



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Evanston/North Shore Branch #3015
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June 4, 2020

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John Fuller
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Secretary

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Treasurer

Dear Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Evanston/North Shore NAACP and the over 350 members represented, we are writing to share our concern regarding the process used to hire the new City Manager.


As you know, many residents of Evanston had significant concerns with the last city manager throughout his tenure, and increasingly, in the years and months leading to his departure. Those concerns focused on a myriad of issues that included preparation of the city budget, staffing issues that resulted in several law suits, an unsettling environment and often enough, concerns about racial equity.

Because we are seeking the very best for our city both now and in the future, we strongly recommend that a credible firm be hired to conduct a nationwide search for the next city manager. While you may be comfortable with the present interim city manager and the services she provides, it is imperative that you understand the concerns of our wider community. We are living in unprecedented times. A pandemic has uncovered our nation's woeful health care inadequacies and the gross discrepancies related to people of color. The pandemic has taken us to the brink of an economic crisis not felt since the Great Depression of 1929. The pandemic has also created a host of problems the Black and Latino communities will especially struggle with, for years to come. These include continued health care issues, economic challenges, housing issues, public and higher education issues and employment. The next city manager will have the responsibility of not only handling the job description of the position, but also addressing brand new issues that will be unfolding, because of COVID-19. People of color will be adversely affected throughout the nation, and here in Evanston.

To that end, we believe the best move forward is through significant transparency. As the oldest African American civil rights organization in the nation, and in Evanston, we believe our elected officials must work with the community in finding and supporting the best and most qualified candidates to serve in city administration. We should look near and far, evaluate qualifications, participate in interviewing candidates, and then make the best decision. While we have hard suggestions about potential candidates to serve the position, we strongly advise that a search be conducted.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to your response.

Peace and Safety,


Rev. Dr. Michael C.R. Nabors, President
Members of the Executive Committee
Evanston/North Shore NAACP