

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

WHO DO YOU BELIEVE?

"If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade." Tom Peters, American businessman

How many times have you either heard it or read it? President Trump is a racist. Mainstream-media (MSM) newspapers including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Huffington Post, USA Today and the Guardian have all published articles that Trump is a racist.

CNN's Don Lemon and Jim Acosta have gone on the record that Trump is a racist. MSNBC's political analyst John Heilemann declared that President Trump was "obviously a racist." Ditto for Joe Scarborough as he calls the President "openly racist."

California Democrat Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Barbara Lee have publicly stated that our President is a racist. So has New York Democrat Congressman Gregory Meeks.

But an Executive Order signed December 12th doesn't fit the racist narrative. President Trump created the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. It covers 13 federal agencies and is led by Ben Carson, the Housing and Urban Development secretary. No cable outlets including C-Span covered the event. Neither did ABC, CBS or NBC. The New York Times and Washington Post did report on the Council's formation but not on the black leaders present at the White House.

The Council is part of the Trump's plan to encourage public and private investment in urban and economically distressed areas. Secretary Carson said: "Opportunity Zones are home to approximately 35 million Americans. The Department of Treasury estimates that Opportunity Zone legislation could attract over \$100 billion in private investment, which would go a long way to spur economic development and create jobs."

A statement from the White House described an expansive mission for the Council, including efforts to "streamline existing regulations, optimize federal resources, stimulate economic opportunity and mobility ... expand high-quality educational opportunities, develop and rehabilitate quality housing stock" and "prevent crime in economically distressed communities."

Deemed un-newsworthy by the MSM were comments from prominent black leaders in attendance:

- Ben Johnson, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET): “What this proves is the efficacy, Mr. President, of a program that allows capital to flow to places where people are seeking out opportunity. And I am convinced that this program, where the tax incentives flowing out of the Treasury Department to business people, will cause people to invest money where before they saw risk, now they will see opportunity. And that combination of putting money into communities will allow for those communities to become vibrant, to become safe, to create ownership, and, most important, to contribute to the well being of this country.”
- Pastor Donté Hickman, Baltimore’s Southern Baptist Church: “Your influence on federal agencies and private entities through this executive order will enable distressed communities, like Broadway East in Baltimore, to obtain investment needed to capitalize and bridge funding gaps to create sustainable health, wealth, housing, educational, recreational, grocery, and employment opportunities.”
- Senator Tim Scott, South Carolina (R): “Under this administration — Mr. President, under your leadership — what we’ve seen happen in the last several months is unprecedented. You can think first about Opportunity Zones. And because of your leadership, Opportunity Zones that will help distressed communities — over 8,700 throughout this country — is a reality.”
- Pastor Darrell Scott, New Spirit Revival Center, Cleveland Heights, Ohio: “This president actually wants to prove something to our community, our faith-based community and our ethnic community. The last president didn’t feel like he had to. He felt like he didn’t have to prove it. He got a pass. This president is -- this administration is probably going to be more proactive regarding urban revitalization and prison reform than any president in your lifetime.”

Also present at the signing of the Executive Order were Roger Campos, Minority Business Roundtable; Van Jones, former green jobs adviser to President Obama and CNN contributor; and Bishop Harry Jackson, Hope Christian Church, Beltsville, MD.

So who do you believe? Do you believe partisan Democrat politicians, the anti-Trump MSM or black leaders on the front lines of economically distressed communities?