



DETROIT BRANCH....NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

*REVEREND DR. WENDELL ANTHONY
PRESIDENT*

*HEASTER L. WHEELER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

June 7, 2010

A CALL TO ACTION

AN OPEN DISCUSSION TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR: Community, Policing and Violence Prevention—Building Bridges That Work

The Detroit Branch NAACP in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, members of the academic community, faith-based community, community organizations, youth organizations and the local news media will be holding a special community discussion to address the issues of violence inside the city, its causes and prevention on Monday, June 14, 2010, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr Senior High School, 3200 E. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48207. The entire community is invited to come together to address and provide solutions for these very serious issues that have gripped the very heart and soul of our community.

“This will not be a discussion to deal with finger pointing or voicing endless complaints. We are very much aware of the issues involved on both sides of the discussion of law enforcement and respect for the community,” says Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony, president, Detroit Branch NAACP. “This open discussion is designed to develop and offer solutions to the problems that are facing the city of Detroit. We believe that Detroit is better than the violence and the pain that we see erupting daily from the streets of Detroit.”

“We have held meetings with members of the Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff’s Office, U.S. Marshall’s Office, Michigan State Police, members of the academic community, faith based community, community organizations and the Detroit Public Schools. There is a role for everyone to play in helping to resolve these problems. They cannot, however, be resolved in one or two meetings. There must be a continuous discussion and implementation of programs that include jobs, recreation, and education for all of those that are involved. There must be a different culture and understanding nurtured in order to engage in mutual respect and a change inside our community.”

Several leaders in the community have expressed their support for the Building Bridges That Work Forum.

“I have the highest expectation and unwavering confidence that this upcoming event will steer up in our community the social capital, social discipline and social and personal responsibility needed to build a culture of healing and peace,” says Alice Thompson, CEO, Black Family Development.

“The Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality is pleased to join with the Detroit Branch NAACP in seeking a vision which is needed in our community. For years we have sought to end police brutality and we continue with that struggle,” says Ron Scott, spokesperson, Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality.

“We are at a unique time in the history of this city,” says Andrew Arena, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Detroit Division. “It will take everyone working together, law enforcement, police and community leaders.”

“The Michigan State Police remains committed to protecting public safety while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We will work collaboratively with all of our law enforcement and community partners,” says Captain Harold Love, Michigan State Police.

This discussion is designed to put people and resources together. It is not designed to be just another meeting. It is designed to put people together with programs and opportunities for change that are currently working in communities around our city. Among sessions on matching communities and people with available resources will be the following:

- Programs that Work
- The Current Culture of Law Enforcement Agencies, *“Is it the Right One?”*
- The Current Culture of Communities They Serve, *“Is it Really Understood?”*
- Jobs and Recreation, *“Where Are They?”*
- Alternatives to Violence, *“What Are They?”*
- Where Do We Go to Get Some Help? Let the People Know
- News Media, *“You Too Have a Responsibility”*
- What the Faith-Based Community Can Do

“The Skillman Foundation is committed to helping create the conditions that allow all Detroit kids to grow up in neighborhoods where they are safe, healthy, educated and prepared for successful lives as adults,” said Carol Goss, president & CEO, Skillman Foundation.

This community discussion is free and open to the public, block clubs, community organizations, churches, mosques, temples, students; everyone who is impacted by the issue of violence in our community is invited to attend. Among the agencies planning for this event are:

- Detroit Branch NAACP
- Office of the Honorable Dave Bing, Mayor, City of Detroit
- Office of the Honorable Charles Pugh, President, Detroit City Council
- Office of the Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
- U.S. Attorney’s Office (Eastern District of Michigan)
- Detroit Police Department
- Michigan State Police
- Detroit Public Schools
- Wayne County Sheriff’s Department
- Coalition Against Police Brutality
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Faith-Based Community
- Flip the Script
- ARISE Detroit
- Black Family Development
- Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and vicinity
- Dr. Carl Taylor, Professor at MSU
- NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement)
- ALPACT (Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust)
- The Skillman Foundation

among many others. To register your attendance, please call 313.871.2087 or go the website, www.detroitnaacp.org.

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