



P.O. Box 762
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040
www.blackparentsworkshop.org
blackparentsworkshop@gmail.com
(201) 259-8375

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2018

Contact: Walter Fields
(973) 738-7876

**Village Green Article Raises Ethical Concerns about Board of Education President
More Questions than Answers**

(Maplewood, New Jersey) – The Village Green local news website has published an article today, [South Orange Trustees Voted Unanimously to Notify BOE President of Board Member Traffic Stop](#), that raises more questions than answers over the manner in which South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education President Elizabeth Baker discharged her responsibilities in the matter of the April 27, 2018 incident involving Board Member Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad and a South Orange Police officer during a routine traffic stop.

In our letter to Ms. Baker on May 16, 2018 we made clear our intention to further inquire into her possible role in covering up this incident from public scrutiny and to determine how the full Board was or was not engaged if it was determined that Ms. Baker had prior knowledge of the incident in question.

It is clear that the South Orange Village Board of Trustees had the same concerns that we have expressed over the conduct of an elected official and her treatment of a public employee. The

-more-

fact that the Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to alert Ms. Baker of their concerns suggests the gravity and seriousness of this episode. The fact that it took Ms. Lawson-Muhammad three weeks to publicly acknowledge this incident and apologize to the police officer, and only after the incident was revealed by the Black Parents Workshop, makes us believe that it was never her intent to take responsibility for her actions. **We remain steadfast in our call for Ms. Lawson-Muhammad's resignation.**

Now that we know what Ms. Baker knew and when she knew it, we will formally express our concerns over Ms. Baker's conduct on Monday. Our two towns cannot become communities where truth hides in the crevices of deceit. This moment calls for **full transparency** from the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/05/what_not_to_at_a_traffic_stop_a_guide_from_nj_public.html#incart_river_index

###