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The Changing “Face” of North Omaha, Part 2

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Black Votes Matter

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Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

THE CHANGING “FACE” OF NORTH OMAHA. Part 2

THE CHALLENGE TO LEADERSHIP

In my last and most recent column entitled THE CHANGING “FACE” OF NORTH OMAHA”, I discuss the advent of a steady migration into North Omaha from a worldwide immigrant and refugee population. I listed: Sudanese, Somalian, Vietnamese, Laotian, El Salvadorian, Guatemalan, refugee, immigrant, Afghanistan. Mexican, Iranian, Burmese to name a few. All great people and cultures in their own right. But my focus was and is on the resulting dynamics. My focus is narrowed to North Omaha Only. I suggest you read part1 for understanding of my thrust. In summary I declare that these new communities by in large bring marginal enhancements and little wealth, community engagement and voting. Part 1 challenges our community to seek coalitions but to recognize the watering down of our already dismal north Omaha Voting power and leverage. My challenge to our community is to recognize that Black votes Matter.

This follow on article is a challenge to our leadership. What should north Omaha leadership do to first embrace and secondly enhance the new communities that are the changing faces of north Omaha but need to be part of the needed and positive change agents?

I have several suggestions. I am begun to follow my own suggestions and take some leadership directed to do just that, assist and lead these communities into our community to join our overall north Omaha attempt to enhance north Omaha. Let me say at the on-set that real change in north Omaha will come only if we are able to bring and develop wealth to the community. Wealth is not grants, wealth is not more non-profits, wealth is injected via for profit developments, jobs, contracts and north Omaha small business growth that create wealth over time within our community. With wealth will accrue help on the other fronts, education, teenage STD’s, pregnancies, mental health and yes crime and violence. Lastly community engagement and voting will the beneficiary’s.

Needed Leadership initiatives:

1. Out Reach: Leadership should be identifying the leadership of the various communities and seek them out. Schedule meeting meetings. Build relationships. Discuss the history and nature of the black community. Dispel the myths and untruths. Learn about their cultures. Attend events and invite to ours. I have accomplished some of this with the Sudanese, but none in most of the other communities, I will.

2. Problem solve: where possible assist in their unique community problems and attempt to be helpful. Most of the communities are surrounded by helpful and well-meaning non-profits and religious groups, but so are we and we still need the real deal help.
3. Common ground: find common grounds, schools, sports cultural events, key and historical events.
4. Create a joint vision: They must not be left alone to create a separate north Omaha. Together we are together we must be to move forward.



5. Push Community engagement and Voting: We don't need new and more non-voters. Immigrant Votes Matter. Recently I attended a federal naturalization ceremony at the Federal Court House here in Omaha. At the ceremony 44 people from all over the world were awarded United States citizenship. They enjoyed songs, a flag pledges of alliance, a message from Judge F.A. Gossett on the Bill of rights, statue of liberty, Ellis Island and citizenship, a DVD message from President Barack Obama. After the ceremony I along representatives from the League of women voters registered 25 of the new citizens to vote. Most were excited to be able to exercise their right to vote. North Omaha we are losing our excitement and losing our grip, wake and let's get busy. Leadership lets lead the way. Attached is a 47 year old Sudanese's woman after becoming a citizen and who I registered to vote December 11, 2015. Hope she moves to North Omaha.