

The National Press Club

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Filmmaker Joel Gilbert Opening Remarks

The Trayvon Hoax: Unmasking the Witness Fraud the Divided America

I'd like to read from Proverbs 6:16-19:

*For The LORD hates a heart that devises wicked plans,
a false witness who breathes out lies,
and who sows discord among brothers*

My name is Joel Gilbert, from Highway 61 Entertainment in Los Angeles.

Thank you everyone for coming to the National Press Club today.

I'm happy to be back again at the National Press Club, this is my fourth time here, to present my new film and book, both called: *The Trayvon Hoax: Unmasking the Witness Fraud that Divided America*.

My US Senator from California, now running for President, Kamala Harris, recently tweeted that the Trayvon Martin shooting "started a movement."

Unfortunately, that movement literally divided America. Prior to the Zimmerman trial in 2012, both blacks and whites rated race relations as positive. This has been negative ever since.

The Zimmerman case also marked the beginning of the modern era of fake news and race hoaxes. It was ground zero.

Because of the Zimmerman trial, Black Lives Matter was formed. The Zimmerman trial also led directly to the Ferguson Effect, a crime disaster for black neighborhoods with homicides up 33%. Of course, Colin Kaepernick protested America and left the 49ers. Hating America became acceptable, even mainstream.

What if none of this had to happen?

What if it was all based on a hoax?

What if black Americans got PLAYED by the media and politicians, from Barack Obama to Kalama Harris, for their political agendas? To control their votes?

What if we could correct American history by exposing the truth?
What if we could unfake the news?!
What if democrat politicians and the media could treat us as individuals rather than pitting Americans against one another according to skin tone?
What if they would emphasize what we have in common rather than our superficial differences?
What if we could come together again? Why not?
Couldn't we pull together, love each other, and love America?

After a painstaking investigation into the Trayvon Martin shooting, as mentioned, I have produced the film and companion book *The Trayvon Hoax: Unmasking the Witness Fraud that Divided America*. Only after I started the project did I realize I had stumbled into the most spectacular case of identity fraud in modern American judicial history.

I had originally set out to produce a documentary about the rise of 2018 Florida gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum. The more I looked into Gillum's success, however, the more need I saw to investigate the unanswered questions of the criminal case upon which Gillum built his career.

I had followed the 2012 shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and the subsequent trial of George Zimmerman from afar and, like many others, I had grave concerns about the lynch mob mentality that drove the case. With his dying breath, Trayvon Martin made a final, desperate request of the man who shot him, "Tell Mama 'Licia I'm sorry.'" I was the first person in the media with whom George Zimmerman shared Trayvon's last words. "Tell Mama 'Licia I'm sorry.'"

Upon hearing this, I had to rethink the direction of a documentary I was planning on the unexpected rise of Andrew Gillum. As with Citizen Kane's dying "Rosebud," I was convinced that if I could decipher the meaning of Trayvon's last request, I could find my way to the heart of the case.

By examining Trayvon Martin's 750-page cell phone records, which included 3,000 photos, 3,000 text messages and 1,500 contacts, I got to know Trayvon in the last months of his life. I learned he was neither the rocket scientist the media made him out to be, nor was he a thug. Trayvon was a good kid with many friends and family that loved him. "Mama 'Licia'" was the one person Trayvon loved most. That was his stepmother, Alicia Stanley.

At the end though, Trayvon was a very troubled teenager. I came to see his life as a series of betrayals, one more crushing than the next. His pain played out in reckless behaviors such as fighting, gun dealing, and heavy marijuana use. On the day of his death, Trayvon feared one more betrayal, this from the girl he knew as "Diamond," the girl who had stolen his fragile heart, the girl with whom he was on the phone up to the very minute he died, the girl who would emerge, in various forms, as the "star witness" in the case against George Zimmerman. Indeed, it was 16-year-old Diamond Eugene's recorded phone interview with Martin family attorney Benjamin Crump that ignited the

public, swayed President Obama, and LeBron James, and provoked the nation's media to demand Zimmerman's arrest, resulting in the subsequent 2013 trial.

