



December 29, 2015

Families and Communities

On Sunday, December 27, 2015, my pastor preached about love in the family and love in the community, which caused me to reflect on his words. As a teacher by profession and a state representative by election, I have had the blessing to engage with people of every race, faith, social and economic status. I have learned that every person - regardless of any differences - all share a human sense of love for family.

Over the years, there have been many opinions about how the breakdown of black families is destroying black communities and the black race. This leads me to the quote by Steve Chapman who wrote in the Chicago Tribune, "Poor black neighborhoods are not the unassisted creation of poor black people but largely the malignant result of factors beyond their control."

I totally agree with Steve Chapman and his statement on poor black people. That is why, as a state representative, I continue to fight with the community for a system that is fairer and more just. It is my belief that it is not just black families who need to raise their children better, but every family needs to do better. What can we say about how police men and women were raised if they end up being guilty of police misconduct or unjustified police killings? What can we say about prosecutors and their upbringing if they end up being guilty of misconduct? What can we say about the upbringing of politicians and other leaders of influence who bring about unfair public policies which continue to destroy black families and black communities? It is my belief that ALL families need to do a better job raising their children if we want to have improved policing, a better government, and more love in our families and in our communities.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District