

Statement of Frank Figgers

2nd Session – UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Like many mid-level cities around the United States, the City of Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, faces infrastructure crises, depleting economy, and a shrinking population. Although limited in resources, the City of Jackson is land rich. The challenge that the people of African descent face in Jackson and elsewhere about the state of Mississippi is generating wealth from the land.

The people of African descent in Mississippi also face the challenge of the narrative that is spent by the “state media” that suggests an inability to govern. The most effective tool that the state of Mississippi has used is “public policy” developed by the State legislature and other legislative bodies. Public policy in the state of Mississippi oppressed, limited, and controlled communities and people of African descent in Jackson and elsewhere about the state of Mississippi.

People of African descent must examine critically the role and impacts of public policy!
People of African descent must develop a means to share info with the broader community.

The people of Jackson came together on January 30, 2023, and formed a coalition of over thirty five strategic allies and partners in order to do what they could, with what they had, wherever they were, to prevent or curtail a most disastrous piece of public policy that would strip people of African descent of our voting rights and rob us of our tax dollars!

Please know that in the state of Mississippi between 1865 and 1940, people of African descent formed the majority of the state’s population but were prevented by the state from participation in the governance process.

In the words of Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander – a one-time Bible and English professor at Jackson State University:

“For my people, standing, staring, trying to fashion a better way, from confusion, from hypocrisy and misunderstanding, trying to fashion a world that will hold all the people, all the faces, all the Adams and Eves, and their countless generations!”

Let a new Mississippi rise.