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# Rapper Common Attends White House Event Despite Right-Wing Criticism (Video)

9:19 PM 5/11/2011 by Paul Bond

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Jason Merritt/Getty Images

Common

**UPDATED:** Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity criticized the decision to invite the controversial rapper -- whose violent lyrics have been directed at police officers -- to First Lady Michelle Obama's poetry program.

Despite the best efforts of right-wing pundits and contradicting earlier reports, controversial rapper **Common** went through with his White House appearance at First Lady **Michelle Obama's** poetry event Wednesday.

Earlier reports suggested that he wasn't there, but a White House video confirms that he showed up later than expected. [Watch his performance below.]

*The Daily Caller* (<http://dailycaller.com/2011/05/11/rapper-wraps-white-house-in-pr-crisis/>) earlier reported that he wasn't in attendance at the afternoon session, saying that when Obama welcomed the poets who had been invited, she neglected to mention Common, and reporters did not see him at the event. But he apparently showed up for the evening session and even [tweeted](https://twitter.com/#!/common) (<https://twitter.com/#!/common>) about his presence there.

It was revealed a few days ago that Common was among the poets that Michelle Obama had invited to her poetry session, and the Drudge Report and others immediately noted the rapper's history of violent lyrics, notably directed at police officers.

**STORY: Common's 10 Least Controversial Lyrics** (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/commons-10-controversial-lyrics-187749>)

He's also rapped his advice to "Burn a Bush," a reference to **President George W. Bush**.

Among those critical of the invitation were **Glenn Beck**, **Rush Limbaugh** and **Sean Hannity**.

Beck ridiculed the White House invitation Wednesday morning on his radio show, for example, by saying, sarcastically, "The president and the first lady, of course -- of course -- are not anti-cop."

His rant -- if you can call it that, given it was filled mostly with disingenuous praise for the first couple -- went on for seven minutes. [Watch video below.]

Limbaugh on Wednesday called Common an "artiste" ([http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site\\_051111/content/01125114.guest.html](http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_051111/content/01125114.guest.html)) and suggested that only uneducated rubes would dare criticize his lyrics.

He was also being sarcastic.

Hannity, on his Fox News TV show Tuesday night, went through a litany of Common's alleged offenses. When a guest accused Hannity of advocating censoring poets, he responded: "I don't want to censor them. Should he be in the White House? Big difference." [Watch video below.]

Sarah Palin also weighed in by tweeting, "OH LOVELY, WHITE HOUSE." Common responded by tweeting, "SO APPARENTLY SARAH PALIN AND FOX NEWS DOESN'T LIKE ME."

Some police unions and support groups have also objected to the invitation.

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**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 21:50

Soooo, you apparently don't pay much attention to Twitter. Various White House correspondents have tweeted that Common is there. As did Common himself. Good thing retractions/corrections don't cost money.

**ghkluliu** | Thu, 2011-05-12 07:46

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~ x ☺ ☺

**Anonymous** | Thu, 2011-05-12 08:18

Glamorizing killing Police Officers is NOT art.  
 The Obama's relationships with Bill Ayers...Van Jones...and this nitwit...show that they have zero respect for the men & women risking their lives on a daily basis to protect our country's streets and homes.

**Anonymous** | Thu, 2011-05-12 14:02

Singing about and glorifying Cop Killer's is a disgusting character flaw...criminal.

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 21:51

HOW WAS HE UNINVITED WHEN WE JUST SAW HIM PERFORM HIS POEM AT THE EVENT! THE EVENING OF POETRY WAS STREAMED LIVE ONLINE AND COMMON WAS THERE! SO WHAT POETRY PROGRAM AT THE WHITE HOUSE ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 21:52

I don't think he's been disinvented-- Common already performed at the White House tonight.

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 21:57

Common performed tonight as scheduled. This information is wrong.

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 22:04

WHAT A BUNCH OF RASCIST FUCKS! SCREW FOX AND PALIN AND ALL THE OTHER FUCKING RASCIST IDIOTS WHO CONTINUALLY BITCH ABOUT NOTHING!

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 22:40

You sound like a racist

**Anonymous** | Wed, 2011-05-11 22:42

You sound like a racist

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