



The Black Swan Academy
Making the Exception...the Rule

Love Us, Don't Harm Us

The Issues

1. Let me Vent 2.0

Invest in the mental health and well being of youth of color, especially those impacted by violence, abuse, or other forms of trauma, Divest from the policing and criminalization of bodies, trauma, and adolescent behaviour

2. Community Ground Guns Dow

Address violence, by investing in the community and not policing

3. Jobs not Jails

Create more jobs for young people year round and people returning from jail

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LET ME VENT 2.0



Committments

INVEST IN THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF YOUTH OF COLOR, ESPECIALLY THOSE IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE, ABUSE OR OTHER FORMS OF TRAUMA, DIVEST FROM THE POLICING AND CRIMINALIZATION OF BODIES, TRAUMA, AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR

Did you know? Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Black youth ages 15-24

Demands



- Increase the number of mental health professionals in schools and within communities
- Adopt the model of violence interrupters in local schools
- Mandate training for educators and adults interacting with youth in public facilities on social/emotional learning, trauma-informed care, de-escalation techniques, restorative justice approaches.
- Hire qualified teachers, with more teaching experience with the specific grade level and subject matter. Reduce reliance on long-term or permanent substitutes and ensure substitutes have increased training.

COMMUNITY GROUND, GUNS DOWN



Committments

ADDRESS VIOLENCE, BY INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY AND MOVING BEYOND POLICING.

Did you know? The implementation of violence interruption programs was associated with a 63% decrease in gun shooting victimization?

Demands



- Increase of “community interrupters” in Ward 7,8,1,4
- . Providing community–led training to equip the public with skills around mediation, conflict resolution, de–escalation techniques, and healthy coping mechanisms.
- Invest in safe passage for schools including buses and transportation (public) to and from school and afterschool programs.

JOBS, NOT JAILS

Committments

CREATE JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE YEAR ROUND AND JOBS FOR PEOPLE RETURNING FROM JAIL

Did you know? 60% of formerly incarcerated people are jobless/

Demands



- **Create more jobs for young people year-round and people returning from jail**
- **Put more funding into job training and programs for returning citizens**
- **Lower the age to work year-round to 15-year-olds; have specific job sites for 14-year-olds**
- **Create a job readiness programs for youth**