

FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

2019 NOV 13 A 8:50 SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

19 CVS 00809

CHATHAM CO., C.S.C.

BARBARA CLARK PUGH; GENE TERRELL
BROOKS; THOMAS HENRY CLEGG; THE NEW

WINNIE DAVIS CHAPTER 259 OF THE)
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE)
CONFEDERACY,)

Plaintiffs,)

AMENDED AFFIDAVIT OF
WEST CHATHAM BRANCH
5378 OF THE NAACP

v.)

KAREN HOWARD; MIKE DASHER;)
DIANNA HALES; JIM CRAWFORD; AND,)
ANDY WILKIE, in their official capacities as)
members of the Board or County)
Commissioners of Chatham County, North)
Carolina,)

Defendants,)

I, Larry Brooks, do hereby say under oath the following:

1. I am of legal age and competent to provide this affidavit. All the information herein is based on my own personal knowledge unless otherwise indicated.
2. I am African American, and am the President of the West Chatham Branch 5378 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (hereinafter, "West Chatham NAACP" or "Branch"). I am authorized to provide this affidavit on the

West Chatham NAACP's behalf. Our Branch is a part of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP.

3. I was born in 1951 in Greensboro, North Carolina and moved to Chatham County, where my mother was born and raised, a few years later. I have lived in Chatham County ever since. I attended Horton Elementary and Horton High School (located where Horton Middle School now stands) from 1957 until 1969. They were the segregated schools for African Americans, named after George Moses Horton, the African American poet who published his book *The Hope of Liberty* while enslaved in Chatham County in 1829.

4. I recall riding segregated school buses and hearing the white students yell racial slurs at us. In 1971, the Horton schools integrated. After graduating from Horton, I went to the Community College in Siler City, worked in the poultry plant, then went to American College in Washington, D.C. to get trained and certified in the Life Underwriting Training Course. I worked as an underwriter for NC Mutual Life Insurance for 45 years, retiring as Vice-President of Life Health in 2016. I still do consulting work for NC Mutual, and started my own company, Brooks Insurance and Associates, in July 2014.

5. The NAACP has pursued its mission to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination since 1909. We have pursued a variety of strategies to carry out this goal, including public education and advocacy, filing Title VI administrative claims, and litigation challenging racially discriminatory policies and practices and to enforce anti-discrimination laws for the benefit of our members.

6. As part of that mission, our Branch has advocated for the removal of the Confederate monument located in front of the historic county courthouse located in Pittsboro's center ("the Monument"). When the Monument was erected there by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1907, it was clear that it represented the voice of those who believe white people are superior to black people and to reinforce Jim Crow segregation. Every time the members of our Branch pass by the Monument, we are reminded of that fact.

7. Because of its location, our African American members experience the Monument as a very clear message that we are not considered equal to whites or welcome here. The courthouse is supposed to represent fairness. When you go to the courthouse in a nation of laws, you should expect to be treated fairly, regardless of your skin color. The words inscribed on the Monument celebrate the Confederacy, which was created to keep African Americans enslaved. The Confederate States went to war with the United States of America in order to preserve the enslavement of African Americans. The very words on the Monument celebrate the soldiers who fought to preserve slavery. Because it is situated in the town center, it speaks for the whole county, and the message is that black people are inferior and should be enslaved.

8. Any monument or statue situated in our town center and on public property should represent everybody. We live in the United States, not the Confederacy. We pay taxes, we go to school, work and raise our families here. We own businesses here. The Monument not only does not represent us, it sends a clear message racial hatred and oppression, and because of its location, that message is being sent to residents by the

County. It divides the citizens of Chatham County and turns us against one another. When I and other members of the Branch see the Monument, we see what it stands for: oppression of African Americans and people of color. The Monument tells us that we won't be treated fairly in Chatham County because we are black. It speaks racism, and because of its location, it speaks as the County.

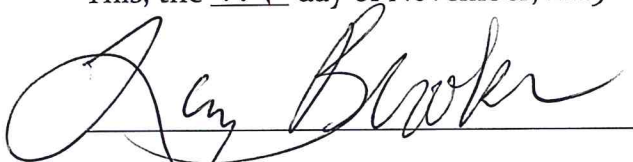
9. The Branch has worked to raise public awareness of the harmful impacts of the Monument and how its presence on public property in our community undermines our efforts promote racial equality and address the legacy of discrimination and subordination the Monument is designed to honor. I spoke to the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of our Branch in 2018 and again in 2019 during the public input session regarding the monument, and shared many of the same things I am saying now, in this affidavit. A copy of my comments from the April 15 meeting are attached as Exhibit 1.

