

## To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance

Rabbi David S. Gruber



### Who Am I? Why Am I Here?

#### Rabbi

- 8<sup>th</sup> generation rabbi
- U.S. born, Israeli bred
- Served in leadership positions on three continents
- Once Orthodox, now secular Jew

## Development and Communications Director MDHA

 Strengthen MDHA as the backbone organization of Dallas' homeless response system, as well as the system itself, through fundraising, messaging, and relationship building

# Seek the Peace of the City

"Seek the peace of the city... and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."



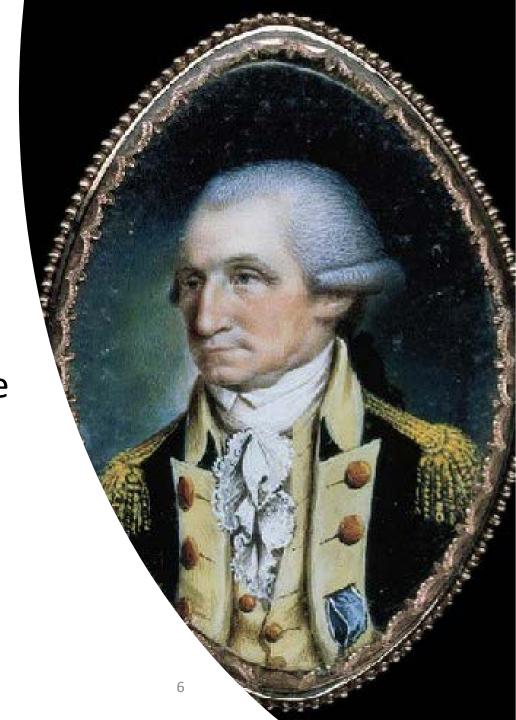
# Pray for the Welfare of the Kingdom

"Pray for the welfare of the kingdom (=government). For without fear of it, people would swallow each other alive."



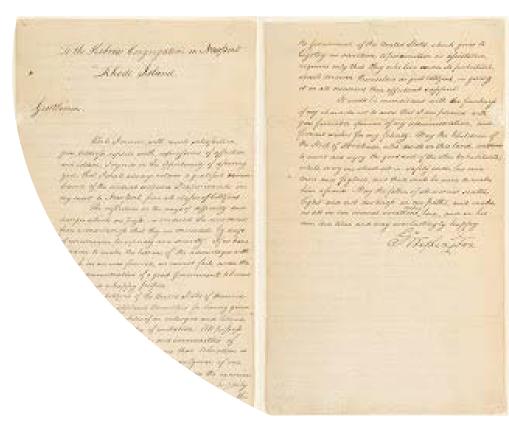
# U.S. Chief Marketing Officer

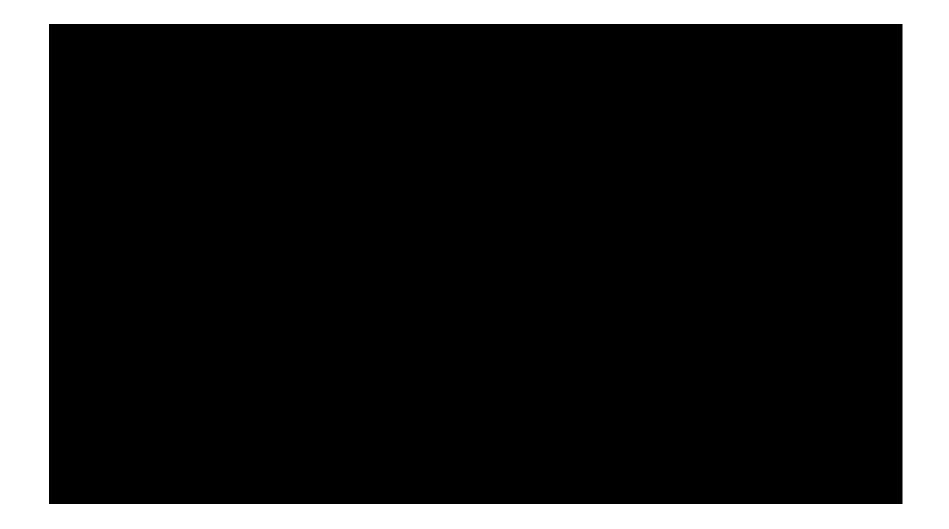
In 1790, the new President of the United States, George Washington, traveled through the thirteen states of the union, to promote the new Constitution.

