

DAYTON BRANCH NAACP #3181



NAACP
Dayton Branch

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*



INFORM | EDUCATE | EMPOWER

Founded in 1915, the Dayton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the oldest and largest Civil and Human Rights organization in the Dayton Region. Our members, volunteers, office staff, organizers, committee chairs, X and Facebook friends continue to fight for social justice for **ALL** Americans. We hope you will be enlightened as you view our latest edition of The Dayton Branch Chronicle.

The Dayton Branch NAACP **vision** is to fulfill the Dream of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by capitalizing on the **2nd "A"** of the NAACP, which stands for **ADVANCEMENT**. We encourage you to join us and participate fully in this work for a better, stronger, engaged community.

Newsletter Highlights 2025

MAY

Message From The President

Membership & Life Membership

Civil Rights Complaints

May Community Meeting -
The Gem City and Beyond

Economic Sustainability

Education

Youth and
Young Adult Engagement

Civic Engagement

Ohio Conference NAACP

Supporting Partner
Organizations

In The News

Awards & Recognitions

Upcoming Events

The Dayton Branch

Chronical

President's Cabinet

Dr. Derrick L. Foward President Freedom Fund

Dinah M. Williams
Membership and Life Member

Jo A. Lovelace Hill
Finance

Cedric L. McGhee
ACT-SO

Elijah Rashaed
Art Curator

TBD
Communications, Press, Publicity & Technology

Graham Curry
Young Adult

Scott E. Barwick
Prison Branch

Mattie P. White Vice President Community Coordination

David K. Greer, Sr.
Labor & Industry

Rev. Dr. David I. Fox
Criminal Justice

Atty. Gary J. Leppla
Legal Redress

Roland Winburn
Economic Development

Tom Roberts 2nd Vice President Political Action

Tiwona L. Foward
Women in NAACP (WIN)

Rev. Renard D. Allen, Jr.
Religious Affairs

Atty. Gary J. Leppla
Environmental & Climate Justice

David L. Montgomery
GOTV

Terrence Williams, SMSgt USAF (Ret)
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs

Willie A. Terrell, Jr. 3rd Vice President Scholarship

Dr. Morris L. Brown
Health

Ayokunle O. Ogunduyile
International Affairs

Gerry E. Griffith, Sr.
Education

Traci Martin
Housing

**"Talent wins
games, but
teamwork and
intelligence wins
championships."**

MICHAEL JORDAN



Administrative Leadership

Colin L. Kimuli
Secretary

Dinah M. Williams
Assistant Secretary

Financial Leadership

Jo A. Lovelace Smith
Treasurer

Harvey C. Bolden
Assistant Treasurer

Youth & College Leadership

Zora C. Boddie
President, Dayton Youth Council

Claudine Tumusifu
President, Move Foward Thurgood Marshall

Solomon Scales
President, LJYC

Pamela D. Sloan
Co-Advisor, Littlejohn Junior YC

Valerie R. Hayes
Co-Advisor, Littlejohn Junior YC

Executive Committee

Rev. Herman E. Branham
Chaplain

Chris R. Cortner

Lu Dale

Eric L. Ellington, Sr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

Office Volunteers

Dr. Morris L. Brown

Chris R. Cortner

Rev. Dr. David I. Fox

Arnetta G. Gary

David K. Greer, Sr.

Rev. Renee Sheppard

President Emeritus

Jessie O. Gooding

The Dayton Branch *Chronical*

Message From The President

Fellow Citizens,

I want to express my deep gratitude to all mothers and mother figures in our community. Your care, resilience, and guidance are the bedrock of our families and help shape a brighter future for our children. We honor and celebrate you this month.

Yet, even as we celebrate, our community faces ongoing challenges. The rise in teen gun violence is a sobering reminder of the work we must do together to ensure our youth are safe and supported. It will take all of us—parents, educators, community leaders, and neighbors—working in partnership to create safer environments and open lines of communication with our young people.

We also want to remind families about the upcoming federal Real ID requirements. These changes will affect access to certain services, so please make sure your identification documents are up to date and compliant. For more information, visit the Ohio BMV website or contact your local office.

The recent defunding of Job Corps is another concern, as it limits career training and employment opportunities for our youth. We remain committed to advocating for programs and resources that prepare our young people for successful futures.

After observing news reports for weeks, I noticed a lack of communication among stakeholders regarding the busing issue for Dayton Public Schools. To address this, my team and I arranged meetings with all key stakeholders, including Ohio State legislators, DPS administrators and board members, RTA administrators and board members, Montgomery County Educational Service Center Superintendent, DECA principal, City of Dayton, University of Dayton, and the Dayton NAACP.

