

NAACP

Derrick Johnson
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Leon W. Russell
*Chairman
National Board of Directors*

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

September 21, 2022

Via Email and Regular Mail

Rev. Dr. Cardes H. Brown, Jr.
6106 Long Branch Ct
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

Re: Cease-and-Desist Letter

Dear Rev. Brown:

This letter concerns your repeated false statements regarding the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP” or “The Association”) which includes your false statements about the Association made on behalf of the Justice Coalition USA. Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP states that “[t]he Board of Directors, upon satisfactory evidence that an officer or member of the Association...is guilty of conduct not in accord with the principles, aims and purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People...or guilty of conduct inimical to the best interests of...the Association may order suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action against such officer or member, after a full hearing if requested by the respondent in accord with the provisions of this Constitution.”

You have engaged in repeated inimical conduct that is not in accord with the principles of the Association. More specifically, you have utilized your leadership position in the Justice Coalition to undermine and discredit the National NAACP and the North Carolina State Conference NAACP. In that capacity, you have engaged in conduct that is detrimental to the Association. On February 18, 2022, you sent a letter to NAACP National Board members falsely accusing Administrator and NAACP National Board Member Gloria Sweet-Love of making misrepresentations regarding the North Carolina State Conference NAACP. You further accused the National NAACP of arbitrarily suspending Dr. T. Anthony Spearman’s membership. Furthermore, you accused the NAACP of making “libelous statements”. These statements are not only false, they are designed to undermine and discredit the NAACP.

Your statements on behalf of the Justice Coalition USA website are dedicated to disparaging the National NAACP and the North Carolina State Conference. The Justice Coalition’s website, falsely states that “the Justice Coalition is a coalition of NAACP members seeking redress of issues of the NAACP National Organization illegally taking over Branches and State Organizations and to address the apparent corruption existing under the current

national leadership.” <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/>. The website questions the legitimacy of the new structure of the NAACP. <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/history-of-the-naacp-name/> Moreover, there is a section on the Justice Coalition website entitled “ALLEGED SCANDALS with Derrick Johnson”. <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/derrick-johnson/> That section includes articles entitled “Member calls for resignation of Mississippi NAACP President” and “Derrick Johnson slush fund!!!” The website falsely accuses the National NAACP of illegally taking over the San Diego Branch NAACP. The website includes copies of letters and emails to and from NAACP leaders. <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/letters-to-the-national-organization/> <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/jc-to-legal-counsel/>

In addition, the Justice Coalition held press conferences on January 7, 2022, and February 11, 2022. During the January 2022 press conference, you falsely accused the National NAACP of “voter suppression” and “ineptitude in carrying out the election.” You further accused Administrator Gloria Sweet-Love of engaging in “unconstitutional” conduct. During the February press conference, you asserted the North Carolina State Conference election was unconstitutional. You claimed that the installation of the new officers was unconstitutional as well. You criticized the National NAACP’s decision to dismiss your election complaint. The January and February press conferences are posted on the Justice Coalition’s website. <https://boxcast.tv/view/nc-justice-coalition-press-conference-623493> <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/press-releases/> This conduct is unacceptable.

Moreover, the Justice Coalition has been soliciting donations in support of litigation against the National NAACP. On the coalition’s website, it states “[d]ue to the upcoming litigation against the National Leaders that have slandered the good name and reputation of the current State Leaders we are asking for donations to help with the fight for Justice within the NAACP.” <https://justicecoalitionusa.org/donate/> Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws for Units of the NAACP states that “[a]ny member who files litigation against the National NAACP or against any of its units without having pursued the remedies within the framework of the Association, shall be deemed as exhibiting behavior not in accord with the principles, aims and purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, meriting suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action.” By soliciting donations for a lawsuit against the National NAACP, you are engaged in behavior not in accord with the principles of the NAACP.

The Justice Coalition USA continues to promote the false narrative of disenfranchisement. On September 12, 2022, the Justice Coalition USA sent a letter to the President and CEO stating the National NAACP’s Election Buddy system “disenfranchised many of our senior members who are not computer literate.” The coalition described the system as a “flawed method” and requested a meeting with the President and CEO.

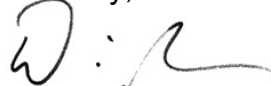
The National NAACP hereby demands that you immediately cease-and-desist making disparaging and defamatory statements against the National NAACP, the NAACP national leadership, the National NAACP staff, the North Carolina State Conference NAACP, and/or the North Carolina State Conference NAACP leadership. The National NAACP hereby demands that you immediately remove all disparaging and defamatory statements, videos, recordings and documents from the Justice Coalition USA website and any and all other platforms.

Finally, the National NAACP demands that you immediately remove all internal NAACP correspondence from the Justice Coalition USA website and any and all other platforms.

Please confirm to General Counsel Janette McCarthy Wallace, in writing, no later than **Friday, September 23, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., EST** that you have immediately removed the disparaging and defamatory material. Failure to comply with this cease-and-desist letter may result in suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact General Counsel Janette McCarthy Wallace at jlouard@naacpnet.org.

Sincerely,



Derrick Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Leon W. Russell, Chair, National Board of Directors
Gloria J. Sweet-Love, Chair, Committee on Membership and Units
Deborah Dicks Maxwell, President, North Carolina State Conference NAACP
Carmen Watkins, Senior Vice President, Membership Growth and Unit
Sustainability
Janette McCarthy Wallace, General Counsel