

Subj: **Re: NAACP Press Release**
Date: 12/5/08 5:57:58 PM Central Standard Time
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NAACP PRESS RELEASE December 5, 2008

The Columbia Police Departments release yesterday of their finding of no wrongdoing on the part of officer Brokemarker in the treatment of African American female students at Hickman High School has left a sour taste in the mouths of those who had hoped the new administration would do better toward healing than the last administration.

The NAACP, Dr. Ritter the interim Superintendent, Dr. Wanda Brown, had advocated for the officer to be reassigned during the investigative period, while others had called for more drastic measures, that the officer be terminated.

The police refused to intertain this idea, demonstrating they will continue doing business as usual, and being hailed by many in the majority community as doing the right thing.

The police took the same position as always saying they police themselves better than anyone else and then totally vindicating the officer and asking everyone to trust that they made the right decision.

Well, the video that I viewed of the incident gave much rise to the belief that the officer used excessive force in this instance, causing bodily injury to a student who was trying to break up the fight.

I am very disappointed in this Police Department whom I and many others believe failed the African American Community again.

There has been much to do about the fight, we certainly do not condone fighting, that occurs at Rock Bridge or Hickman, but neither do we condone the violent act of the officer whose job it is to keep all our young people from harm. He certainly did not keep Diamond Thrower from harm.

I expect to get numerous responses from the good citizens of Columbia, advising the community how they should teach their children, and how the African American community should be better parents, we agree all parents should be better parents, and let me share with you I remember some pretty shady young characters that turned into respectable adults and they were not all African Americans.

I am disappointed with the community who think the action of this police officer was appropriate and acceptable. I expect backlash for this one also, for God forbid any one would bring up the fact everyone would be demanding this officer's termination had these students been white females (Whoops I played the race card) and that's a no, no in Columbia twenty, lashes for me.

I want the students to know someone is listening to their plea for help. They have the right to expect accountability from us and we in exchange expect them in return to be accountable to do the right thing.

Our work is cut out for us.

The mission of the National Association for the advancement of Color People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

Submitted by.

Mary A. Ratliff, President NAACP Columbia Unit and Missouri State Conference

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