

# M.J. IVY

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COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT / IVY'S COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

PASTOR/ KINSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH

# VITAL STATISTICS

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**Public Relations & Communications expert with over 20 years of experience**

**Bachelor's of Arts – Mass Communications & Media Studies  
Lindenwood University**

**Masters Degree – Strategic Public Relations  
George Washington University, Washington D.C. (2021)**

**Master's Degree – Organizational Leadership in Civic  
Engagement, Claremont Lincoln University (2021)**

**Medal Veteran U.S. Air Force – Desert Storm/Desert Shield  
Logistical Specialist & Honor Guard Officer**



# SPIRITUAL STATISTICS

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Ordained Elder through the oldest African-American Pentecostal church organization in the world, the Church of God In Christ, Inc.

Pastor of Kinship Community Church





**M.J. IVY HAS BEEN IN THE  
LAS VEGAS VALLEY FOR 16  
YEAS AS A PUBLIC  
RELATIONS PROFESSIONAL  
& CIVIC LEADER**



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**Former Las Vegas Spokesperson for  
Color of Change, PAC**

**Former V.P. of the Southern Nevada  
Officials Association**

**Former campaign manager**

**Board Member & Co-Chairman,  
Guns & Safety Council, CCSD**

**Democratic Delegate for C.C. &  
State Conventions 2020**



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM - CASH BAIL SYSTEM

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Thousands of :

Jobs/Careers

Marriages

Personal Trauma



# JUST MERCY

# I HAVE TO PAY YOU TO TAKE MY WORD?

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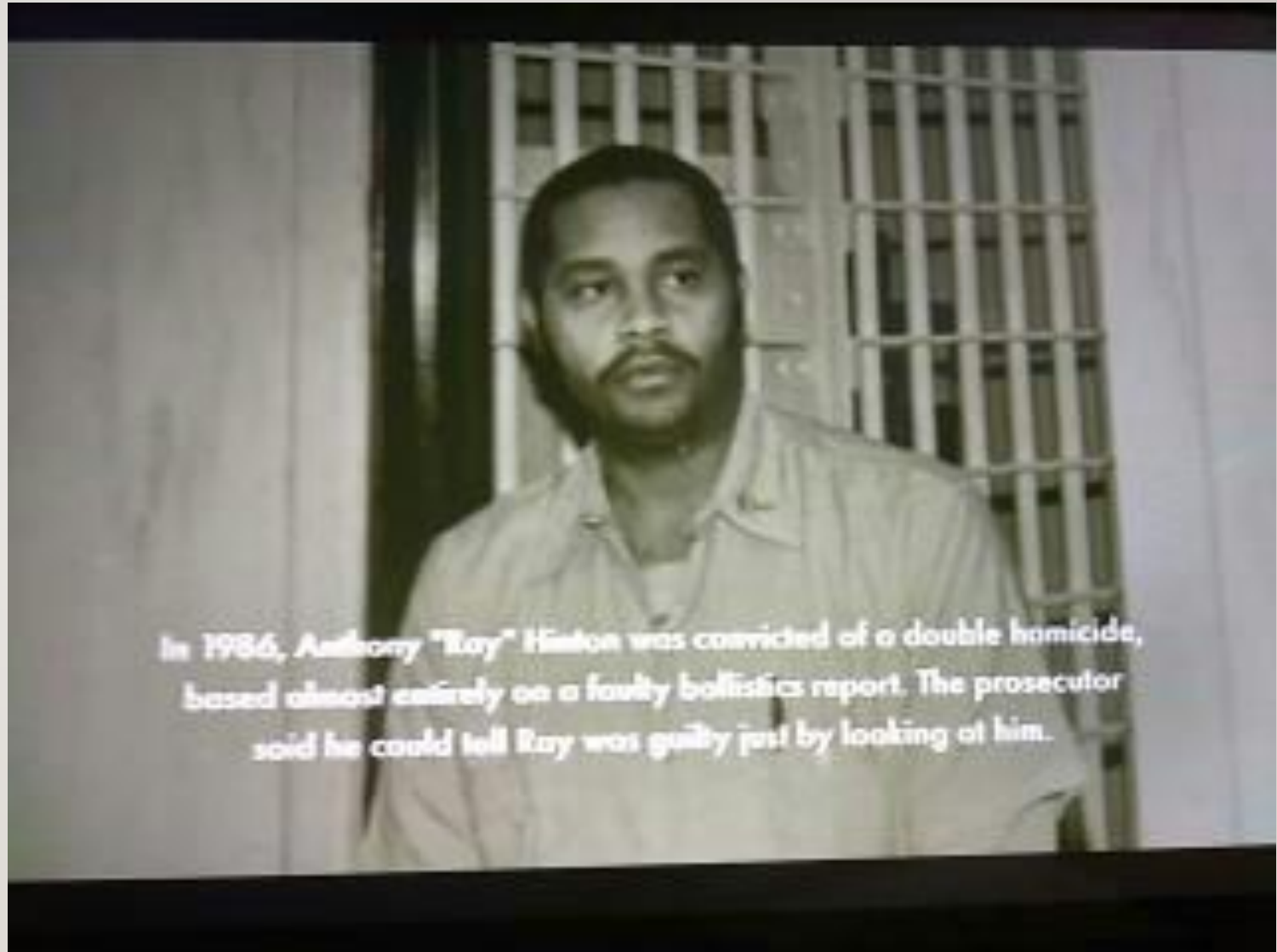
- A bail is set based upon 2 criteria
  - 1. Has the person been in trouble w/the law before?
  - 2. The level of the offense. Was it a misdemeanor or felony?
- Why is a person being judged based upon their ability to pay for an accusation?
- Paying to get out of incarceration implies means and privilege. That you are more stable and are unlikely to have committed the crime.
- NOT being able to pay means that one is more likely guilty especially if the alleged crime was one of violence or theft
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> question should be, what is their ability to pay?
- The 4<sup>th</sup> question should be are they a threat to the community? Victims? Themselves?



