

NAACP NEWS

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Edward Dubose, President
Georgia State Conference, NAACP



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAACP AND LATINO COMMUNITY UNITE AGAINST XENOPHOBIA

NAACP Calls on Bill Head to Step into the 21st Century or Resign Office

The Georgia State Conference strongly condemns the xenophobic comments of Carroll County Commissioner Bill Head. Further, the NAACP through its Carrollton Branch calls on the Carroll County Commission to pass an appropriate resolution disavowing such cultural ignorance as referring to Latino Americans as “wetbacks” and reaffirming America’s historical legacy as a country of immigrants.

The NAACP further calls on Commissioner Bill Head to step down from public office because it is clear that he is unwilling to admit his mistake. Further, such offensive xenophobic commentary has no place in civilized debate over public policy.

It hard to comprehend that even as the United States of America is engaged in a war against terrorists trying to undermine America’s progress in the Middle East; Carroll County Commissioner Bill Head would make statements that demonstrate a cultural incompetence that prevents dialogue and drives communities of people apart” says the Reverend Dr. Francys Johnson, Executive Director of the Georgia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

For years, politicians have exploited divisions within the African American and Hispanic/Latino Communities. Racial and Ethnic divides caused the two communities to circle each other warily, believing that any power gained by one group would come at the expense of the other. However, we applaud Gylia Gonzalez, Latinos United for Carroll County; Norman Sims, Carroll County NAACP; and Commission Chairman Bill Chappell for collaborating behind the scenes to bring resolution to this ugly issue. “I do believe there is a now a more sophisticated view that understands there is little value in competing among ourselves when the larger pie is available” said State Conference President Edward Dubose. “What Bill Head has done is help build momentum for a stronger alliance between our communities against the forces that would use public office to insult rather than solve problems” says Dubose.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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