



Fair Recovery Talking Points (May)

1. Illegal immigration is not the cause of high black unemployment. Labor market discrimination against African-Americans is still a huge problem in our country.
 - “There is some evidence that in the unskilled trades, retail and service industries, illegal immigration has had a negative impact on black job loss. The debate though is how great is the loss? Anti-immigration groups claim that illegal immigrants take tens of thousands from blacks. Civil rights groups say that number is wildly inflated.”
 - Political analyst, Earl Ofari Hutchinson argues that “Dumping the blame for the chronic job crisis of young, poor black men on undocumented immigrants stokes the passions and hysteria of immigration reform opponents, but it also lets employers off the hook for discrimination.”
 - Studies have shown that blacks are ranked behind all other racial groups in regards to work ethic and racial discrimination is still very common.
 - Some methods of modern discrimination against blacks include:
 1. Rejecting applicants with “black sounding” names
 2. Rejecting applicants that live in certain areas of a city
 3. Incorrectly telling black applicants that advertised jobs have been filled¹

2. Minorities are increasingly moving to the suburbs but segregation within these suburban communities continues to isolate them from resources and employment opportunities.
 - While some news outlets are focusing on the "increasing diversity" of the suburbs, the growing migration of blacks and Latinos has primarily been to lower-income suburban areas
 - “Minority suburban residents often struggle to find employment due to the “lack of public transportation [which] limits access to [to jobs and] long commutes or the absence of routes to employment-rich areas [which] isolate the suburban poor. Car ownership rates are low and a reliance on private transportation is costly for those on budget.”
 - “To add to the spatial dislocation, suburban areas with jobs are typically in higher-income areas that lack affordable housing. A disproportionate number of subsidized houses are in the city or poor suburban areas ... At the same time, racial segregation in

¹ Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Fingering Illegal Immigrants for Black Jobless Crisis, The Huffington Post http://www.huffinpost.com/earl-ofari-hutchinson/fingering-illegal-immigra_b_568935.html (May 8, 2010)

housing markets, including racial discrimination by banks in lending, by landlords or rental agents, or even resulting from racial preferences of residents, may drive these patterns as well. Moreover, zoning laws and development impact fees that limit low-income housing in suburban areas may themselves partly reflect racial preferences.”²

- Future ARRA spending should aim to alleviate the aforementioned spatial mismatch between poor, suburban minorities and employment-rich areas through providing affordable housing in the high income sections of these suburban communities.
3. Renters have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and their lack of financial resources and legal representation leaves them susceptible to negligence by owners and lenders.
- In some cities (e.g., Chicago) renters have been hit harder by the foreclosure crisis than homeowners. “More than 125 multi-family buildings in Chicago went into foreclosure each week last year.”
 - “During foreclosure, owners often abandon the property and lenders refuse to take responsibility for maintaining the building ... There is widespread misunderstanding by tenants, owners and lenders of the rights and responsibilities of tenants in foreclosure, and the vast majority of tenants don’t have access to legal representation.”
 - Kathleen Clark, executive director of Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing, stated, “The foreclosure crisis continues unabated and the impact on families in foreclosed buildings continues to displace innocent renters, often without warning or return of their security deposits.”³

² Akito Yoshikane, Changing Suburbia: Leaving Cities, Working Poor and Unemployed Find New Isolation http://int.hesetimes.com/working/entry/5966/suburban_poverty_outpaces_cities_report/ (May 12, 2010)

³ Francine Knowles, Chicago Renters Hit Harder by Foreclosures than Home Owners <http://www.suntimes.com/business/2239700,family-home-foreclosure-chicago-050510.article> (May 5, 2010)