

King Day Observance and Policy Forum

*The Unfinished Work;
Ending Segregation, Expanding Democracy*

Monday, January 17, 2022



Mount Zion Baptist
Church of Pleasantville

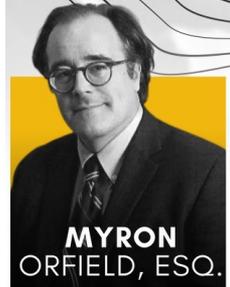
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH



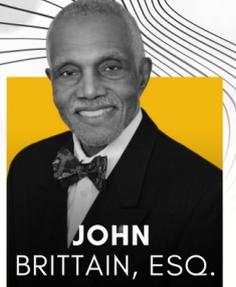
**MARC H.
MORIAL, ESQ.**



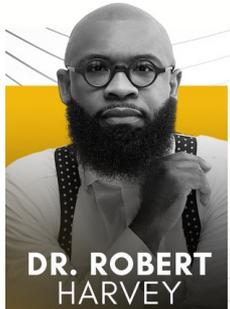
**MICHELLE
BURRIS**



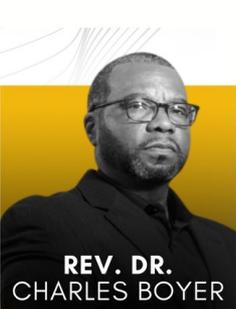
**MYRON
ORFIELD, ESQ.**



**JOHN
BRITTAIN, ESQ.**



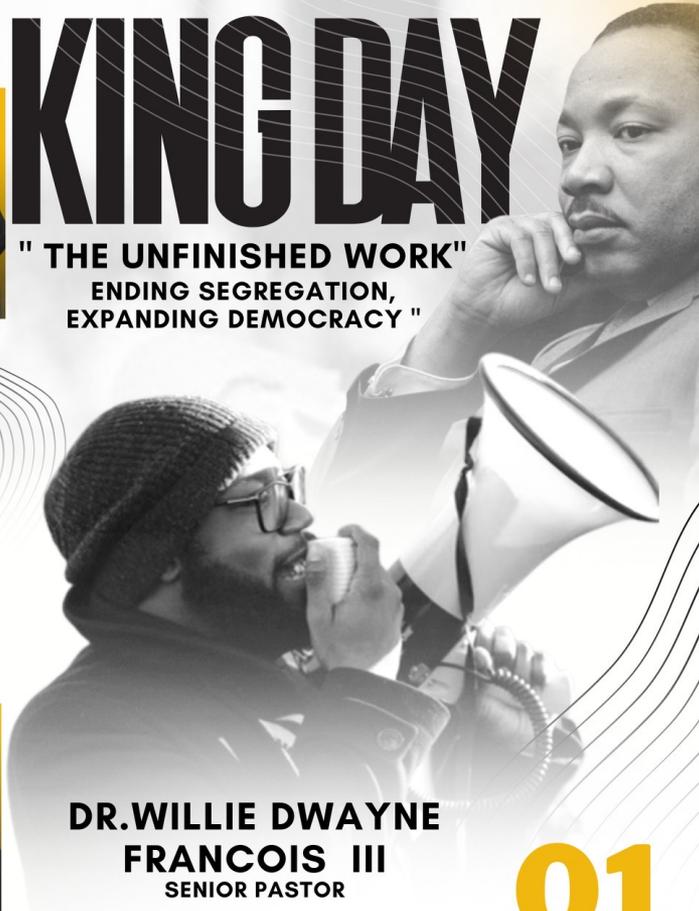
**DR. ROBERT
HARVEY**



**REV. DR.
CHARLES BOYER**

KING DAY

" THE UNFINISHED WORK"
ENDING SEGREGATION,
EXPANDING DEMOCRACY "



