



NAACP

Rochester Branch

For Immediate Release:

August, 26, 2025

Rochester Branch of the NAACP Statement on Charges Filed in Soldiers Field Hate Incident

Rochester, MN – From the beginning, [the Rochester Branch of the NAACP's](#) social justice efforts have been rooted in a powerful truth: no child should ever be dehumanized, and love must always be louder than hate.

Today's announcement by the City of Rochester Attorney's Office regarding charges filed in connection with the April 28, 2025, hate-fueled incident at Soldiers Field Park is both important and appropriate. The Rochester Branch of the NAACP thanks the City Attorney's Office for its leadership, thoroughness, and due diligence in ensuring that justice moves forward in our beloved City of Rochester, Minnesota. We continue to stand in full solidarity and support of the victimized child and family, working alongside them with complete trust and transparency.

The filing of these charges — three counts of Disorderly Conduct under Minnesota Statute 609.72, subd. 1(3) — represents an important and meaningful first step toward accountability and justice. The victimized child, family, and our community deserve full accountability and justice for the harm caused to a vulnerable Black child with a severe disability by Shiloh Marie Hendrix, who has displayed no remorse.

We call on the Olmsted County Attorney's Office to equally demonstrate leadership and leave no stone unturned in thoroughly investigating the hateful and traumatic nature of this incident. Ms. Hendrix's actions were intentional, racist, threatening, and hateful — directed at a vulnerable child, and this incident is not isolated. Over the past years, we've seen a disturbing increase in racially motivated acts that continue to demand justice and accountability.

"When I met this young boy, within 30 seconds I could see the tremendous challenges he lives with and that he has a serious disability," said [Dr. Walé Elegbede](#), President of the Rochester Branch of the NAACP. "Shiloh Hendrix also saw the state of this child, and instead of bringing compassion, she inflicted hatred, harm, racism, and trauma upon him. She has shown no remorse for her actions."

President Elegbede added, "No child should ever be subjected to racial terror. We are encouraged that charges have been filed and view this as a first step toward justice. The message passed down through the ages is clear: when we fight, we win. From the broken shackles at the feet of the Statue of Liberty to the long march for civil rights, America's promise of justice and freedom has always been forged through persistence. Those shattered chains symbolize liberation — freedom from bondage, hatred, fear, and oppression of any kind. Our fight in this case continues that legacy, to ensure liberty and justice are not hollow words, but living truths for every child."

[The Executive Leadership Committee of the Rochester Branch of the NAACP](#) — powered by our dedicated members — continues to work tirelessly alongside the family, who are fully supportive of this important step taken by the City of Rochester Attorney's Office. Their steadfast commitment and courage reflect our Branch's mission to confront hate and demand justice.

A press conference is planned for Thursday, August 28, 2025. Additional details will be shared soon.

The image is a promotional graphic for the NAACP Rochester Branch. It features a large, bold, black 'NAACP' logo at the top left, with 'Rochester Branch' in a smaller, italicized font below it. The background is a photograph of a Black man with short dreadlocks, wearing a light blue sweater, tenderly holding a young Black child with curly hair. The child is smiling broadly, looking up at the man. They are outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background. The text 'OUR CHILDREN ARE SACRED' is overlaid in large, bold, red capital letters. At the bottom left, the website 'naacprochestermn.org' is written in black.

NAACP[®]

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**OUR CHILDREN
ARE SACRED**

naacprochestermn.org

About the NAACP

The NAACP is the oldest and most prominent civil rights organizations in the United States, founded in 1909 with the Rochester Branch of the NAACP being established in 1965. At the NAACP, we envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination. We are committed to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities. Our 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 the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color. All funding and donations raised go 100% to support equity and social justice efforts. [Engage with us](#), [lend your support](#), [consider becoming a member](#), and [contribute](#) to driving positive change in our community. Thriving Together!

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