We don’t need a Black president for historical sake. Anything less would be a disgrace to the King legacy.

On Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, as we honor the birth of one of the Black community’s most beloved figures, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we will also witness the second inauguration of the first African American elected to serve as President of the United States.

During this time of year, many leaders within the Black community – especially those who may have marched or worked with Dr. King are asked to pontificate upon the question “What would Dr. King think or say about (fill in the blank)?”

Before we continue, be pleased to know we are not about to engage in that sort of discourse. First and foremost, we don’t know what Dr. King would think, how his perspective would have evolved over the years with age and a host of experiences. If alive, he would be 84 years old. Even his own views about how we should operate in this society began to change prior to his assassination.

Instead, we want to take this time to think about how far we’ve come since the death of MLK and how we need to approach Barack Obama over the next four years.

Although we have a Black president, a more diverse Congress, executive level positions, can marry who we choose, can shop anywhere, stay in luxury hotels, travel with first class accommodations, and eat anywhere we please; we are still on the negative end of every health, education, and economic disparities that exist, with some numbers reaching epidemic proportions.

We may not know what Dr. King would like but we think we can be certain that he would disapprove of poor children not receiving the same quality of education as wealthy children, preschool to prison pipelines, increasing rates of HIV among Black people and folks doing nothing about it but driving around in foreign cars, singing Kumbaya in designer duds as these problems persist.

These pressing issues need to be addressed and having an African American in the oval office seems like the perfect opportunity to push a comprehensive Black agenda forward. Dr. King would definitely disapprove of Black people failing to hold President Obama or any other elected officially accountable, especially if we overwhelmingly voted them in, accountable for representing our best interest.

So, as we prepare to go to D.C. for the inauguration or watch it on television, let us remember… Presidents Obama’s first four years have expired. Latinos got what they wanted. Gays have got what they wanted. Let’s hope there’s something left for us. It’s time to hold his feet to the fire.

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