

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA CONTACT

Bernita Richardson, Secretary  
[vbnaacpsec@gmail.com](mailto:vbnaacpsec@gmail.com)

## Virginia Beach NAACP Denounces the Rise of Racial Intimidation in Virginia

**Virginia Beach, VA** – The Virginia Branch of the NAACP (VB NAACP) denounces the rise of racial intimidation in Virginia Beach. Virginia Beach NAACP President Dr. Eric Majette issued the following statement:

*“We call attention to the continuous acts of hate and racism not to extend the message of the perpetrator, but to bring attention to the need to find solutions to enduring racism in our communities. The hateful messages mailed to a resident of Virginia Beach reminds us that racism continues to show its ugly head here in the “Resort City” of Virginia Beach. Those who do not want to accept or address the fact, attempt to change the narrative to a debate as to whether this country is a racist nation or not. The clear and present issue is that racism exist. It must be stamped out everywhere. It is our goal to ensure that the residents do not live in fear just because they are African American or want to celebrate the excellence of other African Americans. We look forward to a swift response from the Virginia Beach Police Department to ensure that the perpetrators are identified and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”*

*The VB NAACP , in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, will continue to fight against justice and racism anywhere in recognition of its threat to justice everywhere. We call upon the administration to take direct action as well.”*

In the 2022 Hate Crime Statistics for Virginia, as reported by the FBI, 63.5% of hate crimes were against individuals, and 64.8% were motivated by Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry. The Virginia Beach NAACP, therefore, calls upon Virginia Beach Commonwealth’s Attorney Colin Stolle to vigorously investigate acts of

racial violence consistent with the intentionality he has investigated other matters in the city of Virginia Beach.

The Virginia Beach NAACP stands firm in our commitment to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities.

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## **ABOUT THE VIRGINIA NAACP**

*Founded in 1935, the Virginia State Conference of NAACP Branches (Virginia NAACP) is the oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization in the Commonwealth, overseeing over 100 NAACP branches, youth councils, and college chapters. The Virginia NAACP is focused on being the preeminent voice of Black Virginians and advocating for policies and programs to benefit Blacks and people of color. You can read more about the Virginia NAACP's work and our six "Game Changer" issue areas by visiting [NAACPVA.org](http://NAACPVA.org). The Virginia Beach Branch of the NAACP was founded as the Princess Anne Chapter in 1941.*

**Bernita Richardson**

*Secretary*

Virginia Beach Chapter NAACP

Gary McCollum, Social/Political Action

757-708-5987

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