

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

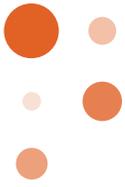
- Towards the beginning of the video, we learn that, "...kids in father-absent homes are more likely to end up in jail. And kids who never had a father in the house are the most likely to wind up behind bars." What factors do you think contribute to this being the case? What other long-term consequences do you think come about for children from not having a father in their home?
- Mr. Elder answers the question of why so many homes are fatherless by sharing with us that, "The answer is found in a basic law of economics: If you subsidize undesirable behavior you will get more undesirable behavior." What does he mean by this? Mr. Elder further explains that, "...our generous welfare system allows women, in effect, to marry the government. And this makes it all too easy for men to abandon their traditional moral and financial responsibilities." Why do you think that the government continues to incentivize and enable such dependency for mothers and forfeit of responsibilities for fathers?
- Later, Mr. Elder uses Tupac Shakur as an example in that, "He admitted he began running with gangs because he wanted the things a father gives to a child, especially to a boy: structure and protection. 'Your mother cannot calm you down the way a man can,' Shakur said. 'You need a man to teach you how to be a man.'" Do you agree with Mr. Shakur's conclusion? Why or why not? What are some other things that perhaps only a man can give to his children?
- Towards the end of the video, Mr. Elder reveals how growing up with his father profoundly shaped his own experience: "Hard work wins," he told me and my brothers. "You get out of life what you put into it. You can't control the outcome, but you are 100% in control of the effort. And before blaming other people, go to the nearest mirror and ask yourself, 'what could I have done to change the outcome?'" Who do you think Mr. Elder's father was referring to when admonishing him about not 'blaming other people?' Do you think that the advice Mr. Elder's father gave him is valid for other as well? Why or why not? What do you think the correlation between the life Mr. Elder's father modeled for him and his own life is? How important do you think the modeling any father can do for his children is? Why?
- Mr. Elder concludes the video by stating, "Fathers matter. Until we have a government policy that makes that its first priority, nothing will change." What do you think Mr. Elder means by this? To what degree and in what ways do you think that government should be involved in the lives of families? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: New York City Council

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Keeping dads honest,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Who is Peter Vallone Jr., and what is he planning on doing? What is his reasoning for doing it?
- Do you think that the legislation will work as intended to a meaningful degree? Why or why not? How would you define ‘success’ for a measure such as this?
- Do you think that Mr. Elder would consider this legislation a step in the right direction? Why or why not? If you were sitting on a legislative body, what type of legislation would you propose to support families, especially in terms of supporting fathers and holding them accountable?



QUIZ

BLACK FATHERS MATTER

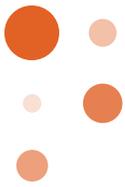
- 1. What did Kweisi Mfume say posed a bigger threat to the black community?**
 - a. white racism
 - b. absence of black fathers
 - c. absence of black grandfathers
 - d. no religious upbringing

- 2. America's generous welfare system allows women to _____.**
 - a. receive adequate healthcare
 - b. escape poverty
 - c. become business owners
 - d. marry the government

- 3. There was a time when a black child was more likely to grow up with married parents than a white child.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. If you subsidize undesirable behavior you will get _____.**
 - a. a positive shift in attitude
 - b. a lower poverty line
 - c. more undesirable behavior
 - d. more stable families

- 5. In 2015, out-of-wedlock births in the black community were _____.**
 - a. 5%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 73%
 - d. 85%



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

BLACK FATHERS MATTER

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<http://nypost.com/2010/12/09/keeping-dads-honest/>

Keeping dads honest

By Post Staff Report

December 9, 2010 | 5:00am



Peter F. Vallone Jr. Photo: Tim Wiencis

City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. wants to hold fathers responsible for their children's well-being.

That may sound like a no-brainer, but alas society — particularly in New York — has let too many dads off the hook too easily, and for too long.

At the children's expense — *and* the taxpayers'.

That needs to end. And Vallone's got a reasonable plan, which he outlined on these pages yesterday, to help end it.

In a nutshell, Vallone intends to introduce a resolution in the council urging the state to require a father's name on a child's birth certificate before a mother is eligible for public benefits.

That info can help the state track down these men and bring them back into the family's financial picture — and, perhaps, into the lives of the kids themselves.

And it can save the state a bundle, too — an increasingly vital goal as both the city and state face ever-more-dire fiscal challenges.

Start with the fact that, as Vallone notes, “more than \$5 billion in child support has gone uncollected” in New York.

Vallone says unmarried fathers “can get away with not including their names on birth certificates — making it easier to stay completely out of their children's lives, especially financially. A mother is also eligible for state child-care benefits without ever acknowledging a father.”

That's insane.

Let's face it: Despite New York's outrageous, nation-leading tax burden, government still doesn't have enough money to let parents, fathers or mothers, shirk their responsibilities to their kids.

Fathers, in particular, can't be allowed to remain anonymous so as to avoid paying their share.

Think of Vallone's plan as the next step in welfare reform.

Indeed, his measure — which he intends to introduce on Dec. 20 — is modeled on recent steps in Britain (where the government faces a critical budget crunch) meant to curb welfare outlays and promote paternal responsibility.

Even more important than the measure's financial impact is what it can do for kids. As President Obama himself observed two years ago: “Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of schools and 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

“They are more likely to have behavioral problems or run away from home, or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it.”

Knowing a father's identity gives public authorities leverage over his role in his children's lives — even beyond forcing him to write out checks.

That would be good news for kids.

And knowing that a dad's name must be cited for a mom to get benefits might even deter some pregnancies by parents who'd otherwise *expect* taxpayers to foot the tab — and by fathers who have no intention of hanging around.

Vallone's plan is essential, financially *and* morally. Let's hope New York's pols are listening.