

Subject: Clarification Regarding NAACP Misrepresentations

Dear Allentown Community:

I am writing to express my frustration over false statements made by Walt Felton to the Allentown City Council. When I attend City Council meetings, I do not present myself as the secretary of the NAACP. Instead, I represent myself as the CEO of Improving-Lives, with no affiliation to the NAACP, nor do I wish to establish one.

During my tenure as the secretary of the NAACP Allentown branch, I provided support to Black and Brown employees who formally lodged charges of discrimination against Mayor Tuerk and the City of Allentown. I continue to advocate for them in my current role as the Chief Executive Officer of Improving Lives. As secretary, I was consistently reminded that the organization refrains from discussing internal affairs outside its membership. This guiding principle influenced my decision to refrain from publicly criticizing Walter Felton. I have also participated in Zoom meetings concerning serious allegations of discrimination against Black and Brown individuals at Allentown City Hall, where it was purported that Walt only becomes involved when summoned by Mayor Matt Turek.

It is important to note that there is currently no active Allentown NAACP branch; they are out of compliance, as confirmed by the NAACP National branch. The Allentown branch is currently lacking both a secretary and a treasurer, and the election of a new secretary is necessary for the branch to operate. I encourage everyone to read the bylaws to understand how the NAACP is supposed to function.

Walt's comments at the City Council meeting on September 3, 2025, were unfounded and amounted to slander. I urge him to provide proof of his claims that I am currently representing the NAACP. His defamatory remarks are unnecessary, especially since I have distanced myself from the organization, and many other members have chosen to leave with me.

The NAACP, in its current state, does not align with my values, and I request to be excluded from any discussions about it. Please avoid attributing any association or statements about me concerning the NAACP.

Should Walter Felton fail to cease his defamatory actions immediately, I will be compelled to initiate legal proceedings against him for slander. My legal counsel has informed me that I possess sufficient evidence to substantiate such a claim, given that his public statement was recorded.

Sincerely,

Barbara Redmond
CEO, Improving-Lives