

May 11, 2015

Turning our attention back to the problems caused by liberal Democrat government in Baltimore. Kevin Williamson says one weird trick can make a city more prosperous. He takes us to Philadelphia to show the trick.

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*But in between is a lot of blight and some very bad blocks, though less blight and fewer bad blocks than there were 30 years ago. ...*

*... There are many variables in the success and failure of cities, but one stands out. It isn't race — Philadelphia is a minority-majority city, as is New York. And it isn't affluence, either: Rank U.S. metros by income and Los Angeles barely cracks the top 50. But each of those cities has enjoyed a measure of success in recent decades by improving the material conditions in poor neighborhoods through the sort of commercial development bitterly denounced as gentrification. The streets of West Philadelphia are not nearly so mean as they used to be. New York City's transformation in the Giuliani years was dramatic not only for the well-off precincts of Manhattan but in the rest of the city, too, with development even in places such as the South Bronx, once written off as a total urban loss. Los Angeles, which experienced a much worse version of the Freddie Gray riots in 1992, is a different city today. Economic policy is of course a piece of that, though not so big a piece as the economic-policy wonks like to think — does anybody remember what Rudy Giuliani's tax plan was?*

*These cities are now safe — that's the difference. New York City may be backsliding under its new Sandinista regime, but there's still not much of the old menace there. ...*

*... The real issue is moving people, businesses, and resources into poor neighborhoods — which is not going to happen when the locals are assaulting people, burning down businesses, and destroying resources. Lawlessness and violence convert assets into liabilities — all those boarded-up houses that once were homes are attractive nuisances on a massive scale. Somebody, somewhere, wants to sell things in those abandoned Baltimore storefronts, but no one can, because it is not safe.*

*And that's the horrible irony here. If Baltimore wants to get its economic act together, it has to get something else right first: policing.*

*So far, neither the police department nor the people of Baltimore have shown any particular capacity for keeping the peace.*

The UK's Guardian says Baltimore is going back to its old ways.

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Ron Christie says that after Baltimore's mess, America is heading "blackwards."

*I'm worried about my country today. I'm worried because a fear I've spoken of for several years now is coming to fruition in a way that threatens to rip apart the fabric of our American society.*

*In 2012 I published Blackwards: How Black Leadership Is Returning America to the Days of Separate But Equal, in which I warned that our country was headed on a dangerous course marked by race and ethnic identification at the expense of the positive attributes we ascribe as being American citizens. In short I wrote: "I believe this phenomenon is most pervasive in the black, dare I say African American, community. I believe that calls of racism and unequal treatment in the era of Obama has helped create a toxic climate that will spread unless we stop the stain that is spreading through our schools, offices, communities of worship and political discourse."*

*The essence of heading blackwards has manifested itself in the events that have unfolded in Baltimore over the past few weeks. We still don't know what happened to Freddie Gray while in police custody or the tragic events that led to the young man's death. We've been told over and over again on television and on the radio that racism is the culprit at play for Gray's death. Unfortunately facts no longer matter in our society today—slogans and efforts by those seeking "justice" for wrongs real or imagined are more important than a clearheaded and dispassionate search for the truth.*

*Consider the statement given by the Baltimore State's Attorney late last week in charging six police officers with Gray's death. Rather than disclose facts and assure the people of Baltimore she would proceed with prosecution based on solid evidence, Marilyn Mosby instead offered: "To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America, I heard your call for 'No justice, no peace,'" she said. "Your peace is seriously needed as I seek to deliver justice to this young man." "No Justice, No Peace" is a political statement to be used at a rally, not a comment that ought to be made by someone heading an impartial search for evidence to provide the basis for a conviction in a court of law. ...*

More from Andrew McCarthy who was a federal prosecutor in New York city.

