

NAACP Howard County General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday June 25, 2020

Time: 6:30pm

Location: virtual Zoom meeting due to Covid-19

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence.

Executive Committee Reports

President- Willie Flowers

*Discussed racist flyers and stickers that have popped up around the county, Baltimore City and other jurisdictions.

*We need to address this situation from a standpoint of where we are and create a protocol to address it.

*We want to participate in organizing the community for something more than Hate.

*We have representatives from the FBI, Howard County Police Department, State's Attorney's Office and Exfil Security to address some of the issues.

Approval of the Agenda

***MOTION: Mike Butera moved to approve the agenda. John Wheatland seconded the motion.**

*President Flowers pointed out that this is an election year and we also have the census and local elections.

*The "We Are Done Dying Campaign" is kicking off. It started with Covid-19 and pivoted into police conduct concerns.

*We need all the membership to be involved.

*There have been no fund raising events this year due to Covid-19. No Freedom Fund and no MLK 5K.

*Good news is we have both young and seasoned members to help guide us.

Secretaries- Jennifer Jones; Lynda Earle

*There are no minutes because we did not meet last month due to Covid-19.

Education- Laura Johnson

*Last week there was a stakeholder's meeting to look at school planning in preparation for a July 9, 2020, school meeting.

*Medical guidance is being sought surrounding transportation, food and nutrition as they relate to Covid-19.

*We are thinking about sending a fall survey to families about distance learning.

*Hattie pointed out the need to track the area of bullying and whether children are more or less anxious at home. It is important to get feed back to the school system about a universal design.

*Laura pointed out that the emotional well being of the children has been a big concern as well as cyber security and protection.

Fundraising- Laura for Stephanie Wall

*Due to Covid-19, the Freedom Fund Brunch has been moved to May 22, 2021.

*We are looking for a virtual event to do this year and to nominate and award leaders for the New Year.

Virtual Fundraisers- TiQuoria & Janssen

*TiQuoria, Janssen and others met this week to discuss the priorities for virtual fundraisers. There is an immediate urgency and a big waive of new people donating.

*We put together main priorities about where contributions are going and came up with social media and marketing materials.

*We should set up Venmo or Cash App to go to our NAACP accounts.

*Janssen shared that Alicia and TiQuoria did an excellent Job.

*There are many important areas to navigate including police reform at the state level, voter rights, and political representation, minorities engaged in Government, Environmental Justice and programs.

*The community supported Agriculture Community Ecological Institute and neighboring church partnership is doing well.

Young Professionals Willie Flowers for Kori Jones

*We are creating a structure for youth and professional representation. They are a group of Millennial Masterminds.

*We want the young professionals playing a significant role in fundraising.

*We want to make sure that the next generation of leaders can figure out how to operate in the broader framework and how to dismantle unfair systems.

General Body Meeting

* The President acknowledged the Howard County State's Attorney, Rich Gibson; Delegate Jessica Feldmark; Board of Education Candidates Matthew Molyett for District 1, and Dr. Yun Lu, district 5; Delegate Eric Ebersol; attorney Quincy Coleman who is running for Circuit Court judge and Congressman Kweisi Mfume's representative.

Guest Speakers included, Howard County Police Chief, Lisa Myers; Gregg Domroe, Supervisor Special Agent FBI, Baltimore Field Office; Kevin Figueroa and Darren Davis from Exfil Security.

The speakers gave insight and information on Hate crimes, Bias related incidences in the community and cyber safety and security.

*Chief Myers discussed bias related incidents in the community and assured everyone that Howard County Police is on top of it. They received calls about

offensive stickers and signs around the county, which were removed. Officers canvassed the neighborhoods and are investigating. The police are interested in engaging with community groups and bridging the common divide.

*Rich Gibson, Howard County State's Attorney explained what makes a hate crime.

*Greg Domroe discussed Federal hate incidents. The FBI partners with local law enforcement and the State's Attorney's Office to address hate crimes. They allow the State to proceed first because oftentimes the State penalty will be more severe.

*Discussed hate speech versus hate crimes.

*Kevin Figuora and Darren Davis from Exfil Security spoke about cyber safety and security. They warned about phishing attacks and scams. They encouraged minimizing digital footprints. Organizations should sit down with a security company.

WE ARE DONE DYING CAMPAIGN- Willie Flowers

*We are beginning our "We are done dying campaign."

*We need to embrace the fall out surrounding Covoid-19 as well as tackle systemic racism challenges.

* Two things that affect the community are lack of school funding and food deficits such as in Long Reach where there are no grocery stores.

*Want to get liquor licenses for grocery stores and use those funds for education.

*We are also looking at food equity and using the Environmental Justice Grant to create an alternate food source.

*We received a call from the Eastern Shore saying that they are beginning to do the same thing.

*Reality of Racial Reconciliation. We want to create a community effort to combat the offensive sticker and poster issue that has been going on.

*Becca and Kori have begun to pull different groups together.

*Becca mentioned various community groups.

*Asst. Sec. will give Becca the information for Communities United Against Hate in Montgomery County for further insight.

MOTION: Janssen Evelyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becca Niburg seconded the motion.

***MISSION:**

The Mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.