**DR. WILLIE DWAYNE
FRANCOIS III
SENIOR PASTOR**

TO REGISTER
TEXT **MLK22** TO **474747**

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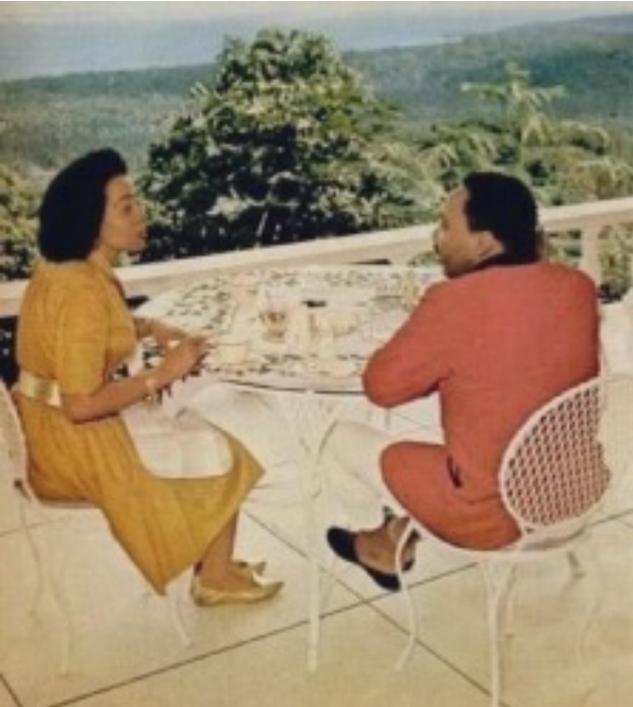
*"Now is the time to make real
the promises of democracy.*

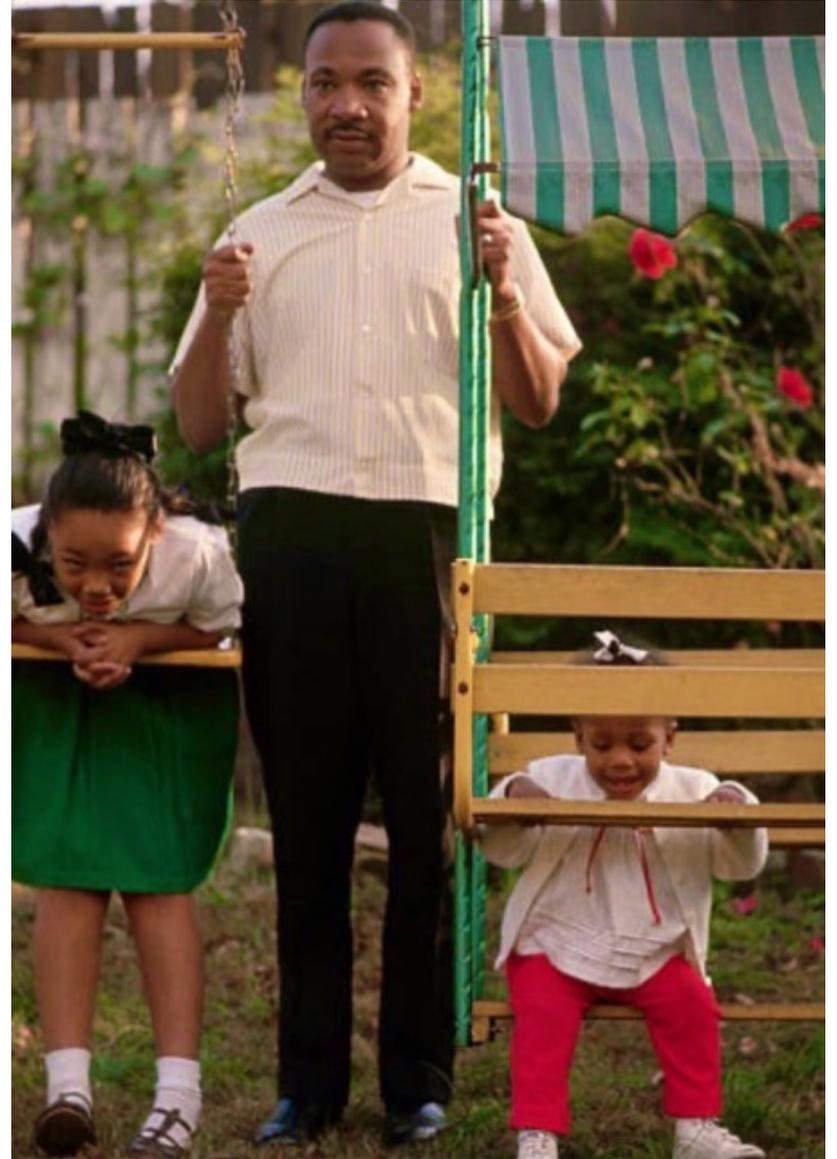
*Now is the time to rise from
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*Now is the time to lift our
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racial injustice to the solid
rock of brotherhood.*

*Now is the time to make justice
a reality for all of God's
children."*

*Martin Luther King, Jr. : I Have a
Dream Speech (1963)*











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Call to Order

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III, Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Pleasantville

Welcome / Purpose / Overview

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Milton L. Hendricks, Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Pleasantville

Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing - Darchele Scott and Shawn Bobien

Theological Reflection

Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer, Pastor, Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Trenton

Song

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Introduction of panelists & 2022 legislative agenda

Panel of experts and practitioners

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III (moderator)

Description of 2022 campaign & next steps

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III

Panel Response

National Reflection

The Honorable Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League

Call to Action (feedback)

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III

Closing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Darrell L. Armstrong, Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist, Trenton

Adjourn

Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III



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Welcome / Purpose / Overview



Rev. Dr. Willie Dwayne Francois III,
Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Pleasantville
President, Black Church Center for Justice & Equality



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Opening Prayer



Rev. Dr. Milton L. Hendricks,
Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Pleasantville
Chairman, Pleasantville Housing Authority.

