



ARLINGTON BRANCH #7047  
**NAACP**

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**Elected Officials**

Julius D. "J.D." Spain, Sr., President  
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Sherrice Kerns, 2nd Vice President  
Michael Hemminger, 3rd Vice President  
Wanda Younger, Secretary  
Dominique Jenkins, Assistant Secretary  
Roy Austin, Treasurer  
Adriana Spain, Assistant Secretary

**At-Large Executive Committee Members**

Karen Nightingale, Symone Walker, Esq.,  
James Younger, Esq.

April 5, 2021

Mark Schwartz  
County Manager  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite #302  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

**RE: Arlington County Police Chief Selection Process**

Dear County Manager Mark Schwartz:

The Arlington Branch #7047 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is a nonprofit social justice organization comprised of 800 members as of April 5, 2021. Along with many of our allies and citizens of Arlington, we know that the Arlington County Police Department conducted a national search for the next Chief of Police. Due to events throughout the United States during the summer of 2020 involving police response and racial justice, the Arlington County Board tasked you, as the County Manager, to lead a review of the Arlington County Police Department's policies and practices. A review for nearly seven (7) months resulted in developing the Police Practices Work Group (PPG) and recommendations.

We are distraught that the Chief of Police position announcement was posted nation-wide before you received the recommendations from the PPG. We feel strongly that the PPG recommendations should have been openly discussed more broadly with the public and subsequently incorporated into the Chief of Police position announcement. Because this is a taxpayer public position, the Arlington County Chief of Police candidates must demonstrate a commitment to support and adhere to the principles and objectives outlined in the PPG recommendations and our community.

On March 2, 2021, Arlington Branch NAACP President Julius D. Spain, Sr. spoke with you briefly to inquire about the Arlington Chief of Police candidates' status and process. He also subsequently inquired with the leadership of the Arlington County Board. Unfortunately, the conversations did not reveal any significant updates. As a result, the Arlington Branch NAACP and our members are deeply concerned about the lack of transparency during the selection process and, thereby, ask for an official response to the following questions:

- How many people applied for Arlington County Chief of Police?
- What are the demographics of each applicant?
- What is the current geographical location of each applicant?
- Has a new Chief of Police been selected?
- If the Chief of Police has not been selected, have the final candidates been selected?

- If the final candidates have been selected, how many finalists are there, and what are the finalists' demographics and geographical locations?
- Have the finalists been interviewed?

While we understand that you, County Manager Mark Schwartz, retain final authority in selecting the new Chief of Police, we strongly encourage that you consider holding a public forum to introduce the final candidates and allow community input before selecting and hiring the new Chief of Police.

Your immediate reply to the questions and swift disclosure is paramount in promoting transparency and public trust in the community. We look forward to hearing back from you within five (5) business days and working collaboratively with your team on this critical matter.

As always, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Julius D. "J.D." Spain, Sr.  
Branch President



Wanda R. Younger  
Branch Secretary

cc: Arlington County Board Members  
Arlington Branch NAACP Executive Committee  
Arlington Branch NAACP Members