



N.A.A.C.P. HIGH POINT BRANCH

A Call to Action: Commission on the Status of Black High Point

Summary

High Point is positioned for a call to action to join other municipalities around the country who have taken on the charge of the long-suffering of Black people under the cost of building America and this City. Our goal is to show that the redistribution of resources in High Point is good business for High Point, as we grow together as one community. A Commission charged with the responsibility to identify the needs of the Black community to determine disparity that exists will bring to bear how we right the wrongs of the past, leveling the field for Blacks in High Point which pave the way for equity on all fronts.

History

For many years, Black Americans have fought for human rights and our fair share of the economic abundance that the United States has enjoyed off our backs. Having suffered through slavery and the agony of being free, our lineage shares a unique and centuries-long story of plunder by means of exclusion, violence, and theft of our identity, person, and privilege. We are painfully aware that "forty acres and a mule" no longer represents the promise. In the modern context, the true promise lies in not merely providing a promise to us of the same opportunities, access, and participation afforded to whites, but also in the *redistribution of tangible resources* that make up for the *244-year head start* in the building and transference of *generational wealth*.

The African American community has long been disparaged from participation in home ownership opportunities, access to affordable housing, business ownership, career opportunities, educational opportunities, affordable health care and jobs that pay living wages. As we shed light on these concerns and others, we are requesting that the High Point City Council partner with us in creating a new culture in our City by opening the doors of generational wealth to its Black citizens, especially the descendants of American slaves. We want to build a bridge to the next generation for continued home and business ownership for the next generation.

THE NAACP ON BEHALF OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY OF HIGH POINT ADVOCATES:

- For housing solutions that mitigate displacement of our families, the elimination of exclusion from participation in housing ownership opportunities, the ending of segregated communities, creation of housing that is affordable not “affordable housing” and expanded grant opportunities for first time owners.
- For the elimination of food deserts by creating food co-ops, mobile food markets, bus stop farmer’s markets, and employee-owned co-op markets.
- For the promotion and increase in more academically qualified citizens with advanced degrees in our African American community by encouraging on-line degree programs, increased opportunities to obtain GED’s, support of reverse trends in mass incarceration, enforcing employment anti-discrimination laws, boosting public sector employment and instituting equity initiatives as a part of our workforce development strategies.
- For ensuring that all citizens in our community have access to quality healthcare that lowers infant mortality, and the implementation of a comprehensive plan to address chronic illnesses that plague the African American community such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, and in particular COVID-19.
- For ensuring that equal opportunity be afforded Black business in at least 34% of all City purchasing, contracting, grants and loans (both in number and dollars) and that the aforementioned be transacted directly with Black businesses where the owner(s) (at least 51%) are descendants of American slaves. If businesses (that would otherwise meet the City's needs) are not eligible to contract with the City for reasons of purchasing power, capacity, insurance, bonding and/or licenses; the City shall supplement the contract with additional resources that will help those businesses to bridge the gap.
- For review of current funding of our police department and allocate/redistribute funding for community-based solutions which ensure that law enforcement is applied without malice and pre-judgment to citizens of High Point.
- For seeking and providing more substantial investment in Black communities in High Point so that our neighborhoods will be safe, decent, economically sound and have equal access to food and nutrition.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE:

That a “Commission on Reparations”, supported by the City of High Point, and approved by the Black Community, be enjoined to identify reasonable and responsible measures to establish and address a reparation and repair agenda for the Black citizens of High Point.

The Commission will focus on ONE High Point, bringing to bear the necessary resources to redress our ongoing struggle. We envision Black families filling our baseball stadiums and participating in the viability of our downtown. We envision Black businesses occupying offices in Congdon Yards. The Commission will show that full participation of the entire community makes our community stronger and creates ecosystems focused on making High Point a great place to work, live, and raise our families. The Commission will be given a timeline for recommendations to the City and the life of the Commission will end at such time as mutually agreed upon goals are met.

Approved and ratified by the High Point Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, otherwise referred to as the NAACP., this 15th day of May 2021; to be presented to the High Point City Council at its first convening following the adoption of the attached resolution.