



THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: James Harris, President

NAACP NJ State Conference

June 27, 2009 8:05AM

The New Jersey State Conference NAACP Is disgusted with the recent Nooses On the Loose In the State of New Jersey

Hate crimes remain a festering and horrifying problem in the United States - And New Jersey is not exempt. In fact, former Governor Jim Florio signed a hate crime bill into law during his administration. This form of domestic terrorism is designed to intimidate whole communities on the basis of personal and immutable characteristics – and can spark widespread neighborhood conflicts, even damaging the very fabric of our society. The incidences of “nooses” in our state are acts of domestic terrorism and are totally unacceptable. Although there are laws on the books that help deter hate crimes and protect their victims, many are not enforced.

The New Jersey State NAACP, “the conscious of New Jersey and the watch dog of liberties” is disappointed, distressed and disgusted over the lack of protection afforded New Jersey’s people of color. There is a complete lack of protection, enforcement and silence by our local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to people of color concerning racial intimidation, threats and terrorism in New Jersey from those who consider it just a “joke” and “funny” to hang nooses in public. Agencies established to protect all citizens have failed to thoroughly investigate and prosecute these crimes. Silence means approval. Either the law is for all or the law is for no one. Enough of our so-called law enforcement agencies ...Warren County, Gloucester County, and Camden County to name a few, where some people have been allowed to intimidate and terrorize people of color like the old days of the Klan. We are, therefore, calling on every law enforcement agency in New Jersey to begin today to step up active legal enforcement against these racist acts of terrorism. Remembering the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “the time is always right to do what is right” and “a riot is the language of the unheard.”

So, today, New Jersey must begin to do right. To do otherwise is treason.

The New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has 41 adult units, 10 youth units, 9 university and college units, 5 Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) units and one prison unit, that are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, vigorously conducting voter education and mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors throughout the State of New Jersey.

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