NO MONEY  
NO BAIL  
NO JUSTICE  
NO ESCAPE

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It's more than just bail. It's the systemic racism and classism against people of color and the poor, in the justice system.



## GENERATIONS OF POOR & DISENFRANCHISED

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This is ONE example upon millions if not tens of millions of Americans who cannot afford bail.

The worst outcome of these is the example here...





# THE TABERNACLE OF CHANGE & MANTEL OF LEADERSHIP MUST BE PASSED ON GENERATIONALLY. SADLY, MY GENERATION HAS FAILED

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I am a part of generation X. We are the generation after the Baby Boomers and the “Greatest Generation”.

We have failed to develop national leadership to continue the march of criminal and justice reform.



# NEVADA SUPREME COURT OPINION – APRIL 2020

## JOSE VALDEZ-JIMENEZ & ARRON FRYE VS. 8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF NEVADA

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- “Our conclusion...because bail may be set in an amount that an individual is unable to pay, resulting in continued detention pending trial, it infringes on the individual’s liberty interest. And given the fundamental nature of this interest, substantive due process requires that any infringement be necessary to further a legitimate and compelling governmental interest.”
- Page 13
- Conclusion: “When bail is set at an amount greater than necessary to serve the purpose of bail, it effectively denies the defendant his or her rights under the Nevada Constitution to be “bailable by sufficient sureties” and for bail not be excessive.
- ...we hold that a defendant who remains in custody after arrest is entitled to an individualized hearing at which the State must prove by clear and convincing evidence that bail...is necessary to ensure the defendant appearance at future court proceedings...and the district court must state its findings and reasons for the bail decision on the record.”
- Page 20 & 21

# HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

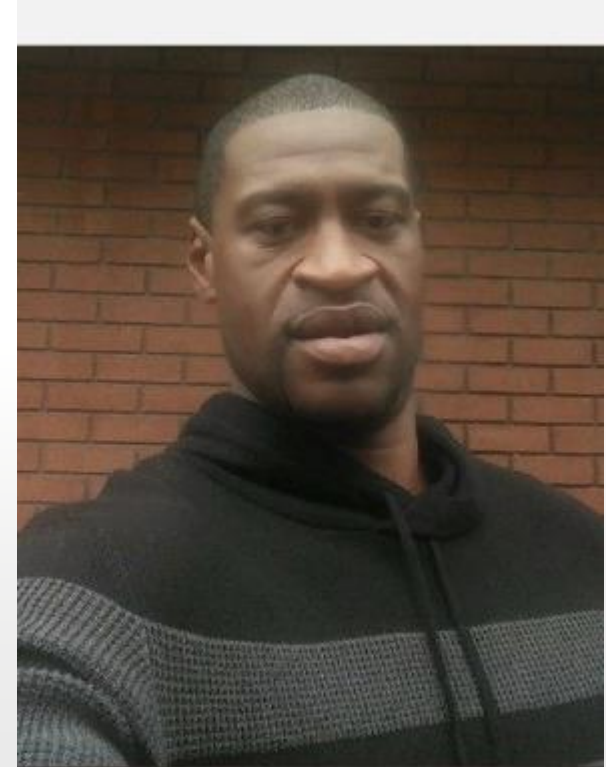
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The cash bail system does not apply to police officers.

The police department are the ones who first bring the charges and arrest but do not apply these rules to themselves.

Nevada legislation needs over haul when police officers commit arrestable crimes. Thusly, giving confidence to the community at large, that NO ONE is above the law.

Sadly, law enforcement officers are given the benefit of the doubt because of the uniform they wear and the oath they are supposed to uphold. However, men like me, who have worn the uniform of military service and have upheld the same oath (many times decades prior to most officers) are not given the same respect from the adversarial district attorney's office and state prosecutors.





# YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THIS FIRST STEP IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

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I thank you for this time and thank you for this invitation to speak. I am not famous nor seeking fame. I am seeking change in the state I love and the state that has adopted me as her son.