10. However, since I first spoke to the Board in 2018, the division and display of racial hatred around that monument has intensified. Confederate battle flags-- well-known symbols of white supremacy -- have been erected to protest the Board's decision to revoke the license granted to the UDC in 1907 to have its monument there on county property. The flag erected directly across from Horton Middle School is the most harmful of these, and we believe that is why that location was chosen. It has become the regular gathering place for people wearing symbols of racial hatred, inciting and provoking violence, public disturbances and other offenses at the gates of the historic segregated black school of our community.

11. The West Chatham Branch of the NAACP is seeking to intervene to defend against this action by the UDC and the individual plaintiffs in order to protect our members' as well as our organizational interests as described above. If the Monument is allowed to remain where it is, it will cause additional and egregious harm to our members. It will also frustrate our Branch's mission by forcing us to divert already limited resources away from our planned activities and programs in order to counter the monument's discriminatory message and its effect on our community.

12. Our interests are not adequately represented by the defendants in this action, who are very differently situated from our Branch and members in important respects related to this litigation, especially regarding the racial discrimination that the Branch and our members experience because of the Monument. In addition, we worked hard to exercise our rights to inform and hold our elected officials accountable on this matter, and this action directly threatens those rights. If we are not allowed to intervene to defend against the plaintiffs' claims, the disposition of this action may impair our ability to protect our rights and interests.

This, the 12 day of November, 2019

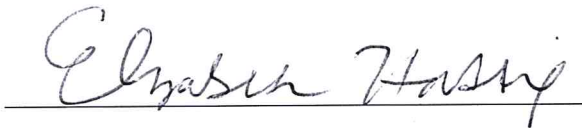

Larry Brooks

North Carolina

Chatham County

I, the undersigned notary public, hereby certify that LARRY BROOKS personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of this AFFIDAVIT.

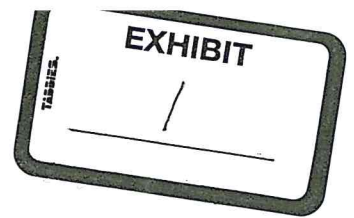
Witness my hand and official seal, this the 12th day of November, 2019.


Elizabeth Haskin

Notary Public

My commission expires Aug. 28, 2020.





My name is Larry Brooks; I live at Meronies Church Road in Bear Creek. I am here tonight as a citizen of Chatham County but also as the President of the Western Chapter of the NAACP. As you know, the NAACP is the oldest, largest civil rights organization in the United States and was founded by an interracial group of people who exercised the courage of their convictions to combat racism and inequity in our country.

It is the official position of the National NAACP, as articulated by our President and CEO Derrick Jordan and stated on our website that, quote, "symbols of hatred and racism should not be venerated and although striking down statues, flags and memorials will not solve all the challenges concerning race and equality in America, it will symbolize an end to the reverence and celebration of values that have divided us too long."

Our NC state President William Barber has also said, "it's not enough just to take down statues, statutes that promote white supremacy need to be taken down as well. So, we are proud to join our sister chapters in South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, Delaware and North Carolina in supporting the removal of symbols that invite, incite and validate both policies and actions that negatively affect the quality of life of any citizen in Chatham County.

Let me conclude by saying it is our hope that you decide to remove the statue and our hope as well that you review your local policies and those handed down to you by the general assembly and remove if you can, or, mitigate to the extent of your authority, any semblance of inequity in them. Thank you.

LOCAL NEWS NC NAACP President: It's more important to attack policies that promote white supremacy DURHAM, N.C. — The president of the North Carolina NAACP called a news conference Saturday in light of recent events, saying it's not enough 4/12/2019 NC NAACP President: It's more important to attack policies that promote white supremacy :: WRAL.com <https://www.wral.com/nc-naACP-president-it-s-more-important-to-attack-policies-that-promote-white-supremacy/16892381/> 2/5 for activists to just remove Confederate statues. Reverend Dr. William Barber said it's more important that politicians topple laws that promote white supremacy. "You test politicians by the policies they pursue," he said. Standing before a crowd at the Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, Barber said there's nothing courageous about condemning racist extremists. "Question is, will these same political leaders renounce mean-spirited, race-driven and socially violent policies, the policies and agenda of white supremacy?" Barber said. Barber has rallied against policies he feels are discriminatory against the black community for years with regular marches and protests.

<https://www.wral.com/nc-naACP-president-it-s-more-important-to-attack-policies-that-promote-white-supremacy/16892381/>