



ARLINGTON BRANCH #7047  
**NAACP**

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**Elected Officials**

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Tim Dempsey, Jill Caiazzo, Esq.,  
James Younger, Esq.

June 25, 2020

Mr. Earl Conklin  
Director of Court Services  
Arlington County Juvenile & Domestic Relations  
District Court, and Commissioner, Northern  
Virginia Juvenile Detention Center  
1425 B, Courthouse Rd. #5100  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Conklin:

The events of the past few weeks have shone a light on the injustices of our criminal justice system -- injustices centuries old, but that will never again be hidden from view.

It is in this context that we must take a hard look at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, which serves Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church, and ask who is being sent there and why. After recent visits to the detention center revealed that the current detainees were overwhelmingly children of color, our Political Action Committee Chair asked the Office of the Director of Court Services for demographic data with respect to the Juvenile Detention Center. Demographic data is published annually with respect to the commendable diversion programs used by the county, but there is no such report with respect to the residents of the Juvenile Detention Center.

On March 6, 2020, in response to our request, we received the demographic data with respect to the Juvenile Detention Center (report attached) from Mr. Earl Conklin, the Director of Court Services. The report provides disturbing data. For FY18, nearly 84% of placements were children of color (nearly 48% Black and nearly 36% Hispanic), for FY19, nearly 87% of placements were children of color (nearly 52% Black and nearly 35% Hispanic), and for FY20 (to the date of the report), nearly 89% of placements were children of color (nearly 75% Black and about 14% Hispanic).

These data are revealing, and must no longer be hidden from view.

Arlington Branch NAACP #7047 respectfully requests that:

1. The demographics with respect to Juvenile Detention Center placements be published yearly so that the public is made aware of the disproportionate use of detention with respect to youth of color.
2. The County set up a meeting with the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee and Executive Committee to probe the criteria used in deciding which juveniles are incarcerated and which are sent to diversion programs, and to discuss parental/school and other involvement in the decisions.

Thank you for entertaining our requests. We understand that the Office of the Director of Court Services is doing additional work to refine the data. We look forward to seeing the additional report, and to hearing back from you soon with respect to our requests.

Sincerely,



Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.  
President, Arlington Branch NAACP



Benedetta Kissel  
Chair, Political Action Committee

Enclosures: Arlington JDC Placements, Rev 2/6/2020

cc: Ms. Libby Garvey  
Chair, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Mr. Mike Mackey  
Commissioner  
Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center Commission  
200 South Whiting St  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Ms. Wykiki Alston  
Commissioner  
Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center Commission  
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Dr. Alfred Taylor  
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Mr. Alex Boston  
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200 South Whiting St  
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Ms. Johnitha McNair  
Executive Director  
Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center Commission  
200 South Whiting St  
Alexandria, VA 22304

# Arlington County Placements in Secure Juvenile Detention

## By Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age of Admitted Juveniles

FY18

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
White	15
Black	44
Asian	0
Native Ame	0
Other	0
Hispanic	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

<u>Gender</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
Male	70
Female	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

<u>Age</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
<b>13 &amp; Under</b>	0
<b>14</b>	0
<b>15</b>	2
<b>16</b>	9
<b>17</b>	17
<b>18</b>	23
<b>19</b>	35
<b>20</b>	5
<b>21</b>	0
<b>22</b>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

FY19

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
White	7
Black	43
Asian	1
Native Ame	0
Other	3
Hispanic	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

<u>Gender</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
Male	60
Female	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

<u>Age</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
<b>13 &amp; Under</b>	0
<b>14</b>	3
<b>15</b>	4
<b>16</b>	19
<b>17</b>	20
<b>18</b>	27
<b>19</b>	8
<b>20</b>	0
<b>21</b>	1
<b>22</b>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

FY20 Jul 1 to Feb 29

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
White	4
Black	47
Asian	2
Native Ame	0
Other	1
Hispanic	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

<u>Gender</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
Male	51
Female	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

<u>Age</u>	<u># of Juveniles</u>
<b>13 &amp; Under</b>	1
<b>14</b>	3
<b>15</b>	12
<b>16</b>	21
<b>17</b>	23
<b>18</b>	3
<b>19</b>	0
<b>20</b>	0
<b>21</b>	0
<b>22</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

rev 2/6/2020