

From Silence to Truth: Defending NAACP Protocol

Barbara Redmond interrupted the press conference at Allentown City Hall on September 6, 2025, after City Council President Darrel Hendricks appeared with two City Council members and attorneys from Duane Morris Law Firm to publicly deny the legitimacy of the September 17, 2023, "Letter to Mayor Tuerk," characterizing it as a hoax. That statement was false. The letter was properly drafted, followed established NAACP protocol, was fully authentic, and its contents were grounded in documented facts about discrimination concerns in City Hall.

The executive officers of the Allentown Branch, including Walter Felton, e-president, and Dan Bosket, e-vice president, were aware of the letter, its purpose, and its transmission. The community impact of this denial has been profound. The letter's allegations helped lead to three separate lawsuits against the mayor and the City of Allentown for discrimination, placing the city's treatment of Black and Brown employees and residents under legal and public scrutiny.

By Hendricks using his position and public platform to call a valid, authorized letter a hoax, the Allentown NAACP president not only misrepresented internal branch actions but also undermined the credibility of legitimate civil rights complaints, sending a damaging message to the broader community about whose pain and experience would be believed. There is clear evidence that the letter was authorized by the executive board of the NAACP Allentown Branch, and that its contents reflected genuine concerns raised by members and other affected community stakeholders.

As leaders responsible for promoting justice and equity, the Allentown NAACP president and vice president had a duty to support victims of discrimination and to uphold decisions lawfully made by the executive board. Instead, their public denial protected those in power, eroded community trust in both City Hall and the NAACP, and increased the harm faced by those who had already experienced retaliation for speaking out.

Therefore, when Barbara's name was mentioned, she stepped up to the mic to defend herself against the lie that had just been told about her. Community members wonder why she didn't speak out earlier, and the answer is in NAACP protocol: the organization doesn't allow members to handle internal disputes outside its established procedures, requiring conflicts to be resolved within its ranks through proper channels.

Now that Barbara is no longer the secretary or a member of the Allentown Branch, she is free to speak publicly without violating those rules.

Attached are the National NAACP bylaws for your review.

https://naacp.org/sites/default/files/documents/Election_Procedure_Manual_2018.pdf