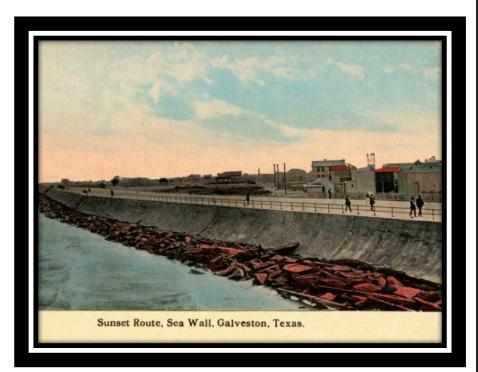


## G. Washington's Letter

"For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens..."





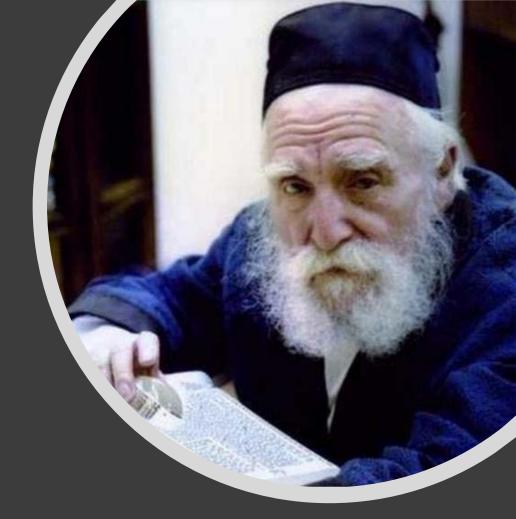


## Overwhelmed by Henry Landes

"We are overwhelmed that the ruler of the city should greet us. We have never been spoken to by the officials of our country except in terms of harshness, and although we have heard of the land of great freedom, it is very hard to realize that we are permitted to grasp the hand of the great man. We will do all we can to make good citizens."

## Rabbi Moshe Feinstein U.S. Cheerleader

"Kingdom of kindness, whose only goal is to do good on behalf of the residents of the country."



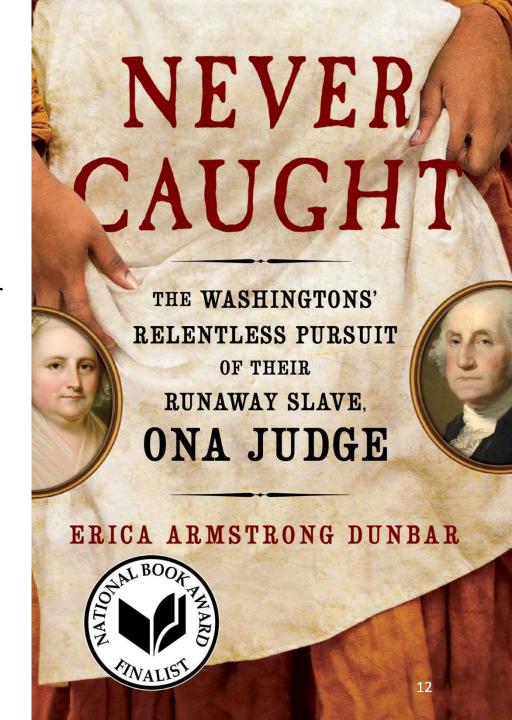


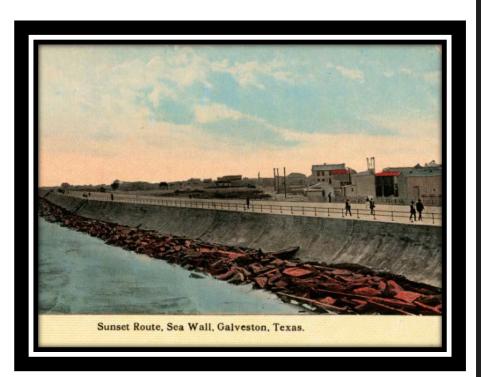
#### **Slave Holder**

In 1790, when the new President of the United States, George Washington, traveled through the thirteen states of the union, to promote the new Constitution, there were enslaved people in his retinue.<sup>11</sup>

## G. Washington's Actions

"No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due."



