



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Chairman Cummings,

First, let me say, thank you to the committee for allowing me to testify and give voice to the work we do in urban communities.

Twenty years ago, I stood before you offering grassroots solutions to youth crime. In order to be effective in deterring a child from becoming involved in criminal activity, it's necessary to pursue the core of the problem. There were a number of variables I cited as the roots of youth crime: economic disparity, cultural insensitivity, lack of moral identity - But intervention or reformation, I warned against using a blanket solution that isolates each category of dysfunction. An effective solution to youth crime would require a holistic approach; one that treats the entire individual, and in turn, the larger family, then community. Today, we are eating the poison fruit that grew from that untreated root.

Twenty years later, these high risk youth have become ex-offenders trying to raise families and re-integrate into a damaged society. The solution to their lack of production as citizens can not be merely punitive. Again, it must be holistic. We must walk people getting out of prison through the process of redemption and lead them into productive citizenship. We train and use Urban Specialists to intentionally dive deep into the lives of these to transform the fundamental values that are guiding destructive behavior, degrading Urban Culture, and greatly limiting their potential. Accordingly, we train and empower organizations, businesses, and individuals to collaboratively operate in the community stimulating the economy and promoting sustainability.

Collectively, we can help and heal each other - economically, socially, and spiritually. In turn, we create change together to build a greater and stronger community. Through our 3-I Model, organizations, businesses, politicians, and citizens can transform Urban Culture with Urban Specialists using a common approach to Invade the culture, take Intrusive action, and build up strong community Institutions.

I am, personally, committed to advancing the cause of the voiceless who suffer silently in an attempt to become productive citizens of this great country. If there are ways that we can work collectively to ensure a better process and a better outcome, the Urban Specialists group is ready to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Omar Jahwar".

Pastor Omar Jahwar
CEO
Urban Specialists
1401 S. Lamar
Dallas, TX 75201
469.458.3006

**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Witness Disclosure Requirement — "Truth in Testimony"**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5) and Committee Rule 16(a), non-governmental witnesses are required to provide the Committee with the information requested below in advance of testifying before the Committee. You may attach additional sheets if you need more space.

Name:

1. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.					
Name of Entity	Your relationship with the entity				
N/A					
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you or the entity or entities listed above have received since January 1, 2015, that are related to the subject of the hearing.					
Recipient of the grant or contact (you or entity above)	Grant or Contract Name	Agency	Program	Source	Amount
N/A					
2. Please list any payments or contracts (including subcontracts) you or the entity or entities listed above have received since January 1, 2015 from a foreign government, that are related to the subject of the hearing.					
Recipient of the grant or contact (you or entity above)	Grant or Contract Name	Agency	Program	Source	Amount
N/A					

I certify that the information above and attached is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature O. Dabwar

Date: 6/26/17

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Omar Jahwar



Omar Jahwar tackles the politics and issues that affect inner city youth and communities in the Dallas. He takes a unique approach to youth intervention services, through commandeering neighborhood heroes “Urban Specialists” and utilizing their experiences in that lifestyle to get a strong message of action and consequences across to neighborhoods that are at risk.

Emerging as an important leader and outspoken voice in the community, he is the founder of Urban Specialists, through FMC Inc., a life shaping entity designed to assist the social sculpting of inner city culture. Urban Specialists presently provides counseling and mentoring services in the Dallas Independent School District and the surrounding civic areas.

Mr. Jahwar was instrumental in creating Dallas’ first Violence Free Zone (VFZ), a concept developed by Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) originator Robert Woodson. Based on the philosophy that crime and violence can be prevented by transforming the thoughts and perceptions of individuals who participate in crime and violence, The Urban Specialist’s track record is proof that with early and positive intervention and value reinforcement youth can be deterred from crime and violence.

The first person to hold a recognized position within the State of Texas as Gang Interventionist, and a congressional speaker on grassroots solutions to youth crime, Mr. Jahwar spearheaded the first gang truce in Dallas between the “Crips” and “Bloods” in 2000. Mr Jahwar has also addressed a Russian delegation in St. Petersburg, Russia in December 2002 on the issue of youth violence. He recently trained the U.S. Justice Department officials and Washington D.C. principals on this important topic.

He is the recipient of numerous accolades and awards including, but not limited to:

- ◆ 2009 NEI Local Hero Award Recipient
- ◆ 2009 Panelist Speaker for African American Healthy Marriage Initiative, Research to Practice Conference
- ◆ 2008 Panelist Speaker for Ms. Bush’s Regional Conference Helping America’s Youth
- ◆ 2007 Keynote Speaker – Mentoring Program Regional Training for US Dept. of Education
- ◆ 2005 Award Recipient for Crime and Safety – “Let Justice Role On Like A River”
- ◆ “Key” to the city of Dallas in recognition for work in juvenile crime prevention
- ◆ White House Award for Achievement Against the Odds
- ◆ Accommodations from Dallas Mayor, Ron Kirk, for work in the community
- ◆ “Black History Minute” Honoree, KRLD News Radio1080
- ◆ A grant recipient from the City of Dallas for youth crime initiatives

In addition to his community activism, Omar Jahwar is currently the senior Pastor of Kingdom Worship and Restoration church, a thriving urban ministry in the southern sector of Dallas TX. Pastor Jahwar is a devoted husband and father of 4 beautiful children.