

**Republican Perspective**  
**28 August 2019**  
**by Ed Manning**

**BALTIMORE**

*“hooker on the corner, waiting for a train; drunk lying on the sidewalk, sleeping in the rain” Lyrics from “Baltimore” by Randy Newman*

The racist charge was again leveled by several Democratic politicians and members of the main-stream-media (MSM) against President Trump. His tweets about House Representative Elijah Cummings (D) Baltimore’s district caused the uproar. Mr. Trump was not pleased with the Congressman for berating acting Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kevin McAleenan during a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing about conditions at the southern border. The President tweeted:

“...As proven last week during a Congressional tour, the Border is clean, efficient & well run, just very crowded. Cumming District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess. If he spent more time in Baltimore, maybe he could help clean up this very dangerous & filthy place.”

The MSM exploded over the tweet. CNN’s Victor Blackwell called the comments “racist,” arguing that the president used the term “infested” solely when talking about “black and brown people.”

The President is called a racist for suggesting that Baltimore’s congressional representative clean up a “rat and rodent-infested mess.” Democrat politicians and the MSM should now label the pest control firm Orkin, as a racist establishment. In October 2018, Orkin published its “Top 50 Rattiest Cities” list. Baltimore was No. 9 with Chicago being No. 1 for the fourth consecutive time.

It appears from the perspective of Democrat politicians and the MSM, “rat and rodent-infested” are terms that cannot be used should any city be represented by a Democrat of color. Would it be “racist” or “bigoted” for a black Democrat politician to label a community as rodent-infested? If so, then former Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh has earned the label. In September 2018 she toured an east Baltimore neighborhood as part of her “violence reduction initiative.” Television station WBBF went along. Here are a few of Pugh’s comments:

“What the hell, we should just tear all this sh-t down.” “Whoa...you can smell the rats.” “Oh my God, you can smell the dead animals.”

Congressman Cummings is aware of Baltimore’s problems. Here is what he said at a Congressional hearing back in 1999: "I left my community of Baltimore, a drug-infested area". No one suggested this was racist nor should they.

Bernie Sanders also commented on conditions in Cummings district. On a tour of the area in 2015, the *Baltimore Sun* reported:

“Anyone who took the walk that we took around this neighborhood would not think you’re in a wealthy nation,” “You would think that you were in a Third World country.” “We’re talking about a community in which there are hundreds of buildings that are uninhabitable,”

Sanders tweeted in 2016: “Residents of Baltimore’s poorest boroughs have lifespans shorter than people living under dictatorship in North Korea,”

Democrats and the MSM made no charge of racism against Sanders. Nor did they charge that his comments were a “dog-whistle” towards West Baltimore’s black population.

Trump did not mince words with another tweet about the Congressman:

“Rep. Elijah Cummings has been a brutal bully, shouting and screaming at the great men & women of Border Patrol about conditions at the Southern Border, when actually his Baltimore district is FAR WORSE and more dangerous. His district is considered the Worst in the USA.....”

The Princeton Policy Advisors (PPA) did a recent analysis of violent crime in Baltimore. They reported that Baltimore's murder rate is higher than those of Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador. They stated: “Many readers will no doubt be surprised to read that Baltimore has a higher murder rate than the Central American countries whose violence the left has claimed led to the asylum crisis.”

Per PPA, “Baltimore is on track for 340 murders in 2019, on a population of about 610,000, representing a murder rate of 56 per 100,000. Guatemala's murder rate in 2018 was 22. El Salvador's was 50, and declining. Honduras was tracking a pace of 38 through the first four months of the year.”

As chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Cummings and his committee Democrats have tried to blame DHS, ICE and the Border & Customs Patrol for the conditions at the southern border. Instead of trying to find a bi-partisan solution to our asylum laws, they blame and impugn the integrity and service of agents and officers.

Baltimore has been under Democrat control since 1967, over one-half century! A 2017 study by Project Baltimore of state testing data found one-third of High Schools in Baltimore, had **ZERO** students proficient in math. Nine out of ten black boys were not at grade reading level. Is this study racist? No, but it highlights Democrats failure to govern. Perhaps Cummings and the Mayor should meet with the teachers union about learning conditions.

