



METROPOLITAN JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

P.O. Box 9841
William M.T. Forrester, Jr.
Executive Director

Richmond, VA 23228
Phone: (804) 539-2227
Email: mjbl@comcast.net
Website: www.mjbl.org

June 8, 2020

The Metropolitan Junior Baseball League was founded in 1966 to address the lack of resources available to African Americans who desired to play youth sports while growing up in the American South. During this time, a century of segregation was evident throughout Virginia. The common phrase “separate but equal” was a poorly crafted colloquial disguise for a system designed to deprive one group of people, while empowering another. Our founder, Dr. William M.T. Forrester Sr. had the forethought to realize that it was not enough merely hope for a change to this system. Instead, action would need to be taken by those on the losing end of this arrangement if real progress were to be made. When the policy of “separate but equal” failed to deliver on its promise, MJBL was created as a way for those within the minority community to be self-sufficient and provide for the needs of its own youth.

Although more than 50 years have passed since the end of segregation, it is sadly evident that things are still not “equal” for many minorities. This is illustrated in nearly every category of daily American life. African Americans suffer among the highest rates of morbidity and mortality in the country, while having the lowest access to health care. Similarly, minorities account for the largest incarcerated population in the U.S. per capita, yet inversely have the lowest level of access to legal aid and due process. Perhaps the most striking and visible example of inequality that we face in this country is highlighted in the interactions that minorities have with those entrusted to protect our communities. Routine law enforcement interactions, which may be largely harmless for the majority of the U.S. population, all too often evolve in to a display of civil rights violations, police brutality and most disturbingly, extrajudicial capital punishment for those living with black or brown skin.

What we have witnessed this past week is a country no longer satisfied with the current system that is designed to benefit some, while leaving others longing for promises of equality that have for too long remained unfulfilled. Our founder realized over half a century ago that action is required in tandem with hope if tangible results are to be achieved. The Metropolitan Junior Baseball League proudly stands in solidarity with everyone who is taking action right now to achieve justice and racial equality for all.

Sincerely,



William Forrester, Jr.