Busing issues in Dayton continue to impact students' ability to get to school safely and on time. We are working with local officials and transportation providers to seek solutions and appreciate your continued patience and advocacy as we address these challenges together.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to our community. By working together, we can support our families, overcome challenges, and ensure a brighter future for all.

Your community servant,

Dr. Derrick L. Foward



Dr. Derrick L. Foward, President
"Our Success is Influenced by Your Actions!"
"Zero Dollars, Zero Cents!"

"Move Forward With Foward"

The Dayton Branch *Chronical*

The Dayton Branch NAACP membership continues to grow, up 11.15% vs previous year.



Subscribing Silver Life Members

Janis H. Bryant-Hayes	Traci Martin	Ronald E. Robertson
-----------------------	--------------	---------------------

Subscribing Gold Life Member

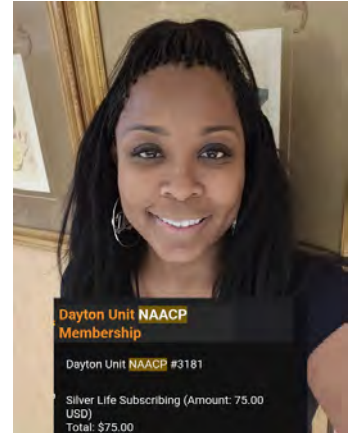
Shadyne Nunley



Dinah M. Williams
Chair, Membership and Life Membership Committee

Membership & Life Membership

**TAKE A STAND
FOR EQUALITY
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**
Join the oldest, boldest, baddest civil rights
organization in the nation.
Join the NAACP



Traci Martin

**Subscribing Silver Life Member
Newly Appointed Housing Chair**



Marty L. Malloy

Silver Life Member



Robert E. Robertson

Subscribing Silver Life Member

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civil Rights Complaints



Dr. Morris L. Brown
Investigator



Chris R. Cortner
Investigator



Rev. Dr. David I. Fox
Investigator



David K. Greer, Sr.
Investigator

The Labor and Industry Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee worked together to investigate 13 complaints of discrimination, down 34.81% vs previous year.

The top 5 types of complaints were as follows:

- Employment - 38.46%
- Police Misconduct - 23.08%
- Education - 7.69%
- Public Business - 7.69%
- Workplace Violence - 7.69%

The History of Police Misconduct

Cases of police misconduct date as far as the 1700s when racism facilitated voter suppression, segregation, and violence against Black Americans by the police. During the Industrial Revolution, police often used force to quell labor strikes and keep workers in line.

Later in the 1960s, protesters from the civil rights movement were frequently met with brutality and the use of excessive force. The 20th century also came with many landmark Supreme Court rulings upholding the civil rights of those subjected to unlawful police tactics. Meanwhile, many civil organizations emerged to fight for victim rights and end police misconduct.

Even though policing measures may have improved over time and technology has influenced the accuracy of reporting, cases of police misconduct and violence are still rampant in the United States today. According to police violence statistics, over 1,200 people died at the hands of law enforcement officers in 2022. These cases include the use of firearms, physical restraints, and tasers, and those who died from injuries suffered in police vehicles.

Rev. Dr. David I. Fox
Chair, Criminal Justice Committee

David K. Greer, Sr.
Chair, Labor & Industry Committee

Gary J. Leppla, Esq.
Chair, Legal redress Committee

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Community Coordination

Inform | Educate | Empower
Dr. Derrick L. Foward, President
915 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45406
naacpdayton3181@sbcglobal.net | naacpdayton.org

The Gem City **AND BEYOND**

Tuesday
May 27, 2025
6:30 PM

Grace United Methodist Church
1001 Harvard Blvd.
Dayton, Ohio 45406

Panelists

Chrisondra Goodwine, J.D.
Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.
Jacquelyn Y. Powell
Trustee Roland Winburn
Jamaica White



Moderator

Mattie P. White
Vice President & Community Coordination Chair



Upcoming Meetings & Events

6/13-14 - Ohio Conference NAACP Executive Committee Meeting & Quarterly Training
6/16 - Executive Committee Meeting
6/23 - General Membership Meeting & Health Committee Presentation

Mattie P. White, Vice President and Chair, Community Coordination Committee, moderated a panel discussion titled, *"The Gem City and Beyond!"* This monthly community meeting was held at Grace United Methodist Church on May 28, 2025.

The distinguished guest panelists were **Chrisondra Goodwine, J.D., Administrator, Jefferson Township; Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr., Mayor, City of Dayton; Bev Rose, Director of Marketing & Strategic Partnerships, Dayton Destination; and Jamaica White, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Trotwood.**

Educated over 935 citizens during this town hall via in-person and online.

