

Al McSurely
Civil Rights and NAACP Pro Bono Lawyer 34 Years
NAACP Life Member-Ming Awardee
lawyers@mcsurely.com
December 14, 2022

Janette McCarthy Wallace
c/o jlouard@naacpnet.org

Re: *Your 12/12/22 letter to my client O'Linda Watkins*

Dear Janette:

My client received your 12/12/22 letter that referenced your 10/26/letter which demanded she "*cease and desist*" "disparaging and defaming" the National and NC State Conference NAACP.

Ms. O'Linda Watkins ('O'Linda') has never uttered a negative syllable--much less a negative word--about these organizations. She bleeds NAACP blue and gold blood. She *loves* the NAACP. You might be confusing her dispute with the inimical actions of three *individuals* -- Derrick Johnson, Gloria Sweet-Love, and Leon Russell. You make a similar error when alleging O'Linda disparaged the NC State Conference. She had given her life to the NC State Conference and the local Branch, as has her long-time friend and colleague, Deborah Maxwell. They are both powerful black women leaders in a male-dominated organization. O'Linda has defended Deborah against recent machinations by a small group of people.

Your 12/12/22 letter was precipitated by a complaint someone made to Mr. Johnson about O'Linda's short appearance on a tv interview the other night. He found her actions inimical to the best interest of the NAACP, and immediately decided to suspend this long-time civil rights warrior. This raises two due process questions. Our 2019 set of By-Laws require "The Board of Directors, upon satisfactory evidence that an officer [O'Linda is the President of the Moore County Branch] is guilty. . .of conduct inimical to the best interests of the NAACP may order suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action against such officer or member, **after a full hearing if requested by the Respondent.**" [emphasis added] 2019 Bylaws for Units of the NAACP, p. 80, Art. X, 2. *Grounds for Suspension or other Disciplinary Action.*__

We invite all our Board Members to watch the short clip of O'Linda and her co-volunteer feeding the poor as Jesus requires (*Matthew 25:31-40*), and her understanding of the NAACP Mission requires. O'Linda is well known in the Carthage neighborhood shown in the clip, since her ancestors were held in bondage here and she spends her life dismantling Jim Crow vestiges here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_QHFbgi6DU

If the Board of Directors, after taking a minute to watch the clip, need more evidence, we request it expedite the Hearing Panel your 2019 by-laws afford her. The clock is now ticking on O'Linda's 12/6/22 Hearing Request. According to your rules, the Hearing should be in 60 days, or 2/5/23. Because Leon Russell, Gloria Sweet Love-Love and Mr. Johnson have obvious conflicts, I respectfully request they recuse themselves from this part of the process that the By-Laws obviously believe is due by client. I respectfully incorporate the material available to the public at US Justice Coalition website and all material about the upcoming Childs v. Gatewood Trial in Durham Superior Court, scheduled for February 2023. O'Linda waives her rights to a private hearing and reserves her right to be represented by a younger attorney.

Truly yours,

/s/

Al McSurely, Civil Rights Lawyer, Moore County, NC
2-Janette McCarthy Wallace 12/14/22

cc: Leon W. Russell, Chair, National Board of Directors

Gloria J. Sweet-Love, Chair, Committee on Membership and Units

Carmen Watkins, Senior Vice President, Membership Growth and Unit Sustainability

Deborah Dicks Maxwell, President, North Carolina State Conference

Interested NAACP Members