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Paducah-McCracken County NAACP responds to community tragedy

The Paducah-McCracken County NAACP greatly appreciates the community input that's been received in response to the tragedy that occurred in the early hours of Saturday August 9th.

The executive committee and members of the Paducah-McCracken County NAACP express their deepest sympathy to the family of Jamiyah Walker and grieve with the community over this loss of lives. Ms. Walker was an outstanding young woman with a bright future. We will continue to honor her life.

In an effort to heal, the local branch held a townhall meeting and gathered input on ways we can all support our local youth and continue to celebrate our history. Many thoughtful contributions were made and the discussion and work are ongoing.

The Paducah-McCracken County NAACP recognizes that there are both short term resolutions, as well as more systemic and societal changes that need to happen to help prevent other violent crimes. Short-term resolutions include changed locations for celebrations, clear process of permit applications, enhanced security, a curfew, and a restriction of anyone under 21 to attend certain gatherings. Among the long-term systemic changes are suggestions of hiring more police officers of color, adults getting more active in volunteer opportunities, and supporting positive life-programs for youth.

As a result of the discussion the local branch has formed some immediate actionable items:

- Hold a series of listening sessions for the youth, to hear their concerns, how we can support them, and what they want to see happen.
- Help connect members to local volunteer opportunities, in areas like education, neighborhood associations, boards, and other cultural centers.
- Support local police departments in the recruitment of more diverse officers.

Paducah is a great city full of passionate and proud citizens. We will continue to bring people together to develop solutions that elevate and protect our youth, honor our history, and overall build a stronger sense of community.

The mission of the Paducah-McCracken County NAACP is to advance political, educational, social, and economic equality and eliminate discrimination to ensure the health and well-being of all persons in our community. The overall mission of the NAACP 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 equality for all people.

For more information:

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