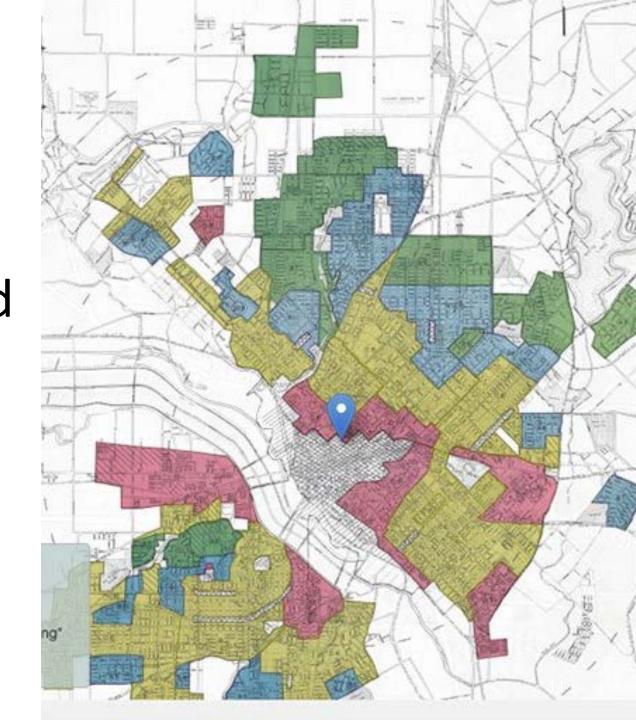


## Jim Crow Goes to the Beach

In the very Galveston, to which the Jews were welcomed by the Mayor, African Americans were restricted to one small block, along the water, between 28th and 29th Streets.

### Redlining

To do good on behalf of the residents of the country?



# "Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check."

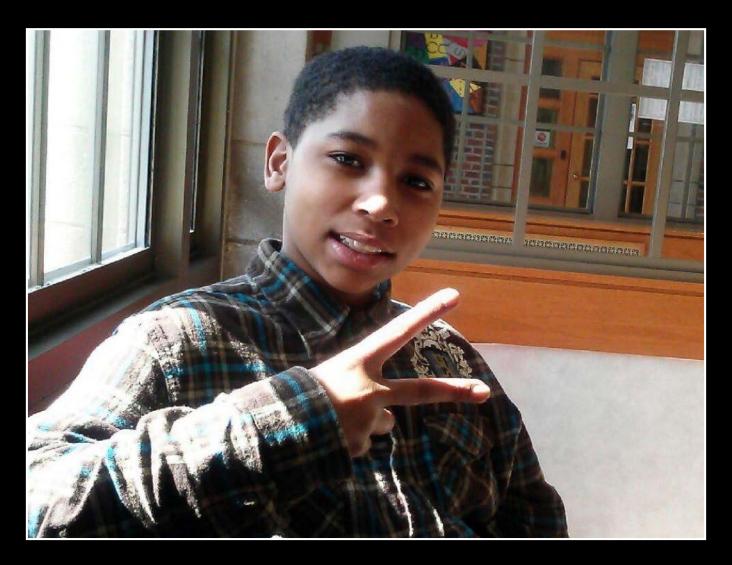
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Seek the Peace of the City?

"Seek the peace of the city... and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace." Really?





Tamir Rice



Philando Castile



Botham Jean

#### Time to Act

"Though you pray at length, I will not listen... Cease to do evil... Do good. Devote yourself to justice. Aid the wronged. Uphold... rights..."



### Time to Act

African Americans make up 13% of the population, both in the U.S. and in Dallas County.



African Americans make up 67% of the Dallas homeless population, and 70% of the Dallas unsheltered homeless population!

### **Acting Locally**

## 01

In the aftermath of July 7, 2016, <u>United</u>
Way of Metropolitan
Dallas called for programs that could help heal the city, specifically in the area of racial equity.

### 02

The Center for Social Innovation (C4) called for cities to join a research and action program, to "close the racial gap that has led to... disproportionate... homelessness among African Americans."

### 03

With the support of a \$32,700 grant from the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, MDHA has been partnering with C4 and other cities, towards establishing racial equity in homeless services.

## **Acting Nationally**

### 01

At 2017's most important annual national conference on homelessness, the issue of racial equity literally and figuratively moved to the center stage.

02

In 2018, the Center for Social Innovation (C4) received additional funding from prominent national foundations to broaden the work being done in Dallas and its fellow communities.

03

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, asked each community to begin documenting their efforts to promote racial equity, in homelessness.

### **Jeff Olivet**

"It's not that the system isn't working. It's working exactly as it was designed to work..."



## Let Us Strive on to Finish the Work

We must change the system, so the vision of Washington, the vision of the prophets, will come true: "Every one shall sit under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."