

NAACP New York State Conference

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

February 15, 2021

Brookhaven Town

Dr. Georgette Grier-Key
President

Central – Long Island

Rev Saba McHunguzi
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Long Island Police Reform Task Forces

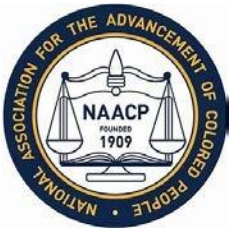
In accordance with the Executive Order issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo dated June 12, 2020, and the enacted justice reform bills passed by the New York State Senate and Assembly last year, the NAACP New York State Conference Long Island Region is formally providing recommendations to all municipalities charged with developing and approving a collaborative plan prior to April 1, 2021.

As we join the National movement to pass the George Floyd Police Justice Act at the federal level, we call on all Police Departments and agencies to complete the process by evaluating the 'People's Plan' and all the recommendations from the many social justice, civil rights, and community advocates that developed and submitted recommendations.

Of particular concern to the NAACP Long Island Region are those recommendations that will address racial disparities. It is our request that all forty-two agencies charged with developing a police reform plan on Long Island:

- Ban No Knock Warrants
- Complete a review of full hiring and promotional practices and take appropriate actions with timelines, goals, and metrics
- Complete and publicize a review on reports of crimes that are reported by minorities and either not investigated or prosecuted
- Develop an uniform data collection process that has integrity and is reviewed and analyzed quarterly for racial disparities. The duplicate records of white citizens found in Suffolk County data hid the true racial disparities for many years. The rationale given for its existence does not build public trust and fails in any attempt to show transparency in policing
- Eliminate over surveillance in minority communities
- End all Pretextual stops
- Implement consistent and specific standards on use-of-force

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- Institute a Civilian Complaint Review Board
- Prioritize funding for social services and mental health professionals for 911 calls
- Require Body Worn cameras and Vehicle Dash-cams
- Require cultural competency and implicit bias training, as well as deescalation techniques

The NAACP New York State Conference Long Island Region would be glad to provide more information relative to these recommendations and are requesting to hear back from you on or before March 1, 2021.

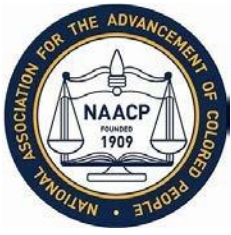
Under the leadership of Hazel N Dukes, New York State NAACP President, the New York State Conference develops legislative priorities for state enactment on an annual basis. For this year, the overarching recommendation for our Justice Reform priorities is to ensure that every person be subject to equitable dispensation of justice. Disproportionate incarceration, racially motivated policing strategies, and racially biased, discriminatory, and mandatory minimum sentencing must end.

The recommendations for Police Reform as it relates to our legislative priorities are as follows:

We Support:

- Smarter, results-based criminal justice policies to keep our communities safe, including treatment for addiction and mental health problems, judicial discretion in sentencing, and an end to racial disparities at all levels of the system.
- The enactment of safe, sane, and sensible laws to curb gun violence.
- The reduction of arrests for non-criminal offenses
- Legislation to prohibit racial profiling
- A requirement of law enforcement to collect data on all stops (vehicle and individual)
- Elimination of qualified immunity
- Providing the public with police statistics and transparency as it relates to policies and procedures

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In 2015, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund participated in the collaborative approach that developed the 21st Century Policing recommendations released to all states. These policing practices and policies were created to build public trust and promote effective crime reduction. Sadly, many police departments have yet to incorporate all of the recommendations or provide a rationale or process why they were not evaluated and implemented. The recommendations were based on:

1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
2. Policy and Oversight
3. Technology and Social Media
4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction
5. Training and Education
6. Officer Wellness and Safety

During that comprehensive process, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund recommendations included:

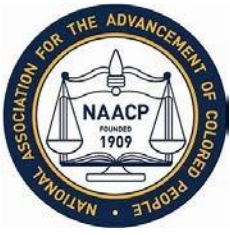
- Independent and external special prosecutors to investigate officer-involved shootings, both fatal and non-fatal
- An end to policing practices that require officers to issue a predetermined number of tickets, arrests, or summonses or to initiate investigations for reasons not related to public safety. This includes using this approach to evaluate officer productivity
- Data collection on incidents of use of force by police officers; and
- Civilian oversight, demilitarization of police, training on de-escalation, bias-free policing strategies and participation in the reduction to school to prison pipeline

The recommendations provided in 2015 are still needed today on Long Island as validated last year by the Newsday investigative analysis as well as the institute commissioned by Suffolk County that revealed the racial disparities in policing. Without being presented with data to the contrary, we believe this may impact more than just those under the jurisdiction of Suffolk County.

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The NAACP believes that this moment requires bold and meaningful action to end systemic racism. We can no longer afford a piecemeal approach or to address these issues solely through civil rights offices throughout the country.

It also takes authentic collaboration so we applaud those that have convened stakeholders and engaged them throughout the process. The failure of Nassau County government to even provide a good faith effort to collaborate is an example of how structural and institutional racism continues to be protected and demonstrates the need for real reform and accountability.

The NAACP Long Island Region leaders support this transformative effort and again request that all forty-two police agencies on Long Island required by Executive Order to submit a plan; Review Evaluate, and Respond in writing to our recommendations to ensure a complete and thoughtful examination.

As the NAACP National President, Derrick Johnson stated -

"If we want a Just society, we must create a different type of criminal justice system"

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tracey A. Edwards

Tracey A. Edwards
Long Island Regional Director

cc:

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