

Intervention – PFPAD

Greetings all. My name is Brian Potier and I represent the Alpha Panama Chapter Chartering Group. We are a part of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first intercollegiate Greek-lettered organization established for men of African descent in the United States. We soon anticipate the establishment of a chapter of our dear Fraternity in the Republic of Panama.

I say the following truths unapologetically:

The unenviable (I say this facetiously) and unforgiving (I say this earnestly) truths I reference is a certain skin color with which most of the world is familiar yet at the same time perplexed at the unmistakably ethereal features it incorporates. Black. Beautiful. Exquisite. Regal. There is certainly no harm in being birthed with such a winsome hue but harm, rather, in what comes along with possessing those distinctive attributes.

It reminds me that young Black bodies are one word or act away from harm; from injustice; from death, with no consequences for the murderer. My attempt to convey the depth of such a realization may never be fully understood by the abuser. I do not fully expect it to be. After all, expectations do not always leave one fulfilled.

It is indeed a prerequisite for a more advanced course – an instruction teaching that our Black bodies are nothing if they are not abused. Still, one must not forget that many of the laws we live by have been constructed upon disdain for Black lives. That contempt was borne of fear. That fear was birthed by the existence of white privilege, a privilege protected at all costs and emboldened by a fear that it might one day be gone. It is quite a bit to process for those who have never felt the sting of racism, discrimination, or injustice to come to grips with why justice is fervently demanded, why nonsensical excuses will no longer be tolerated, and why the actions (or inaction) of those in power are constantly proving that justice is either non-evident, embarrassingly slow, or non-existent altogether. Alpha Panama is here to help change those discrepancies. Together with you.

También quisiera agradecer a la vicepresidenta Márquez y por todo lo que haces por Colombia. Queremos trabajar juntos con usted para eliminar racismo y discriminación en nuestros países. Vamos a establecer un capítulo de Alpha en Panamá y en Colombia también pero mientras, los Hermanos de Alpha Panamá están aquí para usted y su misión. Juntos somos más fuertes. Gracias.

Brian Potier
President
Alpha Panama Chapter Chartering Group