

NAACP Releases Statement on River Crossings Pool Incident

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INDIANAPOLIS (July 16, 2018) -- In response to the recent incident involving a black tenant confronted while resting at the pool at River Crossings apartments in Indianapolis, the Greater Indianapolis branch of the NAACP today released the following statement from TyJuan Garrett, branch vice president and local attorney:

"It is a major concern when individuals of color are targeted for doing routine activities and, as in this scenario, their behavior does not indicate or involve any crime or wrongdoing. Such behavior goes back to a time in history where individuals of color were harassed under various Jim Crow-era laws on vagrancy and slavery-era laws that required you to have identifying papers for doing things you have a legal right to do. Our position is everyone should enjoy the full benefits of their civil rights.

"When individuals make apparently baseless allegations, such as contacting authorities or quasi-authorities based on their perception and limited interpretation of the law, it gives us a strong indication that express bias and implicit bias is a reality. Bias causes grave damages to people of color, including the death of those people. Moreover, the individual who views this as an acceptable behavior must remember whatever privilege they may allow to the person they are making an allegation against, does not supercede the established constitutional rights and liberties of the person who they are calling into question."

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's foremost, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Its more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.