Lift Every Voice and Sing



Darchele Scott and Shawn Bobien



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Theological Reflection



Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer
Pastor, Greater Mt. Zion
A.M.E. Church, Trenton
founder, Salvation & Social
Justice



Great is Thy Faithfulness



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Introduction of panelists & description of 2022 legislative agenda



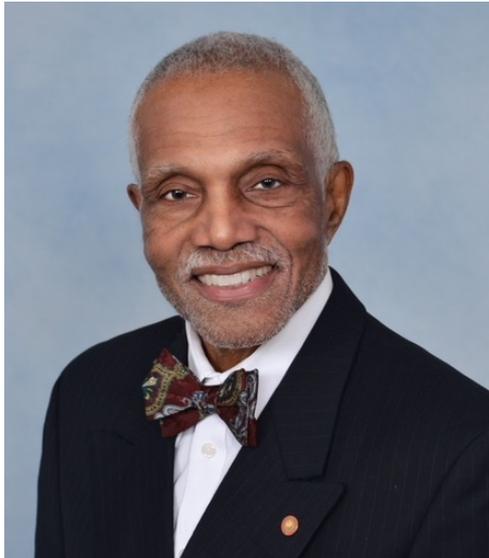
Rev. Willie D. Francois III



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John C. Brittain
Professor of Law,
District of Columbia,
School of Law



Michelle Burris
Senior Policy
Associate, The
Century Foundation



Tiffani Torres
Student, Georgetown
University & leader
of Teens Take
Charge Brooklyn



Myron Orfield, Professor
Law & Dir. Institute on
Metropolitan Opportunity
University of Minnesota
Law School

4. Have a Combined Approach.

The state can employ multiple policy tools for meeting inclusion goals for every district, school & classroom.

Most already exist in NJ law.

But need reform:

The School Funding Reform Act of 2008

When fully funded can do much to incentivize diversity & inclusion.

But it can do more...

- To prioritize & advantage diverse districts.
- Support programs that foster inclusion *within* districts & classrooms.
- Funding can support wealthy districts only as they diversify.

Inter-District Public School Choice

In its current form does **NOT** promote integration.

But it can if reformed.

- Made mandatory for wealthy districts that fall short of regional integration goals...
- ...with spaces *prioritized* for students from most segregated, high poverty districts.

County School System & Magnet Schools

Often already serve as regional integrated alternatives.

But they can do more of they:

- *Require regional goals for economic & racial balance.*
- legislation can create & support **pro-integration regional magnet schools** in urban areas...
- ...and require charters to meet *regional* integration goals.

Reform School Consolidation bill

The new school consolidation bill **must be amended to:**

- **prohibit** withdrawal, separation or dissolution as a part of any proposed consolidation plan.
- Require an *affirmative* obligation to create racially & socioeconomically integrated districts.

Fair Housing is part of the answer

- Include Affordable Housing in goals for school & classroom integration.
- Affluent districts who think they are too “far flung” to integrate should be required to deepen their affordable housing obligation.

Bolster/Reform Department of Education's Civil Rights Capacity

None of these measures can succeed without a strong state mandate & resources directed toward the achievement of integration goals

- Strengthen the Department of Education's Civil Rights capacity so it is charged *with* & capable of carrying out school desegregation goals.
- DOE must have the capacity to conduct an *Opportunity Analysis* to develop inclusion goals for each district.

Caveats

1. **Avoid Short-Term Quick-Fixes** *Especially ones that trade costly expenditures instead of true inclusion.*
2. **Don't Blame the Victim** - *NJ's high poverty, racially isolated districts did not create segregation. Their students did not choose it. They should not bear the burden of fixing it.*
3. **Not all Suburban & Urban Districts are the Same**
4. **Do No Harm** - *The best intentions often bring unintended harmful consequences.*
 - **County consolidation** will not capture a diverse enough area to stop *white flight*.
 - Simply **removing district boundaries** would only accelerate *flight* & deepen segregation.
 - **Magnet & vocational schools** should not create new layers of exclusivity & exclusion.
 - **Magnets**, as well as **charters**, must meet meaningful goals for reflecting the economic & racial mix of their *region*.

