

**July 17, 2013**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Black Man's Think Tank Position Statements: Martin and Zimmerman Incident**

**Dayton, Ohio**

Whereas, George Zimmerman, a self-appointed neighborhood *watch*man, disregarded the orders of law enforcement not to follow Trayvon Martin;

Whereas, Zimmerman knew that Martin was not an adult Black man, whom he would not have approached in the first place; and

Whereas, Zimmerman knew that he himself was carrying a loaded, concealed gun,

We conclude that Zimmerman acted in a cowardly manner even if he did not act with a depraved mind without regard for human life.

We also conclude that there are lessons to be learned by young people, especially young Black men, and the community at large.

First lesson, it is appropriate for young people to first try to deescalate a potentially threatening situation with a calm demeanor and calm words leaving the thread of force as a necessary last measure to protect one self and others.

Second, it is very appropriate that parents, relatives, teachers, coaches, etc. teach our young people the first lesson along with appropriate measures of evasion. This should happen now and forever.

Third, our communities must be more proactive against special interest groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council and the National Rifle Association, who pervert laws that have served this country greatly for their own reckless necessity. From this perspective, the community at large was also guilty at least in part for Trayvon's death and for Zimmerman's subsequent acquittal.

Moreover, we stand with other groups here locally in Dayton, Ohio and with other groups across the country, who want to repeal a perverted law (Stand Your Ground), which was set into motion by groups who favor special interest over the community at large.

Lastly, we wish Trayvon Martin's family the best in trying to deal with their loss and we pray for healing among all that mourn for Trayvon.

**About the Black Man's Think Tank**

The Black Man's Think Tank is a tax exempt, non-profit organization in Dayton, OH. Its mission is to develop and support industry between Black organizations and professionals. Our mission priorities are

working with organizations and professionals in the areas of education, economic development, health and wellness, and criminal justice. Visit [www.bmtt.org](http://www.bmtt.org) for more information.

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