

National Black Church Initiative

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Honorable Vincent Gray
Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Gray:

We wanted you to know that we are deeply in prayer for you, your entire family and your current administration during these difficult times. I know it is not easy being under this much scrutiny at a time when the District has their fiscal house in order. You have been and remained to be a very effective mayor. I wanted to have an opportunity to share with you our sincere thoughts on what needs to happen during this time so that God's healing can begin to take place. The entire District is not opposed to you. There are many who still love, admire, and remain supportive of your leadership. We do pray that everyone involved will tell the truth. As the Scripture says, the truth will set you free.

Mr. Mayor, I consider you both a colleague and a friend. And as a cleric, my job is to offer you God's eternal grace and mercy through Christ Jesus. This is why I have been in deep prayer for you and your able staff. That being said, I am equally compelled to offer you a solution to overcoming your current troubles. We never know the motives of our friends or those who oppose us. This is why we pray that the truth will come forth and unshackle you from this modern political tragedy.

As you recall, a good six months ago before the mayoral race, you were gracious to meet with me and 22 other clergy including nine Bishops to talk about a number of issues confronting the city at that time while you were chair of the DC City Council. Paramount to those issues was the proposed legislation of legalizing gay marriage. We prayed and pleaded with you in the name of Jesus to not support that piece of legislation. You said, "By supporting gay marriage it will not harm my soul." After such a statement, many of the clergy present were stunned for such a defiant stance against the Word of God. Since then, as you know, we believe that God through Christ took away and chastised then Mayor Adrian Fenty, Councilman Harry Thomas Jr., and Chairman of the Council Kwame R. Brown. Now, you are going through a similar fate after you were dually warned that God will not tolerate such disobedience.

I hope that you do not consider this recollection as unchristian or harsh because it is neither. The purpose is to allow you to understand your current troubles in the context of God's Word. Mr. Mayor, a friend and a subordinate and even your religious advisor may not tell you the truth that your support of same sex marriage has no connection to your current tribulations. Earlier in this letter, I expressed my deep love for you and your family. And part of Christian love is to tell your friends the truth and God's truth for by doing so you invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to begin God's divine healing.

We truly believe that there are three steps out of this crisis and a way to generate God's favorable power on your behalf.

- You must denounce gay marriage because it has truly harmed your soul and the soul of the District. To continue to defy the Word of God in light of your current trouble is not wise. We also believe that you will garnish the sympathy of the entire Christian community—sympathy we believe you need at this dark hour of your political career.
- You must vigorously fight for your right as Mayor. God has placed you in that position and God intends for you to continue in that position so that you can serve those who God wants you to represent.
- You must ask the original 22 ministers to come together again—especially, the Bishops, and repent for your moral mistake on gay marriage, and ask for divine prayer and guidance.

Whether you chose to do this or not, we will continue to pray for you. Dr. Martin Luther King says that the measure of a man (friend) can be measured not when there are times of laughter and success, only when there are times of trouble, controversy, and hopelessness. We are standing with you, Mr. Mayor. Despite those who believe that you are politically and morally untouchable, let me ask you a few questions, where is the gay community? Where is their statement of support? Why are they not demonstrating in front of the Wilson Building telling everyone of your moral courage to support “marriage equality”? We can assure you that they will not stand with you and that they will abandon you like they abandoned Mayor Fenty, Kwame R. Brown, and Harry Thomas Jr.

You are God's shining hope. We urge you in Christ Jesus to come and stand with God's people so that they can stand with you.

You Humble Servant in Christ,

Rev. Anthony Evans
President