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*Baltimore City. The prosecutor has alleged a second-degree “depraved heart” murder offense and other homicide charges that contradict her “depraved heart” theory. The complex case was rashly lodged before investigators had come close to completing their witness interviews and other reports. Ms. Mosby admitted, with clueless pride, that she’d filed a murder case because she heard “the call of ‘no justice, no peace’” from demonstrators across the country.*

*The homicide charges are of immediate danger to the police officers named in them. By contrast, everyone in Baltimore is endangered by Ms. Mosby’s decision to charge police with false imprisonment. ...*

*... If police are now to conclude that they cannot, without fear of being prosecuted, take routine investigative steps based on reasonable suspicion, communities cannot be protected. There can be no security and no commerce. Innocent people will be preyed upon and killed.*

*The unlawful-imprisonment charges filed by prosecutor Marilyn Mosby are not even social justice, much less justice. They are a death sentence for Baltimore.*

**Jack Kelly** in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is last today on Baltimore.

*... Half a century ago, when black poverty was greater, there was much less violent crime in black communities, notes economist Thomas Sowell, who is black. Half a century ago, Baltimore was prosperous.*

*Black poverty is a symptom — not a cause — of urban decay. White racism isn’t to blame for it. What’s killing cities are the leftism, corruption and ineptitude of city “leaders.”*

*Baltimore is fast becoming the next Detroit because its “leaders” — most of whom are black, all of whom are Democrats — kowtow to thugs.*

*“You cannot take any people, of any color, and exempt them from the requirements of civilization — including work, behavioral standards, personal responsibility and all the other basic things that the clever intelligentsia disdain — without ruinous consequences to them and to society at large,” Mr. Sowell wrote.*



## **National Review**

### **[One Weird Trick That Can Help Make Your City More Prosperous](#)**

by Kevin D. Williamson

I have never understood why West Philadelphia became a slum. There’s certainly nothing wrong with the real estate: Right in the middle of West Philadelphia is an Ivy League university; go eight-tenths of a mile east from the University of Pennsylvania down Walnut Street and you’re in one of the nicest city centers in the Northeast; go four miles northwest down Lancaster Avenue and you’re in Lower Merion, the fifth-highest-income municipality in the country

(sandwiched between San Ramon, Calif., and Brookline, Mass.), where you can catch a polo match or a steeplechase race. There is terrific residential architecture, from the Victorian rowhouses on Spruce Street to the stately 19th-century homes spread out on broad lawns as you approach the city limit.

But in between is a lot of blight and some very bad blocks, though less blight and fewer bad blocks than there were 30 years ago.



The driving force in West Philadelphia has been the University of Pennsylvania and institutions related to it. It's a familiar story, not dissimilar to what has happened in previously downmarket East Austin thanks to University of Texas students seeking lower rents. Penn students vary greatly in their intellectual achievements (Wharton grads to the right, women's-studies majors to the exits), but almost all of them can count, and some of them stick around Philadelphia, where they can buy a nice four-bedroom home for half of what they'd pay for a one-bedroom condo in Brooklyn. Get a high enough density of these people and soon enough a fruity coffee shop appears, and before you know it you're within spitting distance of a Trader Joe's.

Naturally, everybody hates them for this.

Municipal leaders and community activists are forever soliciting "investments" in poor neighborhoods. Politicians, as I have long argued, do not know what the word "investment" means. The point of investment is to increase the value of something — you invest in a new kitchen to improve your house, both for your own enjoyment and to increase its price in case you should decide to sell it. A successful investment is associated with higher market prices. In Philadelphia, this was denounced as "McPenetration" — a particularly chowder-headed play on "gentrification" — and self-styled community organizers worked mightily and continue to work mightily to prevent investments in poor communities in Philadelphia. U. Penn, which was founded by Benjamin Franklin, but which has been in West Philadelphia *only* since the 1870s, was denounced as an "invader."

The transformation of a community from homogeneously poor to mixed-income may be painful — it will increase the cost of living — but all economic change involves tradeoffs. Rising property values are good for homeowners, bad for renters and would-be buyers. But in poor communities afflicted by so-called food deserts — broad urban expanses without grocery stores — and those suffering from a lack of banks and retail services, an influx of relatively well-heeled neighbors can be an excellent thing. This is true of public services as well, of course — perhaps even more true: Democratic theory notwithstanding, city hall does not attune the same set of ears to all citizens' complaints. That dynamic is almost certainly part of the reason for the relative success of densely populated places such as Manhattan: Nothing magical happens to Fifth Avenue at 96th Street, and if there's trash piling up in Spanish Harlem, you can smell it on the Upper East Side.

Being poor is a burden; being poor in a poor community is a danger. Poverty — individual poverty or family poverty — is difficult enough to overcome; overcoming it in an environment in which everybody one encounters is in roughly the same situation (or worse) is much more difficult. One of the best ways to increase generational income mobility for children born in places such as the poor sections of Baltimore is — this will not surprise you — to get the hell out of Baltimore, the sooner the better: The income effects of leaving Baltimore are more pronounced the younger the child is when he leaves.

