

Ongoing Convent with Black Iowa  
Criminal Justice in Davenport, Iowa  
Essay report provided by Dr. Phyliss Phillips  
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The criminal justice system in the State of Iowa has continued to fail blacks on a very large scale and continues to make sure African Americans males are targeted for programs that lessen self-esteem building and increase incarceration rates.

According to the Black Star Project, most black men do not graduate from high school and only a few blacks young men who finish high school actually attend college; with that amount, only 22% of them finish college.

Black males in prison have become the norm for most of this area. There are more black males incarnated in the jails of the United States than anywhere else.

The indecorousness process starts in elementary school with blacks as young as six (6) years old. I am not referring to the process of the mind altering drugs that our children are placed on, simply because they require more hands on experiences, but thy all are to familiar arresting of five and six year old African American males.

The number of African American males, at the age of six, being arrested is staggering. (According to a report by the Education on Lockdown by the Advancement Project)

**The statements below were made directly to Dr. Phillips. Government Officials, Civic leaders, Lawyers, Pastors and Associations of High-level Official positions made these statements. All persons giving statements requested to remain Anonymous.**

**Statement from a Historian**

“Here in Davenport, Iowa we have a system that allows Officers to interpret the law while on duty. It just so happens that a lot of them have that old segregated mindset. It’s a big part of Iowa. Years ago, blacks and others were not allowed to live in Iowa. Several Indians were slaughtered for trying to settle here”.

**Statement from a Lawyer**

“When blacks are arrested they are already a criminal and I treat them, each on of them as though they were Drug Addicts or Drug Dealers. Whether, they have committed a crime or not, they are still treated as drug people. Also, when you stiffen the penalties for blacks the often times knock them out of the voting process and therefore, they can not make the system change.”

### **Statement from a Juvenile Facilitator**

“In our school system, we have at least 82% of our young African Americans females placed in the juvenile justice system and then they are often transferred to the adult court”.

“You know the adult system is much more harsh than the juvenile system. When the girls are placed in delinquent detention facilities, probation placement and other programs, they are treated as adults not as young ladies or teenagers. Their youth are taken from them, in addition, African American young ladies do not take the time to clean-up their records, once they become young adults, and of course, juvenile records are often used against them in the court system if they are ever called into court ad an adult”.

“African American females, just like African American boys, are 5.18 times more likely to be arrested as whites are. Even if convicted for the same crime.”

### **Statement from a Civil Rights Leader**

“Davenport, and the state of Iowa in general is never going to change, the mentality of blacks being inferior is dominant here. We have talked with city officials, before you were born and they are comfortable with what the state of Iowa is like here in Iowa”.

### **Statement from a Medical Doctor**

“Medical apartheid is still being practiced here, and it will not go away, because there is old money involved”.

### **Recommendation**

The very idea that things are as they are and that very little is being done or that nothing is being done is extremely disheartening, all groups and organizations in Iowa should ban together for Five (5) days and destroy a few of the ridiculous thoughts and actions aimed to keep blacks held back and kept back.

### **First hand Account**

1. I attended a meeting that was to discuss gangs in various neighborhoods. There were several city-government officials present. The majority of all the gangs discussed, were “black gangs”. The names of several “black gangs” were mentioned and emphasized. The police officers stressed the importance of incarcerating the leaders of these gangs and the pleasure they felt in knowing that black gang leaders had to leave their members and made them disorganized and easy to arrest, at any given time. I walked away from the town hall meeting with the knowledge that “BLACKS” are much worse than the Latino, Mexican or white gangs. Several of the city officials make it obvious that; this was the message that was to be spread.

2. After standing before the city council and explaining the way by which my tires were cut five (5) times and how the “smart” criminals called the authorities and stated my vehicle was abandoned. Several times the police placed stickers on my vehicle, after white neighbors had called it in. When I called the authorities on vehicles that sat for four (4) months nothing was done. There were no tickets issued, nor were their any stickers placed on the windshields. I questioned other African Americans residents and found that the same thing was happening to them... After very much impact from others, and myself, the nonsense stopped: after Two 1/2 years.
3. On several occasions, African Americans have been stopped, for non-traffic violations, issued tickets and have noticed that the ticket stated that their descriptions were white. The reason why police officers have been writing, white male or white female, when they stop African Americans is to keep them from being labeled as profilers and racist, even if that is the case, it’s harder to prove if it is not on the ticket. The flip side to this situation is, if an officer circles white females or white male onto a ticket it may be easier to fight in court.
4. The participation in the local crime preventions initiative allowed me to see the inside of what was really being pushed, and that was to send the all white, Italian group of the “guardian Angels”, into predominately black neighborhoods. I joined the “guardian angels” and found it to be unsocial towards black females, very aggressive (speaking of members, not trainees). Some of which were offenders and a few were of the vigilante mind set.
5. A liaison with several public safety officials, community corrections and offender reentry officials has been formed.

### **Recommendations**

In the coming weeks and months to come, stronger groups of community & local official task forces will be formed. State and Local resources have been identified to support these efforts.

### **Most sites for upcoming meetings will be held at the following locations:**

1. The Friendly House  
Myrtle Street  
Davenport, Iowa
2. United Neighbors  
Harrison Street  
Davenport, Iowa
3. Davenport Public Library  
Fairmount Street  
Davenport, Iowa
4. MOJO's (River Music Experience -RME)  
Downtown  
Davenport, Iowa

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