FIX THAT SYSTEM. LET'S NOT WASTE OUR TIME ON THINGS LIKE "*MY INAUGURATION WAS MUCH BIGGER THAN YOUR INAUGURATION*" WHEN EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION. WE HAVE SERIOUS BUSINESS AHEAD. IT'S CALLED JEFF SESSIONS, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. IT'S CALLED BETSY DEVOS, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IT'S CALLED DR. BEN CARSON, AT HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. IT'S CALLED TOM PRICE AT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND STEVE BANNON, AS YOUR NATIONAL CHIEF STRATEGIST, TO NAME ONLY A FEW.

YET, WE AS AN ORGANIZATION MUST STEP UP AND NOT STEP BACK. THIS IS WHY OUR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FUND DINNER, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 23RD, WILL HAVE AS ITS THEME FOR 2017, **A NEW ERA BUT THE SAME CAUSE.....JUSTICE!** THERE IS A CALL AND A DUTY FOR EACH OF US. NO ONE CAN SIT THIS ONE OUT. NO ONE CAN BE TOO TIRED. NO ONE CAN JUST LEAVE IT TO THE NAACP. THIS IS ABOUT ALL OF US. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP. WE ARE NOT GOING TO CEASE AND DESIST DEMANDING DIVERSITY, PARITY, AND PROCUREMENT FROM MAJOR CORPORATIONS. WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP DEMANDING BETTER RESPECT AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY FROM POLICE DEPARTMENTS, THAT PATROL OUR STREETS AND CITIZENS THAT USE THEM AROUND OUR NATION. WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP DEMANDING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE THAT HEALTH CARE

IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR. IT SHOULD NOT BE A RIGHT IN MOSTLY EVERY WESTERN NATION IN THE WORLD AND REDUCED TO A PRIVILEGE FOR SOME BY THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. SO, LET'S STAY READY. LET'S STAY FOCUSED. WE GOT MORE WORK TO DO.

BUT WE SERVE A MIGHTY GOD. WE HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE. OUR HOPE IS NOT DIMINISHED. FOR THE SCRIPTURES TEACH US, *"FOR WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY HOPE. BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE, FOR WHO HOPES FOR THAT WHICH HE SEES. BUT IF WE HOPE FOR WHAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE, WE WAIT FOR IT WITH PERSEVERANCE,"* ROMANS 8:24-25. WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US ANGELS OF INSPIRATION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WHO HAVE ADDED HOPE TO OUR LIVES AND POWER TO OUR SPIRIT. MARGARET WALKER SPEAKS TO US FROM THE GRAVE. SHE LOUDLY PROCLAIMS IN HER POEM **FOR MY PEOPLE**, *"LET A NEW EARTH RISE. LET ANOTHER WORLD BE BORN. LET A BLOODY PEACE BE WRITTEN IN THE SKY. LET A SECOND GENERATION FULL OF COURAGE ISSUE FORTH. LET A PEOPLE LOVING FREEDOM COME TO GROWTH. LET A BEAUTY FULL OF HEALING AND A STRENGTH OF FINAL CLENCHING BE THE PULSING IN OUR SPIRITS AND OUR BLOOD. LET THE MARTIAL SONGS BE WRITTEN. LET THE DIRGES DISAPPEAR. LET A RACE OF MEN AND WOMEN NOW RISE UP AND TAKE CONTROL!"*

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

REVEREND DR. WENDELL ANTHONY
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