

STATE OF LOUISIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

BATON ROUGE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EWE 95 - 4

- Whereas,** House Concurrent Resolution Number 17 of the 1994 Regular Session requested the governor to create a commission to address disadvantaged black males; and
- Whereas,** all citizens of Louisiana should have the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives; and
- Whereas,** historical disenfranchisement, discrimination, inadequate education and skill levels, damaged self-esteem, and thwarted aspirations have often undermined the chances of poor African-American males to compete successfully in the labor market; and
- Whereas,** the unemployment rate for African-American males has been a persistent problem for more than twenty years and contributes to a disproportionately high percentage of unemployment in Louisiana; and
- Whereas,** African-American males represent only twenty-two percent of the state's school population, but account for forty-one percent of out-of-school suspensions and twenty-nine percent of dropouts; and
- Whereas,** only nine percent of the number of students attending Louisiana's four-year colleges and universities are Black males; and
- Whereas,** African-American males have experienced a decrease in life span and are at a higher risk for AIDS, hypertension, and alcohol drug, and tobacco use; and
- Whereas,** forty-two percent of all murder victims in 1992 were African-American males under the age of thirty; and

Now Therefore I, Edwin W. Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby establish a Governor's Commission for the Advancement of Disadvantaged African-American Males to study the education and the economic and health survival of Black males in Louisiana and do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Governor's Commission for the Advancement of Disadvantaged African-American Males shall consist of such number members as shall be chosen by the governor from elected official, civic and community leaders, representatives of the employment, criminal justice, education, and health communities.

Section 2: The members of the Governor's Commission for the Advancement of Disadvantaged African-American Males

shall serve at the pleasure of the governor without compensation or per diem.

Section 3: The secretaries of the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Labor, the directors of minority and women's business enterprise, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Regents shall provide such physical facilities, staff, and services to the commission as are necessary for the commission to discharge its obligations effectively.

Section 4: The Governor's Commission for the Advancement of Disadvantaged African-American Males shall submit a preliminary report to the governor and the legislature within the first six months of its existence and submit a published, final report to the governor and the legislature no later than March 1, 1996.

Section 5: The Governor's Commission for the Advancement of Disadvantaged African-American Males shall perform but not be limited to the following powers and duties:

1. Overseeing and supervising four separate and distinct subcommittees devoted to solving problems and advancing recommendations exclusively pertinent to African-American males, in the areas of unemployment, criminal justice, education, and health;
2. Conducting research to determine the nature and extent of the problems concerning African-American males in the four targeted areas;
3. Holding public hearings for the purpose of collecting data;
4. Identifying existing federal, state, and local programs that address problems and solutions relevant to the targeted areas of study;
5. Implementing appropriate new programs and/or demonstration projects;
6. Developing and implementing community education and public awareness programs especially designed for African-American males;
7. Developing strategies to improve the social condition of the African-American male;
8. Reporting to the governor the activities, findings, and recommendations of the commission.

Section 6: All agencies, boards, and commissions are authorized and directed to cooperate with the charge of the commission.

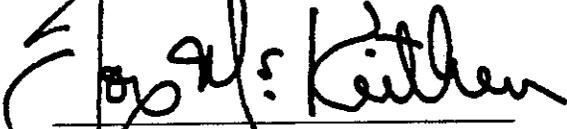
Section 7: The provisions of this Executive Order are effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended, modified or rescinded by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of February, 1995.


GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE