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For Immediate Release:

The [Rochester Branch of the NAACP](#) is extremely disappointed to learn that no legal charges will be brought against the four teenage individuals who planned and committed these atrocious acts of hate under the cover of darkness. Their racist and distasteful actions were intentional, targeting Black and Brown communities in Rochester. Community healing requires accountability, and these individuals were not held accountable today.

Racial terrorism, in both words and actions, has been used throughout our country's history to intimidate, demonize, subjugate, and inflict violence, pain, and death upon marginalized communities. It aims to create fear and maintain systems of oppression by targeting specific racial groups. The actions of these four individuals are a form of racial terrorism as they intimidated, demonized, and inflicted pain upon the Black and Brown community of Rochester. Their actions also targeted the fabric of the community we are all working hard to build—a thriving Rochester where everyone, including Black and underrepresented people, can live, work, and enjoy equitable opportunities. The lack of legal redress, community service, restorative justice, or personal accountability sends a dangerous message to our community and students. This is unacceptable.

The Olmsted County Attorney's Office announced today that after thorough due diligence that they cannot bring forth criminal or delinquency charges against these four individuals on this particular incident. However, we request that the documented history be tracked and secured by both the Olmsted County Attorney's Office and the Rochester Police Department. This should be strongly considered for future occurrences, including under public nuisance laws.

It will take all of us and all of our social institutions to eradicate this kind of behavior and the underlying hostilities from which it comes. This will require families to engage in conversations about the importance of equity as it relates to every member of our society. Parents play a critical role by being positive role models for their children, and for personal transformation to occur in the lives of their children, there needs to be critical reflection, education, personal accountability, and positive action. It will require communities to commit to teaching honest history about the injustices that have occurred against Black and Brown communities. It will require school districts and organizations to address prejudice, bias, discrimination, and discipline disparities, hold people accountable, and embed discussions around bias, implicit and explicit prejudice, violence, and equitable practices into their curriculum, and what it means to be anti-racist. It will require governmental systems at all levels to embed ways to address this kind of terrorism within their legal frameworks. It will require our justice system to eradicate bias within its walls. It will take all of us, and all of our systems, to make sure the actions of individuals such as these, are held accountable and to send a powerful message that we will not let this stand in our communities.

We [invite the community to engage](#) with the Rochester Branch of the NAACP and our Black community. The Rochester Branch of the NAACP is actively working on community healing initiatives, and we invite the community to participate as those opportunities arise.