

NAACP NEWS

www.naacpga.org

Francys Johnson, President
Georgia NAACP



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Toi Hines
E: office@naacpga.org
P: (404) 577-8977

January 20, 2016

NAACP CALLS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT TO TREAT KKK LIKE TERRORISTS *KKK Flyers in Valdosta Mark Resurgence of Hate Groups*

The Georgia NAACP strongly calls upon the citizens in Valdosta to stay vigilant in the face of KKK recruitment flyers left in one of city's diverse neighborhoods. "This is a part of the resurgence of hate groups across this Country," said Francys Johnson, Stateboro Civil Rights Attorney and State President of the Georgia NAACP. "Hate has no place in a modern society," said Johnson

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors the activities of domestic hate groups and other extremists – including the Ku Klux Klan, the neo-Nazi movement, neo-Confederates, racist skinheads, black separatists, antigovernment militias, Christian Identity adherents and others, identified 276 KKK groups – up from 202 in 2014, a 37 percent increase. (SPLC)

The number represents a renewal of growth after several years of declines. The movement grew explosively after President Obama was elected, from 42 groups in 2008 to a peak of 334 in 2011 before declining in recent years.

"America has had strange and adulterous affair with hate and this is antithetical to our founding principles of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. These flyers to purporting to "stop the spread of Islam" are just update versions of hate being spewed at Muslims much like it was turned towards Blacks, Jews, and any one else not fitting their narrow and backward definition of American" said Johnson.

"Law enforcement cannot sit on their hands making excuses about no laws being broken. The police should treat the KKK with it murderous background like a thug gang or terrorist organization. Our lawyers have been in contact with the SPLC and we are exploring options for response. Over the years, SPLC working with the NAACP and other groups have crippled or destroyed some of the country's most notorious hate groups – including the United Klans of America, the Aryan Nations and the White Aryan Resistance – by suing them for murders and other violent acts committed by their members or by exposing their activities," said Johnson.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The Georgia NAACP has had an unbroken presence in Georgia since 1917. The Georgia NAACP maintains a network of branches throughout Georgia, from cities to small rural counties. The Georgia NAACP has been the most effective and consistent advocates for civil and human rights in Georgia. The NAACP's half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. ###

100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 1610, Atlanta, Georgia 30303