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JUSTICE COALITION
USA

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE." MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
EMAIL: INFO@JUSTICECOALITIONUSA.ORG

November 4, 2022

By: *Email and Certified Mail*

Mr. Derrick Johnson
President and CEO
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
4805 Mt. Hope Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Suspension of NAACP Membership

President Johnson:

This letter is in response to your letter dated October 26, 2022 regarding the suspension of my membership in the NAACP. On or about September 21, 2022, you sent a letter to me demanding that I "*immediately cease and desist making false, disparaging and defamatory statements against the National NAACP, the NAACP national leadership, the NAACP national staff, the North Carolina State Conference NAACP, and all the North Carolina State Conference NAACP leadership.*" The letter further demanded that I immediately "*remove all disparaging and the defamatory statements, videos, recordings and documents from the Justice Coalition USA website, and any and all other platforms.*" Your letter finally demanded that I "*remove internal NAACP correspondence from the Justice Coalition USA website.*" Is it your understanding that you have the right and/or authority to impose a demand that is in violation or contradiction to my first amendment rights or the rights of others. Your allegations that I have done something to obstruct, harm or hinder, (*inimical*) the work of the NAACP, I vehemently challenge.

At the National board meeting on October 15, 2022, the question raised from one of the board members was, *what has been done for the branches and units across the nation regarding the GOTV effort?* I believe your response was NOTHING.

The Justice Coalition USA conducted extensive research on the use of Electronic Voting Systems. As a result, two key questions arose: **Why is National willing to pay millions of dollars to conduct an electronic election, when that money could be used to effect a strong GOTV initiative? Why is National opting to pay millions of dollars for the electronic election when it is now safe to host in-person voting, which will not cost our National a single red cent?** Interesting. In the Elections manual distributed to the branches to guide the process for this electronic election, we are told there will be no witnesses or observers of the tally, nor will there be any challenges allowed after the vote is electronically cast, and the results will be determined and communicated to the branches by the National. **Where is the democracy in that?**

Under your administration, there have been *many* cease and desist demands placed upon members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—in California, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, North Carolina, and



other states. Persons are being told that if they do not cease and desist disciplinary actions would be considered. I was to be on the Greensboro NAACP ballot for the branch election. This suspension leaves our branch no choice (with only two candidates running) on who they would prefer to serve as their first vice president. **I and many others find that extremely troubling.** The candidate running for the office of president and those running for other offices, also received cease and desist demand letters from you. This causes me, and countless others, to think the YOU will pick and choose who YOU want to be leaders of branches and units. Especially when one gives consideration to the cost of an electronic election, and the fact that many branches and conferences across the nation were served notices by the IRS that stated they failed to file tax exempt filings for three years was NOT just a mistake as the National informed us, and would like us to believe. There must be clarity, accountability, and transparency, with respect to how funds are being handled on the national level.

In the second paragraph of your letter you acknowledged that on September 23, 2022, instead of complying with your cease and desist letter, that I sent a letter to you stating that I will not cease and desist. Please be reminded, what I said is, *“I will never cease and desist from supporting those who cannot help themselves i.e. elderly members, members in rural communities, and members in general who cannot afford or do not have access to the Internet.”*

The Justice Coalition USA, comprised of members and nonmembers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, strongly believe in a democratized form of government, as is the governance of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. At a time when CDC restrictions have been lifted for the most part, it has been your insistence that we conduct elections via election buddy. At the National Board Meeting on October 15, 2022, you indicated that no analytics were chronicled regarding the affects the pandemic had on, or during the convention, but indicated that the information could be provided from the CDC, which implied, that the recommendations of the CDC are at least being considered. If that is true, *why is an electronic election mandated for branches and units across the nation which is clearly NOT a CDC guideline as persons are going to the polls and casting their ballots today IN-PERSON ALL ACROSS THIS NATION.*

The Justice Coalition USA has been very meticulous in collecting, and determining what should be on our website. Therefore, with great deliberation, time, and energy, we have gathered information from various sources—the news media, individuals who have given their accounts with proven factual information, attorneys, governmental agencies, nationally certified parliamentarians, etc. We welcome any evidence that may counter the information you referenced as being false or misleading on the Justice Coalition USA website.

In closing, my response to your letter suspending me from the organization that I have committed myself to because of its mission to insure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race based discrimination, compels me to introduce myself to you, for you apparently do not know me, and most importantly, my commitment to the fight against injustice everywhere. I have been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for many years—a double life member, a branch president for a number of terms, jailed several times in our struggles for civil and human rights, I have been a part of many judicial battles for the things that our most noble organization has stood for, especially human rights and voting rights, I was recognized as Branch President of the Year by the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, earned the Million More Movement Unity Award from the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan for being an open vessel for truth and righteousness, inducted into the prestigious Morehouse College Board of Preachers, recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina’s highest Citizens Award, former president of the Pulpit Forum of Greensboro and vicinity, an organization that is affiliated with approximately 110 churches, Man of the Year for the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP, board member of the Moses Cone Wesley Long Foundation, President’s award for outstanding leadership as the Religious Affairs Chair for the state of North Carolina NAACP, received the International Civil Rights Center and Museum Lifetime Community Service award, I have served the pastorate for more than 57 years, and as senior pastor



of the New Light Missionary Baptist Church of Greensboro, North Carolina for more than 47 years, I have served as the Chair of the Board of the Department of Social Services for Guilford county, and I have been the recipient of The Benjamin Hooks Keeper of the Flame award, recognizing my labor in the interest of the mission of the NAACP. I share these things not to boast, but to ensure you are aware of some of the things I have tried to do in service to God and the mission of the NAACP.

I certainly would like to know, since I am being suspended, which organization am I being suspended from, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded in 1909 Inc. in New York, a 501(c)(3) or the 2019 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded in March 2019 in Delaware, as a 501(c)(4) or the NAACP Empowerment programs founded in March 2019 in New York as a 501(c)(3)?

In your letter referencing Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, you allege that the Justice Coalition USA had on its website false information. It is not false that the late Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman was suspended from the association and requested a hearing that was never granted to him. It is also true that Dr. Spearman filed a defamation suit against you Mr. Johnson, along with Mr. Leon Russell and Ms. Gloria Sweet-Love. It is also true that Dr. Spearman included in that defamation suit Ms. Deborah Maxwell, Ms. Sylvia Barnes, Ms. Corrine Mack, Mr. Gerald Givens, and Mr. Barrett Brown. Additionally, a notice sent from the North Carolina state conference indicated that Dr. Spearman committed suicide. It was said that information came from National, that information was not true then and is not true now. To date there has been no determination of the cause of death of Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman. The investigation is ongoing.

With all of this being said, I request a hearing under protest—not that I believe it will be an impartial and honest hearing, but that the record might show that I made the request.

In the service of the Lord, Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cardes H. Brown Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Dr. Cardes H. Brown Jr.

cc: Leon W Russell, Chair, National Board of Directors
Gloria J Sweet-Love, Chair, Committee on Memberships and Units
Carmen Watkins, Senior Vice President, Membership Growth and Units Sustainability
Janette McCarthy Wallace, General Counsel
National Board of Directors
The Carolina Peacemaker
Justice Coalition USA
The New York Attorney General
The Associated Press
The Internal Revenue Service
The News & Record