But exit is not really going to be much of a broad solution for places such as Baltimore and Detroit. The white middle class left long ago; less remarked upon was the dramatic exit of the black middle class from those communities. In poor urban communities, as in the Big White Ghetto of Appalachia, most of those with the resources to leave left long ago. Simply abandoning poor cities is not really much of an answer.

The problem of poor individuals and poor families is different from the problem of poor communities. Writing in *Slate*, Professor Louis Hyman argued that those Baltimoreans who torched the CVS because they were enraged by police misconduct were perfectly rational to do so, because they feel exploited by the ghetto economy. They may in fact feel that way, but we

are not obliged to respect those feelings if they are not based in reality. Contra Professor Hyman's account, those living in the Mondawmin section of Baltimore have not been abandoned to the check-cashing shops and other ghetto financiers; there are ordinary commercial banks in the area, and while their services are not free, neither are those of the check-cashing houses. In many cases, conventional banks' checking services are free or effectively free — one of the banks in the area waives charges for those with any sort of regular direct deposit of \$250 or more, including government benefits. (The majority of small businesses nowadays, and practically all large businesses, use direct deposit for their payroll.) For those without direct deposits, the expense of a checking account runs from \$0/month for students 23 years of age and younger to \$8/month at one of the major banks in the area to \$12/month at another.

Professor Hyman, who learned all about poverty at prep school (McDonogh, \$26,000 a year) and Harvard, is of course correct that \$8 can mean a great deal to a very poor person. But the CVS-torchers in Baltimore are nonetheless wrong to resent the commercial establishments that serve them, and Professor Hyman is wrong to endorse their stupidity. A poor black man from Baltimore, or a poor white man from eastern Kentucky, would have to jump through a great many hoops before he would be granted a job interview with Professor Hyman's former colleagues at McKinsey or his current colleagues at Cornell. But a man with \$10 in his hand is the same as any other man with \$10 in his hand, regardless of race, background, or accent, when he is standing at the register at Walmart or Target. And unlike entities supported by government "investments" — like Atlanta's schools or Baltimore's police — Walmart reliably keeps its end of the bargain: You pay Walmart \$20 for a pair of shoes, you get the shoes.

There are many variables in the success and failure of cities, but one stands out. It isn't race — Philadelphia is a minority-majority city, as is New York. And it isn't affluence, either: Rank U.S. metros by income and Los Angeles barely cracks the top 50. But each of those cities has enjoyed a measure of success in recent decades by improving the material conditions in poor neighborhoods through the sort of commercial development bitterly denounced as gentrification. The streets of West Philadelphia are not nearly so mean as they used to be. New York City's transformation in the Giuliani years was dramatic not only for the well-off precincts of Manhattan but in the rest of the city, too, with development even in places such as the South Bronx, once written off as a total urban loss. Los Angeles, which experienced a much worse version of the Freddie Gray riots in 1992, is a different city today. Economic policy is of course a piece of that, though not so big a piece as the economic-policy wonks like to think — does anybody remember what Rudy Giuliani's tax plan was?

These cities are now safe — that's the difference. New York City may be backsliding under its new Sandinista regime, but there's still not much of the old menace there. Downtown Los Angeles feels like Arlington with better weather, and it has a lower rate of violent crime than Portland, Ore. Philadelphia still has a high rate of violent crime compared with similar-sized cities such as Houston and Phoenix, but it is dramatically lower than the rates in the urban basket cases. Philadelphia's murder rate, though still very high, is barely 60 percent of Baltimore's. Baltimore's violent-crime rate is twice New York City's and three times Los Angeles's.

There are two straightforward ways to improve the material conditions of people living in the poor parts of Baltimore: Move them out or move capital in. There is a little something to be said for moving people out of dysfunctional communities; I have in the past argued for a kind of reverse incarceration for young men convicted of serious crimes in gang cases — i.e., that during probation or parole they could live anywhere in the country they liked, so long as it was more than 200 miles from their home town. But that's a narrow question. The real issue is moving people, businesses, and resources into poor neighborhoods — which is not going to

happen when the locals are assaulting people, burning down businesses, and destroying resources. Lawlessness and violence convert assets into liabilities — all those boarded-up houses that once were homes are attractive nuisances on a massive scale. Somebody, somewhere, wants to sell things in those abandoned Baltimore storefronts, but no one can, because it is not safe.

