

Obama foundation to target inequality

Man caught 40 years after escape

NEW YORK (AP) — In a deeply personal response to outbreaks of racially motivated protests, President Barack Obama on Monday blamed a lack of opportunity in minority communities and harsher treatment of black and Hispanic men by police for fueling a sense of “unfairness and powerlessness.”

The country’s first black president called for a nationwide mobilization to reverse inequalities and said the cause will remain a mission for the rest of his presidency and his life. “There are consequences to indifference,” Obama said. Helping launch a foundation to assist young minorities, Obama said the catalysts of protests in Ferguson, Missouri, and in Baltimore were the deaths of young black men and “a feeling that law is not always applied evenly in this country.”

“They experience being treated differently by law enforcement — in stops and in arrests, and in charges and incarcerations,” Obama said. “The statistics are clear, up and down the criminal justice system. There’s no dispute.”

The new organization, My Brother’s Keeper

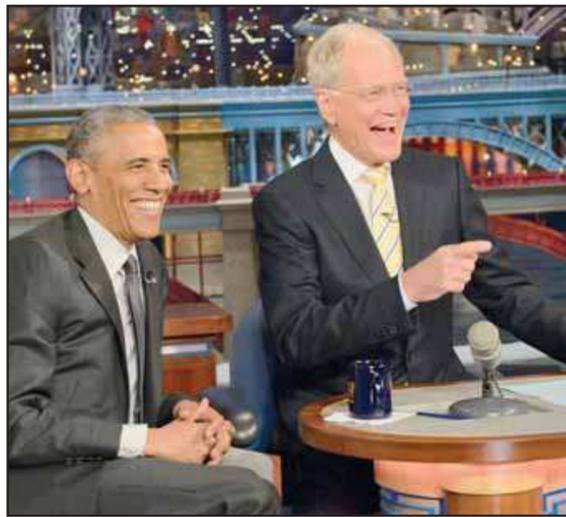
Alliance, is an outgrowth of Obama’s year-old My Brother’s Keeper initiative, which has focused on federal government policies and grants designed to increase access to education and jobs.

While the effort predates the tensions in Baltimore that erupted after the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody, the significance of the new private-sector alliance has been magnified by the spotlight the riots placed on low-income minority neighborhoods.

“Folks living in those communities, and especially young people living in those communities, could use some help to change those odds,” Obama said.

Obama repeatedly drove home the point during his 10-hour visit to New York, echoing the same themes from his speech at Lehman College in the Bronx to high-dollar Democratic Party fundraisers in Manhattan to an appearance on CBS’ “Late Show with David Letterman.”

“For far too long, for decades, we have a situation where too many communities don’t have a relationship of trust with the police,” he told Letterman.



In this image released by CBS, President Barack Obama, left, appears with host David Letterman during a taping of “Late Show with David Letterman,” on Monday in New York.

He said he wants young minority men in particular to know “we’re going to invest in you before you have problems with the police, before there’s the kind of crisis we see in Baltimore.”

He tied the call for justice with an economic message for the 60 donors who paid \$10,000 to see him at an expansive, art-filled Upper East Side apartment — including actor

Wendell Pierce, who played a Baltimore police detective working in drug-ridden projects on “The Wire.”

“If we are going to be successful over the long haul, if we are going to win what will be a very competitive 21st Century, we’ve got to have everybody on the field,” Obama said, adding the economy “can’t leave entire communities behind.”

Obama later held a discussion with about 30

donors contributing up to \$33,400. That event was closed to the media.

Despite his criticism of inequities in criminal justice, Obama praised police officers for putting their lives on the line and singled out Brian Moore, a 25-year-old New York City police officer shot in the head over the weekend while attempting to stop a man suspected of carrying a handgun. He said police “deserve our gratitude and our prayers, not just today but every day. They’ve got a tough job.”

“We ask police to go into communities where there is no hope,” he said at Lehman College. “Eventually, something happens because of the tension between society and these communities, and the police are just on the front lines of that.”

Obama described the plight of young minority men as a struggle he’s intimately familiar with, alluding to his own youth raised by a single mother.

“I grew up without a dad. I grew up lost sometimes and adrift, not having a sense of a clear path,” he said, adding that he was lucky because he was in an environment where people cared for him.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A convicted killer escaped from an Ohio prison farm in 1959, then was allowed to slip away from law enforcement in 1975 and disappeared until a ruse to get his fingerprints led to his arrest in Florida this week, investigators said Tuesday.

Former Akron, Ohio, resident Frank Freshwaters, now 79, admitted his true identity when authorities confronted him Monday, according to the U.S. Marshals Service and deputies in Brevard County, Florida.

Marshals in Ohio had sought help from deputies there, and they created a ruse to get him to sign papers so they could check his fingerprints, which matched the decades-old arrest, said Major Tod Goodyear.

“We couldn’t go with a picture and see if it’s that guy,” Goodyear said. “You look different than you do 50 years ago.”

An old picture of Freshwaters came into play, when, after a week of surveillance, they confronted him as he left his trailer.

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6	1			9				
		4	5	1	6	3		
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