



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
1528 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way · Dayton, Ohio 45402
(937) 222-2172 · FAX (937) 222-8984 · www.naacpdayton.org

OFFICERS

Dr. Derrick L. Foward
President
Rev. Herman E. Branham
1st Vice President
Tom. M. Roberts
2nd Vice President
Willie A. Terrell, Jr.
3rd Vice President
Clair Mae Thompson
Secretary
Lauretta Williams
Assistant Secretary
Cedric L. McGhee
Treasurer
Harvey C. Bolden
Assistant Treasurer
Jessie O. Gooding
President, Emeritus

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Te'Nayia A. Bailey
President, Dayton Youth Council
Stacey D. Benson-Taylor
Rev. Herman E. Branham
Religious Affairs
Rev. Rodney Cranford
Labor & Industry
Lu Dale, MA,
Freedom Fund
Eric L. Ellington, Sr.
Sergeant-at-Arms
Rev. Dr. David I. Fox
Criminal Justice
Arnetta G. Gary
GOTV
Ina M. Green
Membership and Life Member
La'Donna R. Hayes
President, LJYC
Felicia A. Hill, R.N.
Health
Nydia Lattimore
Wright State University College Chapter
Atty. Gary J. Lepla
Legal Redress
Cedric L. McGhee
ACT-SO
Asia N. Miller
Wright State University College Chapter
Marvene A. Mitchell
David L. Montgomery
Dr. Carl E. Moyler
Ayokunle O. Ogunduyile
International Affairs
Carolyn Y. Perkins
Dayton Youth Council
Tom M. Roberts
Political Action
Derrick Seales, Sr.
Christopher L. Shaw
Nathan M. Shields
Move Forward Thurgood Marshall
Scott Sliver
Communications, Press & Publicity
Pamela D. Sloan
Littlejohn Junior Youth Council
Deborah A. Smith
Housing
William Thomas Spear
Willie A. Terrell, Jr.
Scholarship
Endia Thomas
Move Forward Thurgood Marshall
Eric (Willie) Walker-Mabry
Young Adult
Mattie White
Community Coordination
Dr. Anthony B. Whitmore
Lauretta Williams
Education
Terrence Williams, SMSgt USAF (Ret)
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
Roland Winburn
Economic Development

“Where There Is Unity, There Is Strength”

October 21, 2019

Honorable Helen Wallace
Judge
Montgomery County Juvenile Division
380 W. Second St.
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Judge Wallace,

On behalf of the Dayton Unit of the NAACP, I write to share our input regarding an incident publicized as a “head-butting of a referee” at a local high school football game on August 31, 2019. The 17-year-old player involved is a student at Dunbar High School in Dayton, who was upset after the officials penalized him with a personal foul for shoving another player during the season-opening game, the Dayton Daily News reported. His team was already losing 23-8 in the second quarter to Roger Bacon High School from Cincinnati, according to the newspaper. Dunbar had already, in the second quarter, been penalized 12 times, and the player was reacting to a personal foul penalty called on him.

The young man, unnamed in the media, appears to have angrily stepped towards an official, with a teammate partially between himself and the official. The young man swung his head toward apparently the official and made contact with the official’s head. Media reports indicate that Dayton Public Schools have taken action, the legislature has taken action, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association is investigating. This has event become national news, including a recent article in USA Today. The young man made a very bad, emotional decision, and is already charged with a second-degree felony, we are told. Sending the youth to adult court, as the high profile, very public statements from the Montgomery County prosecutor suggest, to face more publicity and greater life altering consequences, is in our view excessive.

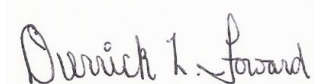
While we could never excuse this conduct, the context of the incident, including the youth of the individual, the emotions involved, and the competitive circumstances should all be considered in our view. The youth clearly lost control of his emotions. These matters are best left to the Juvenile Court in our view, which is specifically designed to take all such factors into account with youthful offenders.

The safety of the community is not at risk, and there is no reason to believe that this young athlete is not subject to appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation within the juvenile system. We, again, do not minimize the gravity of the situation, but this is not a premeditated assault, or a criminal plan, but rather is a terrible, but spontaneous and emotional, mistake. We believe in the juvenile court system and support your efforts there to deal with this individual.

We appreciate your consideration in advance.

Have a Blessed Year of 2019!!!

Your community servant,



Dr. Derrick L. Foward
President
Dayton Unit NAACP

cc: Montgomery County Prosecutor Mathias H. Heck, Jr.
Administrative Judge Anthony Capizzi
Dayton Unit NAACP Executive Committee Members