And that's the horrible irony here. If Baltimore wants to get its economic act together, it has to get something else right first: policing.

So far, neither the police department nor the people of Baltimore have shown any particular capacity for keeping the peace.

### Guardian, UK

#### [Nine shootings in Baltimore in 24-hour period leave at least two dead](#)

*Gun crime in Baltimore continues to rise following lull during Freddie Gray protests as city has seen roughly three to four shootings a day since 27 April riots*

by Raya Jalabi



*Three days ago, there was a triple shooting near this CVS pharmacy that was looted and set alight during last Monday's riots.*

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[Nine shootings were reported in a 24-hour period in Baltimore on Thursday](#), including at least two that were fatal.

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the riots on 27 April, there were no casualties. From 28 April to 3 May, 18 shootings were reported in the city.

Shortly after midnight Thursday, police officers responded to a hospital call when a man walked in with a [gunshot wound to the foot](#), which he told police he sustained on the 1200 block of North East Avenue.

Three more men were reported shot, non-fatally.

A 34-year-old woman was shot multiple times, [according to the Baltimore Sun](#), and was taken to a local hospital. Police later [said she died](#) from her injuries, which homicide detectives were investigating.

Police also responded to reports of a double shooting later in the evening. A man had been shot several times, and died after he was taken to hospital. Police [said a second man](#) was found near the scene of the first with a gunshot wound to the leg.

Homicide detectives were also called to investigate another double shooting which occurred later on Thursday night, with reports of both a male and female victim.

Three days ago, there was a triple shooting near the CVS pharmacy that was looted and set alight during last Monday's riots.

## Daily Beast

### [Post-Baltimore, America Is Heading Blackwards](#)

***“Blackwards” is the condition created by racial hucksters who want to divide us. And tragically, they’re having a field day.***

by Ron Christie

I'm worried about my country today. I'm worried because a fear I've spoken of for several years now is coming to fruition in a way that threatens to rip apart the fabric of our American society.

In 2012 I published [Blackwards: How Black Leadership Is Returning America to the Days of Separate But Equal](#), in which I warned that our country was headed on a dangerous course marked by race and ethnic identification at the expense of the positive attributes we ascribe as being American citizens. In short I wrote: "I believe this phenomenon is most pervasive in the black, dare I say African American, community. I believe that calls of racism and unequal treatment in the era of Obama has helped create a toxic climate that will spread unless we stop the stain that is spreading through our schools, offices, communities of worship and political discourse."

The essence of heading blackwards has manifested itself in the events that have unfolded in Baltimore over the past few weeks. We still don't know what happened to Freddie Gray while in police custody or the tragic events that led to the young man's death. We've been told over and over again on television and on the radio that racism is the culprit at play for Gray's death. Unfortunately facts no longer matter in our society today—slogans and efforts by those seeking "justice" for wrongs real or imagined are more important than a clearheaded and dispassionate search for the truth.

Consider the statement given by the Baltimore State's Attorney late last week in charging six police officers with Gray's death. Rather than disclose facts and assure the people of Baltimore she would proceed with prosecution based on solid evidence, [Marilyn Mosby instead offered:](#) "To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America, I heard your call for 'No justice, no peace,'" she said. "Your peace is seriously needed as I seek to deliver justice to this young man." "No Justice, No Peace" is a political statement to be used at a rally, not a comment that ought to be made by someone heading an impartial search for evidence to provide the basis for a conviction in a court of law.

As America heads blackwards, it is more important for those rallying under the banner of "justice" to provide separate rules and special treatment when the victim is black, rather than seek equal treatment under the color of law. We've been told incessantly that those who are aggrieved in Baltimore are victims of a racist society. In a majority black city run by a black mayor and a black city council that presides over a police department where more than 40 percent of its officers are black and under the supervision of a black police commissioner, the popular meme is that racism is the root cause for all that ails the community. And for those who decry that Baltimore is in dire need of funding for its schools, the city ranks [second nationwide in per capita spending.](#)

For all the talk of how Baltimore has been ignored by all levels of government, consider that the city received \$1.8 billion from President Obama's stimulus package—including [\\$467.1 million in education funding and \\$26.5 million in crime prevention.](#) Something else is at play here.