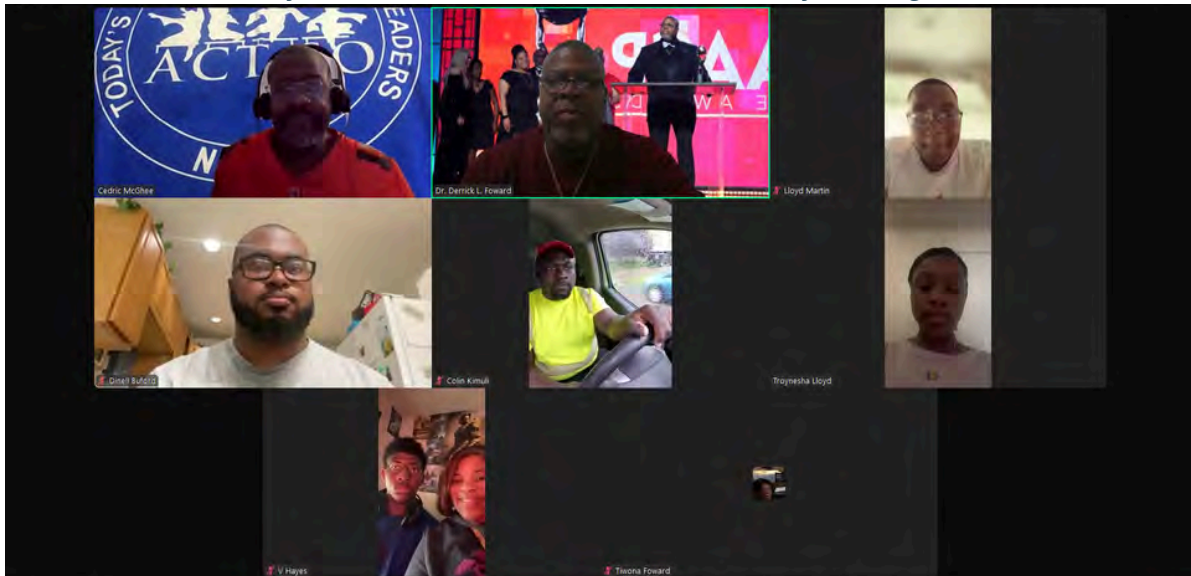
Watch here: (<https://youtu.be/NfUuBBAHRUA>)



The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Youth and Young Adult Engagement

Dayton NAACP Youth Collaboration Monthly Meeting



***La'Donna R. Hayes, Assistant Treasurer of the Dayton Youth Council,
Graduated From Trotwood-Madison High School***



L to R: Youth Advisor Valerie R. Hayes, La'Donna R. Hayes & President Foward

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Youth and Young Adult Engagement

Dayton NAACP ACT-SO Local Gold Medalists Recognized During May General Membership Meeting

The Following Students Will Represent the Dayton Branch NAACP at the 48th NAACP ACT-SO Competition

Zion Brown, Painting, Freshman, Stivers School for the Arts

Mayah Epps, Poetry Written & Poetry Performance, Senior, Stivers School for the Arts

Judah Lindsey, Sculpture, Junior, Stivers School for the Arts

Ramah Lindsey, Photography & Music Vocal Contemporary, Junior, Stivers School for the Arts

Anaiyah Rogers, Music Instrumental Classical, Senior, Stivers School for the Arts

Malynn Saka, Entrepreneurship, Sophomore, Columbus St. Francis -DeSales HS

Maya Thompson, Music Vocal Classical, Junior, Kettering Fairmont HS



The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Economic Sustainability

***The Dayton Branch NAACP Believes In
Promoting African American Owned Businesses***



***Carl Johnson, Founder and Owner of Teardrops Steakhouse,
Invites President Foward to Private Soft Opening***



President Foward Organized First “Busing Our Students” Stakeholder Collaboration Meetings with Representatives From DPS, RTA, DECA, MCESC, City of Dayton, University of Dayton and Ohio Legislature (State Reps) to Discuss Strategy of How to Resolve the Longstanding Busing Issue Downtown Dayton

Meeting One Hosted by: Dr. Derrick L. Foward & 2nd VP Tom Roberts



**President Foward Organized Second “Busing Our Students”
Stakeholder Collaboration Meetings with Representatives From DPS, RTA, DECA, MCESC, City of Dayton,
University of Dayton and Ohio Legislature (State Reps) to Discuss Strategy of How to Resolve the
Longstanding Busing Issue Downtown Dayton**

