



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE

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Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman
President, NC NAACP

Dr. Terrance Ruth
Executive Director

12/7/17

Mr. Derrick Johnson, President and CEO

President and CEO

NAACP

Baltimore, Md.

RE: Request for National Intervention

Allow me to convey some concerns I have with some recent occurrences before and after my recent election to the Presidency of the NC State Conference of Branches of the NAACP in October, 2017. Any of these actions, it seems to me, is serious enough to merit this request for your assistance.

For context, I include two acts that occurred at our 74th Annual State Convention. During the Election Speeches, when Dr. Portia Rochelle was invited to the podium to make her speech, the Second Vice President Carolyn McDougal jumped up and passed out campaign materials in support of Dr. Portia Rochelle for President. The Election Supervisory Chair announced that such acts were inappropriate, and requested members refrain from them. During the voting process itself, I observed the same VP working her way through the line of people waiting to vote, asking them to vote for my esteemed opponent, Dr. Rochelle. I also observed the First Vice President, Carolyn Coleman, passing out her campaign literature, complete with her image attached, to voters standing in line to cast votes. I informed one of the security persons, Mr. Mike McLean and then I informed Mr. Kevin Myles, and he talked with Ms. Coleman, who, I believe, justified her acts by saying I was doing the same thing, which was not the case. Earlier that morning, I asked the Election Supervisory team where the 50 foot-line was that marked off the area where no more campaigning was to be done and set my campaign sign there.

These acts I witnessed first-hand. Another act was reported to me. Two of the youth reportedly saw Ms. Coleman put \$40 in the hands of another officer, after that officer told Ms. Coleman she was successful in getting youth to cast votes on her behalf.

During my first Executive Committee meeting, there was a small, but well-organized, opposition caucus against my agenda. As you are aware, I succeeded Rev. Dr. William Barber, who with the help of old and young warriors from across the state, energized our state

conference over the past 12 years. We ran our campaign on a clear agenda to maintain and, indeed, to build on the spirit of the “Moral Monday” movement we Rev. Barber and his team had built. In short, 12 years of organizing and mass education was being attacked by a small opposition caucus. This caucus’s acts in that meeting was so blatant, that one of the newly elected District Directors took the floor and spoke eloquently about how it impacted him.

The opposition caucus had apparently coordinated its efforts before the meeting to subvert the slate of Committee Chairs I proposed, which of course included a diverse group with labor, LGBTQ, Immigrant Rights, Environmental Justice and other key issues in our broad Moral Fusion Agenda. After the voice vote which I had trouble distinguishing whether there was acceptance of the slate or not, I asked for a show of hands in favor as well as those opposed. It is significant, I believe, that the four VPs and one other person voted against the slate my team presented.

As I complete the first two months of my presidency, there have been further reports of adverse actions taken by this small opposition caucus and hence my reason for this appeal, Derrick. When Rev. Barber who invited me to be in the first group to challenge the all-white extremist caucus that has seized our state legislature and tried to reverse every gain the NC NAACP had helped NC, I have done everything in my power to maintain and prayerfully elevate the Conference to an even higher level. But the acts of this small opposition caucus have maligned me, our efforts to unify an energetic new Executive Committee, and to hit the ground running as we enter perhaps the most important election season since 1968. There are indications this Caucus is stirring up rumors and interfering with our efforts to maintain a strong working relationship with the Executive Committee.

I want the National Office to be officially on notice of the actions of this Opposition Caucus, and respectfully request its intervention as well as your advice in this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Anthony Spearman, President

NC NAACP