The notion that blacks are always victims at the hands of a racist society excuses poor choices and poor behavior. Where are the fathers in Baltimore who bring children into the world and abandon them to be overwhelmingly raised in a single-parent household? It is not racism to question the judgment of people who do so but common sense instead.

Yet prominent social commentators such as Michael Eric Dyson lament that Baltimore's problems are social protests against racism, the riots that took place must be placed in proper context and that there is currently [no future for young black men in the city.](#) In Dyson's telling, when talking of poor blacks in Baltimore, he says: "It's easy to point a gun of analysis and shoot them with the bullets of our condemnation instead of saying we have to together find a way out of this."

I have a different view. The critical lesson we must learn from calls of racial solidarity by some on the left in Baltimore is that such talk undermines our society and exacerbates the problem of racial and political polarization. In an intelligent, developed society such as ours there is no excuse for racial balkanization and a political system that falls along party lines. Democrats who pander to blacks based on the color of their skin and Republicans receiving single-digit support from African Americans are both inexcusable.

My conclusion from *Blackwards* nearly four years ago is prescient today as we seek to put events in Baltimore in proper context. "We don't need a black agenda, a white agenda, or a Latino agenda to fulfill our destiny...We must not form racial and/or ethnic enclaves that, whatever they contribute to multiculturalism, promote isolated and segregated communities. The pioneers of the civil rights era would be appalled that the legacy of their brave work to eliminate segregation in the United States was instead used as a wedge to demand special, rather than equal, rights based solely on race or ethnicity from their fellow citizens." We can and *must* do better.

## National Review

### A Prosecution That Threatens a City

#### *Criminalizing reasonable police work*

by Andrew C. McCarthy

An incompetent prosecutor — or worse, a politically driven prosecutor who also happens to be incompetent — can do worse things than blow an important case. The more one scrutinizes the case against six Baltimore police officers said to be implicated in the death of Freddie Gray, the more one worries that the prosecution will cost lives.

I've recently explored the incoherent and patently politicized set of charges filed last Friday by Marilyn Mosby, the social-justice activist who doubles as the Maryland state's attorney for Baltimore City. The prosecutor has alleged a second-degree "depraved heart" murder offense and other homicide charges that contradict her "depraved heart" theory. The complex case was rashly lodged before investigators had come close to completing their witness interviews and other reports. Ms. Mosby admitted, with clueless pride, that she'd filed a murder case because she heard "the call of 'no justice, no peace'" from demonstrators across the country.

The homicide charges are of immediate danger to the police officers named in them. By contrast, everyone in Baltimore is endangered by Ms. Mosby's decision to charge police with false imprisonment.

The reporting on this allegation has conveyed a fiction as if it were a fact. We are told that when police apprehended Freddie Gray, it turned out the knife he carried was not illegal to possess under Maryland law. Therefore, the theory goes, he was arrested on false pretenses and his imprisonment was unlawful.

Already, the claims underpinning this theory are suspect. Fox News's Peter Doocy reports that lawyers for Edward Nero, one of the charged police officers, contend that possession of the knife — a spring-loaded switchblade — *is* illegal under the law of Baltimore City, even if it is not proscribed by state law. Defense counsel demand that the prosecutor make the weapon available for public examination.

Obviously, the state's attorney for Baltimore City should be expected to know the laws it is her duty to enforce.

So who is right? Ms. Mosby's response is not encouraging.

On Wednesday, she issued a statement declaring, "I refuse to litigate this case through the media." *This*, from the same woman who announced the charges in a demagogic *press conference* last week. The prosecutor also preciously asserted that she could not "ethically" disclose evidence to the public prior to the trial, although she did not seem reluctant to "ethically" inflame the jury pool during her diva turn last week. For good measure, she added that she "strongly condemns" leaks by law-enforcement officials — not because they embarrass her (perish the thought!) but because leaks are "unethical" and "damaging [to] our ability to conduct a fair and impartial process." Yes, of course.

If there is anything like a fair and impartial process in Baltimore, a judge should be examining that knife right now, even if the public does not get to see it.

I am betting that, regardless of whether the knife is technically illegal, the prosecutors in Ms. Mosby's office have relied on such knives in hearings and trials to argue that suspects who possessed them should be denied bail, convicted, or sentenced harshly.

