

PROGRAM TITLE: CIVIC CIPHER

HOSTS: Ramses Ja + Q Ward

SHOW LENGTH: 59:00

AIRS: WEEKLY

DATES : October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Civic Cipher is a weekly radio show hosted by Ramses Ja and Q. Ward. This show is dedicated to empowering Black and Brown voices, allowing them to engage directly with their communities as well as the general population. Self-determination is critical to securing a future free of oppressive systems, and Civic Cipher exists to facilitate discussions toward this end. Furthermore, Civic Cipher seeks to inform non-POC allies who may not be privy to these types of discussions and optics. Finally, Civic Cipher seeks to provide long-form conversations in spaces where there is often a lack of significant resources, potent dialogue, or the necessary engagement for facilitating a healthy and productive civil discourse.

AIR DATES AND PROGRAM TOPICS:

10/1/23 -

Police Cost More Than You Know / Push Back Against Right-Wing DEI Attacks

In the first part of our show, we discuss the real cost of the police to taxpayers. We break down the added costs of lawsuits, the militarization of police, and increased police presence—none of which leads to less crime.

In the second half of our show, we discuss attacks on DEI initiatives in the workplace and the true cost of racism in corporate America.

Our Way Black History Fact sees us play a video of Dr. William Darity speaking at the University of Massachusetts. In brief, he serves a historical breakdown of Black economics in the U.S. and how they led to false narratives that still follow our communities today.

10/8/23 - The Black Women Leading Us / The Fights in the Comments Section

In the first part of our show, we discuss the Black women making headlines as prominent, fearless leaders in this country today. We shine a light on Shalanda Young as she speaks from the White House, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Leticia James, and California's newest senator, Laphonza Butler.

In the second half of our show, we discuss the comments we receive on social media and offer rebuttals to the same tired talking points often used by folks who seem dead-set on opposing progress made by Black people.

Our Way Black History Fact covers the many artists that Elvis Presley emanated, stole from, and copied in order to complete "his" style, sound, and artistry.

10/15/23 - Dispelling Myths from the Comments Section

In the first part of our show, we discuss a few myths that are parroted frequently in the comments section of our social media. These myths may be ones you have encountered, and we give you some rebuttals that provide insight for the folks who challenge you.

In the second half of our show, we continue the conversation about persistent myths and narratives found in the comments section. We provide some thorough explanations for some of the problems experienced by Black Americans.

Our Way Black History Fact covers the original Black Panthers—the first all-Black tank unit in the United States Army.

10/22/23 - The Hamas-Israel War

While we normally discuss things that are based in the United States, we feel it's important to have a talk about what's going on in Gaza and Israel. There are lots of discussions taking place online and lots of people drawing parallels to various experiences in the U.S. In the first part of our show, we discuss some of the things we've learned about the people of Palestine and their place in the conflict.

In the second half of our show, we talk about the people of Israel and try to encourage everyone to learn what we can from the situation. We try our best to identify and condemn the act of 'othering' people, and hopefully empower you with some additional tools to have fruitful and impactful conversations about this and similar topics.

Our Way Black History Fact covers the Freedom Riders of 1961 and highlights Black-Jewish solidarity.

10/29/23 - The Palestinian Perspective ft. Suzanne Aslam / Viral Colorado Police Shooting of a Woman in Crisis

Today we are joined by former Miss Arab USA and the author of the book Post Pardon Me, Suzanne Aslam. She helps provide some needed insight into the Palestinian perspective that we have been trying to capture when discussing the war taking place in Gaza.

In the second half of our show, we discuss a video that has been making rounds online of a Colorado officer shooting a woman in crisis. This video (on our social media @civiccipher) is particularly interesting because we find ourselves feeling bad for the victim—and the officer too.

Our Way Black History Fact covers the first Black woman to fly for a major commercial airline in the United States—Jill Elaine Brown.

11/4/23 -

The Importance of He / Him, She/Her, and They/Them Pronouns with Ted X Speaker and Trans Activist Mea Chiasson

Today we are joined by Ted X Speaker and Trans Activist Mea Chiasson to discuss the often-debated issue of pronouns. We have an open and honest conversation about what being trans means, how

liberating it can be to own one's truth, and the problems or pushback that can accompany a person's new identity.

Our Way Black History Fact covers a handful of Black settlements that are now flooded by man-made lakes.

11/11/23 - The Algorithms that Divide Us ft. Theo E. J. Wilson

Ted X Speaker and the star of the History Channel's "I Was There," Theo E. J. Wilson joins us for a conversation on how algorithms are dividing us politically, decolonizing the narrative, novel forms of activism, the war taking place in Gaza, and so much more!