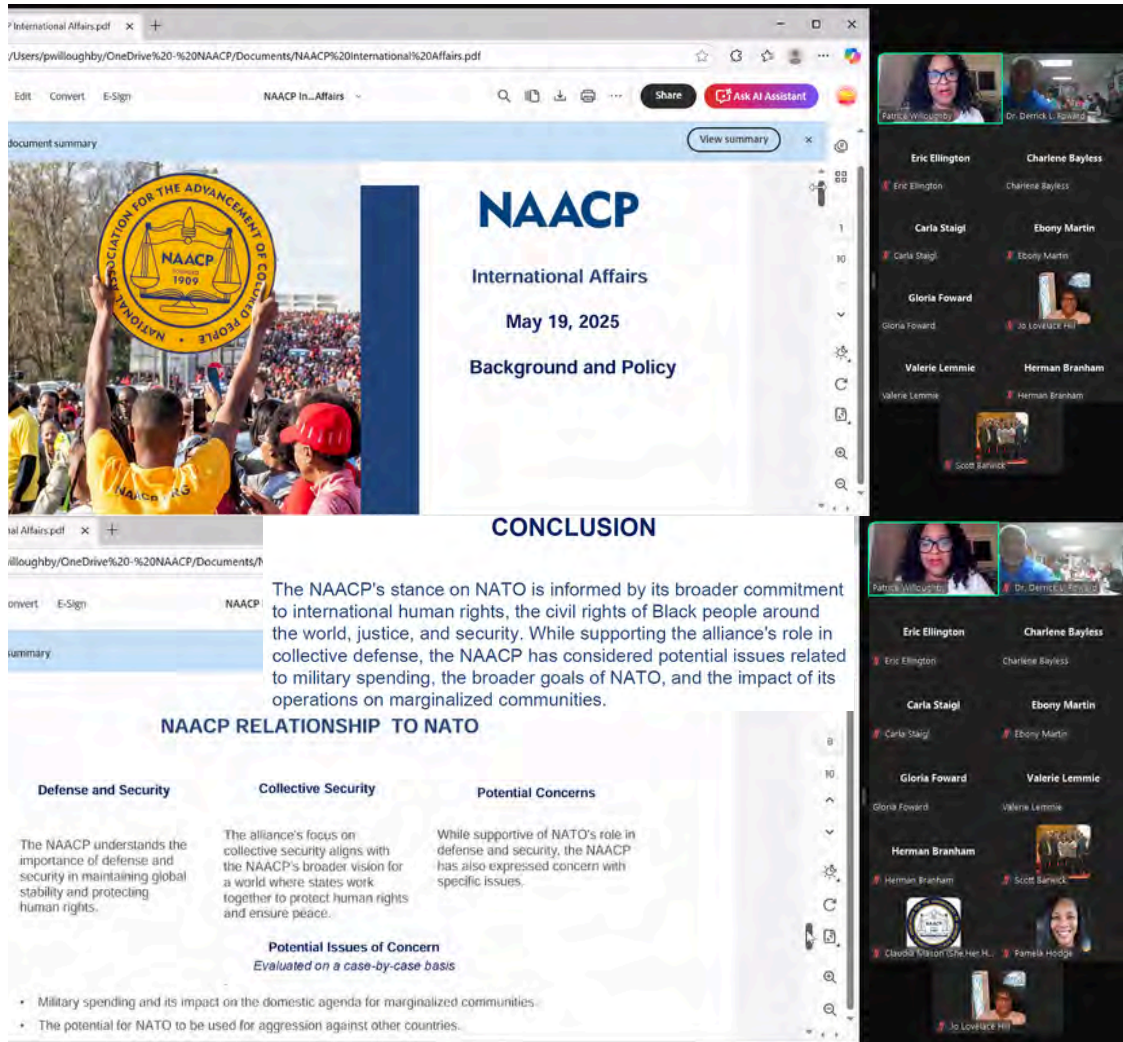
Meeting Two Hosted by: Shannon Cox, Superintendent, Montgomery County Educational Service Center



The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civic Engagement

Patrice Willoughby, NAACP Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Brief's Dayton Branch NAACP Membership on the NAACP Official Position on NATO



NAACP
 International Affairs
 May 19, 2025
 Background and Policy

CONCLUSION

The NAACP's stance on NATO is informed by its broader commitment to international human rights, the civil rights of Black people around the world, justice, and security. While supporting the alliance's role in collective defense, the NAACP has considered potential issues related to military spending, the broader goals of NATO, and the impact of its operations on marginalized communities.

