

“Illegals and Michael Vick”

**By
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Hopefully, all those reading this, who tend to take the side of immigrants living in our country illegally, will take note of the recent murders in Newark, NJ of three college students, and near death of a fourth. You’ll be happy to know there are many in our legal system who agree with you that illegals should be treated with kid gloves and given carte blanche treatment whenever they come up against the law. Local authorities, in so-called “Sanctuary” cities have said they will not inquire about an individual’s status and if they discover he or she is an illegal immigrant they have been instructed by their superiors *NOT* to notify the federal government... even if there is an outstanding warrant for their arrest. Please don’t ask me why because I honestly don’t have an answer that makes any sense at all. The answer given by someone in authority in Newark was that to take the time to ask if someone is illegal or not would interfere with the investigations of the crimes committed and they “just don’t have time to do that.”

Natasha Aerial, 19, lies critically injured in a Newark hospital while her brother Terrance, 18, and friends Iofemi Hightower, 20, and Dashon Harvey, 20, are dead after a gang style execution took their lives several weeks ago. Their reason for dying isn’t known but first reports indicate it’s because they were great kids and well liked in the neighborhood. Three of them were successful students at Delaware State College and the other had registered to go there this fall. All were musicians who loved to play and listen music; who helped with their family’s support with part-time jobs; and were very close friends.

The alleged shooter Jose Carranza, 24, on the other hand is an illegal Peruvian immigrant who has been in this country several years. In this year alone he has been arrested and indicted twice... nine counts coming from a bar fight and 31 counts brought against him for sexual assault of a young girl. He was out of jail on a \$5,000 bail which meant it only cost him \$500 to get out of jail to roam around and murder at random. Immigration officials said they hadn’t heard of him from the local authorities until after the deadly shooting. New Jersey, by the way, is a state that *does not* require the police officials to check on the status of immigrants who are arrested for crimes of any kind. How many more muggings, thefts, and killings will it take by those who are already breaking the law by just being here, before we American citizens will rise up and say, “No more!!!!” And how long will it take for those who think that illegal immigrants are God’s gift to this country realize that anyone who is allowed, or should I say even encouraged to break the law, could never be a blessing to this country... but always a detriment?

Then we have the saga of Mr. Touchdown himself, Michael Vick... one of the most talented players who ever graced a football field. He was certainly one who gave our Mountaineers a fit every time we played Virginia Tech. How could some one so talented, so blessed and so rich allow himself to become embroiled in something so seedy and disgusting as dog-fighting? I spent many years living in the Newport News, VA area where Vick was born in 1980. A disciplinary problem in school, he played high school football which supposedly turned his life around. His father was a member of the military and after his discharge worked at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company. From all reports he was a hard worker and a good father. He was only 17 when Michael was born and Michael's mother was only 16.

The area in which his multi-million dollar home was built is in Surry County, across the James River Bridge from Newport News. It is or was, when I lived in the area, strictly a rural, farming area with low lying marshes and open fields. The Peninsula area is rich with history (John Smith fame) and the civil war's first ever sea battle between iron-clad Navy ships, the Monitor and Merrimac, in Hampton Roads, and I'm sure those now living around Vick's home are not only sorry for Michael but deeply hurt for his apparent disregard for their community's reputation.

Many have said his "entourage" is what brought him to this fall from the pedestal upon which he had been placed by all of us. Those homies who cling to his stardom and ingratiate themselves to him in various ways so as to be part of the "happening things" wherever he is. Rather than trying to protect his image and build his prestige they have chosen to suck him dry and take whatever they could regardless of the damage it did to his life and career. Will Vick ever be allowed back on the football field as a member of an NFL team, even if he has to serve jail time for his crime? Knowing the sports world as we do I would have to suggest "Yes, he will." Will he always carry with him a stigma from which he will be unable to escape? Unfortunately... that is also probably true.

Let us hope he has learned from this experience and will go on to a life more rewarding in the really important areas such as community, family and true friends. May we be slow to cast him down and quick to hold him up... in prayer.

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