In my quest to find this mystery girl, Diamond Eugene, something unexpected happened. I found myself being pulled down a mysterious side road. To understand Gillum, to understand Florida, to understand Trayvon, I would have to travel this road of many unexpected turns. At the end of it, I would discover, was hard evidence of an epic and ultimately lethal deception, a stunning witness fraud that divided America.

After speaking with Benjamin Crump, for any number of reasons, Diamond Eugene refused to "follow the script." She refused to speak with Florida state prosecutors or bear false witness against George Zimmerman under oath. Instead, the plus-sized 18-year-old Rachel Jeantel was substituted for Diamond Eugene, and Rachel Jeantel became the key witness in the murder trial of George Zimmerman. Jeantel was a fraud. She was not the "phone witness" speaking to Trayvon Martin in the minutes before he was shot. She barely knew him. This witness fraud resulted in the seminal race hoax of the Obama years. I call it "The Trayvon Hoax." This is the hoax the media plays on black Americans every day: "that African Americans should vote Democrat to protect themselves from a racist America where whites want to harm them because of their skin color."

The massive racial turmoil stirred up by media coverage followed, and no one has suffered more than the black youth of America - from the Trayvon Hoax.

My investigation took me places I never expected to go. From the back alleys of Little Haiti in Miami to the bucolic campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee, I got an earful and an eyeful. I ended up centering both my film and book on Trayvon's real girlfriend, "Diamond Eugene." Indeed I found her. Her full legal name is Brittany Diamond Eugene. And, in getting to know this young woman, I was introduced to Miami's urban youth culture, a culture that thrives on some mix of sex, drugs, gangs, texting, clubbing, shopping, and social media. Diamond's particular Haitian-American milieu featured its own unscrupulous subspecialty: identity switching.

Who knew about the witness fraud? Any number of interested parties profited from the hoax. The railroading of George Zimmerman, for instance, helped Trayvon Martin's biological parents shift the blame from their parenting deficiencies to a racial scapegoat. They extracted a huge settlement from a homeowners association and cashed in on book and movie deals. Their attorney, Benjamin Crump, got his slice of the insurance payout and forged a national identity as a civil rights champion. The old school race hustlers like Al Sharpton reestablished their relevance and refreshed their cash flow. Of even greater significance, politicians like Andrew Gillum and President Barack Obama successfully exploited Trayvon Martin's death to harvest votes and win elections—power!

As I argue in *The Trayvon Hoax*, if there is a main culprit of my investigation, it is the media. The Zimmerman case was ground zero for the explosion of fake news and the race hoaxes that have followed, one more preposterous than the next. Think "hands up

don't shoot" or the beyond preposterous Jussie Smollett racial "attack" by Trump supporters at 2 AM in subzero Chicago, a hoax so phony only the media could fall for it.

We expect individuals to be greedy and exploitive, politicians especially. It is the nature of the beast. As their very mission, however, the media are charged with shining light on political schemes. Time and again, however, the media have betrayed their craft. It is appalling that six years after the Zimmerman trial so much information was left for me, an independent filmmaker, to discover. If the media had wanted to find the truth, it was there for the plucking. I was able to uncover it simply by reading publicly available information from the legal proceedings and following up on what I read. How is it possible no one in the media chose to do what I did? The answer is simple. The media did not want to know. The truth would not have advanced their fear-fueled racial agenda.

The power of Investigative Journalism is the ability to set the record straight, to change history for the better by shedding light on facts and exposing lies and liars. Can anyone even remember the last major investigation broken by a major news organization? I can't. In an odd way, I suppose I should thank our lazy and disingenuous friends in the media for making it possible for an independent film maker like myself to tell the incredible story of *The Trayvon Hoax*. The book and film are available on the official film website, thetrayvonhoax.com and now on Amazon.com. You are about to see how America got played by an epic race hoax that divided us for no reason. Americans are all brothers. Black and white, we are all brothers. My hope is to show how politicians and the media used Trayvon Martin's tragic death to tear us apart, when our true aspirations have always been to come together as one nation.

I will take questions after the film screening.

Thank you.

Official Film Website: thetrayvonhoax.com