Our Way Black History Fact explores the African American DNA in one of our childhood favorites—Sesame Street.

11/18/23 - Iya Affo and The Effects of Generational Trauma / Healing Generational Trauma

Today we are joined by Culturalist and Historical Trauma Specialist, Iya Affo. She works as a Trauma Specialist and is a descendant of a long line of traditional healers from Benin Republic, West Africa. Leanna Taylor of the Arizona Pet Project also joins the discussion of identifying generational trauma and determining the effects.

In the second half of our show, we discuss the healing of generational trauma and break down the scientific terms that help make the content more approachable for every one of us.

Our Way Black History Fact covers the barrel laugh...the way slaves would hide their laughter on plantations by putting their heads into barrels.

11/25/23 - The Intersection of Racism and Police Activity in the U.S. / Rethinking the Carceral System

In the first part of our show, we discuss recent police stories where racism directly impacted procedures and outcomes. From the racist texts from the San Jose Police to the cover-up burial of Dexter Wade, to the second acquittal of an officer involved in the death of Elijah McClain, we ensure you know how much further we need to go to create a more equitable society for us all.

In the second half of the show, we discuss a rethink of the carceral system in the U.S. We take notes from Push Black who pose some interesting questions that we hope will enable you to perform some thought experiments on your own, and ultimately rethink our current system of criminal rehabilitation. Our Way Black History Fact uncovers the slavery-based Black roots of the concept of Family Reunions

12/2/23 - The No-Knock Warrant at Anjanette Young's Apartment / 62-Year-Old Black Deacon Tased to Death by Black Officer

Today, we are joined by Dr. Camilla Westenberg. In the first part of our show, we share the story behind a viral video showing the traumatic interaction of police officers and an older Black woman after a no-knock warrant was mistakenly served at her apartment. We talk about the trauma she endured and the

disrespect and abuse she was made to feel by the officers. We also discuss how events like these erode trust in police and the ripples created throughout the community.

In the second half of the show, we discuss a traffic stop that resulted in the death of an elderly church deacon at the hands of a Black officer. We discuss how White supremacist institutions can often have a Black face, and how police often criminalize Blackness.

Our Way Black History Fact uncovers the racist origins of the famous holiday song 'Jingle Bells.'

12/9/23 - A Lack of Police Accountability / The Effects of a Lack of Police Accountability

Today, we discuss a few stories in the first half of the show that we have been waiting to get to. First, we talk about the lack of consequences for the officers responsible for the death of Jayland Walker. We then discuss the lack of consequences for the officer that took the life of Elijah McClain. Finally, we discuss the Goon Squad from Mississippi and how they were allowed to inflict harm on Black communities for years without any accountability.

In the second half of the show, we discuss a traffic stop in which an Alabama policewoman tases a handcuffed Black man on camera while mocking him.

Our Way Black History Fact uncovers the story of how U.S. backed banks robbed ex-slaves of the equivalent of over a billion dollars after the Civic War.

12/16/23 - What Are We Missing About Palestine? / Where Do We Go from Here?

Today, we discuss the latest from Palestine alongside viral Palestinian protester Resistance is Beautiful and friend of the show and former Miss Arab USA Suzanne Aslam. We discuss the creative tactics used by modern protesters, growing support for the ending of the conflict, the love received from the global Jewish community.

Our Way Black History Fact uncovers the story of the Black founder of the city of Chicago.

12/23/23 - The True Meaning of Allyship with Rakaa of the Dilated Peoples

Today, we are joined by Hip-Hop royalty and Ramses' own brother Rakaa 'Iriscience' of the Dilated Peoples to discuss the origin story of this show and how it was built on allyship, music's role in movements around the world, new music from Rakaa, and what role activism has in an ever-changing world.

Our Way Black History Fact sheds light on certain laws and legal loopholes that served as barriers to freedom for Black Americans.

12/30/23 - The Man Trying to Destroy Progress / The Scary Truth about Student Resource Officers

Today, we spend the first part of the show discussing a man named Ed Blum—The man behind the current efforts to dismantle affirmative action and several DEI initiatives. We explain his thinking and ways you can challenge that narrow mindset whenever you encounter it.

The second half of the show is dedicated to uncovering the truth about student resource officers (officers at schools) and the ways they severely and negatively impact children of color and their outcomes across the country.

Our Way Black History Fact gives a critical examination of the man behind the Rhodes Scholarship—Cecil Rhodes.