School Integration Will Not Fix All Problems

- It is not a substitute for ending residential segregation, economic inequality & racial discrimination

But it is a *part* of the problem
& a part we can do something
about today!

Summary

- ***Opportunity Analysis.***
 - A desegregation plan must be based on a thorough analysis of racial as well as economic & social factors that define *opportunity*.
- **Legislation is needed**
 - **To reform & strengthen the Department of Education's** civil rights capacity & enforcement.
 - **Strengthen state funding formula to advantage & incentivize** diverse & integrated schools.
 - Direct and increase funding to local **integration & desegregation *best practices*** where diversity already exists.
 - Reform ***Interdistrict Public School Choice*** program to advance integration within regions based on opportunity analysis.
 - Reform legislation to **require charters to advance integration**
 - Support **pro-integration magnet schools** in urban areas and for **county schools**.
 - Amend school consolidation bill to **prohibit secession** and require **affirmative obligation** to create integrated districts.
 - Increase & enforce ***Mount Laurel*** obligations on “far flung” wealthy communities with exclusionary schools.



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Panel - Your reaction to our agenda.

Reflecting on your life and work and the life of Dr. King and his struggle against segregation:

- **Why should we fight segregation in 2022?**
- **What does it have to do with protecting and expanding democracy?**

Before panelist react, we want to pay special tribute to the late of Lani Guinier. Her colleague professor John Brittan will say a few words of reflection on her life and work as it relates to the work of Dr. King and the work we are doing here today - especially the relationship between fighting segregation and expanding democracy.





...neither the judiciary nor lawyers acting alone possess the surgical skill required to alter the genetic material of our organizing narrative..”

“...race, in conjunction with class and geography, invariably shapes educational, economic, and political opportunities for all of us.”

“Race matters not just for blacks...but for every citizen of the United States.”

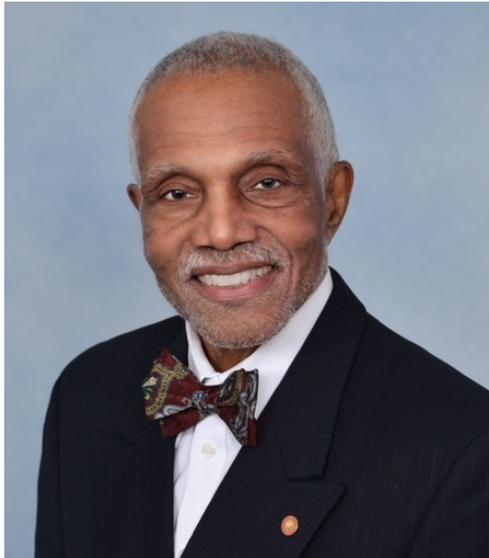
Lani Guinier - From Racial Liberalism to Racial Literacy: Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest-Divergence Dilemma



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Description of 2022 campaign and next steps



Rev. Willie D. Francois III,
Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church,
Pleasantville



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Training

January 27-30

Leadership
Training for
Organizers
Leaders





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**We will strategize, organize and
prayerfully prepare:**



Black History Month
Weekly Symposiums
at Mt. Zion Baptist
7:00 PM, every
Wednesday in
February



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ACTION

We will move into direct, concerted, and relentless action aimed at moving our governor and legislators to act.

Every month starting on the anniversary of Selma and our own *march from Pleasantville to Absecon.*