NAACP RELATIONSHIP TO NATO

Defense and Security	Collective Security	Potential Concerns
The NAACP understands the importance of defense and security in maintaining global stability and protecting human rights.	The alliance's focus on collective security aligns with the NAACP's broader vision for a world where states work together to protect human rights and ensure peace.	While supportive of NATO's role in defense and security, the NAACP has also expressed concern with specific issues.
Potential Issues of Concern <i>Evaluated on a case-by-case basis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military spending and its impact on the domestic agenda for marginalized communities. • The potential for NATO to be used for aggression against other countries. 		

Participants: Eric Ellington, Charlene Bayless, Carla Staigi, Ebony Martin, Gloria Foward, Jo Lovance Hill, Valerie Lemmie, Herman Branham, Scott Barwick, Claudia Watson (The Her M...), Pamela Hodge.



**VP Mattie P. White
 & Life Member
 Rose Lounsbury Talk
 Politics and More**

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civic Engagement

NATO PA President Marcos Perestrello and Dayton NAACP President Dr. Derrick L. Foward meet for first time in history during NATO PA, along with U.S. Rep. Mike Turner



NATO PA Closing Session in Dayton, Ohio



The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civic Engagement

President Foward & Lady Tiwona Participates in NATO PA



Lady Tiwona L. Foward and Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu meet for the first time in history.



President Dr. Derrick L. Foward and Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu meet for the first time in history.

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civic Engagement

President Foward & Lady Tiwona Meets With International Dignitaries



President Foward Provides Introductory Remarks During The NATO Session Titled,
"The Role of Cultural Exchanges in Building Lasting Ties"



President Foward, General Wesley K. Clark & Wife Gertrude Kingston
Poses for Picture During Opening Reception



Lady Tiwona L. Foward Speaks
With NATO Delegates
During Opening Reception



President Foward & Lady Tiwona Listens to NATO Session Titled,
"A Conversation with H.E. Dr. Vjosa Osmani, President of Kosovo,
and Dame Karen Pierce, former U.K. Ambassador to the United States
and Special Envoy to the Western Balkans"
(sponsored by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Civic Engagement

NATO Security and More...



**Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr., Life Member of the NAACP,
Speaks With Andy Wilson, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety**



**President Foward Speaks With
Commissioner Chris Shaw, Life Member of the NAACP,
During Opening Dinner Reception**



**President Foward Speaks With
Commissioner Matt Joseph, Life Member of the NAACP
During Closing Plenary Session**

Ohio Conference NAACP

Central State University NAACP College Chapter Officially Reactivated by NAACP Board of Directors



Foward Holds Organizational Meeting During Government Class



Foward Facilitates Nominating of Officers Meeting



Foward Administers Oath of Office to Newly Elected CSU Leadership Team





President Foward Congratulates Stacey D. Benson-Taylor and Tae Winston Upon Receiving The Greater Dayton Realist Lelia Francis Awards





**THE LAUGH ZONE
HOUSE OF COMEDY**
WHERE LAUGHTER BEINGS SPOKE

Chief Operating Officer: Tony Sanders and Khloima Sanders, general manager, take center stage of The Laugh Zone House of Comedy in Dayton, OH. (SANDERS)

Dayton comedian Jay JACKSON, center, is ready to include everyone in the fun, while people hang out, get drunk and crack into the puke down the street. He doesn't do that.

The growth of things to do in Dayton continues with the opening of the first Black-owned comedy venue.

The Laugh Zone House of Comedy, 1473 N. Southern-boulevard Ave., is planning a soft opening with an Open-Mic Comedy Showcase on Thursday with headliner Diamond Ray Jackson as the host.

Tony Sanders, COO, said that when he got the idea for a comedy club, he was the first person he had in mind to bring him.

"I was doing comedy shows in Cincinnati, and Third Day to come down and do some comedy for me," Sanders said. "That's how we got to know each other, so we just started to touch over the years."

Sanders was born in Dayton but moved to Atlanta and stayed there for 17 years. He moved back just before the pandemic. He has been in the entertainment industry booking musical and comedy acts with various agencies.

Sanders also has managed celebrities around the world. Sanders said he started going to local comedy shows when he got the idea to branch out on his own.

"Partly, I believe this is the next area where God is leading us," Sanders said. "When it comes to the entertainment industry, I was going to comedy events people weren't into, but most really weren't even looking for comedy."

Instead of an open mic or a set or a guest who only cracks, Sanders required

More Details

The soft opening comedy showcase will kick-off on Thursday 7/13 at 7 p.m. The hard open is on Friday, 7/14, at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. The event is free for members of the Laugh Zone House of Comedy and all ages. There are still general admission tickets available for \$10 to the 21+ event by going to the website at thelaughzonehouseofcomedy.com.

Up to him, he acquired the venue and started to transform it into The Laugh Zone House of Comedy.

