

News

# Trump DHS official steps down after racist comments surface

By Taylor Dolven

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The head of community outreach at the Department of Homeland Security resigned Thursday after a report surfaced several racist comments he made as recently as 2016.

The Rev. Jamie Johnson, who led the Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships at DHS since April, said in a 2008 radio interview that the black community “has turned America’s major cities into slums because of laziness, drug use, and sexual promiscuity,” CNN reported. He also said “all that Islam has ever given us is oil and dead bodies over the last millennia and a half.” The DHS center was created after Hurricane Katrina in 2006 to coordinate disaster relief with faith-based organizations.

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In another radio appearance, in 2016, Johnson said former President George W. Bush made a mistake when he referred to Islam as a “religion of peace” after the 9/11 terror attacks.

Johnson was appointed to the DHS position in April, and helped with the agency's response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Before that he served as Republican state committeeman in Iowa and worked on Republican political campaigns, including Donald Trump's.

DHS confirmed Johnson's resignation on Thursday, saying, "His comments made prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security clearly do not reflect the values of DHS and the administration."

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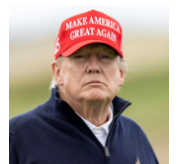
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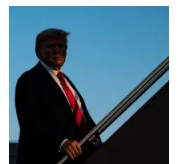
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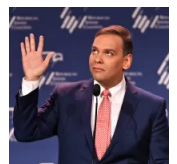
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