Arlington Branch 7047, Arlington, Virginia Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., President



Fairfax County Branch 7066, Fairfax, Virginia Karen Campblin, President



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, March 19, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

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Arlington Branch NAACP and Fairfax County Branch NAACP Joint Public Statement Surrounding Racist Actions at Fairfax County and Arlington Public Schools

Northern, Virginia – The Fairfax and Arlington branches of the NAACP join to express both horror and sadness regarding the bigoted acts on display at a high school football game between Fairfax County and Arlington County schools. On March 5, 2021, Marshall High School players spat at, taunted, and used racist slurs, including "boy" and the N-word toward Wakefield High School players. As disturbing as this is, we are further alarmed by VHSL referees' disregard on the field for the racist aggression hurled at children. For 2 ½ hours, Wakefield players endured the insults and epithets, despite having told coaches and referees what was happening to them. We condemn these actions, but our condemnation is insufficient. Generations of students and athletes have suffered the same grotesque racism on the field. The condemnation that results in no change is worse than silence because it shows that our feelings, words, and outrage are of no importance. If our children suffer the same taunts on the field that we did, and that our parents did, in school and on the playing fields, then our condemnation is not enough. The danger is too great for us to make statements that continue to fall on deaf ears.

We demand that VHSL adopt a zero-tolerance policy regarding racist behavior that draws a clear red line indicating when a behavior has gone too far and enforces harsh enough penalties to stop this chronic torment. We demand that referees and coaches take swift action within the policy's boundaries and insist that professionals who fail to protect children from racial harm and trauma are disciplined and terminated.

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Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have 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 to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.