Moreover, since Ms. Mosby has apparently developed a deep interest in ethics since last Friday, she may now know that even if she herself is unclear on the law, all the prosecutors in her office have obligations to disclose to the court and defense counsel any exculpatory information they have. If Ms. Mosby's office routinely argues that suspects are guilty or pose a threat to the community based on knives like the one Mr. Gray had when he was arrested, that is something they need to come clean about.

But let's put that aside for now. The point to focus on is that Ms. Mosby's theory of unlawful imprisonment is dangerously wrong.

As we understand the facts, Mr. Gray was encountered by police in a high-crime area. Upon making eye contact with an officer, he fled. Based on this suspicious conduct, police pursued him, found the knife on his person, and placed him under arrest. It was apparently during his time in custody thereafter — as opposed to in the immediate circumstances of the arrest — that Gray suffered the injuries that killed him.

These facts do not establish unlawful imprisonment. The law allows police to be *wrong* without being *criminally culpable*. If this were not the case, police would not make arrests, even if crimes were committed before their eyes, for fear that they could be prosecuted, sued, or fired if a prosecutor or judge second-guessed their judgment.

It is not at all clear to me that the police were wrong to pursue and arrest Freddie Gray. Much has been made by commentators of the fact that the police did not have a warrant for Gray's arrest or see him commit a crime when they ran after him. This is an unrealistically narrow conception of probable cause.

Imagine the not-at-all-unusual situation in which, in a high-crime area, a suspect who has just, say, mugged a woman and taken her wallet, sees a police officer as he's leaving the scene. The police officer did not see the mugging. The suspect makes eye contact with the officer and flees in the opposite direction. It would be cold comfort to the woman who has just been assaulted, and infuriating to most law-abiding citizens, if the officer decided not to pursue the suspect — who got away, to mug another day — just because he hadn't witnessed the mugging.

And, of course, the officer is not required to let the suspect get away. In the hypothetical circumstances just described, a cop would have a good-faith basis for suspicion of wrongdoing, even if he did not yet have probable cause. The law permits a brief investigative stop in that situation. The suspicion would heighten if the suspect continued running away after the police officer directed him to stop. In the brief detention, the police officer would be permitted to pat the suspect down, and to seize a weapon if the suspect had one. And if the officer believed in good faith that the weapon was illegally possessed, he could make an arrest.

Some counter that it is not a crime to run away from a cop. True enough. But our jurisprudence teaches that "reasonable suspicion" and "probable cause" are not hyper-technical terms; they are commonsense concepts that ask how a reasonable, experienced police officer would judge what he sees in the heat of the moment.

The average person who runs away from police has done something wrong; it is not unreasonable for a cop in a crime-ridden area to conclude that he is probably dealing with the

average person, not the unusual type who runs for no apparent reason. And the whole point of the investigative stop is that police can ask a few questions and let the detainee go on his way if there is no good reason to detain him further.

Police have the right to be wrong, as long as they are wrong in a reasonable way. That is the case not only when they detain someone but when they decide they have grounds to make an arrest. If a police officer finds on a suspect what he believes in good faith is an illegally possessed knife, he can arrest the suspect. If it turns out that the knife is actually legal, the remedy is to vacate the arrest — not to prosecute the cop for unlawful imprisonment.

It's a mistake, not a crime.

Note that I am not arguing against a prosecution for some form of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Mr. Gray. That is a different issue from whether he was properly detained and arrested in the first place. Once the police have a suspect in their custody, they have a duty to keep the suspect safe and secure. It seems absurd to me, on the facts as we now understand them, for a prosecutor to charge murder when there appears to be no evidence of intent to kill (a fact the prosecutor implicitly concedes by the contradictory charge that Mr. Gray's death was a case of *involuntary* manslaughter or *negligence*). Yet it is entirely possible, if not probable, that death was caused by criminally culpable police misconduct.

There is, however, much more at stake here than finding out exactly what happened to Mr. Gray, as important as that is.

If police are now to conclude that they cannot, without fear of being prosecuted, take routine investigative steps based on reasonable suspicion, communities cannot be protected. There can be no security and no commerce. Innocent people will be preyed upon and killed.

The unlawful-imprisonment charges filed by prosecutor Marilyn Mosby are not even social justice, much less justice. They are a death sentence for Baltimore.

## **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

### **What Ails Baltimore? Liberalism, Corruption & Incompetence**

by Jack Kelly

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake dawdled while her city burned, let thugs run amok, then apologized for calling them “thugs.” I didn't think it was possible for a public official to demonstrate greater unfitness for office. I was mistaken.

