

Bryon Stevenson Card Comments

Question #1

The scope and reach of our criminal justice system has greatly expanded over the past 30 years. How can we reduce the frequency with which we use the system while still maintaining public safety?

Reframe question 1

Evidence shows that when the system is accessed less frequently, public safety is increased

Take profits out of prisons

Criminalization of public health, prisons become catch all for mental health

Address issues of poverty

Humanize policing – do they serve as well as protect

The systems work for those who created them

False premise to the question – yes it has expanded over 30 years. due to

But how can we reduce the frequency with which the system uses sentencing guidelines. It should be illegal to profit off of the incarceration.

- Mandatory minimums
- Sentencing guidelines
- Addressing poverty
- System is so profitable
- Misinformation of safety
- How crime is defined by what type of crime

The goal to get reform – so what is the argument (economic /moral argument

Using the prison population for cheap labor – by corporations like Walmart

Using the prison/correctional system to generate revenue for the correctional system and vendors by bidding for high contracts and splitting the difference.

Using the census from the prisons to increase the population #'s to increase federal dollars/ funding resources to those communities in which the prison sits.

Question #2

The consequences of felony records create barriers to society that can reinforce economic and health disparities and racial segregation. What are the biggest challenges for people reentering society from long-term incarcerations? How can we break the cycle?

Biggest challenges:

Employable skills

Stable income

Stable housing

Keeping in touch – family, friends, loved ones

Knowing how the world works

The sentencing guidelines need to change. ie mandatory minimums, prosecuting drug crimes

It should be illegal to profit off of prisons.

Defended by convincing the public that there's a problem

Where does the problem come from? Crime is also an economic violence issue locking up drug crimes

Access to employment – both having the needed skills and hiring restrictions because of having a criminal record

Transitional Housing –

Employment

Transportation: There is limited access to where the jobs *are located*

Entrepreneurship

White police fear of black bodies, especially black male bodies

How can we break the cycle:

Be less judgmental

Acknowledge the humanness of the person

<p>Be vulnerable enough to tell your own story</p> <p>Be provided resource list</p> <p>Be provided a mentor</p> <p>Expunge records</p> <p>Revamp the judicial system</p> <p>Felony friendly environment</p> <p>Faith / <i>Spiritual/Cultural</i> based resources</p> <p>Mentor who shares your talents or skills and can help to usher you into a field</p> <p>Uniting the community so that we embrace one another and help each other reach the fullness of all of our potential</p>
<p>1. Stop racial bias</p> <p>2. Stop mass incarceration</p> <p>Be advocate and enabler to help individuals make the transition out of incarceration. Truly, mentoring, making connections – all are important.</p> <p>Changing sentencing and correction guidelines</p>
Feeling hope- believing that it's possible to re-enter
Jobs programs, housing options support to reconnect with family, mentoring
END/ Abolish Prisons
Need a real dialogue on race
Attack incarcerator or on probation
Ban the box, voting rights for all
<p>Question #3</p> <p>What does it mean to be part of a community?</p> <p>Law enforcement is only one force for community safety – and a force that some may consider unsafe. What are others? What can you do in your neighborhood, workplace, or school to ensure your safety and the safety of others?</p>
In my neighborhood growing up, we never trusted the police. (I grew up in the little Earth Projects). There is always a police presence, but it is never wanted.
Communities should have stronger relationships. Humane ways to deal with things other than getting a criminal record
Community? North Minneapolis like a aquarium
Outside my experience white, upscale community, segregated no Black/Asian
<p>Community</p> <p><u>Know</u> your neighbors</p> <p><u>Understand</u> what I/we am/are afraid of...</p> <p><u>Learn</u> what our threats to safety are...</p>
To be in community assumes that I am aware of and in relationship wit the people on my block and in the neighborhood. Knowing their names, their needs and interests and the joys and sorrows helps to build community. Spending time being available o neighbors fosters that “village to raise a child” Faith Communities
Burden of racial bias & Trauma connected to the reality of racial discrimination
Income challenges can lead to homelessness
Mandatory minimums
<p>Burden of racial bias</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → poverty in proximity to great wealth → focusing on the resistance to the civil rights movement
There is psychic harm/trauma from racial disparities
The power of witness