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**COLORADO-MONTANA-WYOMING STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

DEATRICE MADISON
PRESIDENT
PENEL MCCRAY
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
STEVE F. MACK
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
REBA A. WHITSEL
SECRETARY
WILLIE H. BRECKELL
TREASURER

May 18, 1999

Mr. Ben Johnson
Deputy Assistant to the President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Johnson

On Thursday, May 13, 1999 I faxed a letter addressed to President Clinton to your office. I would greatly appreciate, if possible, a response before the President's planned visit this Thursday.

After serving on the President's Initiative on Race panel I find it ironic to be addressing the same topic of stereotyping groups and people. It is very important for those of us who live and work in the inner city to believe and feel our families are just as important as everyone else.

The issue of violence and its catastrophic results deeply affect the quality of life, or lack of it in numerous urban communities and neighborhoods. After attending a number of the funerals on the list which I faxed, as well as, oft times having to work with the families of the perpetrator also, the issue is very close to my heart and that of other's who work with these young people.

We believe the time has come to develop an efficacious and sound proactive approach to the culture of violence which now exists.

I can be reached at (303) 919-5895, fax (303)321-7039 or e-mail Revgford@aol.com. Please let me know if anytime will be allotted for us.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gill L. Ford
Chairman Political Action Committee



**COLORADO-MONTANA-WYOMING STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

DEATRICE MADISON
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Gill L. Ford".

Rev. Gill L. Ford
Chairman Political Action Committee

03/14/88 FRI 10:20 FAX
4 Recd
See Ben

Urgent FAX

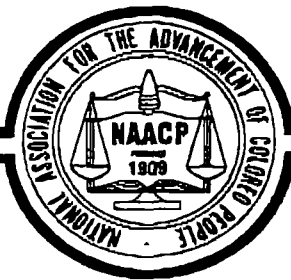
To: Mr. Ben Johnson

From: Rev. Gill L. Ford
Chairman State Political Action Committee
2675 Holly St.
Denver, CO 80207
Voice Mail 303 919-5895
Fax 303 321-7039
E-mail Revgford@aol.com

3 Pages total

Special Note:

If you will send me your address I will mail you a hard copy of this letter also, otherwise I will only be able to send the hard copy to the President.
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



**COLORADO-MONTANA-WYOMING STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

Rev. Gill L. Ford
Phone (303) 919-5895
Fax (303) 321-7039

May 12, 1999

BEATRICE MADISON
PRESIDENT

PENSAL McCRAE
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

STEVE F. MACK
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REBA A. WHITSEL
SECRETARY

WILLIE H. BREAZELL
TREASURER

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

Please let me start by saying that it is not my intention in any way to lessen or down play the tragedy which took place at Columbine High School in Littleton Colorado. The loss of those 13 students because of reckless and random violence is terrible.

Nevertheless there is an extremely troublesome dilemma which has been created by yours and many politicians response in this matter. Clearly, given the long standing problems which urban communities have faced and dealt with for a numerous years, the innocent lives which have been lost, appear not to have carried the same weight or impact. The stark contrast in your response, and that of other elected officials in particular, in this matter reflects a lack of concern, compassion for other families, communities and institutions which have been and for some continue to be adversely affected by senseless violence.

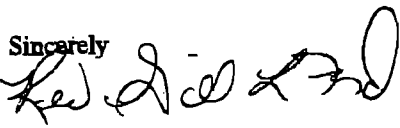
After examining the cycle and culture of violence which urban and inner city schools have been forced to address and confront, it is disappointing to note the acrimonious actions of your administration to more police on the street, create harsher sentencing guidelines and build more prisons. The proliferation and access to guns has been a long standing topic, yet it is not until an unfortunate incident in a suburban school has the nation been willing to focus on the problem or to be more precise the multifaceted problems in society which perpetuate the increasing violent responses we observe.

Clearly, not only for youth, but also for many adults there is an ever growing frustration and anxiety surrounding the perceived unfair assessment, treatment and outcomes experienced today. The disparate practices of individuals, not only because of race and ethnicity, but economics and where you live can do nothing more than add to that tension, as has been found in the various community and school meetings I have been in.

It is disappointing to note that you as the leader have placed a greater value, and extended a higher level of priority and humanity, as well as, concern for this particular community than that which has been afforded others. If there is any good to come out of this tragedy it must begin with helping everyone to understand that the problem which now exists, exists everywhere. Furthermore it is going to take a collaborative effort, suburban, urban and rural communities coming together, to make lasting real changes.

The greatest monument that can be erected will be one to every parent who has lost a child to senseless violence. Anything less can only work to divide communities. During your visit to Denver we, a group of men and women who have spent a number of years working with youth and violence, would welcome an opportunity to share with you its realities and its impact on the lives of different victims.

