



## ***A Phrase and A Movement (Part I)***

24 June 2022

### A Phrase and A Movement (Part II)

(Please read Part I first)

#### THE MOVEMENT

There is a particular political and ideological movement right now known as “Black Lives Matter” or BLM. For the sake of this post, this will need to be read as “Black Lives Matter Movement” or BLMM. If you don’t read the acronym this way, this post won’t make much sense to you.

The BLMM started in 2013 after the Trayvon Martin killing and has cropped up every few years based on horrific events with widespread media attention. To learn more about the BLMM, I recommend you visit their website at [www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com) and see what they say about themselves.

In my research and after watching dozens of interviews by BLMM leaders and other leaders within the African American community, I offer the following...Full, well knowing my DNA as a “White-Irish-potentially Native American-and Heinz 57” mix limits the absorbability of my research, thoughts, and opinions.

Within the BLMM there are vastly different interpretations of the phrase “Black lives matter”...For instance...

Black - This is one of the more sensitive and controversial aspects of this movement. Leaders within the BLMM seem to have arbitrarily set a bar for “blackness” within their authority. For instance, many people who definitely identify as and check the “Black” box demographically have been singled out by BLMM leadership as “not being Black.” For example, Terrance Williams, Thomas Sowell, Candace Owens, Brandon Tatum, David Williams, Denzel Washington, Tim Scott, Allen West, Morgan Freeman, and many others who most definitely identify themselves as “Black” in the demographic section of forms, etc. are not considered “Black” or “Black enough” based on their ideology and public statements. This means that DNA and self-identification as “Black” is no longer a personal decision and has been relegated to the leaders of the BLMM.



Here is the actual definition of racism: “Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one the is a minority or marginalized.” Therefore, in essence, the BLMM has taken people who identify with a minority or marginalized racial or ethnic group and informed them, and the rest of the world, that they, the BLMM, has further discriminated and antagonized them beyond their self-defined demographic. As you can see, this is not only racism...It is racism squared. Remember, the PHRASE “Black lives matter” is valid...But, using a worthwhile phrase to support “anti-anyone who disagrees with us” bias and sentiment does not the PHRASE negate. It only dilutes a worthwhile message and purpose.

As if on cue, Joe Biden flatly stated in an interview with an African American “If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump, then you ain't black.” This, whether purposely or accidentally coordinated, aligns with the BLMM where your ideology, opinion, and in America, your First Amendment rights puts you into a non-demographic of your non-choosing. The counterargument here is that if your ideology does not align with the BLMM, then you are unwelcoming in “Black culture” with this culture being determined by the BLMM leadership who has identified you as “someone other than a DNA-positive Black person”. Therefore, the BLMM goal of addressing “anti-Blackness” per their website seems oddly akin to a racist gesture and a pseudo-caste system.

Lives - Whereas the English phrase “Black lives matter” has one meaning of life and “lives” where all living humans are included, the BLMM utilizes a different scope. This is not a critique, just a researched observation. Police brutality is awful regardless of victim. Gang violence is detrimental to lives and communities regardless of race. The number of aborted babies, innocents in the crossfire, and a host of other social maladies plague communities of every type - some more than others. Drugs don't choose the color of skin of their victims...Neither does heart disease or alcoholism.



Where BLMM steers this conversation is another slippery slope. The actual definition of “lives” per the BLMM movement is a difficult target to nail down. For lack of time and clarity, suffice it to say, the focus of the BLMM is on the loss of “certain Black lives” and that takes us to the last tenet - “matter.”

Matter - Unlike “matter” in the traditional English meaning, in the BLMM, only certain lives matter enough to be included in their narrative. In actuality, if their focus is narrow, that is perfectly acceptable, but if they are focused on reducing and/or eliminating police brutality - that’s a broader focus than JUST when a White cop kills or injures a Black man. It is VERY hard to nail down a BLMM leader on which ones as the criteria seems to be morphing significantly. If a Black police officer, a Black fireman, a Black business owner, or a Black ganster is killed as a peripheral act around a BLMM protest, that may or may not count as a worthy topic for the BLMM leadership and public affairs office to engage upon. If a Black gang member kills a Black police officer in Chicago, Detroit, or Baltimore...That, so far, does not count. Actually, that’s ok per the BLMM leadership because they decide the circumstances with which they will devote resources, organize protests, etc. So far, the ONLY life that “matters” per the BLMM leadership is when a White police officer kills a Black man...Well, sometimes.



Let me say something out of concern for those who are already misinterpreting this and have decided what to say before listening or researching...The death of George Floyd was awful, horrendous, avoidable...No excuse. But it is NOT the only act of police brutality, racism, hate crimes, etc...It is just one of the more egregious ones and a family lost a member in terrible circumstances. The positive and helpful responses to this man's death, however, have been occluded and diluted by those attempting to fight "racism with racism" - "violence with bloodshed" - "communities with destruction."

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For those of you about to jump out of your skin, jump thru the computer, strangle or torture me...Let me be clear.

I CARE. I gave practically 30 years to protecting and defending the Constitution of this amazing nation. We are IT. If freedom and racial equality cannot happen here...There is nowhere else to go - trust me. I've been all over the world and there is no better nation, no better freedoms, no better way of life. Billions of people would love to live here, and I don't know of practically any celebrity of the hundreds who said they would leave if "so and so" got elected actually left and stayed away (maybe a couple). We have it so good here and I hate to see Lady Liberty getting ravaged...It hurts.

I think the BLMM, hopeful in its founding and optimistic in its initial messaging has been hijacked by the more nefarious elements. It is not a "lost cause" by any stretch,





but it simply will not work in its current form and on its current vector. The tricky part is determining how and where the BLMM leadership will take the movement - that will determine if they can “correct back to course” and truly actualize positive and lasting change.

For recommendations to BLMM leadership, please read and/or forward my previous post on how to address social injustices effectively. It may help them gather their resources for a cause that was worthy at the onset, remains worthy, but has been hijacked by those not truly desiring holistic and lasting, positive change. In summation, I pray that some civility will reemerge, and we can teach the next generation to be more critical thinkers and better unifiers and leaders than we were...But, that will take a lot of work.

Finally - If you have something positive, unifying, and encouraging to say...Feel free to say it here.

If you desire to inflame racial tensions, introduce further controversy, or be divisive, please DM me instead.

Strength and Honor - Lance

