Fairfax County NAACP
General Membership Meeting
September 22, 2026 (7 PM)

President Niki Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7PM. During the meeting there were 35 members and guests in attendance. President Zimmerman began by reading the branch's mission statement:

> *"The Fairfax County NAACP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate well-being, educational, and economic security of Black people and all people of color."*

She then called on Religious Affairs Committee Chair Pat Jackson to offer an opening prayer, followed by reports from President Zimmerman, committee chairs, and community organization representatives.

President's Report
Niki Zimmerman

- The Black Agenda Summit was a success! President Zimmerman noted that approximately 150 people attended the summit and offered her thanks to all who attended and assisted. The Summit generated many ideas during the various breakout sessions which are being compiled and will be shared with attendees. She added that she has received positive feedback from most attendees, with many sharing they would like to have a similar event again. First Baptist Church of Vienna also would also like to continue partnering with Fairfax County NAACP to host events.

Treasurer: Financial Report
Dr. Monique Norwood, Asst. Treasurer

- **Operating:** $35,749.04
- **Restricted:** $40,602.74
    - Build Grant funds held here.
- **Youth Council:** $14,085.09
- **Freedom Fund:** $29,550.01

Dr. Norwood noted that all accounts are currently in good standing.

Secretary
Mike O'Brien

- The minutes from August were sent out for review with tonight's meeting reminder. Secretary O'Brien requested a motion for their adoption.
    - The minutes were moved by 2nd VP Shockley, seconded by 1st VP Spain, and adopted by unanimous vote
- Secretary O'Brien provided a brief overview of the upcoming election process for the branch:
    - Per the General Membership vote, the branch election will take place on **November 7 from 10 AM - 2 PM**. By 10 AM, members will be emailed an electronic ballot via Election Buddy platform.
    - At tonight's Meeting:
        - The branch will elect the Nominating Committee. Members must be active in the branch with good standing and have paid dues for the upcoming year. Secretary O'Brien will be

asking the Nominating Committee to stay for a few minutes after the meeting to go through committee responsibilities and have the members elect their chairman and secretary.

- At the October meeting:
  - The Nominating Committee will release the slate of candidates. Those whose names are not on the ballot but who would like to be considered may submit a petition signed by **at least three active branch members**.
    - Secretary O'Brien noted that those who are nominated/are running must fill out and submit a consent form.
  - The branch will select **five members** to form an Election Supervisory Committee who will be handling any issues that arise in the run-up to the election as well as on election day.

- Secretary O'Brien then requested volunteers to serve on the Nominating committee. Wanda Younger, Donyell Allen, Dee Dee Carter, Pat Jackson, and Lenior Simmons volunteered.
- There was a brief discussion led by Secretary O'Brien to determine the maximum number of at-large members the branch should have for the two-year term. It was decided that in keeping with the previous two years, ten would be the maximum and Chair Simmons made a motion to establish this. Chair Ernest seconded and the measure passed by majority vote.
- The branch will be sending five delegates to the upcoming State Convention: Marvin Powell, Mary Paden, Lenior Simmons, Evelyn Spain, Karen Campblin. Secretary O'Brien & President Zimmerman requested that a motion be made to approve the slate of delegates and the covering of their expenses by the branch ($1,575). 2nd VP Shockley made the motion, Secretary O'Brien seconded, and the motion passed by majority vote.

Budget

Les Shockley, Chair

- As shared at last month's meeting, in July, the NAACP requested that 10% of the FY2026 carryover be applied to affordable housing. Executive Bryan Hill released his recommendation that all but $1 million of the FY2026 carry over funds be used for capital equipment and IT needs. On September 15, at the final vote on the carryover budget, the Board also committed $0.7 million to hire additional school crossing guards in response to several recent–one lethal–traffic accidents involving students. $900 thousand was allocated to the Chantilly Arts Hub. The rest of the funds will mainly be used for planned county projects and to offset federal cuts (e.g. removal of Medicaid benefits).

Criminal Justice

- The committee hosted a breakout session at the Black Agenda Summit and Chair Sowd expressed that the community's feedback was invaluable. A particular concern shared by community members was juvenile justice, especially the inequitable treatment of students of color in schools and cuts to youth programs in the county.
- The committee will be hosting/co-hosting two expungement clinics this fall. The first will take place on October 17 (9 AM-12PM) in Sully District. Chair Sowd noted that there is a need for volunteer lawyers to assist with both clinics and requested that those interested get in touch through justice@fairfaxnaacp.org.

- The branch is considering making a statement on the use of Flock cameras by the FCPD but would like feedback from members prior to doing so. Because of time constraints, Chair Sowd asked that members contact him by email with their comments.

Economic Development
Richard America, Chair
- In the next few weeks, the committee will be distributing a flyer across the county encouraging residents to take advantage of training being offered to prospective local business owners.
- Econ. Development is working with Gum Springs Community Center to set up an incubator for small businesses. More information will be shared as this develops.

Education
Dr. Elena Walker, Committee Member
- Dr. Walker has been going through the written feedback submitted by those who attended the breakout session at the Black Agenda Summit and creating a summary based on what was shared. She added that the Summit brought in five potential new committee members.

