

Arlington Branch 7047



NAACP

Mr. Julius D. “JD” Spain, Sr., President

P.O. Box 4528, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 1-877-501-6417

Website: <http://www.arlingtonnaacp.com>

Email: 7047@arlingtonnaacp.com

Contact: Keshia Tensley, Branch Secretary

Phone: 1-877-501-6417

E-Mail: 7047@arlingtonnaacp.com

Branch President: (703) 517-1703 Mobile

PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE

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Executive Committee Votes to Remove School Resource Officers

Arlington, Virginia – On Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Executive Committee of the Arlington Branch NAACP voted in favor of removing School Resource Officers (SROs) from Arlington Public Schools (APS). Branch President Spain stated,

“We made this decision after nearly a year of data-driven research led by our Education Committee with input from our Criminal Justice and Political Action Committees. The data shows stark disparities in the percentage of Black and Latino juveniles arrested and sentenced to detention relative to their population in the county. In addition, there was extensive collaboration and discussion with families and key leaders in the community, including law enforcement officials, elected leaders, and social advocacy groups. Moreover, this decision brings the branch into closer alignment with priorities at the national level of the NAACP. The Executive Committee agreed that it is time for APS to consider alternative approaches. For example, SRO’s could be replaced with more counselors, mental health professionals, social workers and nurses and relationships with trusted adults can be fostered by staff within each school.”

In the coming weeks, Arlington Branch will send the Superintendent and members of the School Board formal recommendations for their consideration.

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