



NAACP Memphis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE CONFEDERATE901 RALLY

Deidre Malone, President,
NAACP, MEMPHIS BRANCH

The NAACP Memphis Branch Executive Committee and General Membership along with the clergy, Civil Rights Leaders and like-minded organizations that are here, request that all Memphians and Shelby County residents who believe in love, hope and a better future for our city, not participate, or engage with members of the Confederate901 group this weekend.

“This rally or caravan is designed to increase the hate rhetoric that has suffocated the American people for too long. Just as in Charlottesville, the purpose of this rally is to entice public engagement in order to use that interaction for the purpose of violence, hate speech and divisiveness.

Although we have our challenges, the larger Memphis and Shelby County community make an attempt every day to try to be law-abiding, respectful and inclusive citizens. We encourage our citizens to stay away from this group in the downtown area or where ever you may encounter them while they are in our city.

We encourage citizens who are concerned with taking action to join organizations like the NAACP, the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, Latino Memphis, Black Lives Matter and work with your local church to work for the betterment of Memphis. Let’s not give the Confederate 901 group or others who believe what they do, our time or energy. They simply do not deserve it.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination in Memphis, these efforts only prove that there is so much work still needed to be done.

Instead of focusing our efforts on giving those who only seek to create a further divide in our city and country attention, the best reaction to their negative and hateful attempt to seek out attention, is to ignore them completely.

If these AGITATORS do not have an audience, if they do not have our collective attention, if they do not have our focus, they will simply fade into the backdrop of history that we all want to move away from in order to build a future where we all appreciated.

LET ME BE CLEAR, JUST BECAUSE WE DON’T SHOW UP DOESN’T MEAN THAT WE ARE SCARED- IT JUST MEANS THAT Memphis is focused on moving forward together. The removal and celebration of the removal of confederate statues speaks to the collective community’s desire to transition into a more harmonious state of being. We encourage our citizens to do just that by bypassing this attempt to tear down what we have worked so hard to build. Boycott racism and hate by boycotting the Confederate901 rally.

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