

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As a citizen of the Chicago and a member of the African American community, I am writing to request your assistance with two things: (1) to respectfully request that you use your executive authority to designate Chicago's Pullman community now under consideration for designation as a National Historic Park or monument. **But before you do that we ask** (2) that you incorporate into the legislative language the acknowledgment of and site by name the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum (APRPPM) as a site within the designated area — as opposed to the current generic use of the term Black labor.

Located in Pullman community, the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum (APRPPM) is an African American Labor history museum, the first in the country, and the only one that bears the name of A. Philip Randolph. For 20 years the APRPPM has been telling the stories of Black labor contribution to local and international visitors. Among the stories told is that of Mr. Randolph's leadership, and the historic successful movement to organize African American Railroad employees, into America's first Black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) that is legendary.

Your support and leadership alone will insure that A. Philip Randolph, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and all African American labor contributions in America will be honored in perpetuity.

Additionally, we think the opportunity, presented by Pullman becoming a unit of the NPS presents a once in a lifetime opportunity and will achieve multiple goals: honor A. Philip Randolph, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and African American labor contribution in America, and become a tremendous Cultural Economic Development (CED) opportunity, which falls under the broader umbrella of Tourism.

If the resources that will be deployed following the designation of Pullman are applied equitably, that initiative will be life changing for the entire Pullman community —not just the nicely manicured section that is always featured in the news, but all of the Pullman community; and must include 103rd-107th which is 100% African American and can only be described as an underserved community.

“Creating the Chicago area's first national park would be a tremendous boost to the economy for the entire South Side helping to create jobs for many Chicago residents, in need of employment.

The National Park Service (NPS) has deemed Pullman "conclusively nationally significant" and worthy of national park status. Consequently, preserving this history would honor the contributions past, present and future of America's exceptional labor force and citizens. We are asking for your help.

Sincerely,