Sincerely


Rev. Gill L. Ford
Chairman Political Action Committee

cc: Bea Madison - State President
Dean Askew - Street Beat
Rev. Leon Kelly - Open Door

This is a listing of young people who died young and violent deaths in the Denver area, yet there was no outcry to examine the climate, nor culture of violence which claimed their lives. We can only wonder if this effort had happened maybe the Columbine tragedy might never would have transpired. Sadly we will never know.

But one thing we do know is that if the process of examining the various issues and causes of violence in our society is not inclusive, especially involving individuals who have been dealing with these issues for a long time, the next tragedy will not be averted.

Name	Age	Name	Age	Name	Age
1988 Carolina, Delorlay	17	1984 Atyde, George	17	1988 Archuleta, Michael	18
Riley, Rashid	17	Blasonette, Wayne	18	Bernard, Gina	14
Rivara, Patrick	15	Esplinoza, Angel	18	Boelter, Tiffany	14
Smith, Cameron	18	Gallegos, Dorfan	15	Castillo, Shaun	18
		Loya, Anamundo	18	Encinas, Emile	17
1989 Allison, Kyle	1	Maestas, Geronimo	15	Foley, Matthew	16
Rahim, Den	17	Medina, Ray	16	Hagman, Justin	15
		Mills, Jovan	17	Riley, Jason	18
1990 Green, J.J.	13	Pope, William	18	Rosales, Jesus	14
Horchem, Allen	2	Reyes, Antonio	17		
Muñes, Leon	18	Rodriguez Jr., Thomas	18	1987 Acosta, Kestry	16
Ramirez, Danny	18	Ross, Daniel	18	Clayton, Justin	18
Sanders, Richard	18	Roybal, Jerry	15	Cooper, Deandras	18
Simpson, Richard	16	Taylor, Glenn	17	Duwall, Brandalene	14
Wilkins, Onzie	16	Tennifunio, Wesley	12	Green, George	17
		Telnul, Jinnie	13	Leyva, Jose	17
1991 Suena, Elipio	16	Weada, Joshua	18	Meadows, Ernest	16
Oavilla, Roberto	18			Petrosky, Michael	14
Johnson, Dominique	17	1995 Barola, Michael	8	Schuck, Derrick	18
McNulty, Landy	14	Bass, Vincent	18	Shockey, Brian	17
Montoya Jr., Roger	13	C. William	18	Taylor, Kevin	18
Murphy, Damon	17	Carvantes, Daniel	17		
Nazzari, Bethanie	8	Chavez, Joseph	18	1998 Avalos, Mariasa	18
Randolph, Derrick	18	Desmond, Ray	17	Avila, David	15
White, Timothy	18	Edwards Jr., Wayne	16	Boysen, Matthew	17
		Evans, Casson	3	Connor, Alan	18
1992 Chavez, Jason	18	Gray, Ashley	5	Davis, Parisa	16
Davis, Jarvey	13	Green, Joseph	15	Duran, Shendai	14
Davis, Leonard	14	Green, Joshua	18	Her, Jous	17
Diamuka, Fredrick	12	Harris, Shumer	14	Howard, David	18
Eaton, Chuka Kahn	18	Hill, Preston	17	Manlove-Alvarez, Ashely	4
Gotsch, Daniel	17	Johnson, Lelailee	17	Martinez, Juan	14
Hicks, Theron	16	Johnson, Steve	18	Martinez, Michael	18
Jones, Dinyelle	18	Luenkenga, Anthony	18	Martinez, Nadia	13
Manchego, Jennifer	18	Maldonado, Jesse	17	Media, Greg	18
Morehead, Guy	17	Marcos, Escobar	17	Monte, Frank	18
Thompson, Verna	18	Martinez, Carlos	15	Morales Jr., Edgardo	18
		Martinez, Clint	18	Munoz, Martha	17
1993 Allison, Charles	17	Mayo, Terrence	17	Oberl, Zach	18
Banks, Carl	18	Peterson, Rachelle	18	Ortiz, Anthony	17
Friend, Lanell	15	Stull, Kemele	18	Palz, Jason	18
Johnson, Barry	18	Taylor, Kleyasha	8 mo's	Powell, Terrell	14
Sheard, Steven	17	Thompson, Willie	18	Prince, Naomi	18
Trembath, Jason	17	Washington, Robert	16	Rally, Emily	7
White, Donnell	13	West, Jovan	16	Sejazar, Gilbert	18
				Serna, Paul	18
				Trowel, Christopher	17
				1999 Curenas, Adrian	17
				Lirnanes Jr., Danny	18