

Looking

forward

THE
Montgomery
Improvement
Association, Inc.



PREAMBLE

Recognizing that every community has the basic potential for the solution of social problems and the implementation of legal decisions which redefine the ideals set forth by the founders of this nation, and that ultimately the local community is the proving ground for the social progress of the nation; and recognizing that the only feasible solution to problems of group relations and race relations is through the Christian and non-violent approach; and recognizing that enforced segregation is a social evil which must be eradicated before any group or people can reach their full social, political, economic, and moral maturity; and desiring to provide a far-reaching MIA program which will embrace both the immediate and remote problems, and at the same time center its aims upon the building of a bigger, better and more beautiful community, wherein good group relations and good race relations exist — we therefore set forth the following ten-point program:

POINT ONE:—

- I. Civic and political education for participation on a non-partisan basis
 - A. Working for unrestricted registration and voting of eligible citizens to give all citizens opportunity to elect public officials.
 - B. Encouraging democratic legislation, impartial administrative orders and judicial decisions.
 - C. Giving guidance and direction on vital civic issues.

POINT TWO:—

II. Community Relationships

- A. Developing channels of inter-racial communication:
 1. To remove barriers between inter-racial understanding and cooperation;
 2. To promote unity and goodwill between racial groups;
 3. To discuss and learn the power of non-violence and love as tools for social progress.
- B. Developing Community Organizations;
 1. To encourage home beautification and home ownership;
 2. To deepen civic consciousness;
 3. To give the youth of the community an opportunity to share in issues vital to their future.

POINT THREE:—

- III. Education for Individual competence through:
- A. Providing Vocational Guidance for Youth;
 - B. Providing on-the-job training for maximum contribution;
 - C. Promoting adult education to encourage higher standards of living;
 - D. Encouraging higher standards on all levels of public education.

POINT FOUR:—

IV. Improvement of Economic Status

- A. In Employment:
 - 1. Through the eradication of discrimination in employment;
 - 2. Through opening new job opportunities;
 - 3. Through assistance to citizens in finding jobs according to ability and training.
- B. In Housing:
 - 1. Through facilities which provide financing for home ownership;
 - 2. Through the acquisition of desirable space for home construction;
 - 3. Through cooperation with the slum-clearance program.
- C. Through enforcement of equitable zoning laws in residential sections.

- D. Through the promotion and improvement of neighborhood businesses by encouraging better service and business techniques.
- E. Through the establishment of financial institutions, such as:
 - 1. Credit unions to encourage savings and to provide small loans at reasonable rates;
 - 2. A savings and loan association for home and business loans:
- F. Through assistance to indigent people in securing relief through established media.
- G. Through the establishment of a community center to serve the needs of the community in the following ways, and others which may be desirable:
 - 1. To cooperate with, coordinate, and augment the efforts of already existing agencies for employment and relief;
 - 2. To provide counseling services for individuals and families;
 - 3. To provide a center for the activities of youth in the community;
 - 4. To provide space for youth and adult classes on subjects vital to our community;
 - 5. To seek the means by which the aged of our community are relieved of their suffering.

POINT FIVE:—

V. Health

- A. Acquainting the community with available health services.
- B. Promoting a program of health education.
- C. Eliminating hazards to good health.
- D. Encouraging the establishment of adequate health facilities.
- E. Cooperating with agencies working for better mental health.

POINT SIX:—

VI. Recreation

- A. Securing adequate facilities for youth and adults.
- B. Securing adequately staffed centers with competent personal.
- C. Promoting a year-round program of recreational activities for all ages.
- D. Organizing classes in drama, dance, music, and the arts.

POINT SEVEN:—

VII. Law Enforcement

- A. Promoting cooperation with law enforcement agencies.
- B. Assisting in the impartial investigation of alleged intimidations and discriminations.
- C. Working for the elimination of injustice and police brutality in the courts.

POINT EIGHT:—

VIII. Public Relations

- A. Educating the public on Negro contributions to society.
- B. Publicizing the objectives of the MIA.
- C. Working to eradicate public bias and race prejudice through all available media.

POINT NINE:—

IX. Cultural Advancement

- A. Sponsoring a continuing talent search for children who may be gifted in various fields.
- B. Providing opportunities for ambitious young artists to give expression to their talents in their chosen fields.
- C. Acquainting the community with the cultural contributions of the Negro through such means as the observance of a "Negro Achievement Week."

- D. Lifting the level of cultural appreciation in music, art, literature and drama, through such media as:
1. Radio programs of high quality music;
 2. Programs, music and art appreciation etc. in school;
 3. Public programs of good music, art, drama and literature featuring local as well as outside talent.

Point Ten :—

X. Spiritual Enrichment:

- A. Propagating Christian and democratic ideals.
- B. Promoting a community program of moral uplift.
- C. Aiding in the elimination of enterprises which lead to moral decay.
- D. Fostering a spirit of cooperation among all religious faiths.
- E. Continuing to teach and observe the principles of non-violence in solving problems in human relations.

Dear Friends of Freedom:

With the dawn of a new day arising, Montgomerians, young and old alike, reaffirm their belief in God and the inherent worth and dignity of the human personality. We pledge anew to strive faithfully and earnestly, following the will of God, to seek Justice and first-class citizenship for our people.

Will you join the struggle?

Your assistance is still an urgent necessity if the struggle against injustice is to be continued here in Montgomery. The successful integration of buses in our community is only a beginning in the struggle to put injustice out of business in the South. Your continued backing, both spiritual and financial, will help us to keep a sustained attack against those attitudes and forces which deny the basic rights of citizenship to Negroes in our great land.

Yours for freedom,

M. L. King, Jr.
President

Mose Pleasure, Jr.
Executive Secretary