State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby was in such haste to indict six Baltimore police officers for the fatal injury Freddie Gray suffered in a police van that she got the names, addresses and birth dates of two officers wrong.

Mr. Gray, who had an extensive arrest record, fled when he saw a police bike patrol. He was detained after the officers found a folding knife in his pants pocket. They handcuffed Mr. Gray, shackled his legs and loaded him into the van, but did not fasten his seat belt.

There was no probable cause because Mr. Gray's knife was legal, Ms. Mosby said. She charged Lt. Brian Rice with involuntary manslaughter, Officers Garrett Miller and Edward Nero with second-degree assault. If the blade had to be pulled out manually, Mr. Gray's knife would be legal. Both Maryland law and a city ordinance ban switchblades. The police report described Mr. Gray's knife as "spring assisted."

Officer Caesar Goodson Jr., who drove the van, is charged with second-degree murder. Officer William Porter and Sgt. Alicia White checked on Mr. Gray but didn't call for medical assistance, Ms. Mosby said. They're charged with involuntary manslaughter.

The charges are excessive and likely will be dismissed, said liberal law professors Alan Dershowitz of Harvard and John Banzhaf of George Washington University. The evidence indicates negligence, so Mr. Gray's family may win a big settlement from the city in a wrongful death suit. But nothing indicates the officers intended to harm Mr. Gray.

Half of those arrested for rioting were released without charge.

"To the people of Baltimore and demonstrators across America, I heard your call for 'No justice, no peace,'" Ms. Mosby said when she announced the indictments. By saying that, she undermined the rule of law, wrote attorney Jack Marshall, president of ProEthics, Ltd.

"Prosecutors must not 'hear' demands that a citizen be prosecuted," he said. "They are ethically obligated to ignore them and do what the evidence dictates."

Customarily, before indictments are issued, a grand jury must find the prosecutor has enough evidence. Since jurors hear only what the prosecutor wants them to hear, grand juries almost always approve indictments. But sometimes they don't. Ms. Mosby bypassed the grand jury, which reduced the risk her evidence would be deemed insufficient.

The indicted cops are being "thrown like red meat" to satisfy an angry mob, said Milwaukee County (Wis.) Sheriff David Clarke, a Democrat who is black.

The Gray family attorney, William Murphy, has been Ms. Mosby's mentor and a major campaign donor. She should have recused herself, said the Fraternal Order of Police.

Ms. Mosby is married to Baltimore City Councilman Nick Mosby, who represents black neighborhoods, "meaning that she knows that if she doesn't indict, his career is toast. That's a conflict of interest," Mr. Marshall wrote.

Three of the indicted officers are black. So are the police chief and most senior officers. The questionable conduct of the Baltimore police isn't racially motivated.

Half a century ago, when black poverty was greater, there was much less violent crime in black communities, notes economist Thomas Sowell, who is black. Half a century ago, Baltimore was prosperous.

Black poverty is a symptom — not a cause — of urban decay. White racism isn't to blame for it. What's killing cities are the leftism, corruption and ineptitude of city "leaders."

Baltimore is fast becoming the next Detroit because its "leaders" — most of whom are black, all of whom are Democrats — kowtow to thugs.

“You cannot take any people, of any color, and exempt them from the requirements of civilization — including work, behavioral standards, personal responsibility and all the other basic things that the clever intelligentsia disdain — without ruinous consequences to them and to society at large,” Mr. Sowell wrote.

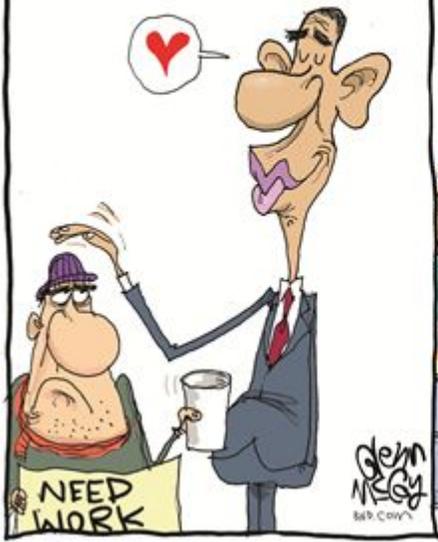




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Of course President Obama  
loves the poor and unemployed.



Why else would  
he create so many  
of them?

