

BARBARA LEE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

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CHAIRWOMAN,
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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Mr. Devone Boggan
City of Richmond
Office of Neighborhood Safety
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804-1630

Dear Mr. Boggan,

I am contacting you to express my deep appreciation for the information you shared with me regarding the Operation Peacemaker Fellowship. Additionally, I continue to be profoundly impressed with not only the mission performed by your organization, but by the roles played by two dynamic young men, Mr. Rasheed Shepherd and Mr. Shawn Morris.

Prior to your visit to the office of Rep. Barbara Lee, I had no familiarity with the mission of the Fellowship; particularly in regard to building and sustaining community peace, with the express purpose of eliminating gun violence in Richmond, California.

As I listened to both Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Morris talk about how their attitudes and lives were transformed through their participation in the Fellowship, I developed a new sense of optimism that indeed the future for African American young men is not lost. They exuded confidence, commitment to personal growth, and a sense of personal dignity. Clearly, these young men are emerging as future leaders and responsible citizens.

Now more than ever, African American communities must reinvest our resources into vulnerable populations, particularly young African American men. Further, as we look for alternatives to the ills that ravage our neighborhoods, Operation Peacemaker Fellowship exemplifies a model that can be replicated throughout communities nationwide.

It is with immense pride that I commend Rasheed and Shawn for undertaking the challenge to abandon violence, and to choose an alternative path of personal and community transformation. Rest assured that I will hold them up as examples of what is possible for young African American men when they are given as chance.

If I can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Khalil Munir
Office of Rep. Barbara Lee