

Grant Pilkington

From: Leonard Jefferson <leonardjef48@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Grant Pilkington
Subject: Re: Special Commission On Reapportionment

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On Sun, Nov 14, 2021, 1:43 PM Leonard Jefferson <leonardjef48@gmail.com> wrote:
I am submitting the enclosed written statement for consideration during the November 15th hearing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leonard Jefferson <leonardjef48@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Nov 14, 2021, 1:20 PM
Subject:

I am Leonard Jefferson.

I thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion, and wishes ,concerning an unfair and corrupt practice known as Prison Gerrymandering.

Experience has shown me, and hopefully it has shown all of you, the importance of learning from one's mistakes. In taking that a step further, I have also found it is even more beneficial to learn from mistakes made by others.

The present discussion led my attention to be focused on the appropriations-policies discussed, and enacted, by the so-called Founding Fathers in 1787. Today, all progressive thinking non-racist people will agree that the Three-Fifths Compromise was, and continues to be, a shameful and unacceptable act of those men tasked with creating the Constitution. Which member of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, today will stand and publicly argue that the Three-Fifths Compromise was a good policy? None can argue that its Legislative Intent was anything other than the perpetuation of denying the human rights of people of color in order to maintain the peculiar institution of slavery in the Land of the Free, Home of the Brave.

Many, including myself, will say; that, after being counted as 3/5 of a person in the past; the fact that each person of color is now counted as one whole human being looks like progress in our ongoing struggles for equality and justice in pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. (i.e., the American Dream, that duly enacted public policies have intentionally and successfully sought to place beyond the reach of people who look like me.)

It is my hope that today's policymakers and lawmakers have seen the light and, thus, will abandon the practices of counting people of color in any/all ways that are intended to, or as unintended consequences of collateral damage, actually cause harm to people of color; such as the present practice of counting prisoners at the ACI as

residents of Cranston, rather than as residents of the communities wherein they resided prior to their imprisonment.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.