



# Saginaw County's MBK Initiative

Race & Law Enforcement in the Urban Community  
November 14, 2015

*"IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER." —AFRICAN PROVERB*

# My Brother's Keeper

- ▶ In September 2014, President Obama issued a challenge to cities across the country to become “MBK Communities.”
- ▶ This challenge represents a call to action for all members of our communities, and mayors in particular, as they often sit at the intersection of many of the vital forces and structural components needed to enact sustainable change through policy, programs, and partnerships.
- ▶ The MBK Community Challenge encourages cities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people.
- ▶ Nearly 200 mayors across 43 states have accepted the MBK Community Challenge.
- ▶ Both Saginaw and Buena Vista has accepted the challenge.

# My Brother's Keeper

## The six goals of the Challenge are:

- ▶ Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready.
- ▶ Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade.
- ▶ Ensuring all youth graduate from high school.
- ▶ Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training.
- ▶ Ensuring all youth out of school are employed.
- ▶ Ensuring all youth remain safe from violent crime

# My Brother's Keeper

Mayors can lay the groundwork for an MBK Community in four steps:

- ▶ Accept the President's Challenge.
- ▶ Convene a "Local Action Summit" to build an MBK Community.
- ▶ Conduct a policy review and form recommendations for action.
- ▶ Launch a plan of action, next steps and a timetable for review.

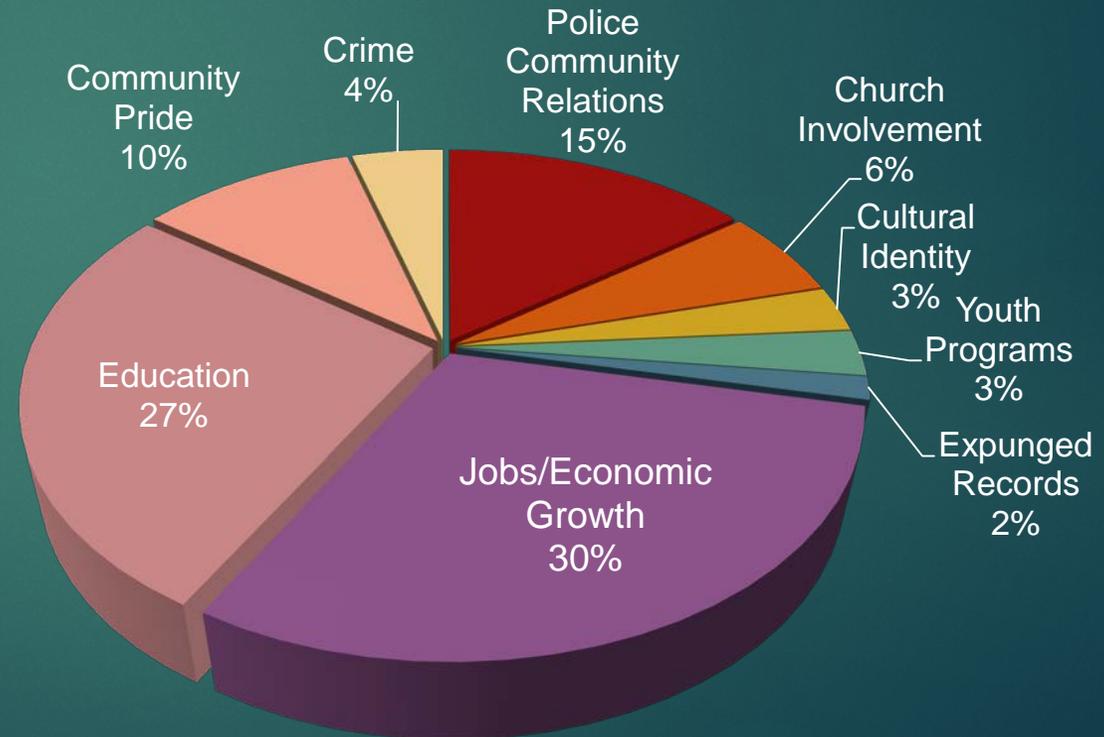
# Saginaw County's Response

- ▶ 2014 Men of Color Forum
- ▶ Report Released
- ▶ Alignment Saginaw Support
- ▶ Public Policy Associates Engaged
- ▶ Engaging Men of Color to Lead the Work
- ▶ Request to Meet with the Mayor

# Saginaw County's Response

Three priorities that men of color in Saginaw want to improve...

- ▶ Jobs/ Economic Growth
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Improved Police/ Community Relations



# The Vision

To serve as a resource for facilitation and coordination of philanthropy, non-profit and community actions as it relates to the issues that negatively impact Men of Color within Saginaw County.



# Our Mission

To partner with community stakeholders in research, identification, and prioritization of efforts focused on enhancing social, economic and the physical well being of males of color.



# How can Elected Officials engage?

- ▶ Seek out DOJ resource to support local **law enforcement** in building trust within the community.
- ▶ Enlist local non-profit leaders to continue supporting youth in the system and reintegration efforts.
- ▶ Encourage criminal justice officials to increase diversion programs and use alternatives to incarceration.
- ▶ Engage youth to help them understand their role in reducing violence and to educate perceptions of law enforcement.
- ▶ Urge business leaders to engage in fair hiring practices for young people with conviction records.
- ▶ Recruit, employ, and retain highly qualified teachers to create effective learning environments for youth in secure placement settings

# Key Principles

- ▶ Establish deliberate efforts to facilitate racial reconciliation, enhance procedural justice, and reduce implicit bias.
- ▶ Reduce reliance on confinement and produce better outcomes for those who do enter the system
- ▶ Successful reentry programs are critical to addressing the many needs of and challenges faced by individuals released from prison, jail, or juvenile facilities.

# Questions and Comments

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