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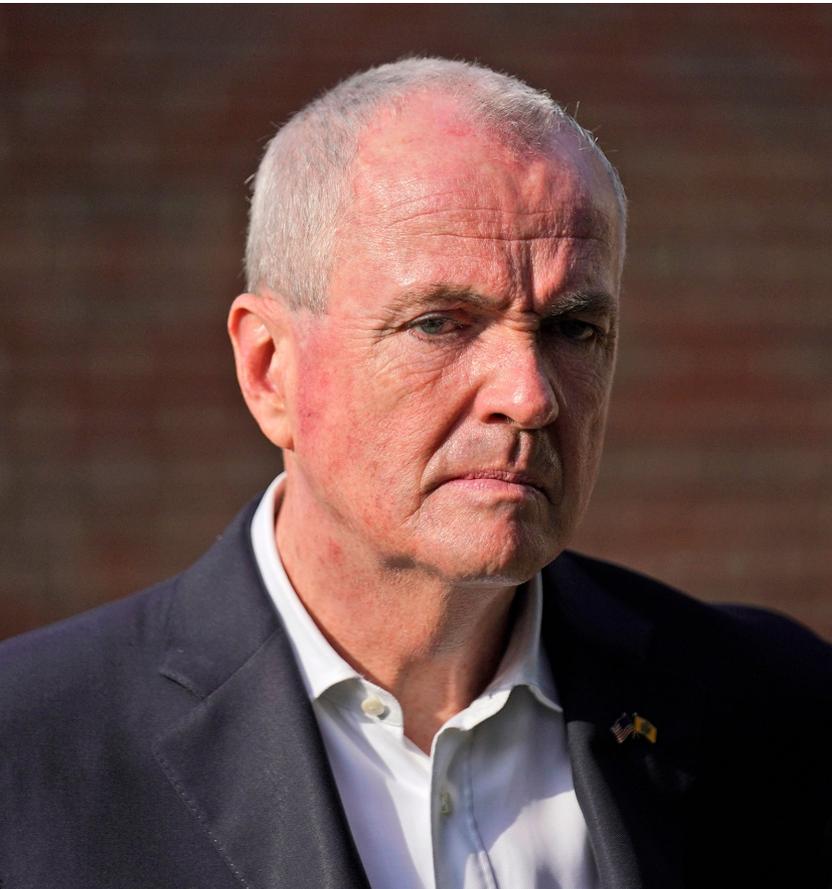




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ACTION

We will start today

**by signing the letter to
Governor Murphy's biggest
donors and supporters.**

Dear Phil Murphy Contributor,

We are writing to ask for your help with our governor, Phil Murphy, on an important issue of racial justice and access to opportunity.

We are a group of faith, civil rights, education, labor, community, and parent leaders in New Jersey who have been organizing to address this and other solvable issues of racial and economic inequality in our state.

For several years now, we have asked to meet with Governor Murphy to discuss real solutions to the horrific and shameful problem of school segregation in our state (one of the worst in the nation). Unfortunately, he has refused.

While Governor Murphy will not listen to us, we know, as one of his major contributors and important supporters, he will listen to you.

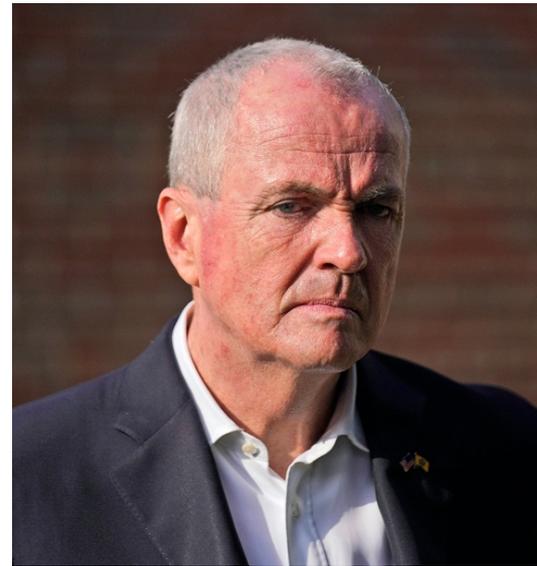
Please contact Governor Murphy. Tell him to meet with the leaders of Building One New Jersey and our Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ CARE) so we can begin working together with him, and the legislature, on meaningful policy solutions to the illegal and immoral problem of school segregation in our state. Please tell him it's time to stop making excuses and work with us on this vitally important issue of civil rights, racial justice and economic opportunity.

We are not plaintiffs in any lawsuits nor are we partisan political actors with ulterior motives. We are nonpartisan grassroots community leaders working to end the opportunity-destroying system of racially segregated public education in our state - a horrendous system of inequality that has only gotten worse under Governor Murphy.

We will follow up to set up a time to talk further. We look forward to discussing this issue with you to explore other ways you can help. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Building One New Jersey and the Coalition Against Racial Exclusion





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Here is a summary of the letter:

New Jersey has a horrific and shameful problem of school segregation by both race and class (one of the worst in the nation).

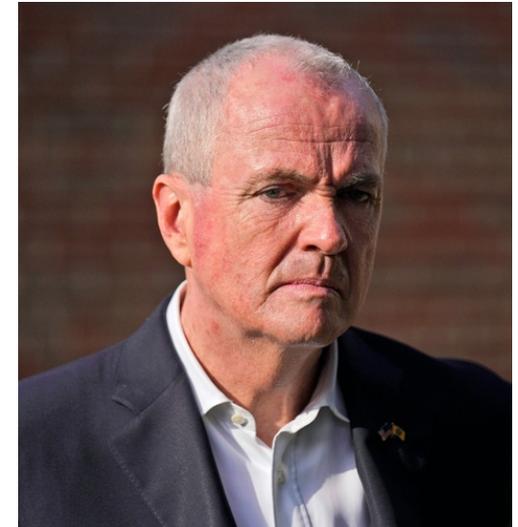


Under Governor Murphy this system of inequality has only gotten worse.