Currently, the venue has 70 seats with three bars, general admission, The Zone VIP and Front Row VIP. Front Row includes open seating and will be shared with QR codes so patrons can scan the code to order food and drinks that will be brought to their seats by a waiter.

Sanders said they are working on getting a liquor license, but it may not be available until next year.

to include everyone in the fun, while people hang out, get drunk and crack into the puke down the street. He doesn't do that.

Those of comedians who had been included in the past, such as Card B, Tony White and Rich and Pryor Sanders said they plan to join the comedy club on the front of the book and the comedy club in the City, Anthony Hall and Dave Chappelle. Sanders said he wants his comedy community.

Forty comedians have already registered.

"This isn't TV. It is to be a performance. The audience has to meet the talent," Jackson said. "I want this to be more of a nature environment, but I want to have away young people, but we're really trying to feature comics that are moving up."

Jackson said they will start with local shows, but want to branch out to include spoken word and themed shows.

Sanders said the venue has a Sunday show called Friday and Cigars where people can perform family-friendly shows.

"We are definitely a comedy club," Sanders said. "That's what we want to be. We want the community to know we're here."

Wake up to the news
We deliver the news you need to know.
Sign up for the Morning Briefing email newsletter in the DaytonDailyNews.com/newsletters



Supporting Partner Organizations



**President Foward was Invited by Judge Gerald Parker to Speak
With 18-29 year old Black Male Offenders from Urban Communities Who Have Been
Placed on Intensive Community Supervision Through the Kushinda Court Program.**



Speaking Truth to Power

[illegible]

LOCAL & STATE

NEW DETAILS

NAACP, city, schools, legislator talk busing issue

A meeting to discuss improving the way high school students get to school in Dayton brought some short-term solutions, but stakeholders said more meetings will be needed to discuss how to fix what they called an "outdated" system.

Ohio legislators, including state Rep. Phil Plummer, state Rep. Desiree Tims and state Rep. Andrea White, met with Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority representatives, Dayton Public Schools representatives, members of the Dayton unit of the NAACP and Dayton Mayor Jeffrey Mims to discuss changes to the busing situation downtown.

Another meeting is planned for May 19 at the Montgomery County Educational Service Center.



From left, State Rep. Phil Plummer, Dayton Mayor Jeffrey Mims, NAACP Dayton unit president Derrick Foward and second VP Tom Roberts were part of a meeting to discuss busing solutions.

EILEEN MCCLORY / STAFF

away from downtown and using Dayton Public Schools owned properties to transport students. The current version of the statehouse budget includes a provision blocking students from being bused out of the downtown hub, after Alfred Hale, a Dunbar High School senior, was shot and killed downtown at the hub.

"It's not about being in downtown Dayton," said second vice president of the Dayton Unit NAACP, Tom Roberts. "It's about getting our babies from home to school, from school to home in a safe way."

NAACP President Derrick L. Foward said he is optimistic that there will be some solutions in place before the state budget is put into place on July 1.

But Plummer said this is clearly something that needs a long term solution. Dayton

Public officials have said they need more money to buy new buses and train more drivers.

Plummer said this is a problem that other cities are having in Ohio too, not just Dayton.

"I think, personally, that the financial piece is the long-term effect on the entire state of Ohio," Plummer said.

Mims said he is open to working with more partners who have ideas to help young people. He said blaming teenagers for what's happening downtown when their options are limited isn't fair.

"Way too often, we blame our young people for the actions they perform, and sometimes forget that we create laws, regulations, the environment for them to do what it is they're doing," Mims said.

Contact this reporter at
937-694-2016 or email
eileen.mcclory@coxinc.com.

NAACP Dayton hosts city leaders discussing bussing changes after Dunbar student's death

DAYTON, Ohio (WKEF) -- The meeting table was full Monday afternoon as local and state representatives discussed bus safety for dayton public school and charter



Supporting Family in the Loss of Their Loved One

ONLY IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Family of slain Dunbar student calls for action

Alfred Hale III, 18, was killed downtown while on his way to school.

By Eileen McClory
Staff Writer

The family of Alfred Hale III, an 18-year-old Dunbar High School student who was killed on his way to school April 4 on Jefferson Street near the downtown RTA hub, says local groups need to work together

to make sure students are safe on their way to school.

"I want people to change, man, because this violence is not it, man," said Alfred Hale II, Hale's father.

"We losing kids left and right every day. Some type of change has got to happen."

Dayton Public Schools, the Dayton chapter of the NAACP, the city of Dayton and several state representatives have weighed in on the situation and held several

meetings, including at least one so far this week.

"Briefly, we've been in conversations with community partners about transportation," said Jocelyn Rhynard, a DPS school board member, during a board meeting Monday.