Fair & Affordable Housing
Mary Paden, Chair
- Fairfax Co. is creating a 10 year plan to end homelessness in the county. The committee has reviewed the draft of the plan and submitted feedback to the county. Chair Paden highlighted several of the committee's recommendations:
    - More effort & funding should be put into homeless prevention measures, namely rent relief assistance and legal aid in eviction courts.
    - The County needs additional permanent supportive housing units to prevent people from having to spend a long time living in a shelter.
- Chair Paden will be coordinating with Criminal Justice to assist a member in crafting a proposed bill to expunge an eviction notice from a tenant's record when no eviction takes place. She explained that currently, if a tenant is able to avoid eviction after a landlord has issued an eviction notice, the issue of the notice stays on the tenant's record.

Freedom Fund
DeShane Jones, Chair
- The Eventbrite page currently shows that the branch has sold **71 tickets (66 individuals, 3 children, two tables)**. There will be a flash sale (reduced to $100 per person) beginning tomorrow and running through **September 30**. Sales completely close on **October 1**.
- Chair Jones added that he also has confirmed three vendors and six advertisements.

Legal Redress
Reese Glassman, Chair
- The committee's monthly meeting schedule has been updated to **every second Thursday at 7 PM**.
- Currently, Legal Redress has four active cases. Chair Glassman shared that she recently sat in on a meeting with one ongoing case regarding a Fairfax Co. School Division. She reminded members not to give out the personal numbers of those on the committee; those interested in contacting Legal Redress should fill out the complaint intake form or email legalredress@fairfaxnaacp.org.

Membership
Jesse Ernest, Chair

- Chair Ernest greeted new members joining for the first time. He requested that committee chairs post their contact information in the Zoom chat so new members could get connected.
- Chair Ernest encouraged all members to share ideas for growing the branch and to think about the potential from each member reaching out to their networks to engage them in the branch's work.

Religious Affairs
Pat Jackson, Chair

- A number of Fairfax Co. NAACP members enjoyed attending the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Day of Healing Prayer Breakfast on **September 19**.
- The committee is currently focused on actively identifying initiatives & events for 2027. Chair Jackson emphasized that Religious Affairs is actively listening to the concerns of members and community partners in this regard. She invited those interested in joining the committee or wanting to share ideas to contact her at religiousaffairs@fairfaxnaacp.org.
- Religious Affairs will be represented at the Interfaith Resiliency Conference on **October 15**.

Scholarship
Darrell Allen, Chair

- Chair Allen shared that the committee will be holding its first meeting in the **2nd week of October**. Those interested in joining should email scholarship@fairfaxnaacp.org. The focus of the meeting will primarily be on determining the number of scholarships distributed and the scholarship application process for 2027.

Political Action (PAC)
Lenior Simmons, Chair

- The General Election will be held **November 3**. On the ballot in Fairfax County:
  - Member (US Senate)
  - Member (House of Representatives)
  - 3 Virginia Constitutional Amendments
  - 2 Fairfax Co. Bond Issues
  - Local Offices
- Voters are eligible to register/update registration and apply for a mail-in ballot thru **October 23.**
- In-person early voting is open now until **October 31** at the following locations:
  - Fairfax Co. Government Center
  - Mt. Vernon Governmental Center
  - North County Governmental Center

  *An additional 13 locations will open on **October 22.**
- The branch will be hosting two "Souls to the Polls" events where those with "I Voted" stickers receive a free fish dinner:
  - **October 18 at Mt. Vernon Governmental Center**
  - **October 25 at Fairfax Co. Government Center**

Guest Speakers
2026 Virginia Constitutional Amendments & Fairfax County Bond Referendum

- Question 1: Reproductive Freedom
  Han Jones, Virginians for Reproductive Freedom
  - The restrictions on abortion access that have been passed post-overturning of *Roe v. Wade* have affected both patients and doctors in all aspects of reproductive care: prenatal care,

childbirth, and postpartum health. This amendment ensures that patients are given the freedom to make choices about their own reproductive care and that doctors are not penalized for offering that care.

- Question 2: Marriage Equality
  Narissa Rahaman, Virginians for Marriage Equality & Equality Virginia
  - In November 2006, Virginia instituted a ban on same-sex marriage. While *Obergefell v. Hodges* made this unconstitutional, if the Supreme Court ever overturned this as they did *Roe*, it would reenact the state ban. This amendment establishes the right to marry in Virginia regardless of sex, gender, or race, effectively striking down the 2006 ban and strengthening legal protection for LGBT Virginians.
- Question 3: Right to Vote
  Amber Brown & Katie Baker, Virginians for the Right to Vote
  - Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not include a stated right to vote, either for returning or non-returning citizens. Ms. Brown emphasized that this is a critical point in the campaign and volunteers are needed to keep momentum going. In particular, the Right to Vote campaign needs:
    - People who are willing and able to be vocal, i.e. on social media.
    - People who are willing to meet people where they are, both physically and in the messaging. Ms. Baker shared that framing the amendment as integral to the right to vote for all citizens, not returning citizens specifically, increased support among broader audiences.
- Fairfax County Bond Questions
  Paul Gilbert, Branch Member
  - Parks - $180 million for improvements to recreation centers, deferred maintenance needs, and new amenities/land (playgrounds, trails, etc.)
  - Human Services - $75 million for renovations to public health lab and substance use/mental health

After each speaker's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Chair Jackson then offered a closing prayer and President Zimmerman brought the meeting to a close at 8:45PM.

Approved on _____, 2026 *Rachel Luckenbaugh*