

- The System -

Gradually moving forward through life behind bars, I have grown into a man who has the ability to adapt to the most unfortunate horrible life style any human or animal has to deal with. Also I've learned that change is the golden key to the road of success. Now don't get things misconstrued, changing hasn't been the easiest task for a young brother like myself, hell it's probably the closest challenge to adapting to being confined with a natural life sentence for a bold choice as a teenager. But believe me, changing your ways by changing your thoughts comes with a greater result.

See society maintains this perception that change is unable to be obtained by many of us who are currently incarcerated because of the choices we made many years ago. I only say this due to how the lawmakers have this "lock'em" up and throw away the key system."

Not to undermine the wrongful acts many of has demonstrated, however, when does "society" the people who profess that prison is a place for Adults to correct their/our behavior, give us a meaningful opportunity to show how we have taken the necessary steps to change within the Department of Corrections? Key word being... CORRECTIONS.

My understanding of change is to become different or undergo alteration. Correction, is the act or processing of correcting. The dictionary defines this word in many forms but it specifically states; "The treatment of offenders through the system of penal incarceration, rehabilitation, probation, and/or parole by the administration system by which others are effectuated." Meaning, being confined in a juvenile, jail or prison, it's suppose to offer a chance to rehabilitate, change, and correct our behavior for our wrongful acts in

hopes of being able to prove we are deemed "restored" and "useful", therefore re-integrated into society.

But, how do we do this when once again in the eyes of our nearest neighbor, or political leaders we are nothing but animals, criminals and simply numbers & dollars? Yes, some may side-eye my perception, you have to walk the path myself and thousands of others has walked to fully comprehend, how at the end of the day it's not about us correcting our wrongs and making better men of ourselves, it's all about numbers to the system!

Me knowing this and becoming aware of "The System" only motivates me to continue to accept the challenge, embrace the struggle and continue to strive for success.

Views From The Inside

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