

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 27, 2025**

**NAACP San Mateo #1068**

**Use of Racial Slur at County Meeting Draws Rebuke**  
**Community Members Urge Board to Recognize Harmful Impact of Language**

San Mateo, CA — The NAACP San Mateo Branch and Branch President Maurice Goodman are deeply disappointed and disturbed by the reprehensible and racially charged language, especially the "N-word", spoken aloud by attorney Tom Perez during the August 12, 2025, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting in defense of Sheriff Christina Corpus.

The n-word is not just a word. It is a violent artifact of our nation's history—one rooted in slavery, segregation, and the ongoing dehumanization of Black Americans, including those in San Mateo County. The deliberate choice to repeat vile racial epithets in a public meeting without censor, without regard for the trauma they inflict, crossed an unacceptable line. These words are not "illustrations" of racism; they are acts of harm in themselves, which are not acceptable in any format.

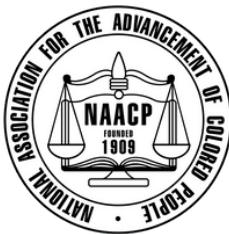
The use of inappropriate language in the people's chamber, particularly in the presence of County leaders, without immediate condemnation, highlights a significant lapse in moral leadership. This incident reflects poorly on the integrity of both the Sheriff and her legal team, as well as the Board of Supervisors. The NAACP emphasizes that remaining silent during critical moments is not an act of neutrality; rather, it constitutes complicity. It is imperative for our leaders to address harmful rhetoric and to hold themselves accountable in these situations.

To be clear, this issue is not one of censorship, but rather one of social responsibility and civic leadership. We must remember that freedom of speech does not absolve us from the consequences of hate speech. In this climate—where hate speech is becoming a second language and racial tension grows high—it is more important than ever that we protect the dignity of all members of our community by first being mindful.

The incident has prompted advanced discussions about the tone and content of public discourse during government meetings. NAACP San Mateo urges the County leaders to consider adopting more straightforward guidelines that promote respectful communication and foster a more inclusive civic space.

**NAACP San Mateo hereby demands:**

1. **Attorney Tom Perez** – Issue a direct and public apology to the Black community, taking full accountability for the decision to repeat those epithets in a public forum.
2. **Sheriff Christina Corpus** – Accept responsibility for the actions of her legal team.
3. **San Mateo County Board of Supervisors** – Publicly denounce the use of such language in official



proceedings and implement safeguards to prevent such harm from recurring.

Our County deserves leadership that rises above cowardice and meets these moments with courage, clarity, and conviction. Words matter. Leadership matters. Accountability matters. And we will accept nothing less.

No formal response from the Board of Supervisors was issued at the time of the meeting.

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