

MEDIA RELEASE



“NAACP: Stand United in the Face of Injustice”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NAACP DeKalb Calls Moratorium Support by DeKalb Commissioners a Blatant Act of Hypocrisy and Discrimination

DECATUR (January 22, 2018) - “When a person is elected to the Board of Commissioners to represent a particular district, that person should not be consumed with a dogged passion to do harm to citizens in another DeKalb district. That is exactly what some commissioners appear to be doing,” says Teresa Hardy, President of the NAACP DeKalb. Hardy was expressing the outrage and sentiments of the NAACP regarding the news that the DeKalb commission is seeking support from the Dekalb legislative delegation for a three-year moratorium on new municipalities in the county.

While the NAACP is not taking a position for or against the creation of any new DeKalb city, the organization says that the citizens of unincorporated DeKalb should be allowed to exercise their right to vote on the issue. According to Hardy, the NAACP noticed that the citizens of the new mostly white cities of Brookhaven, Dunwoody, and Tucker were permitted to vote whether or not to become a city, and their efforts met absolutely no opposition from neither the commissioners nor the General Assembly. Once the mostly African American citizens in Stonecrest wished to incorporate, they were met with stern opposition, which was finally overcome.

Now that the citizens of South and West DeKalb have expressed an interest in incorporating, suddenly some commissioners want to impose a moratorium to thwart their efforts. The NAACP DeKalb views this moratorium as hypocritical and discriminatory. Only the citizens in the aforementioned cities were permitted to vote on their cityhood referendums. Now, for future cityhood referendums, the issue will be voted on by all citizens in unincorporated DeKalb. “This is blatant discrimination; and the NAACP finds it wrong and unacceptable, and it vehemently opposes the moratorium,” says Hardy. She adds, “Their hypocrisy is further on display by saying they are so concerned about how the creation of new cities is negatively affecting the finances of the county and the school system. The wealth of the cities of Dunwoody and Brookhaven is probably ten times that of unincorporated DeKalb, yet no concern was expressed about the loss of revenue when those cities incorporated.”

The NAACP points out that regressive commissioners tend to resort to the General Assembly to pass harmful and debilitating restraints on DeKalb, particularly South DeKalb, totally disregarding the wishes of the DeKalb legislative delegation. The NAACP calls on all citizens of goodwill to see how these efforts deny the citizens of their rights and to join the NAACP’s opposition against such discriminatory actions.

The NAACP also expresses its consternation at the Africa American board members who go along to get along with regressive commissioners at the expense of neglecting their own constituents. “This is despicable, and their constituents should hold them accountable,” says Hardy.