

Black Chicagoans should start playing hide & seek with police:

Police in Chicago are only out to get black residents.

By Daylon Moore

Should police be fired for the way they single out Black residents as targets more than any other race in Chicago? I think they should be, given that their actions are done intentionally towards Black Americans.

If you have ever been to Chicago, you know that it is common for police to be everywhere. You might think that's because they are doing their job, but Black Americans would say that they are really being racially discriminatory. I believe that the police in Chicago highly distrust Black residents, so Black communities are shown more attention when police are around or involved with the community. This shows racial divide between Black and white residents, creating more hatred toward police by the black residents.

I grew up in Chicago for 18 years and noticed everything that involves the police community, though I did not start experiencing the division of races until I started to drive. When I turned 17, I brought my first car, and I would use it to go to work, to and from school, and any other activities throughout my day. I would get watched or pulled over by police officers at least twice a month which was, I believe, because I was a young, Black American, I had a black car, and I just fit in with the rest of the Black community. The article "Doubt about police in Chicago manifests itself on racial lines in monitor's survey, legal challenges over street stop" by Annie Sweeney is very intriguing because I do believe that the Black community is targeted at a higher rate than the white community. Sweeney reports percentages showing that for police officers

stopping cars, Black residents were targeted at the highest rate, 52%, while white residents followed with 9% (Sweeney). This information shows how unequal the criminal justice system is toward the Black community. The article also shows how discriminatory police officers are toward Black residents in comparison to other races' outcomes with police. Black residents are constantly stopped, pulled over, and questioned.

In this writing, I want to educate readers on why police officers in Chicago should be fired when they show racial discrimination toward Black residents. Police should be kicked off the force in Chicago when they show racial bias toward Black residents, especially when they wrongly believe that most crime involves Black residents. Police should be mindful of how threatened Black residents feel when driving, or walking, or being outside because everyday we see problems where police officers are accused of treating Black Americans wrongly. Social media shows that police brutality has not only sparked in 2020, but has been a growing problem for many years. We also see patterns from racial discrimination within prisons. The article “Illinois lawmakers push to reform state’s bail system” by Raymon Troncoso reports that Black prisoners are required to pay higher bonds (Troncoso). Troncoso clearly shows this when he quotes Malik Alim, Campaign Coordinator for the Chicago Community Bond Funds: ““Money bail disproportionately affects Black communities... A study from the University of California suggests that Black and brown people are more likely to be ordered to pay higher money bonds and given the real existence of the racial wealth gap those same people are less likely to bond out”” (Troncoso). This relates to how racism is involved with more than police being racist, but illustrating that discrimination is also linked with the bail system in prisons. Although some police are great at their job and should be respected and uplifted for having such a dangerous job, some police should take notes. Police officers who just ride around looking to disturb the peace because of the color of your skin should not be on any force because that is not what they

were trained to do. Police should be kicked off the force in Chicago when they show racial division between Black and white residents.

Sweeney shows readers a survey taken by young Black men, Black non-hispanics, hispanics, and white residents. The survey shows the relationship between each race with the police, asking if their neighborhoods are safer, what their relationship with the police is like, and how confident they would be with coming to the police to report something. Based on survey results, she concludes, “that Black Chicagoans have the most negative experiences with police, especially for the specific younger demographic the monitor focused on—young Black men between the ages of 18 and 25” (Sweeney). The article “Illinois has promised to ‘Infuse Love’ in its Juvenile Justice System, but what will actually change?” by Duaa Eldeib basically states that “more than 70% of youths incarcerated by the Department of Juvenile Justice are black” (Eldeib), even though the Black population is only 15%.

All surveys show that Black residents feel a lot less safe with police forces in their neighborhood and that they have very bad relationships with police, which means that police come off to Black residents as abusing power to the point where their power is often used to only show authority over Black residents. Studies show that 52% of Black men from 18-25 are stopped in a car which is 43% more than white (Sweeney).

Looking from a white resident’s point of view, I think that they have a better version of police officers because police see Black residents as more dangerous than others. White and Black residents are divided racially because police officers feel that white residents are not a threat to communities as much as Black residents, so they are left alone when they are seen in public areas. The surveys discussed by Sweeney illustrate that, in each question asked, white residents have the least amount of problems with police officers on average. This could have a

positive impact on white residents' neighborhoods potentially because police are "making their neighborhood safe," but you can infer when Troncoso illustrates how most of the population in prison is made up of black residents that white neighborhoods are safe because more black residents are off the streets. White residents in Chicago feel safer because they perceive Black residents more dangerous than others, which ultimately results in arresting more Black residents so that white residents feel more safe.

If police officers just took the time and treated everyone equally like everything is supposed to be, then Black residents would not have so much hatred toward them. Every resident in Chicago matters, so why should we be treated differently?

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