



Lafayette Parish NAACP UNIT #6060
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Lafayette Parish NAACP Unit #6060 Releases Statement on Police Reform Collaboration with City, State, and National Organizations

Lafayette Parish NAACP Unit #6060 President Marja Broussard calls for the Lafayette City-Parish Council, Mayor-President Josh Guillory, and Elected Officials to Establish Task Force to Address Police Reform and Minority Affairs

Lafayette, LA-- In response to the ongoing systemic racist practices and unequal treatment of minority citizen by law enforcement officers, Lafayette Parish NAACP President, Marja Broussard, calls on Lafayette Consolidated Government, City-Parish Council, and legislators to work in collaboration with the NAACP, the Department of Justice, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, to:

- End [Qualified Immunity](#) for police officers;
- Create a citizen law enforcement oversight committee;
- Establish substantive and meaningful police reform consisting of the [21st Century Policing Blueprint](#) and the [8 Can't Wait](#) initiatives;
- Host weekly Lafayette Police Community Relations Committee meetings until a solid, strategic plan is developed; and;
- Create a minority affairs task force.

President Broussard says, "There really is a sense of urgency for a complete overhaul of Louisiana laws and Lafayette Parish guidelines, ordinances, and procedures that govern law enforcement engagement with civilians, particularly those who are African-Americans, and I'm encouraged to see that Louisiana Legislature finally feels the same way. We need to do this locally too." The local NAACP unit has been working with organizations to raise awareness and provide solutions for many years. "We didn't really see a modern movement birthed until the police murder of George Floyd, and it really hit home with the recent shooting of Trayford Pellerin" says Broussard, who also sits on the Lafayette Police Community Relations Committee.

A state task force including lawmakers, was launched this year, after the George Floyd murder. They presented at their first [committee hearing](#) Tuesday. "It's a little late, but hopefully not too late. It's unfortunate that our Black citizens make up over 50% of citizens killed by the hands of police, even though we only make up about 30% of the state population." she says.

The Lafayette Parish NAACP Unit #6060 will continue to advocate and demand for accountability and transparency, through peaceful protests and marches, to expose the systemic racism and inequities of police engagement with the African-American community. A march is being planned by community leaders, for September 11. Details to be released soon.

“A lot has to change and we have to be part of the solution. It’s not just a law enforcement issue. It’s also about what we are doing or demanding for our communities-- like we did for the closure of the four recreation centers a month ago.” The Lafayette Parish NAACP, local leaders and activists, and community members were successful in reversing the decision; however, will continue to fight to reinstate the 37 employees laid off. Also, according to the state police, African-Americans only make up about 23% of their applicants. “We need to work better to encourage minorities to join the State Police. The education and healthcare landscape is very different on the Northside compared to the Southside. We need to insure that our marginalized communities have equal and/or equitable resources, community development, and infrastructure to encourage and foster healthier opportunities. It requires us as leaders to be more engaged in productive, unified, meaningful dialogue with our city, parish, and state officials,” says President Broussard.

To become a member of the Lafayette Parish NAACP Unity #6060, email naacpunit6060@gmail.com.

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Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) proudly celebrates 111 years as the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. Lafayette Parish NAACP Unit #6060 is one of over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.