"There's not much we can update you with quite yet. ... Rest assured, it is a topic of conversation that we are having very

Hale continued on A10



Nellie Bailey, the mother of Alfred Hale III, an 18-year-old Dunbar High School student who was killed on his way to school, speaks about her son's death, in Dayton on Tuesday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

ONLY IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Attorney: Jail video shows Christian Black 'murdered in front of our eyes'

Family's lawyers call for murder charges for Montgomery County Jail officers.

By Jen Baldurf
and Josh Swelgart
Staff Writers

Lawyers representing the family of Christian Black, who died in March after an altercation at the Montgomery County Jail, are calling for major changes and for corrections officers to be charged with murder.

The attorneys shared jail video of the March 24 interaction with corrections officers that led to the 25-year-old Zanesville man's death as a result of mechanical and positional asphyxiation, according to a report from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office.

"What that means is that he was suffocated to death," attorney Michael Wright said during a Monday media briefing at his downtown Dayton law office following the coroner's ruling last week that Black's manner of death was homicide.

"What additional evidence do

we need to make a change over at this jail?" Wright said. "This man was murdered in front of our eyes. Murdered."

Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck has not immediately responded to a request for comment. He announced last week that 10 corrections officers involved, who were not identified, were placed on paid administrative leave.

"We are asking that they be arrested, they be indicted, and they be convicted for the murder of Christian Black," Wright said.

Black was taken into custody March 23 after reportedly crashing a stolen vehicle on Interstate 70 in Englewood. He was taken to a local hospital and subsequently booked into the jail.

The sheriff's office reported that Black was involved in a fight with jail staff early March 24 that led corrections officers to use force, including a Taser, to subdue him.

The video

Video provided by Black's family attorneys shows two separate altercations between Black and corrections officers.

Black continued on A8

Black

continued from A1

The first is around 1:50 a.m. March 24, when officers open his cell door after Black was laying on the floor. Black charged at officers. Video shows more than half a dozen officers subdue Black, including one using a Taser, and he is handcuffed and wheeled in a wheelchair — his body seemingly limp — into a different holding cell.

He lays on the ground of the second cell for more than 10 minutes, then gets up around 2:15 a.m. He is alone in the second cell for hours. Shortly before 9:15 a.m., he starts repeatedly screaming, still visibly alone in his cell. Corrections officers come to his door and attempt to quiet him but are unsuccessful. This escalates over the next 10 minutes to him punching and slamming his head on the glass in the cell door.

Attorney Robert Gresham said his team acknowledges Black was having some sort of crisis and that law enforcement does have to keep him from harming himself.

"Our issue begins when they go into that particular cell and they ultimately make a number of errors and decisions that amount to what we believe to be deliberate indifference and unlawful use of force," he said.

Video shows corrections officers enter his cell and forcibly remove him as he struggles. Officers use a Taser and pepper spray. They wrestle him to the ground, handcuff him behind his back, then lift him into a restraint chair. He can still be heard screaming as he is forced into the restraint chair.

They put a mask on his face around 9:30 a.m. and bend him forward in the chair, with multiple officers putting weight on his torso. He is held doubled over like this with multiple officers pushing down on his back for more than two minutes as they work to remove his handcuffs.

"Let him tire himself out," one officer can be heard saying during that time.

His body appears limp when they lean him back in the chair.

"Nobody is rendering any emergent medical aid at this point," Gresham said.

Black sat in the chair not moving as medical staff and corrections officers assessed him. They moved him to the floor around 9:39 a.m. and render CPR until an ambulance arrives.

"They know better, they should do better. We don't have to think any further than George Floyd to know how a position asphyxiation works," Gresham said of the May 2020 death in Minneapolis after an officer knelt on Floyd's neck and back for more than nine minutes and sparked nationwide protests against police brutality.

"Those of us who handle these cases know that time is of the essence when individuals are not getting oxygen to the brain. The longer this goes, the less likely it is to salvage that person and save their lives," Gresham said.

'Never should have happened'

Black's parents had their backs to the screen when the video was shown publicly Monday, only briefly glancing back. They first saw the videos last week at the sher-

iff's office, which issued an apology to the family.

"It never should have happened," his mother, Misti Black, said of her son's death.

As she and other family members dabbed their eyes with tissues, she said the jail video is difficult to watch. "For me, it's every time I see the video, it's knowing that I'm going to see him take his last breath again."

Black's father, Kenya Black, said the hardest thing about the video was the lack of immediate action.

"You could clearly see he was unconscious and needed CPR, needed some life-saving skills. There was no sense of urgency," he said.

