



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Evanston/North Shore Branch #3015
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The Evanston/North Shore NAACP
Executive Committee Meeting
President's Report
April 21, 2020

Dear Executive Committee Members,

I pray all is well with each of you. These are trying times for our world, our nation and especially for our people. Since our last dialogue from March 17th, life has dramatically changed due to COVID-19. Our Governor's Executive Order for shelter-in-place has been in full affect for nearly a month. All businesses, stores, community organizations and houses of worship not deemed "essential services" have been suspended. To my knowledge, none of our Black houses of worship have had services in the past four to five weeks. Family Focus, Fleetwood Jourdain, the Levy Center and Gibbs Morrison have also been shut down, with the exception of those who serve lunches to seniors. Every barber shop and beauty salon has been closed for more than a month. All of this has been done for the express purpose of mandatory social distancing to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

On March 10th, Mayor Hagerty established a COVID-19 Task Force consisting of representatives covering an array of sectors in the city:

- Mayor's Office- Kimberly Richardson
- The City Health Department- Director Ike Ogbo
- Northwestern University- Dave Davis and Luke
- Private/Non-Profit- Monique Jones
- Evanston Businesses Chamber of Commerce- Roger Sosa
- Districts 202 and 65- Eric Witherspoon
- Senior Center Services- Mary Leary
- Mental Health
- Faith Community- Michael Nabors and Andrea London
- AMITA St. Francis- Kenneth Jones
- North Shore Evanston- Doug Sliverstein
- Mental Health- NAMI
- Legislative Offices- Jan Schakowsy, Robyn Gabel, Laura Fine, and Larry Suffredin

The Task Force has conference calls on Tuesdays and Fridays offering updates and information in respective areas. When it first began, we made sure African American businesses were represented with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce. The calls begin with the Mayor offering an update received from his conference calls with Illinois Mayors and the Office of the Governor. Each area then offers reports and updates. Each call has a spotlight on one of the areas.

On these calls, I have mentioned the following as significant concerns:

- Sustainability of small Black businesses in Evanston (this includes barber shops and beauty salons)-
- Capacity for Black churches to be in communication with their congregations and continue their services and missions-
- Increasing concern regarding loss of jobs/revenue in the Black community and its aftermath-
- Lack of small businesses applying for CARES Act loans/grants-

It is reassuring to know there are multiple black voices on the Task Force, steadily ensuring focus is placed on our community. At the same time, I am increasingly concerned/worried that Black people in Evanston (as with the rest of the nation) will suffer disproportionately in every conceivable way- contracting coronavirus, treatment, loss of income, loss of employment, etc.

In addition, I am part of three other weekly conference calls. They include the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, BET and the Rainbow Coalition/Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. These calls are national in scope and always includes prominent national figures.

An example of each call is the following:

- BET- Ed Gordon served as moderator to a panel that include Dr. Patrice Harris- President, American Medical Association, Benny Napoleon- Sheriff, Wayne County, MI, and Iyanla Vanzant. The call covered statistics of the disease related to black people and also discussed prisons and jails dealing with COVID-19.
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund- The call was hosted by Derrick Johnson, President and included Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Congressman John Lewis. The call included increasing concern regarding the black community contracting and dying from COVID-19. There was significant discussion about how local black communities are at risk.
- Rainbow Coalition/Proctor Conference- These calls have often dealt with the CARES Act and funding. There is a deep concern that there is not equal distribution of funding occurring and blacks are suffering as a result. Appeals are being made to and through the Congressional Black Caucus to address these issues.

In addition, I was asked to be a guest a guest on the nationally syndicated Areva Martin show last Wednesday. The show addressed the shocking number of African Americans affected by COVID-19. Other panelists were; Barry Rudolph, Pastor of Church of the Messiah in Detroit and Tishura Jones, Treasurer, St. Louis, and Michael Eric Dyson, Professor at Georgetown University. I was blessed to represent the Evanston NAACP.

Last, I also continue to work with Melieka Gardner and Evanston Now's with a weekly program titled Nabors Speaks. Presently the time frame is Thursdays at Noon and it can be seen on Facebook Live.

We will continue to serve in these capacities and I encourage members of the Executive Committee to stay sheltered and work from your homes (unless you are an essential worker).

Submitted by,



Reverend Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors
President
Evanston/North Shore NAACP