For several years, our coalition of civil rights and grassroots leaders have asked to meet with the Governor to propose real solutions.

But Governor Murphy has ignored us and refuses to meet.

The letter asks his supporters to urge the Governor to meet with us so we can begin to work with the legislature to end the opportunity-destroying system of racially segregated public education in our state.

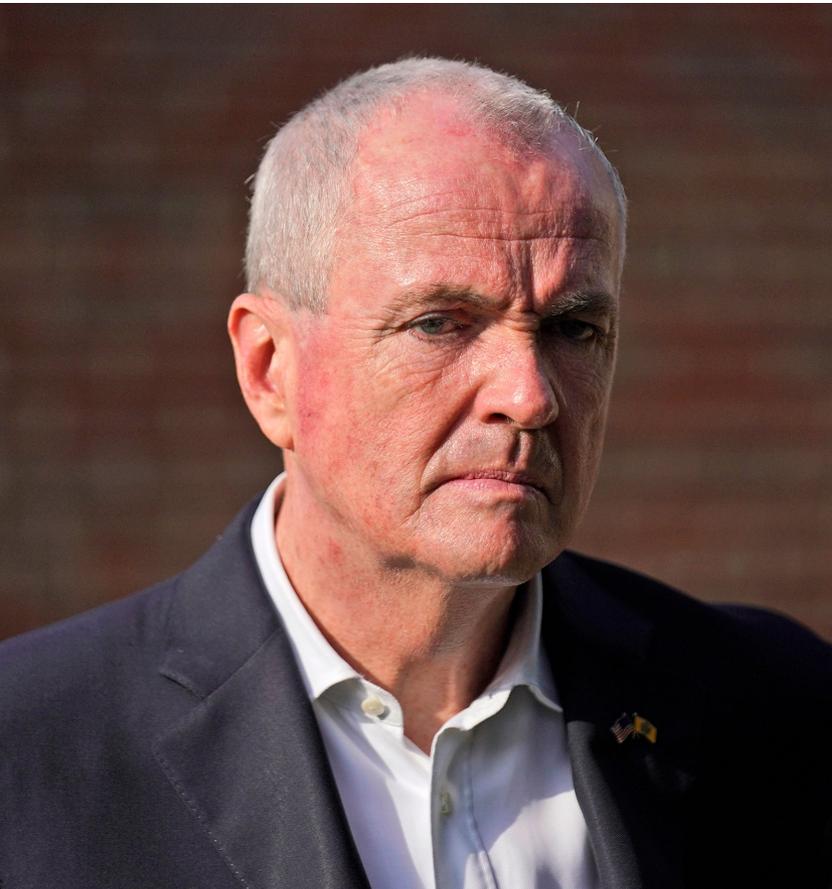




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ACTION

To sign on to the letter to
Murphy's supporters go to

[buildingoneamerica.org/sign-
murphy-letter](http://buildingoneamerica.org/sign-murphy-letter)

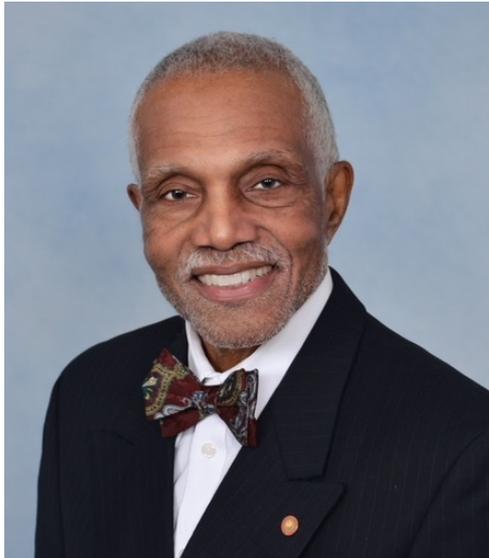
It will take you to a webform
where you can sign on.