The sheriff's office said staff performed CPR, administered oxygen and medicine and used a defibrillator before medics took Black to a hospital. He was placed on life support so his organs could be donated and was pronounced dead March 26.

Black donated his lungs and kidneys and, according to what his family was told, three lives were saved, his attorneys said.

Investigation

The Dayton Police Department is conducting the investigation, though attorney Anthony Pierson said his opinion is the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation would have been more appropriate because it does not have such a close tie to the sheriff's office.

Once the police investigation is complete, it will be presented to Montgomery County Prosecutor Mat Heck Jr. However, Wright said because it involves a county department that it likely would be sent to another county prosecu-

tor for review and possible prosecution.

They also said the culture and administration at the jail needs to change because there are too many deaths and injuries.

"As a community, we need to stop devaluing the individuals that go into our jail simply because they're in our jails," Gresham said.

The family has filed a complaint with the Dayton Unit NAACP and Wright said a lawsuit will be forthcoming once attorneys receive requested information, including the jail video audio, body camera video and a copy of the jail policies and procedures.

A Dayton Daily News analysis of state data for 2023 showed that seven people died after being put in custody at the Montgomery County Jail that year, more than at any other jail in Ohio.

In 2024, another inmate died in custody after taking a gun from an officer while receiving care at Kettering Health Dayton.

The county is working toward a large-scale jail renovation, with construction expected to start in July and be completed by spring 2027.

Montgomery County commissioners released the following statement regarding Black's death and investigation, referring questions to Dayton police and the county coroner's office.

"Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Christian Black in the wake of this tragedy. Our thoughts are with them as they work through this difficult time."

Contact this reporter at
jen.baldurf@coxinc.com.



Christian Black, 25, of Zanesville, died of asphyxiation while in custody at the Montgomery County Jail in March. CONTRIBUTED

Lady Tiwona L. Foward Receives President's Club of Dayton Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award



NAACP Dayton Chapter



Recipient: Tiwona L. Foward

Reason for Nomination: Lady Tiwona L. Foward served honorably as Treasurer of the Dayton Branch NAACP from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024. Her exceptional skill in financial management has greatly contributed to our success, netting a surplus of \$133,122 during her tenure in office. This was an amazing accomplishment, placing the Unit on a great financial trajectory. Her innovative approach to financial stewardship has not only enhanced our operations but gave us an opportunity to uplift those we serve throughout the Dayton Region. Lady Foward is a teacher at Thurgood Marshall STEM High School and serves as the Advisor of Move Foward Thurgood Marshall NAACP High School Chapter. She has served in this position since May 2022. Under her leadership, the high school organization has a surplus of \$1,107.09. Teaching our students exemplary fiscal accountability. Simply Outstanding!!!

Awards & Recognitions

Chris R. Cortner Receives President's Club of Dayton Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award



NAACP Dayton Chapter



Recipient: Christopher R. Cortner - aka Chris

Reason for Nomination: Christopher R. Cortner served as the Chair of the Dayton Branch NAACP Labor and Industry Committee from 2009 - 2016, then served again from 2021 -2024, totaling 12 years of loyal service. During his tenure in office, his team investigated 1,412 complaints of discrimination. Notable Cases included the Confederate Flag Case at Fairmont High School; the "Teen Hosed Down Naked" case in Miamisburg; and the "Motel 6" case in Sharonville, just to name a few. He mentored, trained and developed two of his successors who eventually went on to serve as Chair of the Labor and Industry, one from 2017 to 2018, the other from 2019 to 2020 respectively. Chris also mentored a third person who is currently serving as the Chair today. Chris received the "Mr. Hold The Employer Accountable Award" in 2010, the "Mr. I Want Justice Award" in 2012 and the "Committee Chair of the Year Award in 2015.

The Dayton Branch *Chronicle*

Upcoming Events

June 14, 2025

Ohio Conference NAACP Executive Committee Meeting & Quarterly Training

June 15, 2025

Father's Day

June 16, 2025

Executive Committee Meeting

June 23, 2025

General Membership Meeting
& Health Committee Presentation



President Foward & Lady Tiwona

Happy Father's Day men! Your dedication, wisdom, and love make a lasting difference every day. We appreciate all you do to support, inspire, and guide your children. Stay Blessed!



Fully Committed!

Inform | Educate | Empower
Dr. Derrick L. Foward, President
915 Salem Ave., Dayton, OH 45402
Office Telephone: (937) 222-2172 |
naacp3181@sbcglobal.net |
naacpdayton.org

Stay Informed!
Get Educated!
Be Empowered!

NAACPDAYTON.ORG



Nichole M. Smith, Chair, Communications, Press and Publicity