



Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Dover & Vicinity (IMA) wishes to express our full support for the posthumous pardon of Marcus Mosiah Garvey's 1923 conviction for fraudulent use of the mail. We understand that this matter has been submitted to your administration for consideration.

The historical context of this matter encapsulates the injustice of this matter, which was reflected by the commuting of Mr. Garvey's sentence upon eligibility by President Calvin Coolidge. A Presidential pardon for Mr. Garvey would correct the historical record. In addition to correcting Mr. Garvey's record, it would be one more way to stand against the egregious efforts by state legislatures to change and erase African-American history. Furthermore, this action would also demonstrate a commitment to reforming the criminal justice system in this country to provide a more fair, equitable exercise of the law.

This matter of exonerating Mr. Garvey has been ongoing since the late 1980s, with hearings and Congressional resolutions. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke led the most recent effort to clear Mr. Garvey's name. Therefore, we are supporting these efforts because we feel that it is vital that this "mark" upon Mr. Garvey's life be removed so that his vision for racial justice can be celebrated both in communities across this country, by governments, and around the world without any reservation.

The Biden Administration has committed itself to racial justice. This administration was birth out of the need to try and redeem the soul of our nation. The posthumous pardon of Mr. Marcus Garvis is one of many opportunities to demonstrate this commitment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bishop W. James Thomas, II, President

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Dover & Vicinity (IMA)

CC: Bishop-designate Carol Boggerty, Chairwoman, IMA Social Action Committee
Reverend Leandra Marshall, IMA 1st Vice-President
Reverend Regina Bell, IMA 2nd Vice-President

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