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National Perspective & Reflection on King Day

Honorable Marc H. Morial
President & CEO of the
National Urban League



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Call to Action

Rev. Willie Francois III





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Closing Prayer



**Rev. Dr. Darrell L.
Armstrong, Pastor, Shiloh
Baptist, Trenton & Baptist
World Alliance chief
administrative officer at the
United Nations.**

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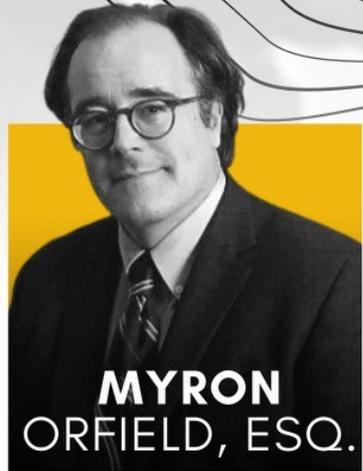
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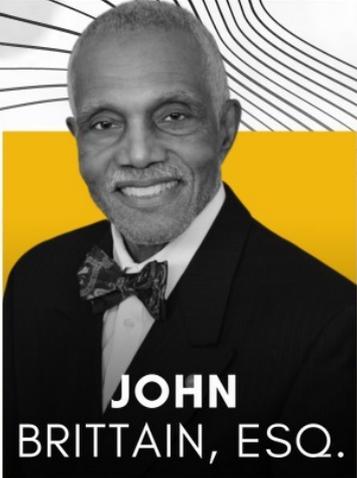
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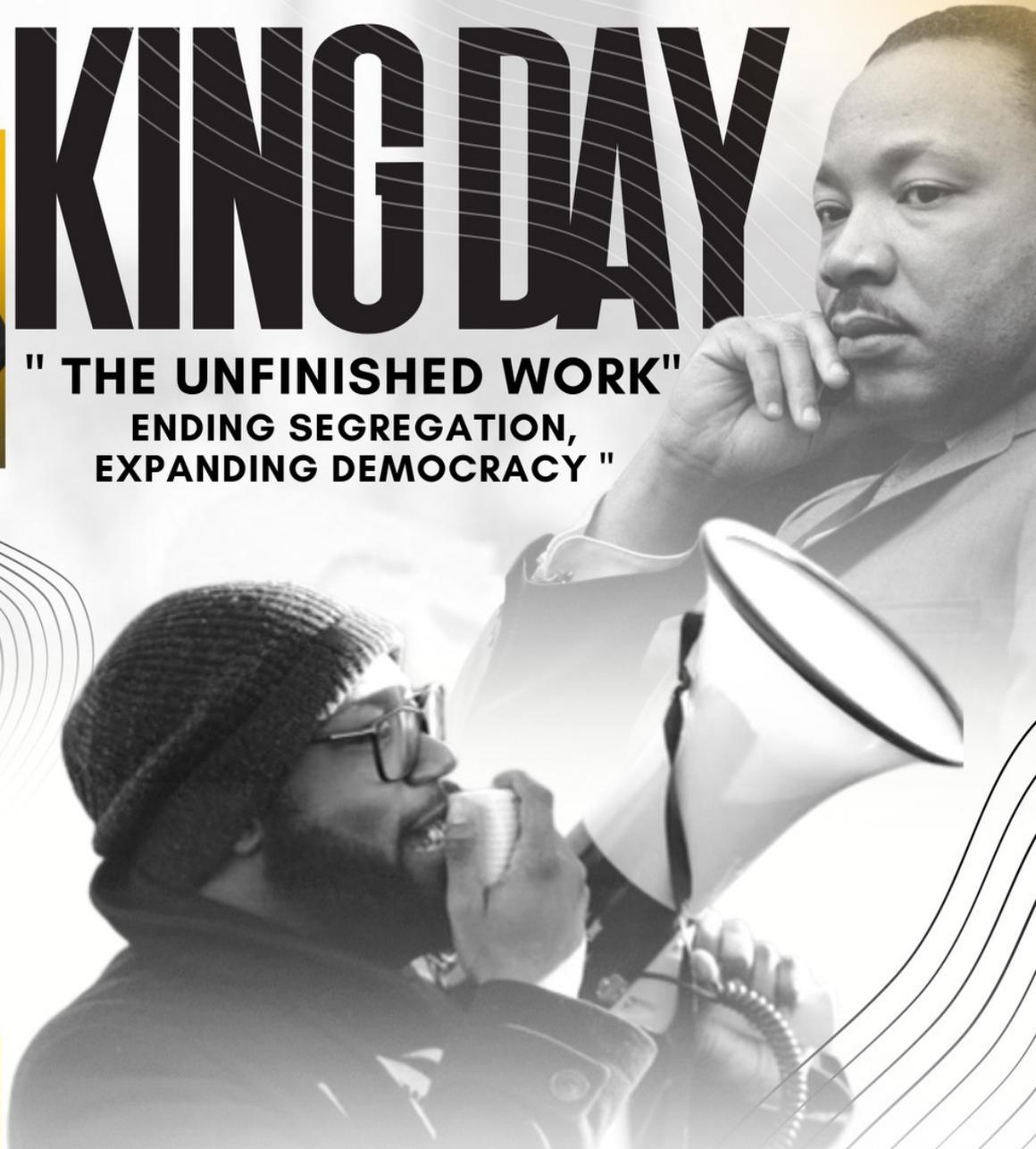
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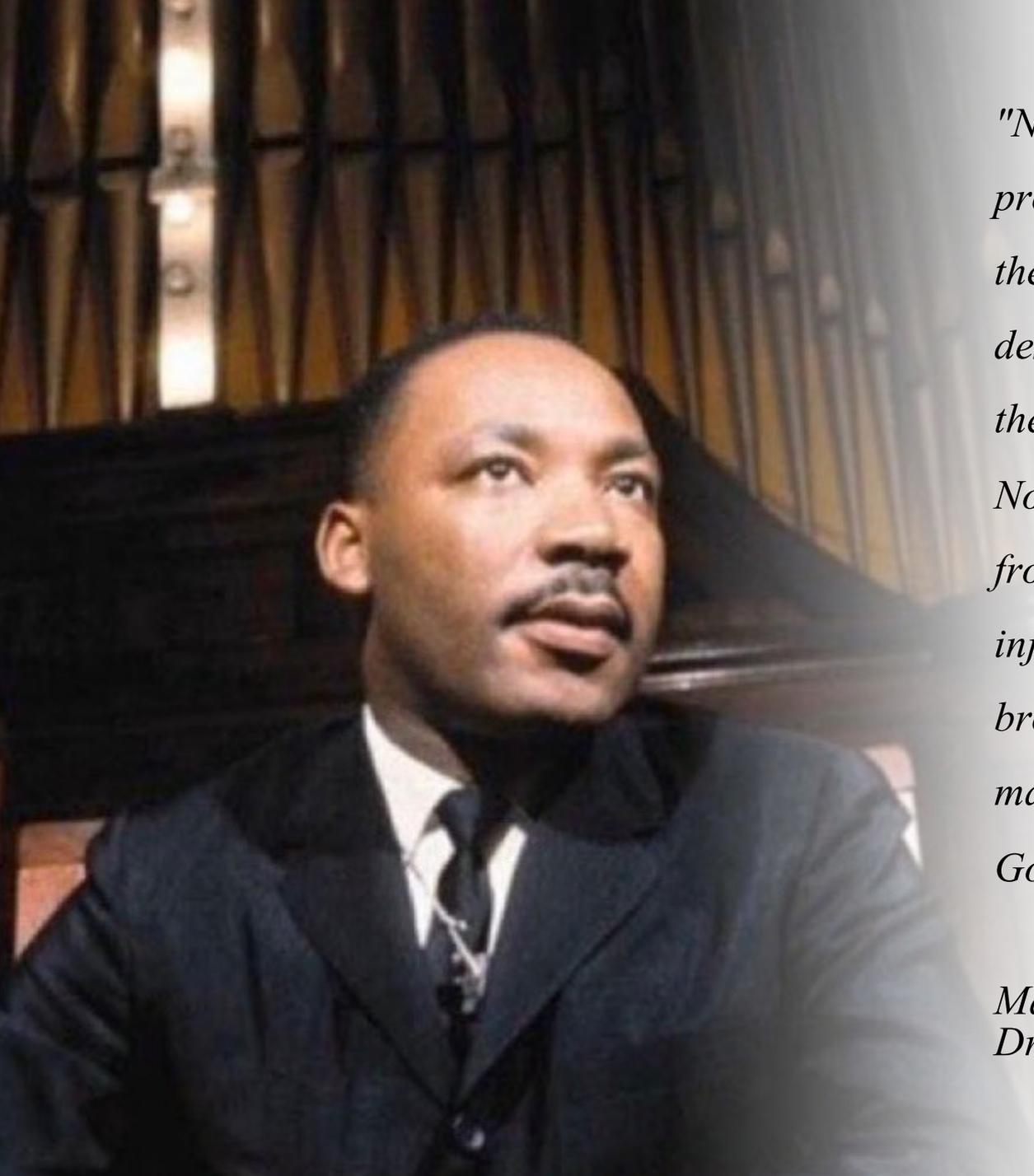


**JOHN
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"Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."

Martin Luther King, Jr. : I Have a Dream Speech (1963)

